

The Woodruff Gun

Annotations to the Margreiter article.

Price's Army Captures Woodruff Guns at Pilot Knob, Missouri

Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Volume XLI, Part 3, p. 961. Confederate Correspondence, Orders, and Returns relating to operations in Louisiana and the Trans-Mississippi states and territories, from September 1, 1864, to October 15, 1864.

Report of W. W. Dunlap, Chief of Artillery, C.S. Army of Missouri, on artillery captured after the Battle of Pilot Knob, September 27, 1864.

In his report to the Assistant Adjutant-General of Price's army on page 709, Dunlap reported that "six Woodruff field guns" were among the captured ordnance Price took after occupying Fort Davidson after the Battle of Pilot Knob. This report, dated September 28, 1864, right after the battle, conflicts with [T. J. Mackey's report](#) at the court of inquiry regarding Price's expedition held in April 1865, when Mackey stated that only four Woodruff guns were recovered.

Dunlap also notes that two of the Woodruff guns were turned over to "Colonel Dobbin" [sic]. Col. Archibald Dobbins commanded Dobbins's Brigade of Price's Army of Missouri, including Dobbins's Arkansas Cavalry Brigade. [Bryce A. Suderow and R. Scott House, *The Battle of Pilot Knob: Thunder in Arcadia Valley*. Cape Girardeau, Mo.: Southeast Missouri State University Press, 2014: p. 395.]

GENERAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS CHURCHILL'S DIVISION,
No. 53. } Monticello, September 27, 1864.

I. It appearing upon the register in the assistant adjutant-general's office of this division that there are several regiments bearing the same numbers, it is hereby ordered that the regiments thus numbered will be recognized as follows: Col. S. S. Bell's (Twenty-ninth and Thirty-third Arkansas) will be recognized as the Twenty-ninth Arkansas Infantry; Colonel McCord's (Twenty-second and Thirty-fifth) will be recognized as the Twenty-second Arkansas Infantry.

By command of Major-General Churchill:

B. S. JOHNSON,
Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

OFFICE CHIEF OF ARTILLERY, ARMY OF MISSOURI,
September 28, 1864.

Lieutenant-Colonel MACLEAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of Missouri:

COLONEL: I have the honor to make the following report of the number of pieces of artillery captured at Pilot Knob, Mo., on the 27th instant and the disposition made of them: Four 32-pounder siege guns, three 24-pounder howitzers, six Woodruff field guns, and two 24-pounder Coehorn mortars. In obedience to my instructions to render useless such as could not be removed I endeavored to do so by bursting, burning, and spiking. Two 32-pounders were burst, the others injured as much as possible, with the exception of two Woodruff guns given to Colonel Dobbin, and one Coehorn mortar given to Captain Hughey's artillery. These I had removed with a complement of ammunition for them. The remainder of the ammunition (about 2,200 rounds) was destroyed with the fort, also 5 caissons for 3-inch rifled guns. The harness, equipments, &c., were distributed to the various batteries.

Very respectfully,

W. W. DUNLAP,
Major and Chief of Artillery, Army of Missouri.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF MISSOURI,
Camp No. 29, September 28, 1864.

Major-General MARMADUKE:

GENERAL: I am very desirous that the enemy should be overtaken and captured. You will pursue him with your command (except a sufficient guard for your train) as soon as you can rest and feed your horses. I will direct General Shelby to join you with a portion of his division.

STERLING PRICE,
Major-General, Commanding.

61 R R—VOL XLI, PT III

The four swapped by the 10th Illinois Cavalry plus the two issued from the St. Louis Arsenal would make the six, but communications in the *OR* suggest that some may have been sent to some of the several outposts that the Fort Davidson garrison operated, so the real number is in question. The correspondence below between Gen. Ewing in St. Louis and Col. Herder at Pilot Knob is representative of these discussions of outposts.

[Official Records of the War of the Rebellion, Series I, Volume XXXIV, Part 3, pp. 90 & 155.

Correspondence, Orders, and Returns Relating to Operations in Louisiana and the Trans-Mississippi States and Territories, from April 1, 1864, to May 12, 1864. Union Correspondence, Etc.]

HDQRS. DETACHMENT SEVENTH ARMY CORPS,
Little Rock, Ark., April 8, 1864.

Lieut. Col. S. M. MEEKER,
Commanding Sixty-second Illinois Infantry:

COLONEL: In consequence of information having been received here that a considerable force of rebels are near the Fort Smith road, about 20 miles above here, the general commanding directs that you send out at once under a proper officer a party of 15 or 20 men, the main part to be stationed on the road at the rebel fortifications and a part thrown forward three-fourths or 1 mile for observation.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. MASON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *April 8, 1864—1.40 p. m.*

Major-General ROSECRANS,
Saint Louis, Mo.:

Order the Ninth Iowa Cavalry to proceed to Little Rock, Ark., to report to General Steele.

By command of Lieutenant-General Grant:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS SAINT LOUIS DISTRICT,
Saint Louis, April 8, 1864.

COMMANDING OFFICER,
Pilot Knob:

What do you think of the expediency of sending a company from Centerville to Patterson; also of sending the three howitzers now at Camp Curtis to Patterson? Ascertain and inform me whether it will be practicable, when grass comes, to subsist three companies at Poplar Bluff or Doniphan, with the aid of such forage as can be gathered up about there.

THOMAS EWING, JR.,
Brigadier-General.

UNOFFICIAL.] HDQRS. DISTRICT OF CENTRAL MISSOURI,
Warrensburg, Mo., April 8, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. S. ROSECRANS,
Comdg. Department of the Missouri, Saint Louis, Mo.:

GENERAL: Your letter by the hands of Mr. Joseph G. Atlee, of the firm of Tesch & Atlee, merchants at Sedalia, has been received. I desire to state fully all the facts in connection with this subject, so that it will be understood.

In June last I was assigned to this command. An unlimited traffic in liquors had been permitted, and large stocks were in the hands of wholesale dealers, while the towns, villages, and every central point, such as cross-roads, were filled with groceries. There

HEADQUARTERS SAINT LOUIS DISTRICT,
Saint Louis, April 14, 1864.

Lieutenant-Colonel HERDER,
Commanding, Pilot Knob:

There was a misunderstanding in relation to sending the company to Saint Genevieve on the 7th instant. You will send it to-morrow morning.

By order of Brigadier-General Ewing:

H. HANNAHS,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

PILOT KNOB, April 14, 1864.

General EWING,
Commanding:

I beg your pardon for not having answered your telegram in regard to howitzers at Fort Curtis. I am not acquainted with the position of defense at Patterson, and therefore telegraphed on receipt of your first dispatch to Major Wilson, commanding at Patterson, for advice. Major Wilson sent written instructions which I somehow did not receive. Telegraphed to him again this morning on receipt of your second dispatch. Am awaiting an answer. Will inform you as soon as Major Wilson answers.

Advised all the outposts in regard to Kitchen and Clark's force gathering. Entertain no fear; they are on the lookout. Major Wilson has four good companies; will fight four times their number and whip them. Can re-enforce them in two hours from here. The company at Centreville should not be taken away from there; it is a most important point, an opening for the rebels to come in. Do not be alarmed; I think it is no more than a scare, to which we down here are used. Major Wilson thinks the howitzers could be used to advantage in case of an attack.

JOHN N. HERDER,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
Saint Louis, Mo., April 14, 1864.

General E. B. BROWN,
Warrensburg, Mo.:

Do not arm any of the home guards without great necessity, nor any in places where the leading, thoroughly loyal element is not the basis and satisfied. The basis should be voluntary, if practicable.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Major-General.

HDQRS. FOURTH SUB-DIST., DIST. OF CENTRAL MISSOURI,
Kansas City, Mo., April 14, 1864.

Brig. Gen. E. B. BROWN,
Commanding District of Central Missouri:

SIR: Inclosed I have the honor to transmit for your information a communication, marked A, from Lieut. R. O. Rizer, commanding station, Pleasant Gap, Mo., to Maj. J. L. Pritchard, commanding at

The War of the Rebellion : a compilation of the official records of the Union and Confederate armies. / Pub. under the direction of the ... Secretary of War.

United States.

Washington : Government Printing Office, 1880-1901.

<https://hdl.handle.net/2027/coo.31924077699803>



Public Domain

http://www.hathitrust.org/access_use#pd

We have determined this work to be in the public domain, meaning that it is not subject to copyright. Users are free to copy, use, and redistribute the work in part or in whole. It is possible that current copyright holders, heirs or the estate of the authors of individual portions of the work, such as illustrations or photographs, assert copyrights over these portions. Depending on the nature of subsequent use that is made, additional rights may need to be obtained independently of anything we can address.

Further complicating the question as to how many Woodruffs were captured at Pilot Knob is the revelation about H. C. Wilkinson's comment about the small guns of the 68th Enrolled Missouri Militia. Wilkinson had been a member of the 68th EMM before joining the 47th Missouri Volunteer Infantry. In a reminiscence, Wilkinson wrote about having last seen "these pretty little guns", meaning those formerly belonging to the 68th, at Fort Davidson right before the fort was evacuated after the Battle of Pilot Knob. [H. C. Wilkinson to Cyrus Peterson, Letter No. 9 undated, Cyrus A. Peterson Battle of Pilot Knob Research Collection, Missouri Historical Society Archives, St. Louis.] For many years, these guns were assumed to have been Woodruffs, but the 1898 obituary of the 68th's colonel, James Lindsay, states that these were Filley guns, not Woodruffs. [See the main article section **Researching the Woodruff Carriage** for more information on this discovery.] Both Filleys and Woodruffs were 2 1/8-inch-bore iron guns, although of different tube lengths and appearance. It is possible that the Confederates simply misidentified the Filleys as Woodruffs, or there may be another explanation not yet uncovered.