

DEC 3RD

WATERS.

Continue always to cooperate with the army.

S. P. LEE,
Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

TCH.

to Lieutenant-Commander Fitch,
on the river to Carthage, Tenn.

OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Tenn., December 3, 1864.

Ordering directs me to say that
yesterday, and great uncertainty
it is unsafe to trust the courier
to bring us information of any
rebels to cross the river above
where we are secure, you had better
at least one ironclad and two
gunboats in the channel to en-

servant,

W. M. D. WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

le, Tenn.

Reports transmitting reports regarding
operations December 3-4, 1864, and operations

OF THE FAIRPLAY,
River, December 29, 1864.

Reports dated December 4 and
under Le Roy Fitch, command-
ing, in reference to his success-
ful operations with General Thomas.
Department's notice the good
conduct of Fitch and the officers
under his command. I desire to
recommend Pilot John H. Ferrell and
others, when the flagstaff of the
upper house while the vessel was
at the stump of the highest
tree that a medal of honor be

on the Mississippi by the Navy
and that river, as required by
you, to join General Hood and
for his important service will be

The active movement of the gunboats which I have required causes the consumption of an unusual quantity of coal and calls for increased repairs, but this is unavoidable.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, yours,
S. P. LEE.

Acting Rear-Admiral, Commanding Mississippi Squadron.

HON. GIDEON WELLES,
Secretary of the Navy, Washington, D. C.

[Enclosure.]

U. S. S. MOOSE.

Off Nashville, Tenn., December 4, 1864.

SIR: I have the honor to report that yesterday, the 3d instant, being apprehensive of an attack from the enemy on the right of our army, resting on the river below, I stationed the *Carondelet*, Acting Master Charles W. Miller, commanding, in a position to assist that portion of our lines, keeping the other boats in readiness to move wherever they might be required.

During the day I made several trips with this boat to see that all was clear, and in the afternoon sent the *Springfield*, Acting Master Edm. Morgan, up the river to convoy some transports and work with the army gunboats above.

After returning from below, about 9 p. m., I received intelligence that the enemy's left wing had struck the river and had batteries planted at Bell's Mills, about 4 miles below Nashville by land but 1 1/2 by river, and that they had captured two steamers. I at once determined to either recapture the two steamers or cause the enemy to destroy them that night, although it was dark and clouding over. I therefore directed the commanding officer of the *Neosho*, Acting Volunteer Lieutenant Samuel Howard, to move down with his vessel and relieve the *Carondelet*, and, leaving the *Brilliant* to operate with her, moved down with the other boats in the following order: *Carondelet*, *Fairplay*, *Moose*, *Reindeer*, and *Silver Lake*.

I directed Acting Master Miller to run below the lower batteries, giving them grape and canister, then round to and come back and fight them upstream. I also directed Acting Master George J. Groves, commanding the *Fairplay*, to follow close after the *Carondelet* and act with her; and Acting Volunteer Lieutenant H. A. Glassford, commanding *Reindeer*, to follow this vessel and act with me; the *Silver Lake*, Acting Master J. C. Coyle, to take the rear of the line.

The boats moved down perfectly quiet, with no lights visible, and were not seen by the enemy until the *Carondelet* opened fire on their lower battery and encampment.

She was then a little above the lower battery and about a quarter of a mile below the upper guns, the *Fairplay* was at this time a little below the upper battery, and this vessel abreast of it, while the *Reindeer* was about 50 yards above.

As soon as the *Carondelet* opened fire the enemy poured a heavy volley of musketry into the boats along the entire line, and also opened on us with their upper battery of four guns. About this time the *Fairplay* had stopped to keep from running into the *Carondelet*,