

# American Campaigns

By

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*Major Second United States Cavalry*

IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME I—TEXT

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## FOREWORD.

The original edition of this work was first privately printed in 1909 under authority of the War Department. A number of copies were purchased for official use and the publisher given authority to sell such copies as he desired. The first edition was speedily exhausted and a reprint was made in 1913. Subsequently the expensive color plates from which the maps were printed were greatly damaged by fire and the type destroyed.

In the preface to the first edition, the author very modestly apologized for the supposed shortcomings of his efforts, but in spite of his own fears as to lack of thoroughness in preparation the work has become standard in our service.

With the large increase in personnel of the services in the last few years, the demand for copies of the book soon depleted the publisher's stock, and for several years now no copies have been for sale except an occasional second-hand copy.

"American Campaigns" has been prescribed at the General Service Schools, the Infantry School and at practically all other service schools, but no means have been proposed for students to obtain copies.

Realizing the situation and the impracticability of reprinting from the original type, the Infantry Association has decided to offer this new edition, but without change in text or form. Plates have been reproduced from the original drawings, which fortunately had been preserved in the Army War College, while the entire text is printed from new type.

The cost of printing and publishing a book today is practically double what it was in 1909, so that the expense involved in this undertaking is very great. If, however, this contribution of the Infantry Association to the cause of military education in the United States serves a useful purpose, the Association will feel fully repaid for the time, money and effort necessary to see such an extensive work through the press.

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# CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Chapter I. The History of the English Language	15
Chapter II. The English Language in the Middle Ages	35
Chapter III. The English Language in the Sixteenth Century	55
Chapter IV. The English Language in the Seventeenth Century	75
Chapter V. The English Language in the Eighteenth Century	95
Chapter VI. The English Language in the Nineteenth Century	115
Chapter VII. The English Language in the Twentieth Century	135
Appendix A. The English Language in the Middle Ages	155
Appendix B. The English Language in the Sixteenth Century	175
Appendix C. The English Language in the Seventeenth Century	195
Appendix D. The English Language in the Eighteenth Century	215
Appendix E. The English Language in the Nineteenth Century	235
Appendix F. The English Language in the Twentieth Century	255
Index	275

## PREFACE.

These volumes represent a part of my three years' work as lecturer in military history at the Army Service Schools at Fort Leavenworth. It is with a great deal of reluctance that I have consented to let the lectures be printed in their present form, for no one can know better than I how far they fall short of being a finished work. No doubt, however, I should not feel entirely satisfied with them if I had spent twenty years, instead of only a part of three, upon them.

No man can feel that he has thoroughly mastered any campaign or battle, or is fully equipped to lecture upon it, until he has studied everything that has been written upon it. Hence I do not feel that I have mastered a single campaign or battle discussed in this series, because I have not had time to study the tenth of what has been written upon any one of them. The Rebellion Records have virtually been a closed book for me; I have hardly dared to open them, lest I might yield to the temptation to read on, from one report to another, far beyond the time I have had to spare. Fortunately, however, this great mine of fact—and fiction—has been industriously worked, and its contents have been carefully sifted and reduced, by such skillful craftsmen as Mr. John Codman Ropes, General E. P. Alexander, and dozens of others, who have given many years of their lives to the task; and the product of their expert labor has been placed at the disposal of students having less time to spare, like myself.

There is so much, however, I could do to improve the lectures and make them more valuable and acceptable, that I regret I cannot put one more year's work upon them before sending them forth; but they cannot wait longer, for some work of this kind is sadly needed by the students at the Service Schools in connection with their course in military history. These volumes are intended to occupy a space not filled by any other single work, and, until something better shall be provided, they must answer the purpose.

In preparing the lectures for publication I have been assisted directly or indirectly by many persons without whose aid I should never have succeeded at all. It would be impossible even to name them all. To no one else do I feel so much indebted as to Captain Edwin T. Cole, 6th Infantry, Senior

Instructor, Department of Engineering, at the Service Schools, under whose direction and supervision the maps were made. Indeed I believe I may say that Captain Cole was the initiator of the whole project. The volumes are the outcome of my course of lectures, which were illustrated by means of the stereopticon. For this series of lectures Captain Cole with his own hand made more than six hundred lantern-slides, nearly all of which had troops represented upon them in colors laid on by hand under the magnifying-glass. In the preparation of the maps, Captain Cole was assisted by Sergeant John Howry, Co. D., 1st Battalion of Engineers, a skilful draftsman, and Sergeant Frank Arganbright, Co. A, Signal Corps, an expert photographer. The final tracings of all the maps were done by Mr. W. J. Jacobi and Mr. A. B. Williams, expert draftsmen in the Military Information Committee, Second Section, General Staff, U. S. Army. For the excellence of the plates I am indebted to the personal care of Mr. W. Palmer Hall, of The Maurice Joyce Engraving Co., and for the accurate "registering" of the color-plates to the painstaking of Mr. D. S. White and Mr. William E. Browne, of the house of Byron S. Adams. To Mr. S. C. Williams, clerk in the office of the Secretary of the Service Schools, I am particularly obliged for the speed and accuracy with which he made the fair copy of my manuscript for the printer.

None of the maps were drawn originally for these lectures; all are photographic reproductions of either official maps or maps accompanying works that have been consulted in the preparation of the lectures. For the privilege of reproducing the maps of other works I have had to ask several authors and almost every leading publisher in the country, all of whom, both authors and publishers, have been kind enough to give their consent. Since, however, the maps have been taken from many different sources, they will be found to possess no sort of uniformity in method or in quality. Better maps, no doubt, are in existence than many of those reproduced, but the best one available has been taken in every case. In most cases the colored blocks and lines representing troops and routes of march have been added specially for the lectures.

It has seldom been possible to represent the troops to a scale, the main purpose having been merely to suggest, by means of blue and red blocks, the relative positions of hostile troops on a battle-field or in a theater of operations.

All things considered, it has been deemed best to present the maps in a separate volume of the same size as the volume of lectures, and to limit them to such dimensions that none of them shall require folding; but in reducing some of them to a scale small enough to meet these requirements, many of the geographic names have been made rather small to read with the naked eye; but it may be remarked, in passing, that no one can hope to keep his eyes unimpaired who undertakes the serious study of military history without the aid of a reading-glass. Many of the names and details of the originals not mentioned in the lectures have been left out of the reproductions and great pains have been taken to see that no important geographic names mentioned in the lectures should be omitted from the corresponding maps.

While reference is made in foot-notes throughout the text to works that have been quoted or taken as authority, I must here invite the attention of students of American military history to a few works that I believe will be of special interest to them:

For the study of the colonial period of our history Francis Parkman has left an immortal work in his series of volumes.\* His *Montcalm and Wolfe* and *A Half Century of Conflict* are of particular interest to the student of American military history.

Upon the Revolutionary War, *The American Revolution*, by John Fiske,† is too well known to require any recommendation from me. Its popularity is due largely to Mr. Fiske's charming style. Sydney George Fisher's *True History of the American Revolution*, and his later and more extensive work, *The Struggle for American Independence*,‡ are invaluable to the American who wishes to get an unbiased view of our

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\*Published by Little, Brown and Company, Boston.

†Published by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

‡Both published by J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia.

forefathers' struggle for freedom. The author breaks out of the usual rut of American historians, and gives us a view of the quarrel from the Englishman's side as well as from the American's. To the military student in search of the lessons of the Revolutionary War that relate to his own chosen profession, *Battles of the American Revolution*,\* written by General Henry B. Carrington, soldier and student of the science of war, makes a special appeal.

Excellent accounts of the War of 1812 are contained in Henry Adams's *History of the United States*,† and *A History of the People of the United States*, by John Bach McMaster.

The two little volumes of *The Great Commander Series*‡—*General Taylor*, by General O. O. Howard, and *General Scott*, by General Marcus J. Wright—taken together, give a very pleasing and instructive, but brief, narrative of the Mexican War; but the fullest and most satisfactory history of that war, in a single volume, is General Cadmus Wilcox's *History of the Mexican War*.§ This work is based upon accounts written from both American and Mexican points of view.

When we come down to the Civil War, a mere glance at the library shelves given to its literature makes one appreciate to the full the words of The Preacher, "Of making many books there is no end"; yet there is no single work that covers the whole war concisely and in a way to satisfy the military student. The subject is so vast that, thus far, no person that has undertaken it has lived to finish his task. The Comte of Paris, in his *History of the Civil War in America*,|| brought the narrative in full detail well forward into the year 1863. This is a great work.

John Codman Ropes, in *The Story of the Civil War*,|| only lived to complete Parts I. and II., which carry the story through the campaigns of 1862; but I am informed by his publishers that Part III., prepared "from the data which Mr. Ropes left behind," will soon be issued. Could Mr. Ropes have been spared to finish his great work it would have proved an invaluable boon for the student of the military history of that great conflict. No other work that I have seen reviews

\*Published by A. S. Barnes and Company, New York.

†Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

‡Published by D. Appleton and Company, New York.

§Published by The Church Publishing Company, Washington.

||Translation published by Porter and Coates, now the John C. Winston Company, Philadelphia.

||Published by G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York.

the main campaigns of 1861 and 1862 as scientifically and convincingly as that of Mr. Ropes. And withal the author's writing is easy and delightful to read.

In his *Military Memoirs of a Confederate*\* General E. P. Alexander has written an absorbing narrative and critical review of the campaigns that he himself took part in,—which include most of the important campaigns of the Civil War,—together with a brief account of some of the others. It is a most scientific and scholarly criticism of the operations. The only cause of quarrel one can find with the able and unprejudiced author is that he has not pointed out the faults of his enemies as plainly and fully as he has pointed out those of his friends. Every military student must be thankful to General Alexander for these memoirs, as everyone must lament that General Stephen D. Lee did not find time to publish a similar memoir of the campaigns that he bore a part in. Such a work along with General Alexander's would have made almost a complete critical review of the great campaigns of the war.

*The Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*,† made up of the great series of war papers that appeared a few years ago in *The Century*, stands unique in the world's histories of war. It covers every event of any importance from the beginning to the end of the great struggle. Told by the very actors themselves, great and little, these narratives have for the American reader an interest that no other history of the Civil War could possess. So long as there shall be Americans to read the story of those times they must remain grateful to The Century Company for these volumes. Precisely the right moment was chosen by the company for carrying out the great work. Had it been undertaken earlier, the time would have been too soon, for the vision of the actors would still have been blurred by the prejudice of section and the smoke of battle; had it been postponed longer, too many of the actors would already have passed away.

*Campaigns of the Civil War*\* is another excellent history of the main campaigns, issued in a series of small handy volumes, each written by a man chosen on account of his special fitness. In the list of the contributors we find the names of John H. Nicolay, General Alexander S. Webb, John Codman Ropes, General Winthrop Palfrey, General Abner Doubleday, General Henry M. Cist, General Jacob D. Cox, Captain Francis V.

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\*Published by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York.

†Published by The Century Company, New York.

Greene, Mr. George E. Pond, and General Andrew A. Humphreys.

The bookshelves of the young American officer should not long be without the last-named four works—*The Story of the Civil War*, *Military Memoirs of a Confederate*, *The Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, and *Campaigns of the Civil War*. Having first read these carefully, following out every movement upon the map, the student will have gained a general knowledge and appreciation of the main operations of the Civil War; then, if he pleases, he can find interesting and instructive biographies, memoirs, and histories, too numerous for me to attempt to list, with which to fill in the details of campaigns and battles. Of these books, one of the most valuable is the *History of the Army of the Cumberland*, by Thomas B. Van Horne and Edward Ruger.\* Few histories that I have seen contain so many excellent maps as accompany this volume.

Of our war with Spain, no complete history, such as the military student desires, has as yet appeared. Captain Sargent's work, *The Campaign of Santiago de Cuba*,† treats the main part of the operations with a fulness and skill that place it among the great military histories that have been written in English, and put its author in the class with Napier and Henderson. The only regret one can have in laying the work down is that its author did not include in it a review of the operations in Porto Rico and the Philippines.

M. F. S.

ARMY WAR COLLEGE,  
WASHINGTON, September 23, 1909.

\*Published by Robert Clarke & Company, now The Robert Clarke Company, Cincinnati.

†Published by A. C. McClurg and Company, Chicago.

## CONTENTS OF VOLUME I.

LECTURE		
I.	Colonial Wars .....	1
II.	The Revolutionary War—Northern Campaigns	21
III.	The Revolutionary War—Southern Campaigns	42
IV.	The War of 1812.....	56
V.	The Mexican War—Taylor's Campaign.....	81
VI.	The Mexican War—Scott's Campaign.....	105
VII.	The First Battle of Bull Run.....	127
VIII.	Forts Henry and Donelson.....	150
IX.	The Shiloh Campaign.....	169
X.	The Peninsular Campaign.....	191
XI.	Jackson's Valley Campaign.....	217
XII.	The Second Battle of Bull Run.....	239
XIII.	The Antietam Campaign.....	260
XIV.	The Fredericksburg Campaign.....	284
XV.	Stones River Campaign.....	308
XVI.	The Battle of Chancellorsville.....	329
XVII.	The Campaign of Gettysburg—The First Day.	353
XVIII.	The Campaign of Gettysburg—Second and Third Days .....	371
XIX.	The Vicksburg Campaign.....	394
XX.	The Chickamauga Campaign.....	422
XXI.	The Battles around Chattanooga.....	445
XXII.	The Battle of the Wilderness.....	466
XXIII.	The Battle of Spottsylvania Court House....	488
XXIV.	Siege of Petersburg.....	510
XXV.	The Campaign of Atlanta.....	535
XXVI.	The Campaign of Franklin and Nashville....	555
XXVII.	The Spanish-American War.....	588
Appendix	.....	629
Index	.....	673