

New York Times

Friday, September 30, 1864

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FROM MISSOURI.

SEVEERE [sic] BATTLE AT PILOT KNOB

Price Defeated with a Loss of 1,500

Repulse of the Enemy at Mineral Point

Gen. Rosecrans Organizing a Large Force of Militia

St. Louis, Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Mr. Burns, a telegraph operator, who left Pilot Knob disguised, at noon yesterday, arrived at DeSoto to-day.

He reports that Gen. Ewing has concentrated his troops in front of the rebels.

The rebels have captured some property and planted a battery on Shepard Mount. and are throwing shells into the fort, doing some execution.

Col. Mills was attacked at Mineral Point last night by a large body of rebels, who were repulsed. Our troops subsequently withdrew to De Soto.

Potosi was captured by the rebels last night.

Gen. Smith's headquarters are still at De Soto, where he is receiving reinforcements.

Gen. Ewing was ordered to evacuate Pilot Knob, but the rebels cut off his communications before he could get away.

Maj.-Gen. Rosecrans to-day was directed to assist in the organization of the militia.

About 12,000 militia are now under arms, which, with the independent citizen companies, will make quite a formidable force.

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LATER.

St. Louis, Thursday, Sept. 29.

Capt. Gavin, Acting Quartermaster of this district who left Pilot Knob Tuesday morning, with a train of commissary stores, sent away by Gen. Ewing, furnishes some information relative to the situation in the Southeast. The fort at Pilot Knob was strong, and mounts four 62 pounders and six field pieces, but they are ineffective against the artillery on Shepherd Mountain.

It was believed at Headquarters last night that yesterday would settle the enemy's fate. Information from that quarter is looked for with painful anxiety.

The rebels lost fifty killed in their attack on Mineral Point Tuesday night. Price's headquarters were at Fredericktown Tuesday. Gens. Fagin [sic] Marmaduke, Cobell [sic] and Shelby, and Cols. Williams, Gordon Cummings and others are his subordinates. he has but a few infantry, which guard a long wagon train.

Nothing has yet been heard from Gen. Mower.

The raid on Potosi, Tuesday, was by a scouting party, who robbed all the stores and conscripted several citizens.

The railroad below Big River has been abandoned, and it is reported that a considerable portion of it has been torn up.

A portion of the rebels have gone to Richmond, Washington county, and it is likely will next be heard from on the Southeast Branch Railroad, cutting the communication between here and Rolla.

A large number of veterans arrived here yesterday, and several regiments of Illinois One Hundred Days men have been ordered here.

Particulars of the affair at Centralia are received. Thirty-four soldiers, most of them discharged veterans, returning home from Atlanta, were shot in cold blood, and their bodies horribly mutilated. Mr. Rolland, the Express agent at Centralia, was also murdered, and three citizens on the train wounded, and left to burn up with the train which was fired, and started off at full speed [sic]. About an hour after the guerillas left, Maj. Johnson, with about 150 militia arrived at Centralia and started in pursuit. They were ambushed when three miles out, and 96 of their number, including Maj. Johnson, killed. The militia were all raw and badly armed. The rebels were under the notorious Bill Anderson. This is the most atrocious affair since the massacre at Lawrence.

The following dispatch was received at headquarters to-night, from Capt. Hill, Gen. Ewing's Adjutant-General:

At daylight our outposts at Ironton were attacked and forced back to within a half mile of the fort.

The enemy made a desperate effort to get possession of Shephards Mountain, and succeeded in driving a battalion of the Fourteen Iowa into the rifle pits, and getting two six-pounder guns in position on the mountain.

The three mountain slopes overlooking the fort [sic] were filled with dismounted cavalry.

The South front was threatened by four lines of cavalry, extending across the valley between the fort and Ironton, commanded by Gen. Marmaduke, while a column passed around the base of Shephards Mountain and formed at the South.

Gen. Cabell commanded the dismounted cavalry on the slope of Pilot Knob.

As the rebel troops thus disposed, a signal of two guns was fired from the mountain, and an assault in force moved on our works.

The rebels came up in fine style to the ditches, and went back to the mountain in indecent haste, leaving 1,500 killed and wounded on the field.

Among them is Gen. Cobell [sic], a Lieutenant-Colonel, two Captains and two Lieutenants. Our entire loss was nine killed and sixty wounded.

Yesterday morning, at 4 o'clock, we left the fort and blew it up.

Gen. Price commanded in person.



Transcribed by:

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