Commanding the Army of the Potomac

University Press of Kansas - Commanding the Army of the Potomac by Stephen R. Taaffe

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Commanders Army of the Potomac, Culpeper VA 1863

We have so thinned our line to get troops for other places that it was broken yesterday at Front Royal, with a probable loss to us of one regiment infantry, two companies cavalry, putting General Banks in some peril. Meade's corps was left in reserve for most of the battle, contributing to the Union defeat.

Report of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, Commanding the Army of the Potomac (Part 1)

I most respectfully and earnestly urge upon Your Excellency that the opportunity has come for striking a fatal blow at the enemies of the Constitution, and I beg that you will cause this army to he re-enforced without delay by all the disposable troops of the Government.

The 4 Commanding Generals of the Union Army in the Civil War

Under these circumstances I decided to retain a portion of the army on the left bank of the river until our bridges were completed. As the enemy was not in great force opposite Bottom's Bridge on the arrival of our left at that point, and as it was important to secure a lodgment upon the right bank before he should have time to concentrate his forces and contest the passage, I forthwith ordered Casey's division to ford the river and occupy the opposite heights.

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January 26, 1863 — Major General Joseph Hooker assumed command of the Federal Army of the Potomac, and he received a stern letter of advice from President Abraham Lincoln.

The Army of the Potomac Vol. 1: Birth of Command, November 1860

Grant to the top job as General-in-Chief in March of 1864, while Halleck stayed on active duty as Chief of Staff, and in that administrative role he served well in seeing to it that the Army was well supplied and equipped. His Excellency ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President of the United States.

While there, he suffered a Heart Attack and Died March 21. I desire that the extent of my authority over McDowell may be clearly defined, lest misunderstandings and conflicting views may produce some of those injurious results which a divided command has so often caused.

General Orders #20

Please understand this, and do the best you can with the forces you have. Now, supposing we succeed in breaking through the line in front of us, what can we do next? The greater our force, the more perfect will be our combinations and the less our loss.

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Throughout the preparations for and during the siege of Yorktown I kept the corps under General Keyes, and afterward the left wing, under General Sumner, engaged in ascertaining the character of the obstacles presented by the Warwick, and the enemy intrenched on the right bank, with the intention, if possible, of overcoming them and breaking that line of defense, so as to gain possession of the road to Williamsburg and cut off Yorktown from its supports and supplies.

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