

# THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

## Stage Set for Union Disaster

By MERTON T. AKERS  
UPI Correspondent

President Jefferson Davis of the CSA, as well as President Lincoln, was forced to reorganize his military setup in November 1862.

Two weeks after Lincoln fired Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac, George W. Randolph, grandson of Thomas Jefferson, resigned as secretary of war in Davis' cabinet. He was tired of being a "clerk."

Randolph was Davis' third secretary of war in the almost two-year-old Confederacy. The first, Leroy Pope Walker of Alabama, lasted eight months. His successor, Judah P. Benjamin, came under fire in six months and was named secretary of state. Randolph's term was about eight months.

The outgoing war secretary had spent six years in the U.S. Navy and was a brigadier general in the Confederate Army when he became secretary of war. In military experience, he exceeded both his predecessors and successors.

Yet during his time in office, he often learned first of important military decisions from the newspapers. For Davis was being his own secretary of war.

In the fall of '62, sensing the peril of Vicksburg and Port Hudson, Miss., the only Confederate strongholds left on the Mississippi river, Randolph asserted his authority and ordered 10,000 troops across the river to reinforce the scattered Rebel armies defending the area. This he did without clearing it with Davis.

Davis immediately rescinded the order. Randolph replied with his resignation. Davis suggested an interview. Randolph declined.

Davis named Maj. Gen. Gustavus Smith, a Kentuckian and a former New York City street commissioner, to the post for three days.

Then he reached into Sabot Hill, a plantation mansion on the James River, and took James A. Seddon from his books and made him secretary of war on Nov. 21, 1862.

Seddon was a story-book Confederate—plantation master, reader, scholar, linguist, philosopher, firm state's rights man and nullificationist. He had been a U.S. congressman but illness sent him back to his library at Sabot Hill well before the war started.

John B. Jones, diary-keeping war department clerk, in his usual mordant words, described Seddon as "gaunt and emaciated, with long straggling hair, mingled gray and black. He looks like a dead man galvanized into muscular animation. His eyes are shrunken and his features have the hue of a man who has been in his grave a full month."

Seddon soon shut himself off from most visitors, requiring those who did get to see him to write their names and business on a school slate. This method of doing business soon involved him in trouble in the Richmond bureaucracy but he never crossed Davis. He lasted in office until the final days of the war, handling paper work but taking little part in military decisions. Davis never relinquished the last word in military affairs.

The new commander of the Army of the Potomac, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, knew when he succeeded McClellan that he was expected to move against Richmond and Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, and to move immediately.

But first he reorganized the Army of the Potomac into three Grand Divisions, a new setup for the Union army. Each Grand Division consisted of two army corps with a senior army general in command.

**Last Campaign**  
The Right Grand Division was commanded by Maj. Gen. Edwin V. Sumner, a 65-year-old veteran of the Mexican and Indian wars. This would be his last campaign. He had the II and the IX corps.

The Center Grand Division was under Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, 48, and also a Mexican War veteran. He had the III and V corps.

The Left Grand Division was commanded by Maj. Gen. William B. Franklin, 39, Mexican War veteran, engineer and explorer. He had the I and VI corps.

Each Grand Division included a cavalry division.

All the Grand Division commanders except Sumner were West Pointers and had led troops since the start of the war.

Burnside's plan was to strike at Richmond—a geographical objective, instead of the Confederate army—by way of Fredericksburg, Va., one of the three classic inva-



**EXPECTED TO MOVE**—The new commander of the Army of the Potomac, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, shown in a copy of a picture from the Interior Department files, knew when he took over he was expected to move against Richmond and the army of Gen. Robert E. Lee. First he organized the army into three Grand Divisions, then set out to strike Richmond by way of Fredericksburg, Va. By Nov. 20, 1862, Union troops were just across the river from Fredericksburg. There the delays set in and Lee had plenty of time to move his troops onto the heights above the town and the stage was set for the worst Union disaster of the war to date. (UPI)

sion routes toward the southern capital.

Lincoln approved the plan with reluctance, perhaps only because it promised action instead of McClellan's indecision.

All told, Burnside had about 120,000 troops and 374 guns.

When he took over the Army of the Potomac, it lay between the two halves of General Lee's Confederate army, which also had been reorganized into the first corps under Lt. Gen. James Longstreet and the second Corps under Lt. Gen. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson.

**40 Miles Apart**  
The two Confederate corps—80,000 men with 306 guns—were about 40 airline miles apart with the Army of the Potomac sitting in the center.

Strategically Burnside was in a good spot. He could move either way against the halves of the Confederate army but instead he set his army into motion toward Fredericksburg, away from the enemy.

The first of his troops—Sumner's Grand Division—reached Falmouth, Va., opposite Fredericksburg on Nov. 17, 1862. The Rappahannock river between Falmouth and Fredericksburg could have been forded at the time but Burnside forbade the crossing for fear a rise in the river might split his army.

**LEGAL NOTICES**  
The application of Southern Oregon Broadcasting Company for the renewal of its license for Station KBOB-TV (Channel 5), Medford, Oregon, to operate in that station in the public interest, was tendered for filing with the Federal Communications Commission on November 2, 1962.

Members of the public who desire to bring to the Commission's attention facts concerning the operation of this station should write to the Federal Communications Commission, Washington 25, D.C., not later than December 2, 1962, setting forth in detail the specific facts which the writer wishes the Commission to consider in passing on this application.

The officers and directors of Southern Oregon Broadcasting Company are: Earle E. Voorhies, President and Director; Edward A. Malone, Vice President and Director; Jerald R. Poulos, Vice President; Richard W. Green, Vice President; William B. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer and Director; and John E. Voorhies and Earl D. Cultran, Directors. Stockholders with more than a 10% stock ownership are: Earle E. Voorhies, John E. Voorhies, Estate of Amos E. Voorhies, and Redwood Broadcasting Company, Inc.

**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
The goods of Nan Fontaine. Last known address: Gen. Del. Portland, Ore. Goods consist of 27 pieces. Will be sold at 1:00 P.M., Dec. 4th, 1962, at B&B Auction Co., 2035 Jacksonville Hwy., Medford, Ore.

**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
The goods of Virginia Buse. Last known address: 431 Hospital Ave., Ashland, Ore. Goods consisting of 232 pieces, will be sold at 1:00 P.M., Dec. 4th, 1962, at B&B Auction Co., 2035 Jacksonville Hwy., Medford, Ore.

**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
The goods of Robert Adams. Last known address: 27 Newtown St., Medford, Ore. Goods consisting of 5 pieces, will be sold at 1:00 P.M., Dec. 4th, 1962, at B&B Auction Co., 2035 Jacksonville Hwy., Medford, Ore.

**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
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**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
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**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
The goods of Betty Anne Ritchie. Last known address: 431 Hospital Ave., Ashland, Ore. Goods consisting of 72 pieces, will be sold at 1:00 P.M., Dec. 4th, 1962, at B&B Auction Co., 2035 Jacksonville Hwy., Medford, Ore.

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Medford Lodge No. 83, 1001 O.P. House Tuesday, Nov. 20, at 8 p.m. Visitors welcome. Refreshments. Jack Adams, N.G.

**3-PERSONAL**  
ANYONE having a drinking problem is welcome at the Medford Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, 830 Grand Ave., Tues., Sat., 7:00 of 212 N. Oakdale. 773-8448. Al-Anon Group 1st & 2nd Tues.

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**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
The goods of D. E. Spencer. Last known address: P.O. Box 170, West Astoria. Goods consisting of 90 pieces, will be sold at 1:00 P.M., Dec. 4th, 1962, at B&B Auction Co., 2035 Jacksonville Hwy., Medford, Ore.

**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
The goods of James Shockley. Last known address: Gen. Del. Medford, Ore. Goods consisting of 30 pieces, will be sold at 1:00 P.M., Dec. 4th, 1962, at B&B Auction Co., 2035 Jacksonville Hwy., Medford, Ore.

**NOTICE OF WAREHOUSE SALE**  
The goods of Mildred Tarbell. Last known address: 1421 So. Grape St., Medford, Ore. Goods consisting of 25 pieces, will be sold at 1:00 P.M., Dec. 4th, 1962, at B&B Auction Co., 2035 Jacksonville Hwy., Medford, Ore.

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