

### Fight with Indians—Three Men Severely Wounded.

We mentioned last week that Capt. Messic's Company of volunteers were in pursuit of a band of Redwood Indians, and that the Indians had fled towards the coast and taken up quarters in the vicinity of Dow's Prairie, ten or twelve miles from Union. It was not supposed that they numbered so many as was subsequently ascertained, or that any greater obstacles would intervene than had attended the taking of prisoners on former occasions. Capt. Messic, acting under this supposition, and being deceived as to numbers, undertook the attack with only fourteen men, the remainder of his Company being engaged in scouring the Redwood and Mad river country.

On Thursday last Capt. Messic learned through some suspicious movements of the Mad River Indians near town, and who profess to be friendly, that the enemy were in the Redwoods, somewhere between Dow's Prairie and Liscom's Hill. He started in pursuit, fully determined to dislodge them, and some time during the day he struck their trail, which he followed all day. Encamping for the night on their trail, he started again at daylight. About 9 o'clock in the morning the barking of dogs apprised him that the Indians were near at hand. Here the Capt. made a halt, and dividing his little band in two parties of seven men each, he prepared to make the attack. The parties flanked off, and coming down upon the Indians simultaneously, they found, to their surprise, instead of a few brush shanties, fourteen large log houses; containing, as near as they were able to calculate, about one hundred and fifty Indians. Nothing daunted, however, the fight commenced, the Indians taking to the brush, which was very thick, and firing from their ambuscade in every quarter. The unerring aim of the volunteers

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quarter. The unerring aim of the volunteers  
rifles told with fearful effect upon the Indians,  
as they left the ranches, fifteen warriors being  
killed on the spot, and not a woman or child  
hurt. Capt. Messic soon found it necessary  
to concentrate what little force he had and  
take to the brush, and meet the Indians on  
their own ground. In this manœuvre two  
of his men were severely wounded, one named  
John Houk, of Burnt Ranch being shot  
through the hand and body by a rager ball,  
and Sam. Overlander receiving two large  
balls, one through the fleshy part of each thigh.  
Messic now thought it advisable to move  
off in order to save his wounded men, taking  
with him thirteen prisoners which he had  
taken in the engagement. Scouts from the  
enemies camp followed and harrassed him all  
day, one Indian in particular manifesting the  
most daring bravery. He kept upon their  
trail for seven hours, firing upon them a num-  
ber of times. About 4 o'clock in the after-  
noon he had headed them off and secreted  
himself about thirty steps from the trail, and  
as the company passed, he fired upon G. W.  
Werk, of Eureka, who had just been ordered  
to take his place behind the prisoners. Mr.  
Werk was carrying two guns at the time,  
otherwise he thinks he could have had an  
even show with the Indian, as he saw him  
first as he raised his gun. The ball was well  
aimed for Werk's head, but he having his  
left arm doubled over the guns at the time,  
he received it in his arm close to the elbow  
joint, smashing his arm to splinters and sev-  
ering an artery. Capt. Messic immediately  
bound up the arm so as to stop the blood,  
but not before Werk had become quite weak  
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This same Indian not more than half an hour afterwards crossed their track again, and fired at one of the volunteers named Wilburn, but missed him. So expert was he in hiding that it was impossible to get a shot at him, and Messic's company was so small and his wounded men required so much attention, that he could not make any flank movements to catch the Indian.

About 5 o'clock on Saturday morning Capt. Messic, with his brave little band of fourteen reached Dow's Prairie; none of the party had had any sleep, and but little refreshment for fifty hours preceding, and the intense suffering of these three wounded men can better be imagined than described. They reached Union Saturday afternoon, and had their wounds dressed Saturday night.

