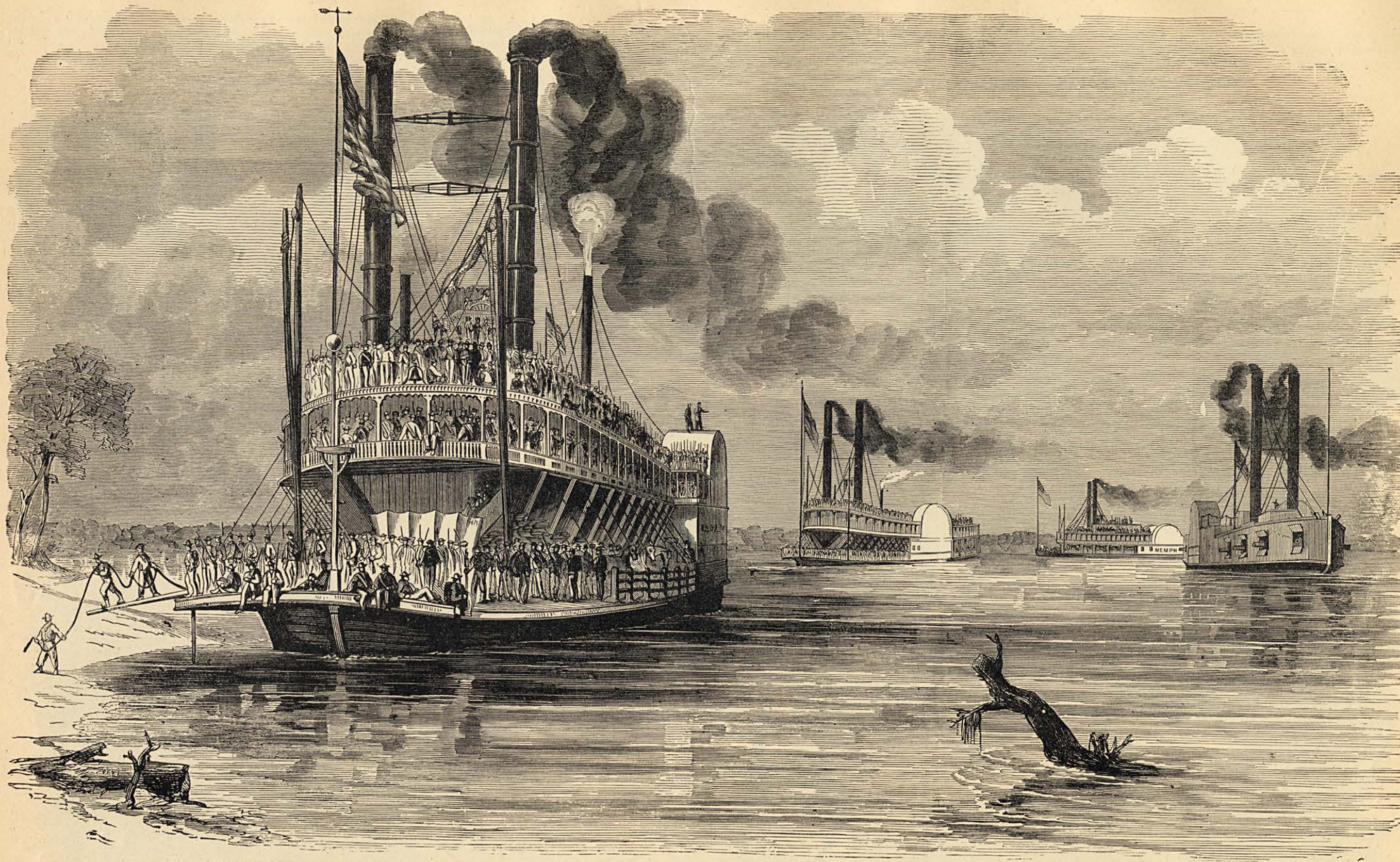




FEDERAL TROOPS LANDING ON THE KENTUCKY SHORE, OPPOSITE CAIRO, ILL., FOR THE PURPOSE OF BUILDING FORT HOLT.

In the summer of 1861, the Confederates in Tennessee and Southern Kentucky began to push their lines northward, with the intention of securing control of the Mississippi shore on the east. The port of Cairo, at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi, had been fixed upon for a military depot and rendezvous of the Union army. The erection of Fort Holt added to the defences of Cairo and the work was pushed forward with great energy by General Fremont, who at that time commanded the Department of the West. It sheltered a large garrison of infantry which, during Grant's attack on Columbus from the west shore, advanced upon that port from the east. The Confederates were afterward forced to evacuate that region and Fort Holt was never subjected to attack.