



THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

Meade's Federal Forces Escape

By MERTON T. AKERS

United Press International
The fall of 1863 was winding into winter when the Federal Army of the Potomac made one more attempt to come to grips with the Confederates in Virginia before the snow flew.

Nearly five months had passed since the Union army's victory at Gettysburg without a major engagement in the East. Washington still was prodding Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, commander of the Army of the Potomac, to seek out Gen. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and fight it. The Radical Republicans in Congress also were interested in the situation and were drumming up opposition to Meade.

In early November, Lee's army lay along the Rappahannock River west of Fredericksburg, too close to Washington for the comfort of the White House and the War Department. Meade's army was north of the river.

Proposal Rejected
Meade proposed to Washington that he move left toward Fredericksburg, Va., and strike that way toward Richmond and the flank of the Confederates. President Lincoln and Army Commander Henry W. Halleck said no, remembering perhaps what had happened to Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside a year before when he did just that. The decision had the effect of pinning Meade's army in a defensive position.

Failing to win approval for a full-fledged offensive, Meade determined to regain the territory south of the Rappahannock to the Rapidan River.

He moved his army Nov. 7 in two columns. One hit the Rappahannock at Rappahannock Station where the Orange & Alexandria railroad crossed. The other struck at Kelly's Ford a few miles to the east.

Artillery Opens
About noon both Federal columns opened artillery fire.

At Kelly's Ford a Union division splashed across the river and captured 300 Confederate prisoners with little loss. The Confederates threw in a second regiment to save the day but Federal artillery beat back the counter attack.

At Rappahannock Station the Confederates held a strong point on the north bank connected by a pontoon bridge to

the opposite shore. The point was defended by one brigade.

The Federals there, commanded by Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick, pounded away most of the afternoon with their artillery. November darkness was fast coming on.

"Uncle John" Sedgwick was watching and talking to Maj. Gen. Horatio Wright, his second in command.

"Wright, what do you think are the chances for an assault with infantry on that position?" Sedgwick asked.

"Just as you say, general," Wright replied.

Brig. Gen. David A. Russell, commanding the division in position for the attack, was standing by.

Sedgwick turned to him. "Do you think you can carry those works?"

"I think I can, sir."

"Go ahead and do it."

With the 6th Maine and the 5th Wisconsin in front and the 5th Maine and the 121st New York in support—2,100 men in all—Russell's division charged up the rocky slope toward the Confederate works.

Union Victory
In the dusk and battle smoke the Union skirmishers poured into the rifle pits followed by their cheering comrades. One line was captured without firing a shot. Federal losses were about 300 killed and wounded. They took 1,500 prisoners and all four of the Rebel guns. Better yet in a soldier's eyes they captured eight Rebel battle flags.

(Later Russell, wounded in the charge, would carry the flags to Washington but the irascible secretary of war, Edwin M. Stanton, was "too busy" to see him, a discourtesy not unusual for the secretary. Russell left the flags and returned to the army to get his wounds treated.)

With Union forces across the river at Kelly's Ford and Rappahannock Station, Lee pulled his army back to a line along Mine Run, a creek that ran roughly north and south and emptied into the Rapidan to the north.

The twin defeats on the river cast down the Confederates. "It is absolutely sickening," Col. Sandie Pendleton, who had served on Stonewall Jackson's staff, said, "and I feel personally disgraced . . . Oh,

how every day is proving the value of General Jackson."

Meade now decided to strike Lee's right flank on Mine Run in a move to be coordinated with the attack of Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant's army at Chattanooga.

The time was set for Nov. 24 but the weather turned bad and rain held up the expedition two days.

It finally started on Nov. 26, led by the III Corps under Maj. Gen. William H. French. He was two hours late starting and all the army was delayed. The Rapidan had risen and not enough pontoons were available to bridge the stream. Artillery had to follow a roundabout way.

Not until the night of Nov. 28 did Meade marshal his troops into battle array, meantime fighting off light Rebel attacks.

Lee Fortified
All this delay had given Lee plenty of time to select and fortify a strong position well back of the steep west bank of Mine Run.

All during the 29th skirmishing continued as each general probed the other's lines.

Meade had determined the main attack would be made by the II Corps under Maj. Gen. G.K. Warren on the far Federal left. Warren reported the Rebel lines there were thin and could be pierced. He spent the 29th moving into position and the night in personally inspecting the front.

The rain had started again and it froze as it fell. Many soldiers had thrown away their overcoats and now regretted it. Pickets were changed every half hour but even then some froze to death.

Just before sunrise Warren went to the front for another look before the deadline of 7 a.m. Meade had set to start the battle.

What he saw in the pale dawn sent him quickly back into his own lines. The Confederates had extended and strengthened their lines overnight. What had seemed to be a thin line now was formidable.

Suicide
He sent a staff officer scurrying off to tell Meade the attack would be suicide. But it was 9 a.m. before the messenger reached the commander, who already had started Federal artillery on the right and center to firing.

Meade rode as fast as he could to Warren's corps. He looked over the ground and agreed with Warren. The attack was called off and the artillery silenced.

Nov. 30 and Dec. 1 went by without incident.

Lee determined to strike Dec. 2 at the Federal left—Warren's position. He wheeled in reinforcements during the night and when dawn came prepared to attack.

But Meade's army was gone. It had retreated to Culpeper Court House into winter quarters.

"I'm getting too old to command this army," Lee said, "we never should have let those people get away."

About the same time Meade learned of Grant's victory at Missionary Ridge.

The contrast was too obvious. The Radical Republicans prepared for an investigation.

Friendship Torch To Honor Kennedy

MIAMI (UPI)—The Miami City Commission voted unanimously Thursday to rename the city's famous Torch of Friendship—a symbol of goodwill with Latin American nations.

The commission agreed to rechristen the landmark in Bayfront Park the "John F. Kennedy Torch of Friendship" in honor of the late President.

Kennedy, who visited the park during his 1960 campaign, hailed the torch as a "monument for international understanding."

Princess Grace To Visit Mrs. Kennedy

PHILADELPHIA (UPI)—Princess Grace of Monaco said Sunday on her arrival here to visit her mother that she would visit the grave of President John F. Kennedy this week and call on Mrs. Kennedy.

The princess, the former Grace Kelly, said her visit to the President's widow would be at the former First Lady's convenience.

Author Aldous Huxley Believes World Nearing Fulfillment of His Prophecy

HOLLYWOOD (UPI)—Aldous Huxley, who succumbed to cancer earlier this month, left a world he felt was heading dangerously toward his creation, "Brave New World."

Huxley, writing in 1931 the novel for which he became most widely known, set the story 600 years into the future (or "somewhere in the sixth or seventh century A. F.—After Ford").

But in a 1956 interview with a reporter, he saw the formation of the Brave New World in less than 200 years.

Huxley himself described his prophecy in novel form as "The completely organized society, the scientific caste system, the abolition of free will by methodical conditioning, the servitude made acceptable by regular doses of chemically induced happiness, the orthodoxies drummed in by nightly courses of sleep-teaching . . ."

In the 1956 interview, he said: "I envisaged industrial regimentation occurring much farther in the future. But now, with sleep-teaching, brainwashing, hypnosis and conditioned reflex experiments we are close to a rigid caste system where people are trained for only one function."

Next Revolution
Huxley, brother of biologist Julian Huxley and grandson of Thomas Huxley, a champion of Charles Darwin's theories of evolution, said further that he believed the next great revolution will be led by scientists and medical men. "Even now, the earth's population is dependent on the minds of a half-million or so scientists and technicians," he said.

"The society of the future would be without poverty, but also without freedom or thought—an outgrowth of searching for absolute security," he continued.

"Still, we cannot turn back. The reason is over-population. Earth's population has more than doubled in my 60 years of life. It's increased from slightly more than one billion to two and a half billion."

In "Brave New World Revisited," a book first published in 1958, Huxley said again the "shortest and broadest road" to the nightmare world leads through over-population, but also "this blind biological enemy of freedom" is allied with the forces of the advances in technology.

He wrote that the progress of technology is leading to a centralization of power; that the machinery of mass production is made more efficient but at the same time more complex and expansive—"and so less available to the enterpriser of limited means."

"As the Little Men disappear, more and more economic power comes to be wielded by fewer and fewer people," he wrote in the chapter entitled "Over-Organization."

Huxley was hardly an anarchist, however: "Organization is indispensable; for liberty arises and has meaning only within a self-

regulating community of freely cooperating individuals," he wrote.

It is too much organization which he felt would transform men and women into automata. "As usual, the only safe course is in the middle, between the extremes of laissez-faire at one end of the scale and of total control at the other," he said.

What solutions did Huxley offer?

Again, in "Brave New World Revisited" he had some suggestions, though he expressed no great confidence that they were the solution.

As examples of preventive legislation for the protection of the mind, Huxley thought it possible to establish legislation limiting officials in the use of sleep-teaching, legislation prohibiting the use of subliminal projection on television screens or public

places, and prevention of political candidates from resorting to anti-rational propaganda.

These moves he saw as probably only temporary stopgaps "against the steadily increasing pressures of over-population and of the over-organization imposed by growing numbers and advancing technology."

Must Reduce Birth Rate
"Obviously we must, with all possible speed, reduce the birth rate to the point where it does not exceed the death rate," Huxley wrote. At the same time food production must be increased and a world-wide policy of soil and forest conservation must be implemented, he implied.

As for over-organization arising from increasing centralization of government, Huxley offered merely: "It is now a

historical fact that the means of production are fast becoming the monopolistic property of big business and big government. Therefore, if you believe in Democracy, make arrangements to distribute property."

Huxley, who made his home in the Hollywood Hills section of Los Angeles and had moved to California in 1937, also suggested that to avoid the spiritual impoverishment of individuals in big cities "leave the metropolis and revive the small country community," or create within the metropolis the urban equivalents of small country communities.

In another interview in 1961, commenting on what the world would be like in 1986, the then 66-year-old author appeared somewhat optimistic but only if a sense of urgency were realized.

"All I venture to answer is that we have enough intelligence and good will—if we only use them—to overcome all our difficulties," he said, adding:

"Let us never forget that time is against us."

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MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1963

More Thousands Pay Tribute To Kennedy
WASHINGTON (UPI)—Ordinary Americans by the thousands paid prayerful tribute to the late President John F. Kennedy again Saturday at his flower-banked grave and in the black-draped public rooms of the White House.

Silent crowds waited in near-freezing weather outside the executive mansion and streamed up the slopes of Arlington National Cemetery across the Potomac River in Virginia to show their respect for the assassinated chief executive.

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