



In Memoriam



Marching With Grant

FORTY years ago the year of bloody battles opened with campaigns in Virginia and Georgia. Grant had recently been given the rank of lieutenant general, with command of all the Federal forces. He personally conducted the Army of the Potomac in the march against Richmond through the region west of the Rappahannock river known as the Wilderness. In the month of May, 1864, over a hundred actions were fought all over the theater of war, which resulted in loss of life. May 5 was a day of battles.

The battle opened in the Wilderness on May 5 with one of the most remarkable struggles known to the annals of war. Writing of the battle-ground, General Balfour says, "One tangled mass of stunted evergreen, dwarf chestnut, oak and hazel, with an undergrowth of low bristling shrubs, making the forest almost impenetrable." And of the battle, "A wrestle as blind as at midnight; a gloom that made maneuvers impracticable; a jungle where regiments stumbled on each other and on the enemy by turns, firing sometimes into their own ranks and galled often by the crackling of the bushes or the cheers and cries that arose from the depths around." The fighting of May 5 in the Wilderness, and, in fact, both days of the battle, was the

at G. K. Warren and the Sixth under General John Sedgwick. Early on the 6th General James S. Wadsworth, commanding a division of the Fifth corps, was ordered to face his command by the flank southward and charge through to the plank road until he joined on the right of Hancock's line. The movement was a forlorn hope. Distances were unknown to the Federal leaders, for the ground had always been inside the Confederate lines and had not been reconnoitered, and the officers were without maps or guides.

General Wadsworth took his men through the unknown wilderness without falling into ambush, but in the first attack after he formed his line at the plank road he was shot from the saddle just as his horse leaped the Confederate breastworks.

From the Wilderness battlefield Grant marched the whole army forward around Lee's flank to Spotsylvania Court House, where the fighting was resumed on May 8. The Sixth corps, under General John Sedgwick, reached the field late on the 8th and early the 9th took up position for battle. One battery of the corps was located in full view of the Confederate sharpshooters, and every officer who showed himself as a target there was hit.

Marching With Lee

It really matters but little to history just how and by whom the bloody battle of the Wilderness was opened forty years ago, but there was one incident of that hour which shows how the wisest experts may gravely miscalculate in war. The Army of the Potomac crossed the Rappahannock river on the 4th of May, 1864, and began its march through the wilderness region by roads leading toward Richmond. Battle was not looked for by the Federal leaders before reaching the North Anna river, many miles distant.

But Robert E. Lee saw his opportunity to hold up the Federal march in the wilderness and deployed his army across the roads to dispute the passage toward Richmond. The first armed clash of the field took place on the Orange turnpike between the Confederates under General G. K. Warren. Early in the day the advance Confederate brigade, led by General John M. Jones, drove in the Federal vanguard who were guarding Warren's flank from surprise and saw the great army of enemies marching confidently toward Richmond.

Jones reported to his chief what he had discovered and drew his brigade back two miles to the intersection of a crossroad with a turnpike, along

easy triumph that would end in driving the Federals across the Rappahannock river again before night. Longstreet rode at the head of a column which had formed to attack Hancock, but was disabled by a painful wound before the battle was fairly opened. Almost at the same instant General Meach Jenkins, who was by the side of Longstreet, was killed.

Six days after the deadlock in the wilderness there was another at Spotsylvania Court House, where Lee again blocked the way to Richmond. At Spotsylvania the troops of Hancock and Ewell were opposed in a struggle for the possession of the Key to the field, a sharp, elevated position, fully called the "Bloody Angle." General Edward Johnson's Confederate division held the front line of the angle when Hancock sprung the attack during a fog early on the morning of May 12 and was captured almost entire with its commander. Other troops rallied to defend the angle, among them the brigade of General Junius Daniel, who was killed in one of the strangest encounters on record. The troops fought all day at arm's length over a single breastwork. The refusal of incidents of that fight makes one marvel that warfare could be so terrible.

During the afternoon of the 12th a South Carolinian belonging to Orr's

Marching With Sherman

SHERMAN was "marching through Georgia" months before he started on the famous trip from Atlanta to the sea, which is celebrated in the popular war song. This time forty years ago the army was on the northern slope of Pine mountain toiling to break through the passes held by General Joseph E. Johnston's Confederates and covered by his guns. Beyond Pine mountain lay Gold Kennesaw, through which the railway passed leading to Atlanta.

The action fought during this stage of Sherman's march was less sanguinary than those taking place in the same period on eastern battlefields, but the National cemetery at Marietta, on the southern slopes of Kennesaw, holds the ashes of 10,000 Federal soldiers, who fell from the bullets or disease. Kennesaw and the lesser mountains around it held Sherman's army a month. On the 27th of June the heights were stormed, with a loss of 2,000 Federal assaults.

The operations in front of Kennesaw mountain were attended with one of those peculiar war tragedies which carry regret to foes as well as sorrow to friends. After Sherman had pushed his right and left wings respectively beyond the line of Pine mountain it became a question with the Confederate commander whether he should

heaviest, recalling the stone wall at Fredericksburg. Newton's division led Thomas' attack, and that of Jeff C. Davis followed, making a column seven lines deep.

The two divisions of Newton and Davis were exposed to the fire of two Confederate divisions of infantry and thirty-two field guns for two hours. In places the assaults reached the parapets, where many fell, and some even crossed the trenches and were killed there. The Confederates stated that they counted a thousand dead boys in blue in the line closest to their works. This assault was a bloody failure, but that was not because of want of valor in the troops. Finding themselves in danger of annihilation, yet scorning retreat, they clung to the slight ridges under the enemy's guns. The brigade of General Daniel McCook built a little parapet within seventy-five feet of the works. General McCook was mortally wounded, and his second in command, Colonel O. F. Harmon, also fell. McCook seemed to have a premonition of the carnage to come, for before the assault he re-echoed to his men the lines from "Horatius at the Bridge," beginning:

Oh, how can men die better than facing fearful odds
For the glory of their country and the altars of their gods!

Brigadier General Alexander Hays, U. S. V., mortally wounded at the battle of the Wilderness, Va., May 5, 1864. General Hays commanded a brigade in the Second corps. He fell in the heat of a stubborn action led by General Hancock at the famous Brock road. Aged 45.

Brigadier General James S. Wadsworth, U. S. V., mortally wounded at the battle of the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864. General Wadsworth commanded a division in the Fifth corps. He was shot from his horse while leading a charge over the Confederate breastworks. Aged 57.

Brigadier General John M. Jones, U. S. V., killed at the battle of the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864. General Jones commanded a brigade in the Fifth corps and was killed while leading a charge over the Confederate breastworks. Aged 54.

Brigadier General Daniel McCook, U. S. V., mortally wounded in the assault on Kennesaw mountain, Georgia, June 27, 1864. General McCook commanded a brigade in the Fourth corps. He was a member of the famous family of fighting McCooks from Ohio. Aged 50.

Lieutenant General Leonidas Polk, C. S. A., killed on Pine mountain, Georgia, June 14, 1864, during Sherman's march on Atlanta. General Polk was a distinguished cleric in the Episcopal church before the war and set out of his robes to don a martial cloak. Aged 58.

ALEX HAYS

JOHN SEDGWICK

JAMES S. WADSWORTH

JAMES C. RICE

Major General John Sedgwick, U. S. V., killed by a sharpshooter on the field of Spotsylvania Court House, Va., May 9, 1864. General Sedgwick commanded the Sixth army corps and was leading a battery when he was struck down. Aged 51.

Brigadier General James C. Rice, U. S. V., mortally wounded at Spotsylvania Court House, Va., May 10, 1864. General Rice commanded a brigade in the Fifth corps. He fell in the foremost line, in a daring assault on Lee's intrenchments. Aged 55.

FEDERAL LEADERS KILLED IN THE WILDERNESS CAMPAIGN AGAINST RICHMOND IN 1864.

Brigadier General John M. Jones, U. S. V., killed at the battle of the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864. General Jones commanded a brigade in the Fifth corps and was killed while leading a charge over the Confederate breastworks. Aged 54.

Brigadier General Meach Jenkins, C. S. A., killed at the battle of the Wilderness, Va., May 6, 1864. General Jenkins commanded a brigade under Longstreet and was riding by the side of his chief in a charge when he was shot from the saddle. Aged 28.

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LEONIDAS POLK

J. B. McPHERSON

W. H. T. WALKER

Major General James B. McPherson, U. S. V., killed at Bald Hill, in front of Atlanta, Ga., July 22, 1864. General McPherson commanded the army of the Tennessee under Sherman. He was shot while reconnoitering against Sherman's advancing line. Aged 56.

Major General W. H. T. Walker, C. S. A., killed in the battle at Decatur, in front of Atlanta, Ga., July 28, 1864. General Walker commanded a division in Hardee's corps and fell in a general sortie against Sherman's advancing line. Aged 48.

Brigadier General Junius Daniel, C. S. A., killed at the battle of Spotsylvania Court House, May 12, 1864. General Daniel commanded a brigade in Ewell's Confederate corps and fell in defense of the key to Lee's position called the "Bloody Angle." Aged 56.

Lieutenant General James Ewell Brown Stuart, C. S. A., mortally wounded in action at Yellow Tavern, Va., May 11, 1864. General Stuart commanded the cavalry corps of Lee's army and was shot from the saddle by a Michigan trooper belonging to Cassin's brigade. Aged 51.

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DISTINGUISHED LEADERS KILLED IN THE MARCH TO ATLANTA IN 1864.

heaviest on the Federal left wing, where the Second corps, led by General Winfield Scott Hancock, fought the Confederate right, led by Robert E. Lee in person. General Hancock attempted to transfer his marching column from the Catharpha road to the Orange plank road, a couple of miles distant and leading in the same direction. While crossing over the troops were attacked on the march by Confederates and compelled to plunge into the wilderness to find the enemy. The chief leader who fell there was General Alexander Hays, commanding a brigade. This devoted officer had often ridden in open battle, even on the bare slopes of Gettysburg, with his staff and flag behind him, the admiration of two armies. He fell at last in a tangled wilderness where not even a single regiment could note his action and derive inspiration from his courage and martial enthusiasm.

May 6 found Hancock still battling along the plank road. He had carried his right flank to the road, but every step of the march was opposed by the Confederates, and the Federals could only make headway by penetrating the thicket along the route. During the night the Confederates had built breastworks of logs. The Federal right wing was struggling under the same difficulties in advancing along the orange turnpike, a couple of miles north of the plank road. This wing was composed of the Fifth corps under General

General Sedgwick was warned of the danger of going near the exposed battery, but in less than an hour after the warning the general and the officer who gave the warning walked out to the battery to get a better alignment for the troops. Seeing the men whom they passed dodging bullets aimed at the battery, Sedgwick exclaimed: "What, men! Dodging this way for single bullets! What if you do when they open fire along the whole line! I'm ashamed of you. They can't hit an elephant at this distance."

A few seconds after reaching the battery the general was struck by a bullet under the left eye, and he fell against his chief of staff, General M. T. McMahon, carrying him to the ground with him. Death was almost instantaneous. The news spread by Sedgwick to the troops, and the whole corps was soon mourning the fall of Uncle John Sedgwick, who was loved by the men for his kindly and genial character.

On May 10 two daring assaults were made on Lee's intrenchments at Spotsylvania, and the troops led by General Warren and the gallant Colonel Emory Upton crossed the parapets under a galling fire, only to be driven back with terrible slaughter. General J. C. Rice, who led Warren's column with his brigade, was mortally wounded. General Rice's death made the fourth in four days of fighting among the Federal leaders.

G. L. LANGDON

which Warren hoped to pass. Warren attacked Jones with a whole division and threw the Confederate brigade into confusion, its commander falling in the encounter. Jones' brigade belonged to the division of General Edward Johnson, who was at hand with the companion brigade, led by General George H. Stuart, the noted Maryland Confederate. Johnson re-established his line and moved forward, completely checkmating Warren's march for that day.

When news of Warren's experience on the turnpike reached General Meade, the commander of the Army of the Potomac, he exclaimed: "The Confederates have left a division here to fool us, while they concentrate and prepare a position on the North Anna!" Warren's whole corps, supported by Sedgwick's Sixth corps, was not able to enter the sunbored "division" from its ground on the turnpike, for not simply a division, but a corps, was planted there, in touch with the remainder of Lee's army.

While Warren and Ewell fought for the right of way—the Orange turnpike—the Federals under General Hancock and the Confederates under General Longstreet and General A. P. Hill were locked in bloody encounter on the Orange plank road at the southern end of the great wilderness region. Longstreet's corps was the last of the three corps in Lee's army to reach the battlefield, and the troops entered the fight with enthusiasm, looking for an

rifles was seen by his comrades to rise deliberately so that the upper half of his person was above the parapet, an easy target for the enemy, and from this position take deliberate aim, fire and crouch down to reload. He repeated this scores and scores of times. Yankee bullets whizzed around him, but he seemed to bear a charmed life. Often he would remain on his feet many minutes, drawing bead and then recovering to wait for better aim.

Finally, late in the day, the frenzied rifleman was seen to draw upon some object, an officer probably, at a distance back from the Federal trenches. The chance did not suit, and he recovered and stood bolt upright, watching for a better target. When at length one appeared, and as he was about to pull, a Federal bullet pierced his heart, stretching him dead in his tracks.

While Lee's infantry waged fierce battle at Spotsylvania, his cavalry corps under General J. E. B. Stuart rode toward Richmond to guard the passes to the Confederate capital from a threatened attack by General Phil Sheridan's immense cavalcade of troops. Sheridan had cut loose from the main Federal army engaged at Spotsylvania and expected to strike Richmond before Lee's slow marching battalions could come to its defense. His advance was intercepted by Stuart before reaching the city, and in a striking encounter at a place known as Yellow Tavern Stuart was mortally wounded.

HUBERT BELL.

attempt to hold on to Pine mountain. On the morning of June 14 General Johnston, accompanied by General Hardee and General Polk, rode out to the front to examine the post and determine upon its fate.

After completing their examination and deciding upon the immediate withdrawal of the troops there the party was fired upon by a Federal battery of Parrott guns stationed about a quarter of a mile distant. At the third shot a shell struck General Polk in the chest and passed through his body from left to right, killing him instantly.

General Polk received a military education and graduated at West Point. Early in life he left the service for the pulpit in the Protestant Episcopal church and at the outbreak of the war had reached the rank of bishop. Believing that his military knowledge would best serve the south in that crisis, he laid aside his robes and entered the army, where his distinguished services won for him advancement to the rank of lieutenant general.

In order to open the passes of Kennesaw mountain to his troops Sherman resorted to the doubtful expedient of direct assault upon the intrenched and well manned lines of his opponent. The attack was made June 27 and, as in Pickett's famous charge at Gettysburg, was preceded by a heavy cannonade. The whole line of battle advanced, but in front of the Army of the Confederacy, led by the veteran Thomas, the fighting was the

A couple of weeks after the storming of Kennesaw, which Johnston finally abandoned to Sherman, this leader was supplanted in the command by General J. H. Hood, a hero of the battlefields of the Potomac. Hood announced his coming by a series of sorties against the foe then closing in upon Atlanta. When Sherman heard that Hood was in command of the Confederates he warned his generals that hard fighting lay ahead. He knew Hood at West Point and in the old army and declared that in gaming he "always played the limit."

In a brilliant sortie led by Hood on the 22d of July, which is known as the battle of Bald Hill, General J. B. McPherson, commander of the Army of the Tennessee under Sherman, was killed. During the fight which was going against his line he rode out with a single aid to order a brigade to fill a gap which if left open would be fatal. After making the disposition he started to return to the scene of danger, but by some strange error rode through the gap into unoccupied ground. There he encountered at close range some Tennessee stragglers, one of whom shot him from the saddle. When the soldier learned who his victim was he regretted that he had not spared his life. The same day the Confederate General W. H. T. Walker, commanding one of Hood's divisions, was instantly killed in a charge against McPherson's left wing.

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