

Report on Price's Raid

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In compliance with your request that I report to you the part I took in the recent campaign against Maj[.] Genl[.] Sterling Price & what facts came under my observation during that campaign as volunteer aid de camp upon your staff[.], I have the honor to submit the following:

On my arrival at Fort Leavenworth from Washington City via St[.] Louis I found you absorbed in preparations to resist the invasion of *[text stricken through]* Kansas by the rebel army under Genl[.] Price[.] which was then marching through the state of Mo. *[text stricken through]* intact *[text stricken through]* gathering strength day by day as it approached our border.

The *[text stricken through]* military force of the Dept[.] *[text stricken through]* having been rapidly concentrated *[text stricken through]* in the Eastern portion of the State comprising volunteers and Militia all under the immediate command of Maj[.] Genl[.] Blunt I reported to you *[text stricken through]* at Olathe on the 10th of Oct[.] & entered at once upon *[text stricken through]* duty *[text stricken through]*. From the 10th to the 14th I was employed with *[text stricken through]* others of your staff under your personal direction in selecting positions & making dispositions of troops along the border and on the Blue[.] visiting for that purpose Wyandott[.] Kansas City, Independence & Hickman's Mill[.]

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At this point Genl[.] Curtis directed Genl[.] Blunt with the Brigades of Col[.] Moonlight & Col[.] Jennison to move eastward until he found the enemy and to learn his exact position & line of march which had hitherto[.] from all information obtainable in any quarter[.] been but mere conjecture, with instructions to harrass & impede him in every probable manner: at the same time ordering me to accompany the expedition while he returned to Wyandotte to superintend the further organization of his army[.]

Acting upon the information recd. of the capture of Sedalia by the enemy and supposing *[text stricken through]* him marching upon Warransburgh[.] Genl[.] Blunt moved in that direction leaving Hickmans Mill after dark & making a march of 30 miles the night of the 15th to Pleasant Hill. Between P.H. & Holden we met two or three hundred Mo[.] Militia falling back from Warrensburgh who joined our force & were engaged in the further operations of our detachment.

At Holden recvg *[text stricken through]* definite information that the column which had destroyed Sedalia had moved north towards Lexington[.] Genl[.] Blunt at once determined to move direct to Lexington with the hope of reaching it in advance of the enemy with a view of saving the govt property. Arriving here we found the town evacuated by our troops

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[text stricken through] who had taken away the greater part of the public property & the *[text stricken through]* bushwhackers under Poole in possession of *[text stricken through]* the place. Col[.] Moonlight was ordered to charge *[text stricken through]* which he did gallantly driving out the enemy[.] *[text stricken through]* killing & wounding some & *[text stricken through]* taking several prisoners.

Genl[.] B. established HdQr in the town and made such disposition of his force as would best defend the several approaches to the place & awaited the *[text stricken through]* approach of the enemy whose advance was but a few miles distant[.]

At 1 ock P.M. of the 19th the Head of Price's column struck our force under Col[.] Jennison on the [Waverly?] road[.]

Col[.] Moonlight was ordered to move at once *[text stricken through]* to the scene of action[,] Genl[.] B & myself preceding him. The *[text stricken through]* two Brigades then consolidated were disposed across the road from Lexington to Independence.

[text stricken through] By the stubborn fighting *[text stricken through]* & skillful management of the troops Genl[.] Blunt held the enemy for five hours[,] falling back slowly at night down the Kansas City road[,] not however until almost surrounded & enveloped by the vastly superior number *[text stricken through]* of Price's advancing columns which *[text stricken through]* [pressed?] us closely for seven miles to the Little Blue[.]

On the morning of the 20th we took up a position on the north bank of the Little Blue[,] determined to dispute the passage of that stream with all the force[,] while I was dispatched to Genl[.] Curtis[,] then at Independence to [inform?]

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him of the position of affairs[.] *[text stricken through]* I found Gen[.] C. *[text stricken through]* at Ind. *[text stricken through]* having formed his forces on the Big Blue and very engaged in fortifying the fords on this stream[,] determined to make his final stand on that line. He then order all of Genl[.] B. force back to this position except Col[.] M's Brigd. which was left with orders to burn the Bridge & delay the enemy as long as possible at the little Blue.

About 9 ock on the morning of the 21st information reached us that *[text stricken through]* the efforts to burn the Bridge on the Litt Blue had failed *[text stricken through]*[,] that the enemy were forcing the passage of the river & were engaging Col[.] Moonlight.

Col[.] Jennison Brig[.] & Col[.] Fords Brigd including McLains *[text stricken through]* battery were at once ordered forwarded under Genl[.] Blunt, Genl[.] Curtis following quickly after & [MS. illegible] moments on the field. The engagement here *[text stricken through]* was severe & desperate[,] the troops fighting with courage & dauntlessness creditable to veterans. The commanding Genl[.] assisted by Genl[.] Blunt who seemed everywher present [MS. illegible][,] was constantly under fire directing movements & inspiring by his own example his greatly inferior force till flanked & threatened with annihilation[,] he fell back from ridge to ridge[,] fighting at Independence *[text stricken through]* until dark when he crossed the Big Blue[.]

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establishing Hd Qtr for the night on the north bank on the road leading to Kansas City[,] the enemy meanwhile going into camp at Independence[.] *[text stricken through]*

On the morning of the 22d the enemy commenced demonstrations at the different fords along the stream but were stubbornly resisted at all points[.] His *[text stricken through]* superior numbers however enabled him *[text stricken through]* at length to force a crossing at Byroms Ford *[text stricken through]* but his advance *[text stricken through]* was sharply resisted back in the vicinity of Westport[,] when night coming on *[text stricken through]* our main force was withdrawn to Kansas City & placed in lines of Battle leaving a sufficient force *[text stricken through]* in the neighborhood of Westport for observation[.]

During the night we learned from prisoners & other sources that Price with his entire army estimated at 35000 was upon us[,] intent upon the capture of Kansas City[,] Leavenworth & the devastation of our state & that Pleasanton with his cavalry was close at hand[.]

At daylight all the troops were moved forward to Westport & put in line of battle where Col[.] Moonlight & a portion of the Militia was engaging the enemy. The fight *[text stricken through]* soon opened along the whole line & while unabated[,] the welcome sound of

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Genl[.] Pleasanton artillery was heard thundering in the rear of the enemy[,] which was soon followed by a courier from Genl[.] Pleasanton himself confirming our hopes & reassuring [text stricken through] us of [text stricken through] present help. Immediately on receipt of this intelligence Genl[.] Curtis ordered a charge along the whole line in which all participated[,] from [text stricken through] comdg Genl[.] to soldier[,] the volunteers & Militia charging with great impetuosity mid cheers & shouts[.]

The enemy at first resisting with [text stricken through] desperate determination [text stricken through] soon began to waver, gave away [text stricken through] slowly & [text stricken through] doggedly but [text stricken through] at length broken by the resistlessness of our troops & terror stricken from the sound of artillery in their rear, turned their faces southward & fled [text stricken through] precipitately.

The enemy beaten, disheartened & flying[,] the pursuit was taken up[,] [text stricken through] Genl[.] Blunts Div[.] in front[,] [text stricken through] was continued for 15 miles to [text stricken through] the Santa Fe where night ended the days operations. During the pursuit about ten miles from the battlefield of the morning Genls[.] Curtis, Pleasanton & Blunt

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met for the first time.

The following morning the pursuit was resumed [text stricken through] by the combined force of Curtis & Pleasanton except [MS. illegible] Brigade which came up during the march[.] Genl[.] Blunt still in the advance[,] Genl[.] Curtis having assumed comd. of the whole force[.]

At West Point the pursuit still continuing [text stricken through] the order of march was changed, owing to the exhaustion of Genl[.] Blunts men[,] [text stricken through] that portion of which had fought at Lexington not having tasted food for [text stricken through] days[,] and Genl[.] Pleasantons Div[.] was placed in the advance[,] Genl[.] Blunt having meanwhile detached Col[.] Moonlights Brigd. to operate on the right flank & for the protection of [text stricken through] Olathe[,] Paola[,] Mound City & Fort Scott on the Kansas border. In this order the march was continued [text stricken through] during the night to the Trading Post where our column came up with the enemy about 1 ock in the morning.

He at once took up his flight[,] leaving behind him wagons, [text stricken through] provisions & plunder of every description & was hotly pursued by our advance to [MS. illegible] where he made a stand and was beaten with the loss of one piece of artillery[.]

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At the Osage he made another stand & was again beaten losing several guns & many prisoners among whom were Marmaduke & Cabell[.] [text stricken through]

At near Fort Scott he was [text stricken through] beaten. At this point Genl[.] Pleasanton deeming rest & sleep necessary to his command withdrew to Fort Scott & from there returned to St[.] Louis. On the following morning Genl[.] Curtis resumed the pursuit and at night camped at Shanghai and on the next day the 27th his force reached Rousses Point about 2 oclk PM[,] where being relieved from further duty I left the army & returned home[.]

The foregoing is a brief [text stricken through] resume of what I saw and participated in during these eventful days.