

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

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**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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
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**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
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_



**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

Address PO Box 509 City Pilot Knob

State MO Zip Code 63663 Telephone ( 314 ) 630-8407

Please send this completed form to:

**Todd A. Shillington, PDC**  
15 Park Place  
Holley, NY 14470-1022  
(585) 638-5929

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.



POLK

# The Battle of Belmont



GRANT



The Army of the West, under the command of General James K. Polk, was defeated by the Union Army of the West, under the command of General Zachary Taylor, at the Battle of Buena Vista on February 22, 1847. This battle was a significant victory for the United States during the Mexican-American War.

The battle was fought in the state of Coahuila, Mexico. The Union Army, consisting of regular soldiers and militia, was led by General Zachary Taylor. The Mexican Army, led by General Antonio López de Santa Anna, was a larger force but suffered from a lack of supplies and poor coordination.

General Taylor's strategy was to use the terrain to his advantage. He positioned his army on a high ridge, which allowed him to see the Mexican army's movements. He then launched a surprise attack on the Mexican army's flank, leading to their defeat.

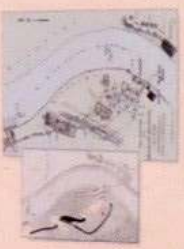
The victory at Buena Vista was a major morale booster for the United States and demonstrated the effectiveness of Taylor's military tactics. It also led to the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which ended the Mexican-American War and resulted in the United States acquiring a large portion of Mexico's territory.

The Battle of Belmont was a tactical victory for the Union Army, but it did not result in a strategic advantage. The Confederates were able to retreat and regroup, and they continued to fight the Battle of Stones River in December 1862. This battle was another tactical victory for the Union, but it also did not result in a strategic advantage.

The Battle of Stones River was fought in the state of Tennessee. The Union Army, led by General Grant, was defeated by the Confederate Army, led by General Braxton Bragg. This battle was a significant setback for the Union during the American Civil War.

Despite the tactical victory at Stones River, Grant's army was able to maintain its position and eventually forced Bragg to retreat. This allowed the Union to continue its campaign in the Western Theater of the war.

The Battle of Stones River was a turning point in the war, as it demonstrated that the Union was capable of standing up to the Confederates in a conventional battle. It also showed that the Confederates were still a formidable fighting force.



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