

getting near enough with their steam gun to shell us. We had a 4-inch rifle gun mounted on a small flat car and shoved it by hand. When four miles out we began to tear up the track and just then the rebels made their appearance down the track with an engine and a large 8-inch gun on a flat car and they at once opened on us. The first shot struck in the center of the track just short of where Captain McArthur and myself stood, exploded and a large piece of the butt of the shell ricocheted to the right, making a high curve, cut off the top of a tall pine tree, and fell into the ranks of Company I, Eighth Maine, who were marching in four ranks by the right shoulder shift on a piece of plank road. It struck the musket barrel of Thomas Hoole of Brunswick, Me., taking off his head. Passing to the next rank it took off the shoulder of Joseph Goodwin, of Lyman, Me.—he lived two hours. Passing to the next rank it took off the leg below the knee of another man. I soon had the ambulance at work. Hiding the piece of shell under the plank road, turning over all the planks that had blood on them, and scattering soil over the spot, we very quickly obliterated all signs of anyone being hurt. We got back to town at 3 p. m., with no further loss.

Evacuation and Burning of Jacksonville

The Federal troops were withdrawn from Jacksonville for the purpose of taking part in the operations against Savannah and Charleston. Describing the evacuation, the correspondent of the New York Tribune, writing from Jacksonville under date of March 29, 1863, said:

Before entering upon the details of this lamentable destruction of property, allow me to return to Hilton Head, which place I left last Thursday morning. At that time at an early hour, it was whispered around headquarters, although the utmost secrecy had been enjoined, that Jacksonville was to be evacuated by the soldiers of the National army, who had promised the loyal inhabitants protection and had assured them that the city would be held by our troops during the war. Desiring to visit this portion of the Department of the South before the grand expedition set sail, and also to witness the evacuation, I took passage on the steamer Boston and arrived here with the accompanying transports, the Convoy, the Delaware, the Cossack, and the Tillie, on Friday evening.

At Hilton Head much surprise, indeed much indignation had been expressed the moment it was made known that we were to abandon this important point; not perhaps so much because it was important, but because so many loyal people would be utterly ruined by the movement. Arriving at Jacksonville, I called upon the leading officers and found that they, too, could scarcely restrain their indignation. It is an outrage, it is villainous, it will injure our cause terribly, were the most frequent expressions. It was in vain that one tried to demonstrate that