

THE OPPOSING FORCES AT BALL'S BLUFF: ANNOTATED ORDER OF BATTLE

{Source: James A. Morgan, III, *A Little Short of Boats: the Fights at Ball's Bluff and Edwards Ferry, October 21-22, 1861*. Ironclad Publishing Co., 2004}

UNION FORCES

**Stone's Division {Corps of Observation}
Army of the Potomac {US}
Brig. Gen. Charles P. Stone**

First Brigade, Brig. Gen. Frederick W. Lander {wounded at Edwards Ferry} [1*]
19th Massachusetts, Col. Edward Hinks [2]
20th Massachusetts {Harvard Regiment}, Col. William R. Lee {captured} [3]
1st Massachusetts Sharpshooters {Andrew Sharpshooters}, Capt. John Saunders [4]
7th Michigan, Col. Ira B. Grosvenor [5]

Second Brigade, Brig. Gen. Willis A. Gorman [1*]
1st Minnesota, Col. N.J.T. Dana [6]
2nd New York State Militia {later 82nd NY}, Col. George W.B. Tompkins [7]
34th New York, Col. William LaDew [8]

Third Brigade {California Brigade; later Philadelphia Brigade},
Col. Edward D. Baker {killed}
1st California {later 71st Pennsylvania}, Lt. Col. Isaac Wistar {wounded} [9]
2nd California {later 69th Pennsylvania}, Col. Joshua Owen [10*]
3rd California {later 72nd Pennsylvania}, Col. DeWitt C. Baxter [10*]
5th California {later 106th Pennsylvania}, Col. Turner G. Morehead [11]

Unassigned regiments
15th Massachusetts, Col. Charles Devens [12]
42nd New York {Tammany Regiment}, Col. Milton Cogswell {wounded and captured} [13]

Cavalry
Four companies {B, D, E, and I} of the 3rd New York Cavalry {Van Alen Cavalry}, Col. James H. Van Alen [14]
Putnam Rangers, District of Columbia Volunteers {later Co. L, 1st Maryland Cavalry}, Capt. George Thistleton [15]

Artillery

Battery I, 1st U.S. Artillery, Lt. George A. Woodruff, {4 M1861, 2.9 in. Parrott Rifles; 2 M1841, 12-pdr howitzers} [16]

Battery B, 1st Rhode Island Light Artillery, Capt. Thomas Vaughn {6 13-pdr James rifles} [17]

Company K, 9th New York State Militia {later 6th New York Independent Battery}, Capt. Thomas B. Bunting {4 13-pdr James rifles} [18]

2nd New York State Militia artillery detachment {2 M1841, 12-pdr mountain howitzers} [19]

***Additional Forces from Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Banks' Division,
Brig. Gen. John J. Abercrombie's Brigade [20]***
16th Indiana, Col. Pleasant A. Hackleman
30th Pennsylvania, Lt. Col. John Patrick

CONFEDERATE FORCES

Seventh Brigade
Army of the Potomac {CS}
Colonel Nathan G. "Shanks" Evans

Infantry

13th Mississippi, Col. William Barksdale [21]

17th Mississippi, Col. Winfield Scott Featherston [22]

18th Mississippi, Col. Erasmus Burt {*mortally wounded*} [23]

8th Virginia, Col. Eppa Hunton [24]

Cavalry, Lt. Col. Walter Jenifer [25]

Chesterfield Light Dragoons {Co. B, 4th Virginia Cavalry}, Capt. William B. Ball

Loudoun Cavalry {Co. K, 6th Virginia Cavalry}, Capt. William W. Mead

Madison Invincibles {Co. C, 4th Virginia Cavalry}, Capt. William Thomas

Powhatan Troop {Co. E, 4th Virginia Cavalry}, Capt. John F. Lay

Wise Dragoons {Co. H, 6th Virginia Cavalry}, Lt. James Morehead

Artillery [26]

1st Company, Richmond Howitzers, Capt. John C. Shields {2 M1841, 6-pdr guns; 2 M1841, 12-pdr howitzers; 1 iron rifled gun of undetermined type}

Explanatory notes to Annotated Order of Battle:

(an asterisk indicates that a notation applies to more than one unit)

- [1*] The order of battle titled "Organization of the Army of the Potomac, October 15, 1861," OR, Series 1, vol. 5, p. 16 does not number Stone's brigades but lists Gorman's first and Lander's second. Dyer's Compendium specifies General Gorman's as the First Brigade and General Lander's as the Second Brigade. Both sources include the 15th Massachusetts and 42nd New York in Gorman's brigade. Divisional correspondence in Corps of Observation records, however, clearly places Lander in command of the First Brigade and Gorman in command of the Second Brigade. It also notes the existence of the two unassigned regiments. The OR mistakenly has reversed the brigade numbers and placed the two unassigned regiments into Gorman's brigade. Later sources repeated the error.
- [2] The 19th Massachusetts crossed to Harrison's Island on October 21 and came under fire late in the day. Co. K remained near Edwards Ferry.
- [3] Only Companies A, C, D, E, G, H, and I of the 20th Massachusetts were engaged at Ball's Bluff.
- [4] Named for Massachusetts Governor John Andrew, the sharpshooter company crossed to Edwards Ferry on October 22 and was engaged in the afternoon skirmish.
- [5] The 7th Michigan crossed to Edwards Ferry late on October 21 but was not engaged on October 22.
- [6] Companies E and K, 1st Minnesota, crossed briefly to Edwards Ferry on the night of October 20. The regiment crossed the next morning and was engaged in the afternoon skirmish.
- [7] Except for its artillery detachment, this regiment was present, though not engaged, at Edwards Ferry.
- [8] The 34th NY crossed at Edwards Ferry on the afternoon of October 21. It was present but not engaged during the October 22 skirmish.
- [9] Only Companies A, C, D, G, H, L, N, and P of the 15-company 1st California were present and engaged at Ball's Bluff.

- [10*] Some sources reverse the Pennsylvania designations of these regiments. Neither regiment fought at Ball's Bluff.**
- [11] A 4th California was planned but never organized. The 5th California was not involved in the fighting.**
- [12] The 15th Massachusetts was the only Union unit present in its entirety at Ball's Bluff.**
- [13] Only Companies A, C, E, H, and K of the 42nd New York were present and engaged at Ball's Bluff.**
- [14] The OR order of battle noted above states that six companies of the Van Alen cavalry were assigned to Stone's division and four to Banks' division. This is incorrect. On September 28, 1861 General Order no. 18 designated Companies B, D, E, and I as the 1st Battalion of Van Alen's regiment and assigned them to Stone. The OR reversed the numbers. Later sources repeated the error.**
- [15] This unit accompanied General Stone to Edwards' Ferry on October 20, though does not seem to have been engaged. It was assigned to Stone's division on September 16, but is not included in the OR order of battle.**
- [16] Two 12-pdr howitzers were engaged at Edwards Ferry on October 22. The battery's four Parrott Rifles supported the Union infantry from across the river.**
- [17] One "James Rifle" from this battery was engaged at Ball's Bluff.**
- [18] Lt. Walter Bramhall was the only member of this battery who was engaged at Ball's Bluff. He commanded the Rhode Island battery's "James Rifle."**
- [19] New York's pre-war infantry militia regiments often incorporated artillery detachments. The 2nd New York State Militia's mountain howitzers were assigned at Ball's Bluff to Lt. Frank French of Battery I, 1st U.S. Artillery. They were manned by a mixed crew from those two units.**
- [20] Both regiments were present but not engaged at Edwards Ferry on October 22.**
- [21] Only Co. D of the 13th Mississippi was engaged at Ball's Bluff. The remainder of regiment was engaged at Edwards Ferry on October 22.**

- [22] Company K was the first Confederate unit engaged at Ball's Bluff. Company I was among the initial infantry reinforcements under Colonel Jenifer. The rest of the regiment remained near Edwards' Ferry until called to Ball's Bluff late in the day in time to participate in the climactic action.**
- [23] Colonel Burt was the highest-ranking Confederate officer to be killed at Ball's Bluff.**
- [24] The 8th Virginia was the smallest regiment engaged at Ball's Bluff. Nine of its ten companies were present. Co. H remained near the burnt bridge on Goose Creek and did not participate.**
- [25] The total strength of this force was about 300 though its exact composition is disputed. Some 70 troopers under Lt. Col. Jenifer were present and engaged at Ball's Bluff. The rest were not involved.**
- [26] Colonel Evans reported that he had six guns though battery records note only five. Capt. Shields was on medical leave so the unit was commanded by Lt. William Palmer. It was not engaged in the battle.**