

A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

MARCH 16 - 22, 1862

Railroads were essential to moving soldiers and supplies through the steep ridges and shallow rivers of western Virginia during the Civil War. Trains also carried messages between battlefields and headquarters, and helped to gather intelligence. That also made them frequent targets.

Keenly aware of the importance of protecting the railroads, Union Adj. Gen. Lorenzo Thomas sent a March 22 dispatch to Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, specifically instructing him to defend the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and the rail between Knoxville, Tenn., and Richmond, Va.

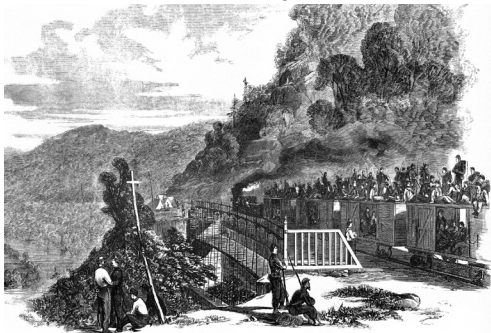
Thomas told the commander of the Mountain

Department to protect the railroads at all costs.

On March 28, 1862, Gen. George B. McClellan ordered troops to guard the railway bridges between Harpers Ferry and the south branch of the Potomac River. He also suggested Fremont guard all bridges west of the South Branch.

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.

Photograph provided by the West Virginia State Archives



For more information, visit www.wvculture.org