

HOOKER, Joseph, soldier, b. in Hadley, Mass., 13 Nov., 1814; d. in Garden City, N. Y., 31 Oct., 1879. After a good elementary education he was



J. Hooker

appointed a cadet in the U. S. military academy, where he was graduated in 1837 with Braxton Bragg, Jubal Early, John Sedgwick, and Edward D. Townsend. He was appointed a 2d lieutenant in the 1st artillery, and after serving in the Florida war was sent with his regiment to the Maine frontier, on account of the disputed boundary controversy. On 1 Nov., 1838, he was pro-

moted to a 1st lieutenancy. After continued service with his regiment, he was appointed adjutant of the military academy, 1 July, 1842, but soon after-

ward, having been offered the adjutancy of his own regiment, accepted it, and retained it until 11 May, 1846. He served with distinction in the Mexican war from 1846 till 1848, and in the former year was appointed a captain in the adjutant-general's department. He was attached successively to the staffs of Gens. Persifer F. Smith, Thomas L. Hamer, William O. Butler, and Gideon I. Pillow. He was particularly distinguished in the siege and assault of Monterey, under Gen. Zachary Taylor, and received the brevet of captain. He took part in the movements from Vera Cruz to the city of Mexico, and for his gallantry in a spirited affair at the National bridge on 11 Aug., 1847, was brevetted major. He was favorably mentioned in the despatches announcing the series of actions and victories in the valley of Mexico—Contreras, Churubusco, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, and the capture of the city. For the decisive action of Chapultepec he received the brevet of lieutenant-colonel, being thus among the very few to whom were given three brevets during the war. After a year's sojourn at the east he was sent, on 9 July, 1849, as assistant adjutant-general to the Division of the Pacific, where he served until 24 Nov., 1851. By regular lineal promotion he had become a captain in his regiment on 29 Oct., 1848; but this post he declined and vacated, since he could not hold both, in order to retain his captaincy in the adjutant-general's department. From 1851 till 1853 he was on leave of absence. Being, like many others, smitten with the "California fever," he resigned from the army on 21 Feb., 1853, and from that time until 1861 lived a precarious and not very successful life. At first he was a farmer in Sonora county, Cal. In 1858 he was appointed superintendent of military roads in Oregon, and had other government surveying. From 1859 till 1861 he was colonel of California militia, expecting the cloud of war soon to burst. Thus by his needs, his training, and his forecast he was ready to avail himself of the opportunity that soon presented itself to his uncommon military talents. Still young, tall, handsome, cool, brave, and dashing, he was at once a soldier and a general, the beau-ideal of a leader of men. The government made haste to accept his services, which he had promptly offered, and he was appointed on 17 May, 1861, a brigadier-general of volunteers. The actual time of issuing his commission was in August, but it was dated back to give him a claim to higher command. He saw the battle of Bull Run, without participating in it. He was employed in the defences of Washington, 12 Aug., 1861, and then on the eastern shore of the lower Potomac, and was appointed in April, 1862, to the command of the 2d division in the 3d corps, Army of the Potomac, under Heintzelman, and fought in that capacity during the peninsular campaign. He was distinguished at the siege of Yorktown, 5 April to 4 May, and was appointed a major-general of volunteers on the day after the evacuation, 5 May. In the battle of Williamsburg his single division held the whole Confederate army in check, and lost 2,228 men, killed or wounded, while 30,000 National troops looked on and gave no assistance until, when all his men had been engaged, and he was obliged to retire, Kearny and Hancock came to his relief. He was also distinguished at the battles of Fair Oaks, Frazier's Farm, Glendale, and Malvern, where so much depended upon defeating the enemy while the change of base was being executed. At the close of the campaign, Hooker was employed, still as a division commander, in the new movement under Gen. John Pope, against Gen. Lee's Army of

northern Virginia, and fought with skill and valor at Bristoe Station, 27 Aug., Manassas, 29 and 30 Aug., and Chantilly, where he held the enemy in check with the gallant Kearny, who was killed there. From the soldiers who had admired his cool and dashing courage under fire he received the nickname of "Fighting Joe," and when he appeared on the field the men were strengthened and inspired. Especially had his rapid defeat of Ewell, 27 Aug., at Manassas compelled Jackson to evacuate Manassas, and relieved the army from a very critical situation.

When Pope had failed and was hurled back under the defences of Washington, the Army of the Potomac was restored to McClellan, and Hooker was promoted to the command of the 1st corps. He took a prominent part in the Maryland campaign, and was engaged in the battle of South Mountain, 14 Sept., 1862, where he carried the mountain-sides on the right of the gap, as Reno carried those on the left, the enemy precipitately retreating. At the battle of Antietam, 17 Sept., he again did more than his share of the fighting. His corps lay on the right, resting on Antietam creek, with Mansfield in rear and Sumner on his left. At dawn he crossed the creek and attacked the Confederate left flank; but that unbalanced field caused him to be confronted with overpowering numbers, and his losses were extremely heavy. He was shot through the foot and carried from the field. Had the movements of the left wing been as vigorous, had others obeyed orders as promptly and fought as bravely as he, the victory would have been much more decisive. For his conduct in this action he was appointed a brigadier-general in the regular army, to date from 20 Sept., 1862. His wound only kept him out of the field until 10 Nov., when he rejoined the army for the campaign on the Rappahannock, with Fredericksburg as the objective point. The slow and cautious movement of McClellan in pursuit of Lee after Antietam had caused him to be relieved of the command, which was conferred upon Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside. In the new organization for the advance on Fredericksburg the army was formed into three grand divisions, the command of the centre, 40,000 men, being given to Hooker. The principal attack was made on 13 Dec. Burnside had expected to surprise Lee, but failed in this, and the assault resulted in the discomfiture of the National army. In the criminations and controversies of generals, Hooker's conduct in the field had impressed Mr. Lincoln with a favorable estimate of his abilities, and when, at his own request, Burnside was relieved of the command, Hooker was appointed, by an order of 25 Jan., to succeed him. The letter that was addressed to Gen. Hooker by President Lincoln, when he appointed him to the command, is so remarkable for its keen insight into character and careful study of the situation that it seems proper to insert it here:

"I have placed you at the head of the Army of the Potomac. Of course I have done this upon what appear to me sufficient reasons, and yet I think it best for you to know that there are some things in regard to which I am not quite satisfied with you. I believe you to be a brave and skilful soldier, which of course I like. I also believe you do not mix politics with your profession, in which you are right. You have confidence in yourself, which is a valuable if not indispensable quality. You are ambitious, which, within reasonable bounds, does good rather than harm; but I think that during Gen. Burnside's command of the army you have taken counsel of your ambition, and

thwarted him as much as you could, in which you did a great wrong to the country and to a most meritorious and honorable brother officer. I have heard, in such a way as to believe it, of your recently saying that both the army and the government needed a dictator. Of course it was not for this, but in spite of it, that I have given you the command. Only those generals who gain successes can set up dictators. What I now ask of you is military success, and I will risk the dictatorship. The government will support you to the utmost of its ability, which is neither more nor less than it has done and will do for all commanders. I much fear that the spirit which you have aided to infuse into the army, of criticising their commander and withholding confidence from him, will now turn upon you. I shall assist you as far as I can to put it down. Neither you nor Napoleon, were he alive again, could get any good out of an army while such a spirit prevails in it. And now, beware of rashness! Beware of rashness! But with energy and sleepless vigilance go forward and give us victories."

The hopes of the country were high that the Army of the Potomac now had a general that would lead it to glorious victory. Hooker reorganized it, abandoned the cumbrous machinery of grand divisions, returned to the corps system, and formed a new plan, of the success of which he was very sanguine. He said he had "the finest army on the planet," and that no power, earthly or heavenly, could save Lee from destruction. After some unimportant movements he sent Stoneman's cavalry to the enemy's rear, and then, crossing the Rappahannock at several fords, with the ultimate intention of turning Lee's left, while Sedgwick should make a demonstration on Fredericksburg, instead of attacking Lee, he took post at Chancellorsville, where he awaited Lee's attack. This came with unexpected force and unexampled rapidity. Sedgwick's attack upon the Fredericksburg heights had been successful, but Jackson, by a vigorous flanking movement, turned the National right, and threw it back in great confusion upon the centre; there was want of concert of action, and thus the battle, although well planned, was lost. In the very heat of the conflict occurred an accident that entailed serious results. Gen. Hooker was leaning against a pillar on the piazza of the Chancellor house, which was struck by a cannon-ball. He was stunned, and for some time senseless, and could not recover his judgment so as to continue the command or to transfer it to a subordinate. Jackson was mortally wounded, and for two days the Army of the Potomac held its ground. The command devolved upon Gen. Couch, of the 2d corps, who withdrew the forces to the north side of the river. While the Confederate general, elated by this unexpected victory, was moving northward with bold schemes of invasion, the Army of the Potomac took up a line extending from Washington to Baltimore, hoping and expecting that Lee would again give battle in Maryland. In this they were disappointed. It soon became evident that Lee was going to invade Pennsylvania by way of Chambersburg. The Army of the Potomac marched northward, parallel with Lee's route, and looking for the best place to thwart him. Perceiving the inferiority of his army, Hooker demanded that the 11,000 troops under French at Harper's Ferry should be added to his force. This was refused, and for this reason ostensibly Hooker sent in his resignation of the command. In this condition of affairs, without assigning any reason, the president issued an order, under date of 27 June, 1863, relieving Hooker from

the command and conferring it upon Gen. George G. Meade, the commander of the 5th corps, who conducted it to Gettysburg, fought Lee there, and drove him back across the Potomac. In his farewell order to the troops, Gen. Hooker acquiesced cheerfully in the action of the government, like a soldier and a patriot, and gave the true significance of the order: "Impressed," he says, "with the belief that my usefulness as the commander of the Army of the Potomac is impaired, I part from it, yet not without the deepest emotion." He went to Baltimore, where he remained about two months. But so accomplished a general could not be spared, and on 24 Sept. he was assigned to the command of the 11th and 12th army corps, which were consolidated later, and constituted the 20th corps. With these troops he was sent to the south for the relief of Chattanooga, first under Rosecrans and afterward under Grant. From Wauhatchie he marched into Lookout valley on 27 and 28 Oct., and thus aided in opening communications for supplies, so that the army was thoroughly provisioned by two steamers, with only eight miles of wagoning. When Grant's plans were in order for the final movement, so that his line was complete from the northern end of Lookout Mountain to the northern end of Missionary Ridge, Hooker made a bold attack on the former, and carried it on 24 Nov., fighting what has been picturesquely called "the battle above the clouds." He then marched across to strengthen the National right, and shared in the grand attack on Missionary Ridge, by which Bragg was defeated and driven away in confusion. In pursuit of the enemy, he fought him at Ringgold on the 27th, where he met with stubborn resistance.

When Gen. William T. Sherman organized his army for the invasion of Georgia, Hooker was retained in command of the 20th corps, and gained new laurels at Mill Creek Gap, Resaca, Dallas, and Pine Mountain. He took part in the attack on Atlanta, and in the capitulation in the latter days of August. Gen. James B. McPherson, who commanded the Army of the Tennessee, was killed in one of the movements around Atlanta, 22 July, 1864. Hooker had expected to succeed him, but was disappointed. The president, at the suggestion of Gen. Sherman, appointed Gen. Oliver O. Howard to that post. Sherman regarded Hooker as one that interfered in the actions of others and questioned the orders of his superiors. Hooker considered himself ill-treated, and by his own request was relieved of his command, 30 July, and was placed upon waiting orders until 28 Sept. But his services were not forgotten. For the part he took in the movements under Grant and Sherman he was brevetted a major-general in the regular army, under date of 13 March, 1865. After the close of the war in 1865, Hooker was put in charge of the Department of the East, with his headquarters in New York city. In August, 1866, he was transferred to the Department of the Lakes, with headquarters at Detroit. He was mustered out of the volunteer service, 1 Sept., 1866, and was for some time on a board for the retirement of officers. Having been struck with paralysis and incapacitated for further active duty, he was, at his own request, placed on the retired list, 15 Oct., 1868, with the full rank of a major-general. He lived subsequently in New York and in Garden City, L. I., where he was buried. Hooker was a brave soldier, a skilful military organizer, with an overplus of self-esteem, which led him to follow the dictates of his ambition, sometimes without regard to the just claims of others; but his military achieve-

ments and unwavering patriotism so overshadowed his few faults that he is entitled to great praise.



J. Hooker

919..(Born Mas.).....**JOSEPH HOOKER**.....(Ap'd Mas.)..29

Military History.—Cadet at the U. S. Military Academy from July 1, 1833, to July 1, 1837, when he was graduated and promoted in the Army to

SECOND LIEUT., 1ST ARTILLERY, JULY 1, 1837.

Served: in the Florida War, 1837-38; on Maine Frontier, at Houlton,

(FIRST LIEUT., 1ST ARTILLERY, Nov. 1, 1838)

1838, pending “Disputed Territory” controversy; on the Northern Frontier during Canada Border Disturbances, at Swanton, Vt., 1838-39,—and Rouse’s

NUMBER.

1837.

CLASS RANK.

Point, N. Y., 1839-40; on the Maine Frontier, 1840, pending "Disputed Territory" controversy; in garrison at Ft. Columbus, N. Y., 1840-41; at the Military Academy, as Adjutant, July 1 to Oct. 3, 1841; as Adjutant, 1st Artillery, at Regimental headquarters, Sep. 1, 1841, to May 11, 1846; in the War with Mexico, 1846-48, on the Staff of Brig.-General P. F. Smith, 1846,—on the Staff of Brig.-General Hamar, 1846,—as Aide-de-Camp to Major-General Butler, 1847,—and as Asst. Adjutant-General of Major-General Pillow's Division, 1847-48, being engaged in the Battle of Monterey, Sep. 21-23, 1846,—

(BYT. CAPT., SEP. 23, 1846, FOR GALLANT CONDUCT IN THE SEVERAL CONFLICTS AT MONTEREY, MEX.)

Defense of Convoy at the National Bridge, June 11, 1847,—Skirmish of La Hoya, (BYT. CAPT. STAFF—ASST. ADJUTANT GEN., MAR. 3, 1847)

(BYT. MAJOR, JUNE 11, 1847, FOR GALLANT AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE AFFAIR AT THE NATIONAL BRIDGE, MEX.)

June 20, 1847,—Battle of Contreras, Aug. 19-20, 1847,—Battle of Churubusco, Aug. 20, 1847,—Battle of Molino del Rey, Sep. 8, 1847,—and Storming of Chapultepec, Sep. 13, 1847; as Asst. Adjutant-General of 6th Military Department,

(BYT. LIEUT.-COL., SEP. 13, 1847, FOR GALLANT AND MERITORIOUS CONDUCT IN THE BATTLE OF CHAPULTEPEC, MEX.)

Sep. 13 to Oct. 28, 1848,—and of Pacific Division, June 9, 1849, to Nov. 24, (CAPTAIN, 1ST ARTILLERY, OCT 29, 1848: VACATED, OCT. 29, 1848)

1851; and on leave of absence, 1851-53.

RESIGNED, FEB. 21, 1853.

Civil History.—Farmer, near Sonoma, Cal., 1853-58. Superintendent of Military Roads in Oregon (from Scottsburg to Myrtle Creek, and from Myrtle Creek to Camp Stewart), 1858-59. Colonel, California Militia, 1859-61.

Military History.—Served during the Rebellion of the Seceding States, (BRIG.-GENERAL, U. S. VOLUNTEERS, MAY 17, 1861)

1861-66: in the defenses of Washington, D. C., Aug. 12, 1861, to Dec., 1861; in guarding the Lower Potomac, Dec., 1861, to Mar. 10, 1862; in the Virginia Peninsular Campaign, commanding division (Army of the Potomac), Mar.—Aug. 1862, being engaged in the Siege of Yorktown, Apr. 5-May, 4, 1862,—

(MAJOR-GENERAL, U. S. VOLUNTEERS, MAY 5, 1862)

Battle of Williamsburg, May 5, 1862,—Battle of Fair Oaks, June 1, 1862,—Combat on Williamsburg Road, June 25, 1862,—Battle of Glendale, June 30, 1862,—Battle of Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862,—and Re-occupation and Action of Malvern Hill, Aug. 5, 1862; in the Northern Virginia Campaign, in command of division, being engaged in the Action of Bristoe Station, Aug. 27, 1862,—Battle of Manassas, Aug. 29-30, 1862,—and Battle of Chantilly, Sep. 1, 1862; in command of 1st Corps (Army of the Potomac), Sep. 6-17, 1862, in Maryland Campaign, being engaged in the Battle of South Mountain, Sep. 14, 1862,—and Battle of Antietam, Sep. 16-17, 1862, where he was severely

(BRIG.-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY, SEP. 20, 1862)

wounded; on sick leave of absence, disabled by wound, Sep. 18 to Nov. 10, 1862; in the Rappahannock Campaign, in command of 5th Corps, Nov. 10, of Centre Grand Division (3d and 5th Corps), Nov. 16, 1862, and of the Army of the Potomac, Jan. 26, 1863, being engaged in the Battle of Fredericksburg, Dec. 13, 1862,—Action at Kelley's Ford, Mar. 17, 1863,—and Battle of Chancellorsville, May 2-4, 1863; in pursuit of the enemy to Pennsylvania till June 28, 1863, when he relinquished the command of the Army of the Potomac,* which was engaged in the Action of Brandy Station, June 9, 1863,—and Skirmishes at Aldie, Middleburg, and Upperville, Va., June 17-21, 1863; in waiting orders at Baltimore, Md., June 28 to Sep. 24, 1863; in command of

* Received the thanks of Congress, Jan. 28, 1864, "for the skill, energy, and endurance which first covered Washington and Baltimore from the meditated blow of the advancing and powerful army of rebels led by General Robert E. Lee."

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11th and 12th Army Corps, Sep. 24, 1863 (consolidated, and designated 20th Army Corps, Apr., 1864), in operations about Chattanooga, Oct., 1863-May, 1864, being engaged in the Combat of Lookout Valley, Oct. 27-28, 1863,—Capture of Lookout Mountain, Nov. 24, 1863,—Battle of Missionary Ridge, Nov. 25, 1863,—and Combat of Ringgold, Ga., Nov. 27, 1863; in the Invasion of Georgia, commanding 20th Corps (Army of the Cumberland), May 2 to July 30, 1864, being engaged in the Combat of Mill Creek Gap, May 8, 1864,—Battle of Resacca, May 14-15, 1864,—Action of Cassville, May 19, 1864,—Battle of Dallas, May 25, 1864,—Movement, with almost daily severe engagements, against Pine Mountain, May 26 to July 2, 1864,—Pursuit of the enemy, with frequent skirmishes, to the Chattahoochee, which was crossed July 17, 1864,—Actions near Atlanta, July 18-19, 1864,—Combat of Peach Tree Creek, July 20, 1864,—and Siege of Atlanta, July 22-30, 1864; in waiting orders. July 30 to Sep. 28, 1864; in command of Northern Department, headquarters at Cincinnati, O., Sep. 28, 1864, to July 5, 1865,—of Department of the East,

(BVT. MAJ.-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY, MAR. 13, 1865, FOR GALLANT AND MERITORIOUS SERVICES AT THE BATTLE OF CHATTANOOGA, TEN.)

headquarters, New York city, July 8, 1865, to Aug. 6, 1866,—and of Department of the Lakes, headquarters, Detroit, Michigan, Aug. 23, 1866, to June 1, 1867; and as Member of Board for Retiring Disabled Officers, Nov. 27, 1865, to Aug. 30, 1866.

MUSTERED OUT OF VOLUNTEER SERVICE, SEP. 1, 1866.

Hooker, Joseph, major-general, was born at Hadley, Mass., in 1815, graduated in the military academy at West Point in 1837, and served in the Mexican war, rising to the rank of captain of artillery, and the brevet of lieutenant-colonel in the staff. From 1859 to 1861 he was a colonel in the California militia. When the Civil war broke out in 1861, he was made brigadier-general of volunteers and put in command of the defenses of Washington, Aug. 12, 1861; but his commission was dated back to May 17. When Gen. McClellan moved to the Peninsula Gen. Hooker's brigade was added

to the command, and for gallant service at Williamsburg he was promoted to be major-general of volunteers, May 5, 1862. During Gen. Pope's operations before Washington Gen. Hooker was very active, and at Antietam, Sept. 17, was wounded, and was soon after promoted to the rank of brigadier-general of the regular army. At the disastrous repulse of Burnside at Fredericksburg in December, he commanded the center of the army. In Jan., 1863, he was appointed to the command of the Army of the Potomac, and on May 2-4 fought and lost the battle of Chancellorsville. He resigned his command on June 28, and remained in Baltimore waiting orders till Sept. 24, when he was put in command of the 20th army corps and sent to Chattanooga, Tenn. He distinguished himself at Lookout valley, Lookout mountain, Missionary ridge, and Ringgold, Oct 27 to Nov. 27; was actively engaged in the march to Atlanta; again relieved of command, July 30, 1864; in command successively of the Northern, Eastern, and Lake departments, and of the retiring board till Sept. 1, 1866. He was brevetted major-general of the United States army in March, 1865, and in consequence of disability put upon the retired list, with the full rank of major-general, in 1868. He died at Garden City, L. I., Oct. 31, 1879.

Hooker, Joseph.*

[Born in Mass. Appointed from Mass.]

2nd Lieut. 1st Artillery, 1 July, 1837. 1st Lieut., 1 Nov., 1838. Brevet Captain, 23 Sept., 1846, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the several conflicts at Monterey. Brevet Captain Assist. Adjutant General, 3 March, 1847. Brevet Major, 11 June, 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the affair at the National Bridge. Brevet Lieut. Colonel, 13 Sept., 1847, for gallant and meritorious conduct in the Battle of Chapultepec. Captain 1st Artillery, 29 Oct., 1848. Vacated Line commission, 29 Oct., 1848. Resigned 21 Feb., 1853. Brigadier General Vols., 17 May, 1861. Major General Vols., 5 May, 1862. Brigadier General U. S. A., 20 Sept., 1862. Brevet Major General, 13 March, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service in the Battle of Chattanooga, Tenn. Mustered out of Volunteer service, 1 Sept., 1866. Retired with rank of Major Genl., 15 Oct., 1868. Died 31 Oct., 1879.