

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

McClellan Shines in Early Role

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

In May, 1861, George Brinton McClellan entered the Civil War.

This 35-year-old Pennsylvanian would remain down stage center on the war scene for a year-and-a-half, the most controversial general of the conflict—a hero to some, a failure to many more. Many of his lines were delivered as soliloquies and addressed to voters and politicians, rather than to the limited audience of his military role.

In a war which was overcrowded with generals whose political ambitions often outran their military prowess, McClellan stood for a brief moment at the top, but there was a Greek chorus chanting doom in the wings.

Muffs Both Chances
He was the only general of the Army of the Potomac who had two golden chances to decisively defeat the Army of Northern Virginia and capture the Confederate capital, Richmond. He muffed both of them without ever having been beaten decisively himself.

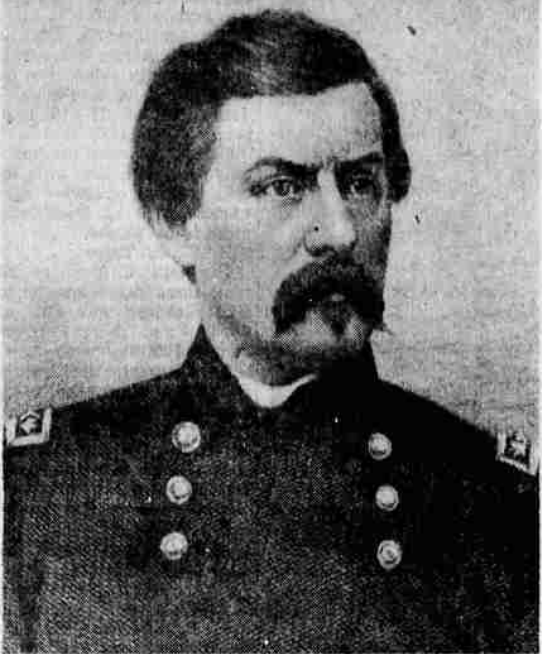
Graduated second in a class of 59 from West Point in 1846, McClellan had a distinguished career behind him at Ft. Sumter time. He seemed to be the best military talent the Union possessed at the moment.

He won three brevets in the Mexican War. Then he spent a year in Europe studying military operations. His report, including a section on the Crimean War, was hailed as a masterpiece. By 1857 he was a captain, but resigned to go into business, becoming by wartime a vice president of the Illinois Central Railroad, one of whose lawyers was Abraham Lincoln.

There would come a time when this ex-vice president of a railroad would ignore Lincoln sitting in the McClellan living room and go to bed without seeing him. By that time McClellan was commander-in-chief of the Union armies and Lincoln was President of the United States and commander-in-chief of all its armed forces, including McClellan himself. (Still later in the dark days of 1864, McClellan would run against Lincoln for the presidency and be soundly trounced, his last defeat.)

He's Still Controversial
Now 100 years later, historians wrangle as much about McClellan's place in Civil War history as any of his contemporaries. Middle ground then and now is a narrow strip of land.

But in the spring of '61, McClellan seemed to be the man on the white horse. Gov. William Dennison of Ohio summoned him to Columbus with a view to giving him command of the state's forces. Jacob D. Cox, a state senator and a brigadier general of militia, met McClellan at the railroad station. Cox described McClellan as "rather under medium height, but muscularly formed, with broad shoulders and a well poised head, active and graceful in motion. His whole appearance was quiet and modest, but when drawn out, he showed



IN WAR SPOTLIGHT—In May, 1861, George Brinton McClellan entered the Civil War. The 35-year-old Pennsylvanian would remain in the spotlight for a year and a half, the most controversial general of the conflict. A brilliant organizer, he was to be the only general of the Army of the Potomac who had two chances to defeat the Army of Northern Virginia and capture the Confederate capital, Richmond. He muffed both. McClellan is shown in an engraving made in the early 1860s. (UPI Telephoto)

no lack of confidence in himself.

McClellan accepted command of the Ohio troops with the rank of major general and the next day he and Cox took stock of their equipment.

"We found a few boxes of smooth bore muskets . . . rusted and damaged," Cox wrote. "No belt, cartridge boxes or other accouterments . . . two or three smooth bore field pieces, 6 pounders . . . honey combed by firing of salutes . . . a confused pile of mildewed harness . . . not worth carrying away."

That pile of rubbish was McClellan's store of war material. But he had volunteers, about 10,000 of them, and he ordered up 2,000 copies of Hardee's "Tactics," the Army's standard drill manual. He drew up in a week plans for supplying and equipping Ohio's army. He added a grand strategy plan to win the war which he sent to Gen. Winfield Scott, Army commander. This called for a drive east from Ohio to threaten Richmond on the flank and cooperation with the Army at Washington and another army to march south and open the Mississippi Valley.

Scott answered on May 3 in flattering terms without approving the plan. But Cox thought the plan paved the way for McClellan's appointment on May 13 as major general in the Regular Army. McClellan's territory was the Department of Ohio and part of Western Virginia, which later became the new state of West Virginia.

Here McClellan's brilliance in organizing and training armies began to function. Within a matter of days, recruits were drilling at Camp

Dennison at Cincinnati. McClellan had moved his headquarters there and was dashing hither and yon on horseback, a handsome figure riding on a "McClellan" saddle which he had perfected from his European study days and which the U.S. Cavalry used until gasoline engines took over from horseflesh.

Grant Approaches McClellan
One of McClellan's callers in these busy days was Ulysses S. Grant, who crossed the Ohio River from Covington, Ky., where he was visiting his parents. Ex-captain "Sam" Grant was looking for a war job. More than 20 years later he recalled in his memoirs:

"I had known him slightly at West Point . . . and in the Mexican War. I was in hopes that when he saw me he would offer me a position on his staff. I called on two successive days but failed to see him. . . ."

McClellan in his memoirs recounted:

"This was his good luck for had I been there I would no doubt have given him a place on my staff, and he probably would have remained with me and shared my fate."

On one of McClellan's inspection tours he came upon two regiments in training at loggerheads on a road because neither of the two inexperienced colonels knew what order to give so they could pass. The situation had progressed to the fist fight stage when McClellan rode up.

"Soldiers! Spare your blows for the enemies of your country," McClellan declaimed. The fights ended, the colonels made up and the two regiments were brigaded together.

Incidents like that piled up until McClellan came to be

Try and Stop Me

By BENNETT CERF

SIR CEDRIC HARDWICKE, urbane and accomplished British actor, has completed an autobiography entitled "A Victorian in Orbit." In it he boasts of a compliment received from Bernard Shaw. "You are," announced Shaw, "my fifth favorite actor, the first four being the Marx Brothers."



King George had a little trouble the day he knighted Sir Cedric. As Hardwicke knelt before him, the Lord Chamberlain read his name. The King said sharply, "Who?" He didn't get it the second time, either, then demanded, "Spell it." "For an actor's name to be spelled out," confessed Hardwicke, "is his greatest humiliation."

It turns out that spelling didn't help King George a bit. He finally whacked Sir Cedric on the back with his jeweled sword, and dubbed him, rather testily, "Sir Samuel Pickwick."

Most tragic figure of the week: the Eskimo who stabbed himself with an icicle—and died of cold cuts.

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Elizabeth Taylor Said 'Doing Fine'

Hollywood—UPI—"She's coming along just fine," a friend said today of Elizabeth Taylor, whose husband, singer Eddie Fisher, cancelled a charity appearance when the actress came down with a high temperature.

Fisher called off his attendance at a Hollywood benefit party Saturday night after his wife developed a 103-degree fever that afternoon.

Dr. Rex Kennamer, Miss Taylor's physician, had advised her two days before the affair not to attend. "The doctor just doesn't want her in crowds," a friend said. "She is still recuperating."

Note Tells Police That Truck Was Stolen

An obliging thief enabled state police at Grants Pass to recover a lumber truck soon after it was stolen this week end.

The lumber truck, stolen from Mt. Pitt Lumber company, Central Point, was found by state police with a note attached to the windshield stating the vehicle had been stolen. Officers are looking for the thief, obliging or not.

Petitions To Seek New City in Oregon

Portland—UPI—A public rally to start circulation of petitions for an election to form a new city of Holladay in eastern Multnomah county is scheduled tonight.

The proposed city would be located between the Columbia river on the north and the Clackamas county line on the south, and northeast and 92nd-98th aves. on the west and northeast 162nd-169th aves. on the east.

There would be a buffer zone of two to four blocks between Portland and the proposed city, which would have a population of about 75,000 and be Oregon's second largest.

NOTICE

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Manuel Valdes, 479 Berrydale,
Ethel S. Shultz, 372 Stewart Ave.,
Ralph Champion, 1114 N. Central,
Cari D. Alexander, 4833 Hope Drive, Central Point.
Lawrence D. Edwards, 2816 Rosemont
Robert M. Beyer, 52 Ross Court,
Geo. R. Kennedy, 2971 Delta Waters
C. W. Clause, 245 N. Holly,
J. R. Robinson, 1917 E. Main,
J. R. O'Connor, 2233 Ruhl Way,
Peter R. Bateman, 3088 Table Rock
Ernie Klanner, 304 S. Hamilton,
George LeRoy Johnson, 409 Ardmore
Wally R. Lonsinger, 1236 N. Riverside,
John W. Hoogerheide, 1408 Crown,
W. E. Craig, 1448 S. Ivy,
Mrs. Edith Eaton, 91 Church St., Ashland,
Louella Welch, 713 Cedar,

Albert P. Blumreich, Sterling Creek Road,
Jessie L. Stagg, 611 Berrydale Ave.,
Dennis Hagler, 624 E. 9th St.,
W. D. Woodcock, 2557 Sandy Terrace,
Lloyd D. Hammond, Scenic Ave., C.P.,
Ralph Householder, 176 Weightman, Ashland.
Rev. John O. Reynolds, 1426 Euclid,
Harold W. Austin, 1103 Siskiyou Blvd., Ashland.
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Claude Saylor, 16 S. Orange,
Boyd A. Gibson, 701 Chestnut,
Dale Eldred, 1840 Barnett Road,
Orville Cox, 2816 Cory Road, White City,
C. A. Marchant, 1650 Orchard Home
Bob Gorman, 281 1/2 Oak,
Ralph L. Cook, Hillcrest-Phoenix Road,
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