

HE lapse of foriy years lends enchantment to the picture of war as the veterans of 1903 viewed it on the Bappahannock in May, 1863. Chancellorsville was fought at the beginning of the month, and the dauntiess soldiers of Hooker and Lee were left standing upon opposite banks of the river wondering which leader would bazard the next move on the checkerboard. In the bivouacs of the Army of the

Potomac the boys in blue still turned longing eyes toward faroff Richmond, the goal of their heroic efforts during the two years that had passed since Sumter's signal gun aroused the nation from its dream of peace. But the battle had gone against them at Chancellorsville. The road to Richmord was again blocked by the guns and bayonets of Lee and his veterans of the Army of Northern Virginia. To the brave men who had fought and lost there Chancellorsville was like a vivid and horrible vision, with its lingering emotions of pain and distress.

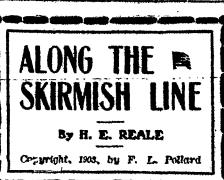
The passage of the Rappabannock at the close of April and the march to Chancellorsville had been performed under the wakeful eyes of Lee's outposts. No opposition beyond a mere feint had been offered to the Federal movement. In fact, the most of Lee's camps were abandoned by the Confederates, and Hooker joyfully announced to his followers that the enemy was retreating. Even the seasoned campaigners of that date had not yet learned that the retrogade of an army didn't necessarily mean a retreat. The retrogade of the Confederates which preluded Chancellorsville was simply Stonewall Jackson's way of shifting the scene of battle.

Boldly, after crossing the Rappahannock, the Federal corps went forward upon the several roads leading to Richmond, but in every direction sconer or later the enemy was found barring the pathway. So the campaign of strategy which Hooker adopted with great enthusiasm, aiming and expecting to march around Lee's flank and beat him in the race for the city on the James, had failed. Lee must be fought upon his own ground.

When Hooker discovered on the 1st of May that Lee was not running before him, but rather lying low in the convenient passes of the wilderness hills, he ordered his corps commanders to concentrate their troops at Chancellorsville. To some of the troops this order meant an about face in the presence of the enemy and acted like a wet blanket on the bouyant spirits of the mass. Around Chancellorsville, the home and estate of a planter, the army formed its lines and built breastworks for defense.

Even when heaping up earth and logs to turn away Confederate bullets the boys in blue worked in a half hearted way, for they had seen the Confederates marching off in all directions from Chancellorsville and were mystified by the turn of affairs. The ideal soldier, according to some standards, is a dumb machine, but these soldiers of 1863 were thinking machines. They reasoned and were now spurred on by hope and again depressed by anxiety. It was an anxious hour at Chancellorsville, for the Army of the Potomac was on the enemy's side of the river, with only one ford for recrossing in its absotute control. That the chief himself was anxious was shown by the order to





the great muster of soldiers on horseback during the winter and early spring. The Confederates, being natural horsemen and owners of good stock, had the lead in mounted troops the first two years of the war. Only a few scattered companies of cavalry-Zagoni's handful in the west and the Virginia Black Horse band at Bull Run-contributed to history in 1861. In 1862 "Jeb" Stuart, John Morgan, Forrest and Joè Wheeler border with never more than scant show-

ETERANS of 1863 remember

rode their raids across the Federal border with never more than scant showing of Yankee sabers raised in opposition. But early in 1863 blue coated riders rushed to the front, and, while the Confederates couldn't put extra men in the field, they rallied and organized their independent battalions into brigades and divisions, the better to cope with the larger commands of the fee. So "Jeb" Stuart's famous Virginia corps, Wheeler's cavalry in Tennessee and the cavalry corps of the Army of the Potomac date from 1863. The Federal troopers started the music at the close of the rainy season, and the month of May opened with their dashing raids in hot gallop over the border.

"Fighting J6e" Hooker, the new leader of the Army of the Potomac, had organized the mounted brigades and divisions of his predecessors into one corps, headed by General George Stoneman. He wanted to see the cavalry engaged in fighting as well as in scouting and guarding the rear of the army. The oft quoted remark, "Who ever saw a dead cavalryman?" attributed to him, was a scurrilous reflection upon brave men, but its wide circulation helped to inspire greater dash into leaders and men of the mounted corps.

Before Hooker moved the army across the Rappahannock at the close of April he ordered Stoneman to ride around the enemy's stronghold at Fredericksburg and do all the damage he could with fire and powder upon the Confederate, railways between Fredericksburg and Richmond. This was to be a repetition in kind of "Jeb" Stuart's noted raids around the army of the Potomac in 1862, but on a grander scale. Hooker expected that Stoneman would cut Lee off from his base at Richmond, leaving him at the mercy of



ON THE MISSISSIPPI By WARRINGTON WATTHE CORPUTCHE, 1944, 104 ETOMOTION NEWS

DREAG the wheel established Grant's struct way on that wooderthil marks Pemberton's Courted renders of Vicksburg Crosses the west bank of the river sen month, be captured a Japhing Grand Gulf with the ald of and immediately set his be motion santward to gain the the anemy's datement. The bogan with a rubh and when

Grand Gulf, he hadn't changed his clothing for a work not estan at meal. His baggage was still on the other side of the river, and he provision chest.

An officer of one of Farraguits ships supplied the chief with a chast underclothes, and the navy also treated him to a bath and a good dis All the ships of the navy combined could not have feasted the rank and of the army in the same manner, and the soldlers took polluck at the same of the country. Beef, mution and poultry were found in picuty, and all gristmills of the region were kept running night and day to supply a Still the soldlers suffered for the staff of life, and not until they had mare around Vicksburg to the north of it did they get full rations of asid Pemberion turned out his gatrison to dispute Grant's march at every of advantage. Skirmishes were fought daily, but the first battle occurred 12 at Raymond, a point twelve inlies west of Jackson, which was in the turning point of the march. Jackson, the dapital of Allsaissing, was his on a rational which carried supplies from the seator. Confederate the Vicksburg. With that read cut by the Foderals and the Inderet ship ing the river. Pemberton would be henmed in at Vicksburg. Jackson fell after a sharp fight on May 14, the Confederates printing

Jackson fell after a sharp fight on May 16, the Confederates, stifting Vicksburg slowly and diagoning further advance. Grant captured sense sengers from the east who had nows for Pemberton in the start that forcements were trying to reach him by marching hosts of the observe was taking in the hope of beging him in the race. Grant under the Pemberton's force, but gave no chance for the energy to concentrate strengthen his positions. On the 16th the heaviest builts of the series fought at Champion's Hill. Fighting continued all day, with the reaches Pemberton was beaten and lowerst least a bright of the trends.

The criais for the Confederates had come, and it was plain that we allow ments from the east were shut off by Grant's superior circuits, for back a garrison'at Jackson while the main body pushed onward after the back army in the direction of Vicksburg. This army Pemberion could have fait at that juncture had he chosen to abandon Vicksburg to its faw. He can easily have marched north, clear of Grant's lines, then east to's junction with the force coming to his aid beyond Jackson.

Seeing that Pemberton was falling back toward the river, Grant diverse his attention to the region north of Vicksburg, where he expected to get in one munication with the navy and supply ships coming down the Tabou river. Of the 18th of May Sherman's column was on the very ground which the Of





COUNCIL OF WAR AT CHANCELLORSVILLE.

suspend the forward march and take refuge behind defenses. Soldiers prefer to fight and be done with it, and it is a great trial of nerve to wait, to be moved about blindly, first against the enemy and then the other way.

When the Confederate attack came upon Hooker's line at Chancellorsville the 2d of May, it was from a wholly unlooked for quarter. The enemy was believed to be south of the Federal position if he was anywhere in the vicinity, but the first blow came from the west and northwest. It struck the unguarded flank of the line and crushed the Eleventh corps, under General O. O. Howard, after the most stubborn resistance that could be offered by troops taken by surprise. Howard fought in retreat the distance of two miles, and meantime the attack, led by Stonewall Jackson, gathered in force. A division of Slocum's Twelfth corps joined on Howard's left, and one of Sickles' Third corps lay on the left of that. These two divisions held up the Confederates and saved the position around the Chancellor house.

Night ended the fighting, but not the maneuvering, and both sides massed troops for a renewal of battle on the morrow. It was while thus engaged that Stonewall Jackson was mortally wounded by the random shots of friend or foe, no one can tell which. Next day General Hooker was stunned and disabled by a shell, and the lead of the army fell upon General D. N. Couch, the commander of the Second corps. The fall of Stonewall Jackson left his command without a leader and separated by the whole Army of the Potomac from Lee.

Contrary to expectation, no general battle was fought around the Chancellor house the 3d of May. Stonewall Jackson's column was handled by General J. E. B. Stuart. As usual, Jackson had left no instructions for a successor to act upon, and Stuart passed the day in straightening out the line to hold the ground. General Couch continued to act upon the defensive, as Hooker had done, and massed his divisions in positions of strength around the Chancellor house. The shifting of troops on both sides led to many flerce combats between brigades and regiments.

The 4th of May also passed without decisive fighting, and that night Hooker summoned a council of war on the situation. He said that his instructions from the war department compelled him to cover Washington and not jeopardize the army. After stating that, he left his corps leaders—Couch, Sickles, Meade, Howard and J. F. Reynolds—alone to debate the question and vote. The question was whether the army should advance and fight or retreat back across the Rappahannock. Meade, Reynolds and Howard voted to advance and fight. Couch and Sickles voted against it. When the result of the council was reported to Hooker, he said he would take upon himself the responsibility of removing the army to the other side of the river. The troops immediately began to recross and never ceased to feel that the army as a whole had not been given a chance to fight at Chancellorsville. For a month thereafter they expected to try it all over again and would have done so but for the fact that Lee marched north toward the Potomac.

AVERELL'S COMBAT AT THE FORD.

seven infantry corps which he hurled against his lines behind the Rappahannock. Although delayed by heavy rains, Stoneman crossed the river before the Confederates could concentrate. He immediately sent General Avereli and 8,000 sabers toward Culpeper, where one of Stuart's divisions under General W. H. F. Lee was guarding Lee's flank. With 3,500 men Stoneman dashed across the Rapidan and, brushing away the mounted guards encountered, struck the North Anna and South Anna directly in the rear of Lee. The raiders burned the bridges of the main wagon roads between Richmond and Fredericksburg and destroyed the track, telegraph, depots and water tanks of the Virginia Central railroad for eighteen miles.

The raiders were within twelve miles of the James on May 2. Not an enemy appeared to dispute their deeds of destruction. In order to cover all the region north and east of Richmond Stoneman divided his men into several parties and sent them sweeping down past Richmond to railying points on the peninsula between the York and the James. Six days had been passed in the enemy's lines and yet no sign of Stuart's men had been seen by Stoneman's column. Stoneman selected part of his command to return over the old track.

Meanwhile Hooker had crossed the Rappahannock, and Confederates ignored the presence of the raiders and turned about to smash Hooker at Chancellorsville. Two days after Hooker recrossed the river from the disastrous field of Chancellorsville Stoneman followed.

Averell's raid had a much shorter career, for after chasing Lee's troopers through Culpeper to the Bapidan Averell was overtaken by a fleet courier from Hooker recalling him to Chancellorsville on the 2d of May. Reaching Ely's ford at dark that day, his column was fired upon from the opposite bank. A couple of regiments forded the river under fire and dashed into the defenders of the ford, who were North Carolina infantry. After a sharp saber fight the ford was cleared, and Averell brought his whole command into Hooker's lines at Chancellorsville early May 3.

Grant's second attempt on Vicksburg was also under way at the close of April, 1863, and one of his first strokes against the enemy was to dispatch Colonel B. H. Grierson with the Sixth Illinois cavalry to smash the railroads and bridges in the Confederate rear. Grierson's task was a desperate one, for the enemy occupied the whole of Mississippi and northern Louisiana as far south as Baton Rouge. There could be no back track for the raiders, and they swept along, destroying railways and bridges over a course of 400 miles in length from La Grange, Tenn., to Baton Rouge, arriving at the destination May 3. This raid reached its height just at the time Grant was crossing the river to Grand Gulf, and a fleet of Federal boats was gathered there. At the time it was by all odds the most daring and successful raid of the war.

While Stoneman and Grierson were galloping and laying waste the enemy's territory the fearless Colonel Streight was making a running fight against Forrest's troopers in the heart of Georgia. The object of Streight's adventure was to cut the roads used by the Confederates south, east and west of Chattanooga. The raiding column consisted of picked troopers from Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, with guides and scouts familiar with the region to be invaded.

The first dash of Streight was a surprise to the Confederates, but the indomitable Forrest was quickly on his track with his fleetest horsemen and two flying batteries. Having a good start, Streight was able to give his pursuers a hard race, and whenever they came up with him he was ready for battle on ground of his own choosing. His tactics were to fight stubbornly with his mar guard for a time, then dash away to a new position pointed out by the guides.

At the end of three days Forrest's column was worn down by fatigue and hardship, and, selecting the most serviceable men and horses, he started afresh. Streight first galloped southeast from the vicinity of Tuscumbia, on the northern border of Alabama, then eastward and finally northeast, aiming for Rome, Ga. Near Rome the raiders laid an ambush, but were finally defeated and, having exhausted their rations and ammunition, surrendered. They had covered 130 miles in four days.



GRANT AND SHERMAN TAKING A FIRST VIEW OF VICLES

federates had held at the time of his futile assault at Chickssaw Blut 1862. Grant rode out to Sherman's advance line, and both were so imparto get upon the sightly hills that they kept slose to the skirmish line, were a mark for Confederates, then slowly retreating to the del Sate When Sherman say that he was now on the heights he had overed me before, he furned to Grant and said: "You deserve all the credit for marvelous campaign. I opposed it and never had any confidence in the seuntil this minute."

Grant at once ordered the troops to begin slege operations and turns attention to opening roads between the camps and the landings on the X This was accomplished by May 21, and the long fast ended. The and had received but five days rations of bread and coffee in three weeks, went along the trenches carly on the 21st, and one of the soldiers, record him, called out "Hardtack." Instantly the cry was taken up and allo the line by 70,000 voices. Grant sold that the road was about fullshe the soldiers should have all they wanted. That night full rations of bar and coffee were dealt out, and the complaint of the morning was follow wild cheers of rejoicing. Grant's original plan for driving the Genreis from their strong batteries on the Mississippi was to fix his bors of an at Grand Guif, send an army corps down in attack. Port Hussen, and below Vicksburg, and call up Banks, army from the Red river construword came from Banks that he could not reach Port Hussen and and Grant went ahead with his rushing campaign against Vichitary Banks was in the presence of an active eneuy about 5,000 surns

Banks was in the presence of an active energy about 5,000 strains after a show of battle forced him to retreat to Shraveport. Turning each Banks made a forced march to the Mississippi, but did not succeed in we until May 23. He immediately invested the Confederate works. The federate garrison at Port Hudson had been weakened to send troops to burg, and there were but 7,000 soldiers in the trenches. Banks broost three divisions from the Red river and united them with two divisions Baton Rouge and New Orleans, making a beneging force 14,000 strains

Banks knew nothing of the success of Grant's adventure in the re-Vicksburg and had given up all hope of help from that quarter. He was ignorant of the number of men he had to contend with and supressed it nearly equal to that of his own army. Two months previous Rank marshaled his troops in front of Fort Hudson and after looking these over decided to wait for re-enforcements from up the river. Leaving Hudson, he crossed the Mississippi and cleared the region of sciences might be troublesome in the event of a stere. Like Grant he before rushing campaign for fear the active enemy would take advantage of An attack all along the line was made May 37 at Pert Singles, meaning the line was made May 37 at Pert Singles, bed decided spon a regular days, which resulted in the sufficience

