

# Confederate Prisoners at Camp Randall

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## Newspaper Clipping "Wisconsin State Journal 4/21/1862"

"Matters at Camp Randall"



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## WISCONSIN DAILY STATE JOURNAL

MADISON, WIS., MONDAY EVENING, APRIL 21, 1862.

<p><b>Arrival of Secession Prisoners.</b></p> <p>For the past week our people have been anxiously expecting a lot of prisoners who were captured at Island No. 10, to arrive at Camp Randall. Much curiosity to see them had been evinced, and hundreds had been about the Depot on the arrival of each train of cars from the east, for several days. Last evening at a little after seven o'clock a train bringing 881 prisoners arrived, passing the Depot, and landing the prisoners at the camp.</p> <p>The cars were guarded by some sixty five men, mostly belonging to Company I of Mulligan's Irish Brigade, under command of Capt. Fitzgerald. The whole train from Chicago was under charge of Capt. J. A. Potter, a Quarter Master in the U. S. Army.</p> <p>A large crowd of people, consisting of ladies, gentlemen and children, had collected about the landing, a long time previous to the arrival of the cars, all eager to catch a glimpse of the secession prisoners. The several companies of the 19th regiment, that arrived here on Saturday, were drawn up in two lines, extending from the cars to the gateway of the camp, between which the prisoners were marched to quarters. The ceremony of unloading the cars was performed quickly and in good order.</p> <p>While the crowd around was large, and the curiosity to see the prisoners was very great, there was no confusion, and no taunts or jeers were given to the prisoners. We were glad that the people conducted themselves with such perfect propriety.</p> <p>The prisoners also behaved well, and seemed to be in excellent spirits. Considerable conversation passed between persons outside and the prisoners inside the cars, previous to their being let out; but it was all in the nature of civil questions asked, and they were answered in a respectful manner. The prisoners all expressed themselves well satisfied with the treatment they had received since they were captured—said it had been much better than they had expected.</p> <p>Jokes passed freely between the people and the prisoners. In talking about the South, some one remarked that our army would soon be in New Orleans; a prisoner replied that "the boys were ready for them thar; and would give them a warm reception." He then added, with a wink, "They'd better go by <i>Corinth</i>—warm times thar."</p> <p>In looking over the crowd, a prisoner remarked, "What lots of people you have in these northern cities—you don't see so many down South—never see so many—</p>	<p>you could raise another army as big as the one you got."</p> <p>As the cars came in, a party in one of them was singing—</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"The army and navy forever, Hurrah for the red, white and blue."</p> <p>And as the car stopped, one prisoner put his head out and said, "Them's the kind of songs we like to sing in here."</p> <p>A bystander remarked, "If you had sung such songs some time ago you would have been better off." To which the prisoner responded, "I don't know about that. We are not badly off—might be looking through the bars." Another a little back remarked, "I'd like to look through the bars." To which the former replied, "Yes—whiskey bars!" Then, putting his head out of the window, said to the crowd, "I suppose you don't drink such stuff up here?"</p> <p>The most anxious inquiry of the prisoners seemed to be, as to the quality of the water in the camp. They had not liked the water at Camp Douglas.</p> <p>An outsider made some remark as to the power of the North—what it could do, &amp;c.—when a prisoner looked at him and remarked: "I reckon you are one of the stay-at-home kind—to do the windy work. Hadn't you better go and help your brethren down South?—they need you at Corinth."</p> <p>These are specimens of hundreds of good natured remarks that passed between the prisoners and those outside. The whole affair was conducted in good shape.</p> <p>The prisoners will find the Camp very comfortable—free from mud. We shall give such particulars from time to time in regard to the Camp as we can obtain.</p>	<p><b>Arrival of the Guard for the Prisoners—Half of the Nineteenth Regiment at Camp Randall.</b></p> <p>The duty of guarding the prisoners to be quartered here having been temporarily assigned to the Nineteenth Regiment, the left wing, comprising companies B, E, G, H and K, under command of Lt. Col. WHIPPLE and Major BOVAY, arrived here on Saturday evening.</p> <p>Company G, Capt. STONE, having been supplied with arms and accoutrements by McFARLAND, went on to Prairie du Chien to take charge of the prisoners expected up the river.</p> <p>The other companies went into camp, and were busied yesterday in getting things in shape for their own convenience, and the comfort and security of their expected guests.</p> <p>The number both of guards and prisoners was somewhat in excess of what had been anticipated, and the accommodations were not in complete readiness.</p> <p>The 19th is equipped in the very best manner, and make a fine appearance. The men march well, and appear to be of the right sort of stuff. They had not been supplied with arms till their arrival here, and of course are a little inexperienced in their use; but a short schooling will doubtless suffice to thoroughly post them in all their duties.</p> <p>It is understood that the remainder of the 19th regiment will be ordered to Camp Randall immediately.</p>
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