

Movements Detected

Columbus Fortified

Camp Johnston occupied at [Belmont](#)

The sounds of the **Pick Iron** could be Heard rippling across the water as Battery Emplacements were carved into the Bluffs.

The **Iron Banks** were most hospitable to the Rebel Forces. The layout of the **Chalk Bluffs** gave the Confederates the High Ground (Militarily) and the capacity to shuttle troops into Missouri as needed.

However, the Political Backlash had already begun for [Leonidas Polk](#). What he thought would make him a Hero in the South had backfired.

[Kentucky Leaders ~ Rebel and Yankee ~ condemned the move to violate the state's neutrality.](#) ~ according to a 1861 NY Times Report.

Grant seized the initiative and secured the more vital commercial port of Paducah on the **Ohio** and **Smithland** on the **Tennessee** to give the Yankees a beachhead for their thrust Southward.

The Stage was set.

Now, both Armies began earnestly preparing for War.

War Means Fighting ~ Fighting Means Killing

ALLRIGHTSRESERVED:KpKronicleLLC ~ Kevin Pritchett

Trooper Pritchett's dispatch to Polk/Pillow was intentionally misdirected to Grant from the Cairo Telegraph office.

Rebel Command would be the second recipient of the message.

~Urgent~ No Large Rebel concentration on the Plains beyond Belmont; Niger Wool Swamp makes movement of forces difficult.

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~~Gen [Jeff Thompson](#) is leading renegades; roughnecks and stragglers. Encampment at Johnston now manned by Tennessee and Arkansas regulars.~~

*Scouted the Benton Hills to Commerce ~ **Clear of Yankees** ~*

[Grant](#) knew now the threat from the West was minimal; thus, allowing his concentration of forces to focus on Southward penetration.

