

Pittsburgh Gazette

WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 8

The Seven Days' Battle, and the Close of the Peninsular Campaign

In connection with the able review of the course of the Peninsular Campaign, as set forth in that portion of General BARBARA's report embodied in the report of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, which we have already published, we think it important that our readers should have before them the following portions of the Committee's report, proceeding the extracts from Gen. BARBARA, and placing in the clearest light the facts brought out in the evidence concerning the week of battles, or the period of "changing hands," which closed the operations in front of Richmond. These Seven Days' Battles began with the crossing of the James River on the 26th of June, in which the enemy was repulsed, but which was followed by our retreat at night to Gaines's Mill. At this point we take up the report:

On the 27th the battle of Gaines's Mill was fought, principally by the troops under Gen. Porter. Our losses there amounted to 10,000 men, 7,000 of the force of the enemy being from two to three times that number. The enemy were in such superior position that though our troops fought with exceeding bravery they were driven back with a loss of about 10,000 men, in killed, wounded and missing.

On the 28th of July, after the army had reached Harrison's Bar, General McClellan writes to the Secretary of War: "I am in hopes that the enemy is as completely worn out as we are; he was certainly severely punished at the last battle. It is, of course, impossible to estimate as yet our losses, but I think that we have done to-day more than 30,000 men with their arms."

"To accomplish the great task of capturing Richmond, and putting an end to this rebellion, reinforcements should be sent to us rather than more than 100,000 men."

On the 29th of July, 1862, according to the returns sent to the Adjutant-General's office by Gen. McClellan, the Army of the Potomac numbered 117,328; of these, 35,792 were present at the battle of July 30th. This included the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st, 32nd, 33rd, 34th, 35th, 36th, 37th, 38th, 39th, 40th, 41st, 42nd, 43rd, 44th, 45th, 46th, 47th, 48th, 49th, 50th, 51st, 52nd, 53rd, 54th, 55th, 56th, 57th, 58th, 59th, 60th, 61st, 62nd, 63rd, 64th, 65th, 66th, 67th, 68th, 69th, 70th, 71st, 72nd, 73rd, 74th, 75th, 76th, 77th, 78th, 79th, 80th, 81st, 82nd, 83rd, 84th, 85th, 86th, 87th, 88th, 89th, 90th, 91st, 92nd, 93rd, 94th, 95th, 96th, 97th, 98th, 99th, 100th, 101st, 102nd, 103rd, 104th, 105th, 106th, 107th, 108th, 109th, 110th, 111th, 112th, 113th, 114th, 115th, 116th, 117th, 118th, 119th, 120th, 121st, 122nd, 123rd, 124th, 125th, 126th, 127th, 128th, 129th, 130th, 131st, 132nd, 133rd, 134th, 135th, 136th, 137th, 138th, 139th, 140th, 141st, 142nd, 143rd, 144th, 145th, 146th, 147th, 148th, 149th, 150th, 151st, 152nd, 153rd, 154th, 155th, 156th, 157th, 158th, 159th, 160th, 161st, 162nd, 163rd, 164th, 165th, 166th, 167th, 168th, 169th, 170th, 171st, 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AND STILL WANTS TROOPS

"My men are completely exhausted, and I need the men who are attached to my front troops. If possible, I shall retire to the Harrison's Bar, where the garrison commander more aid in relieving our position. Permit me to urge that not an hour should be lost in sending me such troops. More gunboats are much needed."

On the 28th of July the President telegraphed to Gen. McClellan: "Your dispatch of yesterday morning in relation to the position of your army is having some effect. When you ask for 50,000 men to be promptly sent you must name the labor under some gross mistake of fact. Recently you sent papers showing your disposition of troops made last spring for the defense of Washington, and advising a return to that plan. I had intended to send about 75,000 men. Now please be assured that I have not more than 100,000 men in the valley. All of General Banks's, all of General McDowell's not with you, and all of Washington, taken together do not exceed, if they reach 50,000, with General Wood and General Dix added to those mentioned. I have not outside of your army 75,000 men and the materials. Thus the need of sending you 50,000 men, or any other considerable force, promptly, is simply absurd. If, in your frequent mention of responsibility, you had the impression that I blame you for not doing more than you can, please be assured that you will not ask impossibilities of me. It is my duty to say that in the matter of taking Richmond just now, I do not ask you to try just now. Save the army, material and resources. I will arrange it for the future again as fast as I can."

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