

Meade Takes Over North Forces

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UPI Correspondent

It was nearly 3 o'clock in the morning of June 28, 1863, when a man in civilian clothing awoke Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade in his tent near Frederick, Md.

The intruder announced himself as Lt. Col. James A. Hardie from the War Department in Washington. What did he want? Meade inquired sleepily. Hardie remarked he had come to give Meade trouble. His reverse humor jolted Meade awake.

Hardie lit a candle and handed Meade an order from President Lincoln making Meade commander of the Army of the Potomac in place of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker. Meade tried to talk himself out of the job. Why not Maj. Gen. John F. Reynolds, commander of the 1 Corps and Meade's senior? He was better fitted for the command, Meade argued, and many agreed.

Hardie replied that all these questions had been anticipated by Lincoln, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton and that he (Hardie) had orders to accompany Meade to Hooker's headquarters and see that the command was transferred.

"Well, I've been tried and condemned without a hearing, and I suppose I shall have to go to the execution," Meade said and put on his mud-spattered uniform.

In Full Uniform
Meade and Hardie rode to Hooker's headquarters in Frederick, arriving about dawn. Hooker had heard that a War Department official was in camp and appeared in full uniform.

Hardie informed Hooker that his resignation had been accepted and that he was relieved of the Army of the Potomac command and transferred to Baltimore to await orders. Hooker wrote a fare-



ORDER FROM LINCOLN - Early on June 28, 1863, Lt. Col. James A. Hardie entered the tent of Maj. Gen. George Gordon Meade near Frederick, Md. Hardie, from the War Department in Washington, handed Meade an order from President Lincoln making Meade commander of the Army of the Potomac in place of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker. Meade tried to talk himself out of the job, but Hardie's orders were firm. Together, they rode to Hooker's camp. Hardie informed Hooker of the change and Meade took over. Meade's work was cut out for him. Lee had invaded the North and it was up to Meade to stop him. If he failed, there would be little to stop Lee from taking Baltimore and Washington. Here Meade is shown at right and Hooker at left. (UPI)

well address to his troops and rode in a spring wagon with Hardie to the Frederick railroad station.

It seems likely that Hooker welcomed his release from command. He had courted it by sending in his resignation the day before. It was prompted by refusal of Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck, overall army commander, to give Hooker command of the Federal troops at Harper's Ferry, Va. Hooker wanted to include the Harper's Ferry troops in the Army of the Potomac.

When Hooker's resignation arrived in Washington late on June 27, Lincoln, Stanton and Halleck talked it over at the War Department. Stanton and Halleck agreed Hooker must go and Meade was the man to put in command. Lincoln went along with them, saying Meade would fight well "on his own dunghill," a reference to the fact that Meade was a Pennsylvanian and a battle-

there appeared to be imminent.

The cabinet was neither consulted nor told of the switch in commanders until the next day when it was an accomplished fact. Secretary Salmon P. Chase, who had sponsored Hooker's appointment, was upset but could do nothing more than protest. Radical Republicans also resented what appeared to them to be a covert move. Meade was accounted a Democrat.

When Meade watched Hooker ride away he turned back into the headquarters tent that now was his facing a military problem unique in Civil War history.

Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of North Virginia was invading Maryland and Pennsylvania. Even as Meade took over the command, Maj. Gen. Jubal Early led his Confederate division into York, Pa., and occupied the town, capturing supplies which included 200 barrels of flour, 30,



000 bushels of corn and 1,000 pairs of shoes. Early levied a tribute of \$100,000 but York could raise only \$28,000, which Early accepted in lieu of burning the town.

Early had marched through a small Pennsylvania town called Gettysburg to reach York.

At the same time Confederate cavalry occupied Mechanicsburg, Pa., eight miles from Harrisburg, the capital on the Susquehanna river.

Stand Made Plain
Lee's army was strung from there south into the Shenandoah valley of Virginia.

Meade's new job was to keep the Army of the Potomac between Lee and Washington and Baltimore and to fight him somewhere in the area. Halleck's orders, delivered by Hardie at the same time as Hooker's removal, made that plain.

The first move of Meade was to summon Hooker's chief of staff, Maj. Gen. Daniel Butterfield, to find out the position of the seven corps of the Army of the Potomac and to learn how Hooker had planned to maneuver. Butterfield gave him the positions of the troops but if Hooker had any plans Meade did not learn them.

Meade ordered the army to keep moving toward the Susquehanna, covering Washington and Baltimore. He retained Butterfield as chief of staff after having tried to induce Maj. Gen. G. K. Warren, his V Corps engineering officer, to take the position.

Who was this Meade, what manner of man was he and what were his chances of success in the job at which McClellan, Burnside and Hooker had failed?
For the North the issue was

joined. If Meade failed there would be nothing except garrison troops between Lee and the national capital and Baltimore, perhaps even Philadelphia. And commanders of the Army of the Potomac had a long record of failure against Lee.

Meade was known to his men in the V Corps as the "old snapping turtle" for his plain speech, his restlessness and impatience.

But he had shown himself to be an able soldier on the Peninsula where he was wounded and at Antietam and Fredericksburg. The skirts of his uniform frock coat were clear of the intrigue so characteristic of McClellan and Hooker.

Born on Dec. 31, 1815 at Cadiz, Spain, where his father was an American merchant, he was reared mostly in Pennsylvania and was graduated from West Point in 1835. He was 40 when he succeeded to army command, older than most of the Army of the Potomac leaders. He had fought in the Mexican War without particular distinction.

Lincoln said of him: "General Meade has my confidence as a brave and skillful officer."

Lee, a better judge of military men, said:

"General Meade will commit no blunder on my front and if I make one he will make haste to take advantage of it."
Charles Carleton Coffin, Boston Journal war correspondent, saw Meade that day. He wrote:
"General Meade cared but little for the pomp and parade of war. His own soldiers respected him because he was always prepared to endure

hardships. They saw a tall, slim, gray-bearded man, wearing a slouch hat, a plain blue blouse, with his pantaloons tucked into his boots. He was plain of speech and familiar in conversation . . .

"I saw him soon after he was informed that the army was under his command. There was no elation, but on the contrary he seemed weighed down with a sense of responsibility resting on him . . . He stood silent and thoughtful by himself."

With his army on the move north from Frederick to oppose Lee, Meade found a moment to write to his wife, Margaret, in Philadelphia.

"Dearest, you know how reluctant we both have been to see me placed in this position, and as it appears to be God's will for some good purpose - at any rate, as a good soldier I had nothing to do "Pray earnestly . . . but accept . . ."

Armed Bandits Loot Home of Entertainer

Hollywood - (UPI) - The gunmen who masqueraded themselves as policemen when they forced their way into the home of Negro entertainer Sammy Davis Jr., stole an estimated \$14,000 in cash and valuables, detectives reported Saturday.

Neither Davis nor his wife, actress May Britt, was at home when the burglary occurred.

Hollywood - (UPI) - Actress Bette Davis' 16-year-old daughter, Barbara, will be married in December to Jeremy Hyman, 29-year-old vice president of the Seven Arts Film Co.



MAKES PROTEST - Actor Charlton Heston, backed up by nearly 60 other Santa Monica Mountain residents, makes his protest against proposed country club-apartment complex during a city planning commission hearing in Los Angeles Tuesday. Complex model is shown in the foreground. (UPI)

East Germans Seal Off Border Area

Berlin - (UPI) - The East German Communists Saturday night began sealing off a new forbidden zone along the East-West Berlin border despite a protest by Western allies that it was an illegal move aimed at turning the Soviet zone into a concentration camp.

Eastern police unloaded wire fences 100 meters (109 yards) behind the 22-month-old wall in the first step to enforce a new ordinance to halt the flight of refugees over the wall - and apparently to prevent pro-Kennedy demonstrations when the President arrives.

Four Eastern border guards fled across the new strip Saturday before work on it was

Eugene Man Killed In Texas Accident

Waelder, Tex. - (UPI) - Ronald Arthur Ward, 27, of Eugene, Ore., was killed Thursday when his car skidded on wet pavement and rammed broadside into an oncoming truck on U.S. Highway 90 near here.

Investigators said Ward applied his brakes as he was driving and caused the car to skid into the truck. The truck driver, Jesse G. Mullins, 35, of Woodville, Tex., suffered minor injuries.


Waelder is about 90 miles east of San Antonio.



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