

HISTORY
OF THE
SECOND ARMY CORPS

IN THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

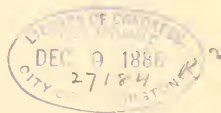
BY

ma. n
FRANCIS A. WALKER

BREVET BRIG.-GEN., U. S. VOLS.

ASST. ADJ.-GEN. OF THE CORPS, OCT. 9, 1862—JAN. 12, 1865

WITH PORTRAITS AND MAPS



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P R E F A C E .

WHEN, in 1882, after spending much time in collecting materials, I began to work actively and continuously upon the history of the Second Corps, of the five commanders of that illustrious body of troops four were still living, and ready to give me their valuable suggestions and advice. As I write these closing lines, of the five four are dead. Among the prominent staff-officers of the corps, especially competent to give information of value, the losses have been scarcely less remarkable. Toward the end, therefore, this work has been pushed forward under a painful sense of pressure and emergency. I have almost felt that my task would never be done at all, unless it were done at once.

The death of General Warren occurred before this narrative had reached the period during which that brilliant young officer won renown at the head of the Second Corps. It was the expressed purpose of General Humphreys, after concluding his "History of the Virginia Campaign of 1864-5," for the Scribner War Series, to give much time, every hour of which would have been of priceless value, to aid the present work; but before he had

taken up his pen for this purpose that heroic soldier and thrice-accomplished scholar passed away from earth. Following close upon these afflicting losses came the death, in February last, of that great captain whose name all veterans of the Potomac Army delight to utter. Since General Hancock's unexpected and startling demise, I have strained every nerve to bring my arduous task to its completion, feeling that, in truth, the "night cometh, when no man can work."

This history has undergone a great change of plan since it was first undertaken, and has come to embrace a vast amount of statistical and personal matter, in addition to the narrative of battles and marches which was contemplated at the outset. I cannot even hope that among so many thousands of separate statements regarding names, numbers, dates, order of events, juxtaposition of troops, direction of movements, etc., some mistakes have not been committed. I can only plead that great pains and labor have been expended in securing accuracy.

Even the present degree of success could not have been attained but for the information most kindly and courteously furnished by the accomplished Adjutant-General of the Army, General R. C. Drum, and by the officer who has, to the great advantage of American history, been placed in charge of the publication of the Rebellion Records. To the latter gentleman, Colonel Robert N. Scott, is due more than words can express. Colonel J. B. Batchelder, the Government historian of Gettysburg, has rendered much valuable aid, which is acknowledged with warm gratitude.

Colonels Fred. C. Newhall, Arnold A. Rand, and John P. Nicholson have also given me much assistance.

For reasons which appear to me good, I do not here acknowledge the assistance which I have received from many officers of the Second Corps, to whom thanks have been personally returned, and whose kindness and courtesy I shall ever bear in remembrance.

Among Confederate officers Generals Wade Hampton, Henry Heth, and C. M. Wilcox; Colonel William Allan, Major Jed. Hotchkiss, and Captain Gordon McCabe have given valuable information in response to my inquiries. I am indebted to St. George R. Fitzhugh, Esq., of Fredericksburg, for topographical details regarding that memorable battlefield, now greatly obscured by roads opened and houses built since the war.

The maps which illustrate this volume have been constructed with a view to giving the greatest possible assistance to readers not skilled in topography or accustomed to study elaborate and intricate plans of campaigns and battles. Whatever credit is due for their mechanical execution belongs largely to Mr. Charles L. Adams, whose skilful pen drew all but three or four of them, with a result in clearness and accuracy which I cannot but believe the reader will highly appreciate.

The list of portraits embellishing this volume would have been at points different, but for the lack of good pictures of some of the most meritorious officers of the Corps, especially among those who fell during the war. It seemed best not to present a portrait of any officer, however distinguished, unless a fairly good likeness could

be obtained, many of the ante-war ambrotypes and photographs being scarcely less than caricatures.

Mrs. General Morgan has from the first allowed the unrestricted use of the manuscript narrative, and other military papers of her distinguished husband; and to this more than to all other causes must be attributed whatever merit shall be found in this history of the Second Army Corps.

BOSTON, September, 1886.

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