

31  
Head Quarters 12<sup>th</sup> Regt. Me. Vols.  
New Orleans June 21<sup>st</sup> 1862

Acting Brig Genl Geo F. Shepley  
Military Commandant New Orleans.

Sir,

I have the honor  
to report that in obedience to your written instructions of  
June 15<sup>th</sup> 1862. I embarked with five Companies of the  
12<sup>th</sup> Regt Me. Vols. with Major Hastings, Adj. Dean  
and Quartermaster Webb of the Field & Staff, and Captains  
Winter, Hunter, Knight, Robinson & St Cleaves. (commanding Co K)  
with their respective commands, on board the Steamers  
'J. M. Brown' and 'Grey Cloud.' - Lieut Taylor with one  
section of Mannings Battery, also reported to me at Milneburg  
and joined in the expedition, Capt Manning of the  
same Battery although suffering from disease, gallantly  
volunteered and accompanied the expedition, in command  
of his detachment. Capt Conant of the 31<sup>st</sup> Mass Vols.  
reported to me, personally, but with no command from  
that Regt and did not proceed with the expedition -  
~~your instructions,~~ If I construe rightly,  
your instructions, they were in detail, fully and —

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MMN # 71952

Date: June 21, 1862

Description: William K. Kimball wrote to George F. Shepley, to report on successful completion of an order to lead an expedition to capture a Rebel battery.

successfully carried out. - On Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> inst,  
the Gun Boat "New London," Capt Reed, the "Grey Cloud"  
Lieut Buchanan commanding, and the "J. M. Brown"  
Mast Wiggins commanding, left Milneburg for Pass Manchac,  
where they arrived on Tuesday Morning in company,  
after consultation with Maj Hastings Capt Reed and  
Lieut Buchanan, I deemed it advisable to proceed  
up the North Pass with my whole force with the  
view of capturing the Battery at that Pass, by a united  
attack, and from that point attack the Battery at the  
South Pass in the rear by Infantry and at the same  
time engage it in front by the New London and  
Grey Cloud with one Co of Infantry on board the latter.  
With this view the three Boats proceeded up the North  
Pass - at about the distance of one mile from the Rail  
Road Bridge at the North Pass, the enemy opened fire  
upon us from his Battery of Two, 32 pounders, situate  
on the North side of the Pass. The Guns were well  
mounted and protected by substantial earth works.  
The fire was immediately and effectively returned,  
by the New London and the Artillery on board the  
Grey Cloud & the J. M. Brown and the enemy after  
Five successive discharges abandoned his Works at the  
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Capt Robinson with Co. G as will appear by his report accompanying this, who prior to landing from the Grey Cloud, had fired four volleys of small arms into the Works, I immediately ordered Capt Winter with Co. D. and Capt Appleton with Co. H. to take position upon the Rail Road leading from the North to the South Pass in which direction a portion of the enemy had fled and deploy as Skirmishes toward the South Pass, and the Grey Cloud & New London to proceed to attack the Batteries at the South Pass in front. - Capt Appleton & Winter in pursuance of these orders entered the enemies works at the South Pass at "double quick" and occupied them before the Grey Cloud & New London had been embarked to leave the North Pass - Meanwhile with the remainder of my command I had caused the Guns at the North Pass to be spiked, their Trunnions to be broken off and their carriages burned, having no means of transporting them and the Bridge burned and Rail Road Track destroyed in obedience to my instructions and embarked the Ammunition, Commissary Stores and other property found there and proceeded to the South Pass. ~ At the Pass (the main encampment of the enemy) were two Batteries of 2. Thirty Two lbs Guns, one on each side of the Stream, the

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Guns of which were left loaded. Twenty Five Tents,  
a large quantity of Commissary Stores, Amunition  
consisting of Powder, Grape Cannister and Solid Shot &c.  
together with the Regimental Standard of the enemy  
were seized by Capts Appleton and Hunter, who  
were delayed in the pursuit and prevented from  
capturing him, only by reason of the Draw-bridge  
over the stream, which had been turned to prevent  
pursuit - as will appear by their several Reports -  
accompanying this. The Grey Cloud then proceeded  
through the Pass to make an exploration of Lake  
from which she returned on Wednesday  
morning having successfully accomplished her  
duty, and rejoined her conserts. Meanwhile I  
had caused the 4. 32 lb Guns & their carriages  
at the South Pass to be destroyed & the Bridge  
Burned. Having thus complied with your instructions  
at these points, I proceeded to Madisonville, but  
was unable from the situation of the Town to approach  
it in any other way manner than by Steam Boat,  
The New London being unable to pass the Bar  
the Grey Cloud on board of which was Maj  
Hastings in command of Co's D & G and the  
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Command proceeded up the River. The J. M. Brown  
came directly to the Wharf at Madisonville, and Capt Appleton  
& Knight were sent by me at double quick to take  
position upon each of the Three Roads leading from  
the Town, while the Grey Cloud proceeded up the River.  
Capt Appleton & Knight effectually & promptly performed  
the duties assigned them, and although unable to prevent  
the escape of a Band of mounted Guerrillas, succeeded in  
preventing the escape of Col. Putnam, who it seems  
was charged with the burning of the Cotton & Sugar  
in New Orleans at the time of the arrival of our Fleet,  
and was found and arrested by Quartermaster  
Webb of the 12<sup>th</sup> Me. Vols., secreted in the Attick of the  
House occupied by Mrs Grayson the widow of Genl.  
Grayson late of the confederate Army. - In his possession  
were found 5,600 \$ in confederate Notes and a large  
quantity of recruiting papers and other blanks pertaining  
to the Rebel Army.

Major Hastings immediately after returns from his  
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Two Steamers remained over night ~ on Thursday  
Morning after consultation, Maj Hastings <sup>with his</sup> on the arrival

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at double quick took possession of all the roads leading  
from that place, and having received information of the  
existence of a camp of Sharpshooters in the outskirts  
of the Town, he, in command of a portion of his detachment  
at double quick approached & took possession of the  
enemys camp, - consisting of Six Tents, a quantity of  
Guns, &c. and then proceeded to Manderville by Three  
different roads and joined my command at that place ~  
at Manderville I could discover no evidences of the  
enemy, and thus having completed the full scope  
of my authority and instructions respectfully report  
to you ~ General, I cannot conclude my report;  
in justice to the officers connected with the expedition,  
as well as to those of my own Regt, and to the men of  
their several commands, until I express to you my full  
confidence in their gallantry, courage & discipline, as  
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Your obt servt, W<sup>m</sup> K. Kimball Lt. Col  
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