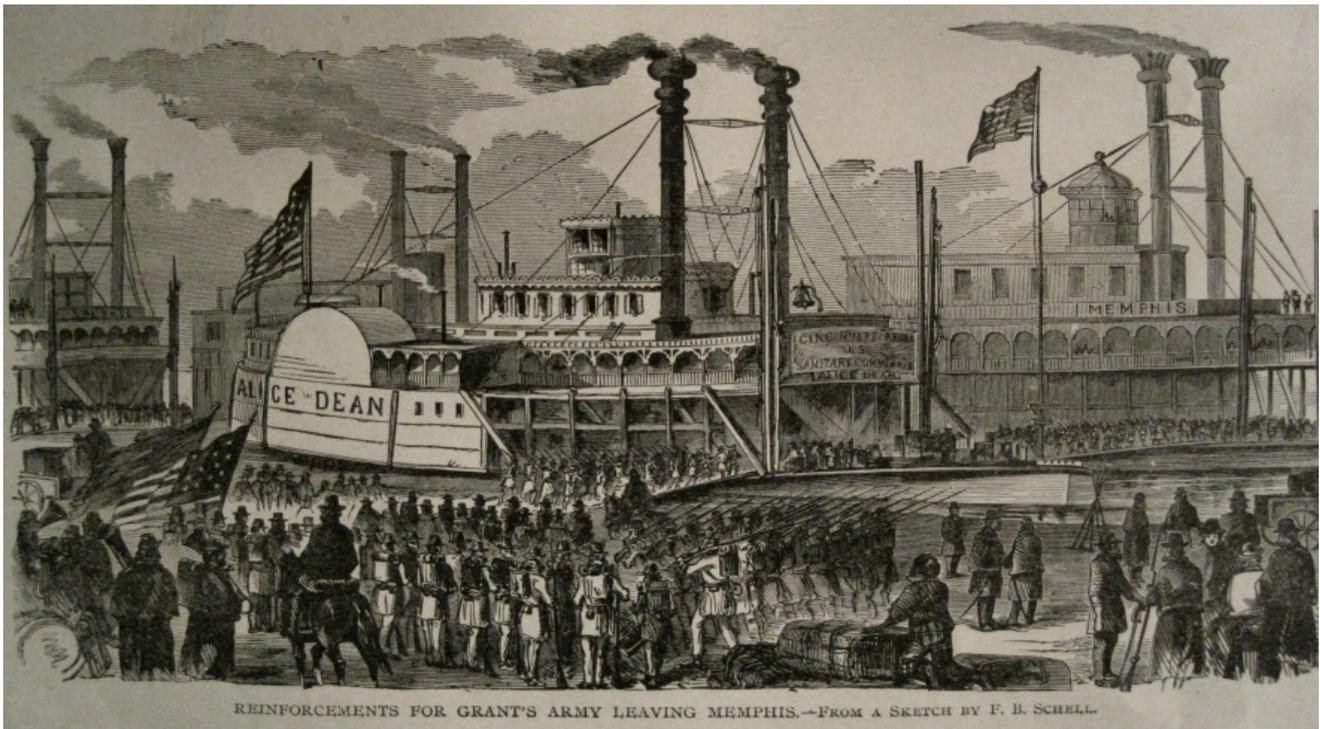


Chapter 4 Mississippi River Toward Vicksburg



Battles and Commanders of the Civil War. Edited by Gen. Marcus F. Wright of the War Dept. page 188 Sketch by F. B. Schell.

The National tribune. (Washington, D.C.), 09 Feb. 1893. *Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers. Lib. of Congress.* <<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn82016187/1893-02-09/ed-1/seq-1/>> pp 1 & 3 [Go to top of page to click on image 3 and go over to column 4 History of the Corps] Chickasaw Bayou and Arkansas Post "General Orders, No. 159, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, dated Washington, Oct. 16 1862, announced that the Department of the Tennessee would include Cairo, Fort Henry, Fort Donelson, northern Mississippi, and the portions of Kentucky and Tennessee west of the Tennessee River and assigned Maj.-Gen U. S. Grant to command. On the 24th of the same month, by orders from the same source, the troops under the command of Gen. Grant were constituted the Thirteenth Corps, and on the 25th Gen. Grant formally assumed command, establishing his Headquarters until further orders at Jackson, Tenn." Maj. General W. T. Sherman was to be in command of the District of Memphis.

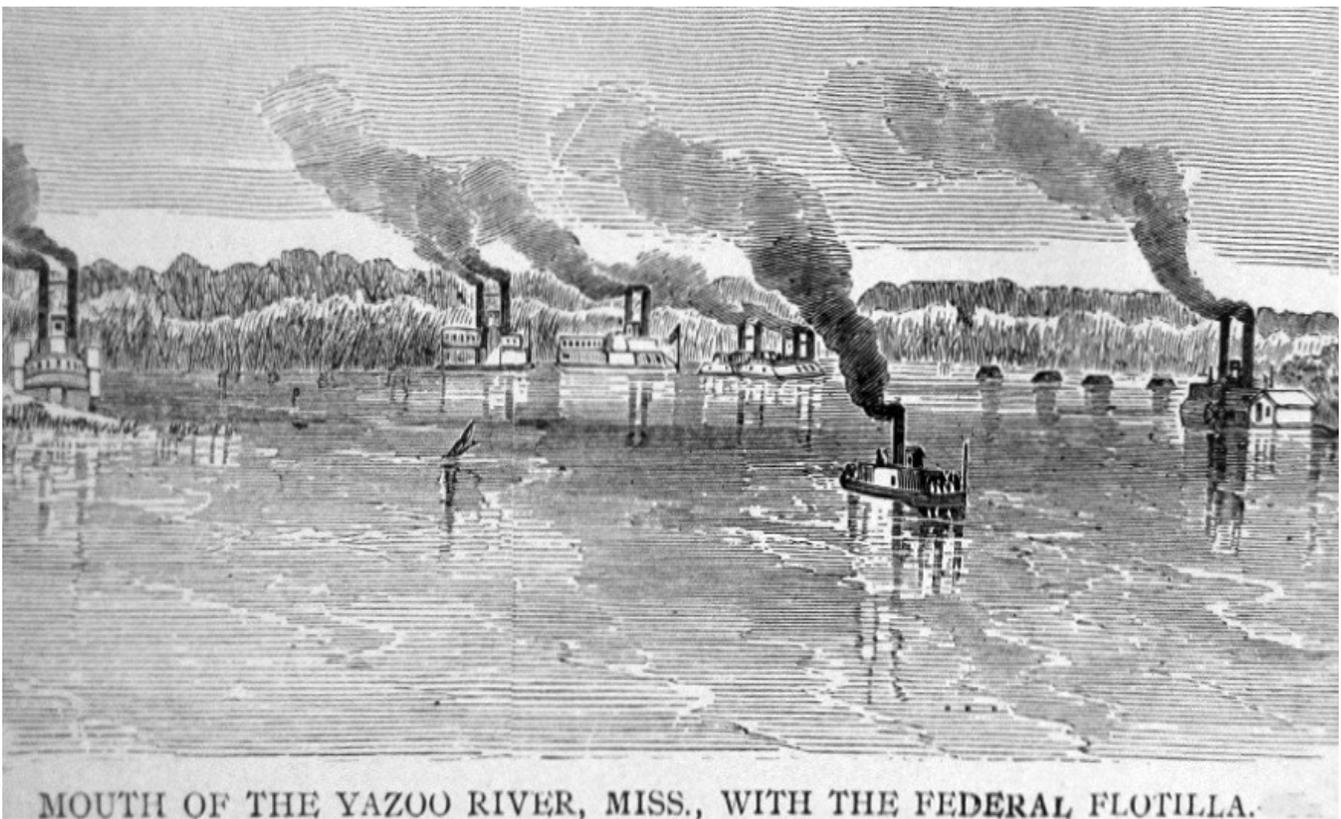
The National Tribune (Washington DC), 9 Feb 1893, page 1:

General Grant believed it was of major importance to open up the Mississippi River. Grant had planned to move troops down through Mississippi and then to aid Sherman at Vicksburg. Sherman was to "move down the river [from Memphis] to the vicinity of Vicksburg, and with the co-operation of the gunboat fleet, under the command of Flag Officer Porter, proceed to the reduction of that place in such manner as circumstances in his judgment might dictate."

December 25, 1862, Diary of Henry Sherman

"Christmas again. Wonder where I will spend the next Christmas. I suppose that about this time they are eating their Christmas dinner at home. How I wish I could be there for just one day only. Would to God

that this accursed war would come to an end, so that we could return to our home again. What a beautiful sight to see this mammoth fleet sailing majestically down this mighty 'Father of Waters.' In years to come, if my life is spared, I suppose that it will be my pride to say that I fought and perhaps bled to preserve this glorious Union, if it is preserved, and God grant that it may be. What a curse on this land of the Sunny South that it should be so desolated and laid waste as it is, a land which God seems to have blessed in such a degree. We are now passing through a most beautiful section of country with most magnificent plantations on either side of the river. Plantations covering hundreds of acres with perhaps hundreds of negroes to cultivate them. The residences are surrounded by shrubbery and groves of green leaved trees and their neatly white washed huts in the background formed a beautiful picture of perfect happiness. The greenness of the herbage form quite a pleasing contrast to the December of the north and the mild and genial warmth of the atmosphere here in the land of Cotton at this late period of the season makes one enjoy life. And yet thoughts different from all these pleasant imaginings will intrude and the thought that we are now engaged in a mission of death, so to say, has a tendency to moralize on the short and fleeting joys and pleasures of this world and to elevate his thoughts for a short period or until a thoughtless remark is dropped by some light-hearted companion which dispels the somber thoughts."



MOUTH OF THE YAZOO RIVER, MISS., WITH THE FEDERAL FLOTILLA.

Battles and Commanders of the Civil War. Edited by Gen. Marcus F. Wright of the War Dept. Page 243 Sketch by Henry Lovie.

The Federal Flotilla arrived at the mouth of Yazoo River on Christmas day .

End Chapter 4

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