

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

New Leader for Virginia Army

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

Whatever military qualities John Pope may have possessed, tact was not one of them. Summoned from the West where he had won a couple of victories, Major General Pope took command of President Lincoln's brand new Army of Virginia with misgivings and reluctance and promptly rubbed everybody the wrong way.

"It became apparent to me at once," Pope wrote later, "that the duty assigned to me was in the nature of a forlorn hope, and my position was further embarrassed by the fact that I was called from another army and a different field of duty to command an army of which the corps commanders were all my seniors in rank."

Pope's selection in the spring of 1862 was Lincoln's decision, apparently made without consultation with the War Department. Lincoln had known Pope's father in Illinois and Pope himself had accompanied Lincoln to Washington for the inauguration as a sort of bodyguard.

West Point Graduate
This new army commander from the West was 40 years old and a West Pointer of the class of 1842, graduating in the upper fourth of his group. "Pope was a thickset man," Col. George H. Gordon of the 2nd Massachusetts Infantry wrote, "of an unpleasant expression, about 50 (sic) years of age, average height, thick bushy whiskers and wearing spectacles."

"There was no reserve about General Pope, he let out in censure with such vigor that if words had been missiles our army would never have failed for want of ammunition . . . (his) freedom of speech infected his command. Swearing became an epidemic . . . The newspapers laughed at Pope . . . and dubbed him 'five-cent' Pope."

Pope arrived in Washington in June 1862 to take over the new army made up of three corps commanded by Maj. Gen. Irwin McDowell, the loser at First Bull Run (Manassas); Maj. Gen. John C. Fremont, who had been recalled from Missouri, and Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks, a political general from Massachusetts, whom Stonewall Jackson had routed.

Fremont's Career Ends
Fremont promptly refused to serve under Pope, his junior, and asked to be relieved. The Army just as promptly complied, and that was the end of Fremont's military career in the Civil War.

Troops making up the New Army of Virginia had been outfought and outmaneuvered in the Shenandoah Valley by Jackson. Morale was low. Pope sought to correct that with a general order issued on July 4, 1862.

"Let us understand each other," he wrote. "I have come to you from the West, where we have always seen the backs of our enemies; from an army whose business it has been to seek the adversary, and to beat him when he was found; whose policy has been attack not defense . . . I presume I have been called here to pursue the same system and to lead you against the enemy. It is my purpose to do so, and that speedily . . ."

"I desire you to dismiss from your minds certain phrases, which I am sorry to find so much in vogue. I hear constantly of 'taking strong positions and holding them' and 'bases of supplies.' Let us discard such ideas . . ."

"Let us study the probable lines of retreat of our opponents, and leave our own to take care of themselves . . ."

Aimed at McClellan
The remarks about bases and retreats were aimed at Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan whose Army of the Potomac had been bested before Richmond and no immobilized in a fortified camp on the James river. McDowell and Banks also could read criticism of their campaigns between the lines. Western armies had been more successful than the Eastern armies. Pope's boasts, instead of stiffening morale, had the opposite effect.

About this time Pope is supposed to have told reporters that his headquarters would be "in the saddle." Wags soon turned the phrase into "Pope's headquarters."

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are where his headquarters ought to be."

Pope began assembling his scattered corps early in July. Fremont's old corps, now commanded by Maj. Gen. Franz Sigel, German-born and educated, was ordered out of the Shenandoah valley to the east side of the Blue Ridge mountains. Banks' corps also was pulled out of the valley and across the mountains. McDowell's corps, scattered from Manassas to Fredericksburg, moved westward to consolidate with the other troops, except for one division which was left in Fredericksburg, too far away to be effective.

This concentration, Pope hoped, could move south toward Charlottesville and Gordonsville, Va., which lay on the railroad connecting Richmond and the valley.

Valley Safe
The proposed troop movement came at the same time Lee's and McClellan's armies were fighting The Seven Days' battle east of Richmond and was designed to force the Confederates to detach troops to meet it. The valley was safe, for the time being at

least, as Jackson's troops had been removed to Richmond.

Lee paid little attention to Pope's troop movements until the Seven Days' fighting was over and he had McClellan's army pinned down but not conquered. Then he sent Jackson to Gordonsville to watch Pope, dividing his army as he frequently would in the face of superior forces.

McClellan still had about 85,000 men and Pope's army numbered about 40,000. Lee had about 70,000 men, altogether.

Lee, however, correctly reckoned that the cautious McClellan would not attack again without reinforcements.

McClellan spent all of July 1862 bombarding Washington for more men and promising if reinforced he still could take Richmond. He estimated he would need "much over rather than under one hundred thousand men."

Any such reinforcement was out of the question. Even if Pope's whole army went to the Peninsula it would be less than half the force McClellan wanted. That also would have

opened Washington to a quick march by Jackson.

Lincoln went to the Peninsula July 8 to see for himself. Clamor in the north for the removal of McClellan was growing.

War Aims Outlined
McClellan greeted Lincoln with another of his remarkable documents, this time a long letter outlining what he thought the war aims of the North should be.

The key paragraph read: "It shall not be a war looking to the subjugation of the people of any state in any event. It should not be at all a war upon population, but against armed forces and political organization. Neither confiscation of property, political executions of persons, territorial organizations of states, or forcible abolition of slavery, should be contemplated for a moment."

Lincoln read this lecture of the major general telling him how to run the country without comment then - or ever.

McClellan said in his memoirs 25 years later that the President "coldly refrained" from even mentioning the letter.

OFFERS OF MARRIAGE
Perth, Scotland—UPI—Farmer Angus Rennie, 30, seeking a necessary adjunct to any new home, has posted this notice outside of his half-finished house:

"What offers of marriage? Apply within when finished. Don't be shy, girls."



NEW GENERAL—Whatever military qualities John Pope possessed, tact was not one of them. Summoned from the West to take command of President Lincoln's brand new Army of Virginia, he took the post with misgivings and reluctance and promptly alienated most of the military. He made it clear that he intended to fight and was discarding such concepts of war as "taking strong positions and holding them" and "bases of supplies." Pope is shown in a lithograph from the Library of Congress files. (UPI)

Chamber Board to Support City Plan

The Medford Chamber of Commerce board of directors recently declared that it is "willing and anxious" to participate in the implementing of a "downtown plan" for Medford.

At a board meeting last week, Otto Frohnmayer moved that the chamber refer to its committee on governmental affairs for study and early report to the board a report prepared for the city planning commission by the bureau of municipal research and service at the University of Oregon.

The report, dated March, 1962, deals with "Planning for the Central Business District, Medford." Frohnmayer further moved that the chamber go on record with the Medford city council that it is "willing and anxious" to participate in the implementing of such a plan in accordance with the suggestion contained in the report.

It was also moved that the bureau's report relating to "Planning for Public Buildings in Medford" also be referred to the chamber committee. The chamber emphasized that it is desirous of participating in the planning for public buildings in Medford.

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