

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CIVIL WAR MEMORIAL ASSESSMENT FORM

PLEASE:

- Type or print, using a ball-point pen, when filling out this form. Legibility is critical.
 - Do not guess at the information. An answer of, "Unknown," is more helpful.
 - Include a photograph of each viewable side and label it with name & direction of view.
- Thank You.**

Type of Memorial

Monument *with* Sculpture Monument with *Cannon*
 Monument *without* Sculpture Historical Marker Plaque

Affiliation

G.A.R. (Post Name & No. _____) M.O.L.L.U.S.
 W.R.C. (Corps Name & No. _____) Other Allied Order
 SUVCW (Camp Name & No. _____) (Please describe below)
 DUVCW (Tent Name & No. _____)
 Other: The Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Division of State Parks Civil War Marker Program

Original Dedication Date 2004 Please consult any/all newspaper archives for a local paper's article that would have information on the *first* dedication ceremony and/or other facts on the memorial. Please submit a copy of your findings with full identification of the paper & date of publication. Thank you.

Location

The Memorial is *currently* located at:
 Street/Road address or site location Hwy 80 at Junction with Wolf Island Rd. (W89°07'24" N36°45'57")
 City/Village Belmont (Unincorporated) Township _____ County Mississippi

The front of the Memorial faces: North South East West

Government Body, Agency, or Individual Owner (of private cemetery that Memorial is located in)...

Name Department of Natural Resources Dept./Div. Division of State Parks
 Street Address PO Box 176
 City Jefferson City State MO Zip Code 65102
 Contact Person James Denny Telephone (800) 334-6946

If the Memorial has been moved, please list former location(s)...

N/A

Physical Details

Material of Monument or base under a Sculpture or Cannon = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) Modern Weather Resistant Polymers

Material of the Sculpture = Stone Concrete Metal Undetermined
 If known, name specific material (color of granite, marble, etc.) not applicable _____
 If the Sculpture is of metal, is it solid cast or "hollow?" _____

Material of Plaque or Historical Marker / Tablet = Modern Polymers

Material of Cannon = Bronze Iron - Consult known Ordnance Listing to confirm

Markings on muzzle = not applicable _____

Markings on Left Trunion _____ Right Trunion _____

Is inert ammunition a part of the Memorial? If so, describe _____

Approximate Dimensions (indicate unit of measure) - taken from tallest / widest points

Monument or Base: Height 4 feet Width 3 feet Depth 3 feet or Diameter _____

Sculpture: Height _____ Width _____ Depth _____ or Diameter _____

For Memorials with multiple Sculptures, please record this information on a separate sheet of paper for each statue and attach to this form. Please describe the "pose" of each statue and any weapons/implements involved (in case your photos become separated from this form). Thank you!

Markings/Inscriptions (on stone-work / metal-work of monument, base, sculpture)

Maker or Fabricator mark / name? If so, give name & location found n/a

The "Dedication Text" is formed: cut into material raised up from material face

Record the text (indicate any separation if on different sides...) Please use additional sheet if necessary.
 SEE ATTACHED.

Environmental Setting

(The general vicinity and immediate locale surrounding a memorial can play a major role in its overall condition.)

Type of Location

- Cemetery
- "Town Square"
- Municipal Building
- Courthouse
- Traffic Circle

- Park
- Post Office
- State Capitol
- College Campus
- Library

- Plaza/Courtyard
- School
- Other: Farm & Woodland
- _____
- _____

General Vicinity

Rural (low population, open land) Suburban (residential, near city)
 Town Urban / Metropolitan

Immediate Locale (check as many as may apply)

Industrial Commercial
 Street/Roadside within 20 feet Tree Covered (overhanging branches)
 Protected from the elements (canopy or enclosure, indoors)
 Protected from the public (fence or other barrier)
Any other significant environmental factor _____

Condition Information

Structural Condition (check as many as may apply)

The following section applies to Monuments *with* Sculpture, and Monuments *without* Sculpture - including the base for Monuments with Cannon. Instability in the sculpture and its base can be detected by a number of factors. Indicators may be obvious or subtle. Visually examine the sculpture and its base.

	Sculpture	Base
If hollow, is the internal support unstable/exposed? <small>(look for signs of exterior rust)</small>	___	___
Any evidence of structural instability? <small>(look for cracked joints, missing mortar or caulking or plant growth)</small>	___	___
Any broken or missing parts? <small>(look for elements (i.e., sword, musket, hands, arms, etc. - missing due to vandalism, fluctuating weather conditions, etc.)</small>	___	___
Any cracks, splits, breaks or holes? <small>(also look for signs of uneven stress & weakness in the material)</small>	___	___

Surface Appearance (check as many as may apply)

	Sculpture	Base
Black crusting	___	___
White crusting	___	___
Etched, pitted, or otherwise corroded (on metal)	___	___
Metallic staining (run-off from copper, iron, etc.)	___	___
Organic growth (moss, algae, lichen or vines)	___	___
Chalky or powdery stone	___	___
Granular eroding of stone	___	___
Spalling of stone (surface splitting off)	___	___
Droppings (bird, animal, insect remains)	___	___
Other (e.g., spray paint graffiti) - Please describe... <small>pollens from trees will look like rust, and sign will require light annual cleaning.</small>	___	___

Does water collect in recessed areas of the Memorial? ___ Yes No ___ Unable to tell

Surface Coating

Does there appear to be a coating? Yes No Unable to determine

If known, identify type of coating.

Gilded Painted Varnished Waxed Unable to determine

Is the coating in good condition? Yes No Unable to determine

Basic Surface Condition Assessment (check one)

In your opinion, what is the general appearance or condition of the Memorial?

Well maintained Would benefit from treatment In urgent need of treatment Unable to determine

Overall Description

Briefly describe the Memorial (affiliation / overall condition & any concern not already touched on).

Recheck every two years. Printing probably subject to aging over time.

Supplemental Background Information

In addition to your on-site survey, any additional information you can provide on the described Memorial will be welcomed. Please label each account with its source (author, title, publisher, date, pages). Topics include any reference to the points listed on this questionnaire, plus any previous conservation treatments - or efforts to raise money for treatment. Thank you.

Inspector Identification

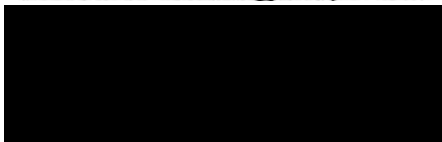
Date of On-site Survey 07/17/2006

Your Name Walter E. Busch, US Grant Camp #68



Please send this completed form to:

Todd A. Shillington, PDC



Thank you for your help, and attention to detail.

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
National Civil War Memorials Committee

THE BATTLE OF BELMONT

US Emblem Picture US Grant labeled Grant The Battle of Belmont Picture of L. Polk CSA Logo

North and west of this location, the Battle of Belmont was fought on November 7, 1861. It was the first battle in which Ulysses S. Grant commanded an army. He had recently been promoted to Brigadier General and placed in command of the federal District of Southeast Missouri with headquarters at Cairo, Illinois. Opposing Grant was Major General Leonidas Polk, an Episcopal bishop turned soldier. Polk was commanding the confederate fortifications at Columbus, Kentucky overlooking the Mississippi River. Directly opposite Columbus, on the Missouri side of the river, was a small hamlet and landing named Belmont.

At Columbus, towering bluffs projected toward the river and provided the first ideal location below Cairo for the placement of artillery batteries. Both sides eyed this location as being strategically important to the control of the Mississippi River. To occupy Columbus, however, would be to violate Kentucky's declared neutrality in the Civil war. On September 3, 1861, the Confederacy made the first move in this direction when Polk's army occupied heights above Columbus.

By the time of the Battle of Belmont, the Columbus fortifications bristled with 140 artillery pieces, including a 128-pounder Whitworth rifled gun nicknamed "Lady Polk." The garrison consisted of 19,000 soldiers. From the fortifications, a mile-long chain had been extended across the river to Belmont to block Union gunboats. This massive chain, requiring a six-ton anchor to hold it in place, enjoyed only a brief career before breaking, apparently of its own weight. The anchor, a short section of the chain, and the remnants of the fortifications are preserved at the Columbus-Belmont Battlefield State Park in Columbus, Kentucky.

Immediately after Polk's occupation of Columbus, Grant countered by moving up the Ohio River from Cairo and seizing Paducah, Kentucky on September 6, 1861. Paducah's location in proximity to the mouths of the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers opened to Union forces a route of invasion into the heartland of the western Confederacy.

By November, 1861, the Confederates had established an outpost, called Camp Johnston, at Belmont to serve as an observation post. The decision by Grant to assault this encampment was based on faulty information. He had been led to believe that Polk was to send troops to reinforce pro-Southern forces under General Sterling Price in southwest Missouri. Grant was also concerned that a Union detachment sent to drive the Southern partisan commander, M. Jeff Thompson, the elusive "Swamp Fox," from the state would be cut off and captured by Polk's troop movements.

On the morning of November 7, a federal flotilla of four transports and two gunboats landed Grant's attack force of 3,114 men at Hunter's Point, two miles above Belmont. While this force attacked [sic] the Confederate camp, General C.F. Smith, Commander at Paducah, was to conduct a demonstration against Columbus from the Kentucky side of the river to discourage Polk from reinforcing Camp Johnston.

A mile march through woods and a tangle of brush brought Grant's two brigades into contact with four Confederate infantry regiments under Brigadier General Gideon Pillow. Formed in line of battle in a cornfield, this body of troops numbered roughly the same as Grant's but was poorly deployed. After more than an hour of hard fighting, the Confederates ran short of ammunition and Grant's men succeeded in scattering them.

The Federals then converged on the Confederate camp from two directions and drove its defenders towards the river where they found protection and concealment behind the nearly vertical embankment at the water's edge. Once in the camp, Grant lost control of his troops who abandoned the attack in order to loot the camp and celebrate what seemed to be an easy victory. This revelry proved premature, for Polk had been observing the progress of the battle from Columbus. While his big guns kept Grant's gunboats at a respectful distance. Polk sent two steamers across the river with additional regiments under Brigadier General Benjamin Cheatham. Their orders were to tear into Grant's flank and prevent his force from retreating to their transports.

Grant described the reaction of his men to the approaching reinforcements. "At first some of the officers seemed to think that to be surrounded was to be placed in a hopeless position, where there was nothing to do but surrender. But when I announced that we had cut our way in and could cut our way out just as well, it seemed a new revelation to officers and soldiers." The way back involved fierce fighting and many Union casualties, but Grant managed to get most of his army back to the safety of the transports. Grant was the last federal to leave the the field. He boarded the transport by guiding his horse down the nearly perpendicular river bank and trotting him across a narrow gang plank.

The battle of Belmont had lasted six hours. The Union lost 120 killed, 383 wounded, and 104 captured or missing for a total of 607 casualties, or 20% of the total force. On the Confederate side, 105 were killed, 419 wounded, and 117 captured or missing for a total of 641 casualties, or 16% of the total force engaged.

Grant, himself, acknowledged the criticisms in the North that the Battle of Belmont was a wholly unnecessary battle barren of results. But he still insisted, in his Personal Memoirs, that he had accomplished his objectives. He felt he had prevented troops from being detached from Columbus for service elsewhere, and more important, he had given his troops needed combat experience. "The National troops acquired a confidence in themselves at Belmont that did not desert them through the war," he wrote. Despite the inevitable mistakes of a neophyte general, Grant demonstrated at Belmont his steadiness of judgment under fire, and his ability to get out of tight spots - two qualities that were key to his greatness as a commander.

Polk won the Battle of Belmont, but his successful defense was in vain. Four months after Belmont, Grant launched an attack from Paducah on Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers. With the surrender of these forts to Grant, Polk was flanked at Columbus and compelled to abandon the massive fortifications of this "Gibraltar of the West" without a shot being fired.



GRANT

The Battle of Belmont

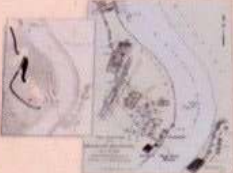


POLK



The first view of the river was taken from the north bank of the river at Belmont, Missouri, on the morning of December 19, 1861. The river was in full flood, and the water was so high that the boats could not pass the rapids. The Confederates had been in possession of the river since the fall of 1861, and the Union had been unable to retake it. The battle of Belmont was the first major Union victory on the river since the fall of 1861.

On the eve of the battle of Belmont, the Confederates had a strong position on the north bank of the river. They had built a strong fortification, and they had a large number of men and guns. The Union had been unable to retake the river since the fall of 1861, and the battle of Belmont was the first major Union victory on the river since the fall of 1861.



The Federal fleet consisted of the USS Ironclad Monitor, the USS Galena, and the USS Cincinnati. The Confederates had a strong position on the north bank of the river, and they had a large number of men and guns. The Union had been unable to retake the river since the fall of 1861, and the battle of Belmont was the first major Union victory on the river since the fall of 1861.

Grant's initial intention was to take the town of Belmont, Missouri, and to destroy the Confederate fortification. He had a large number of men and guns, and he had a strong position on the north bank of the river. The Confederates had a strong position on the north bank of the river, and they had a large number of men and guns.



**A STATE DIVIDED
THE CIVIL WAR IN MISSOURI**

On the morning of December 1, a fierce battle of four hours and two quarters lasted to get a force of 1,114 men at Hannibal, Missouri, under General William H. Hall, to take the Confederate camp at Belmont. The Confederates at Belmont were to fight a defensive action against General Halleck's force of 1,114 men. The battle was a tactical draw, but it was a moral victory for the Union.

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