



LEE'S LIEUTENANTS

By Douglas S. Freeman

(Charles Scribner's Sons—\$5.00)

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The essential qualities of high military command can be developed by only a minute fraction of those officers who can perform well the lesser military duties. A good general was a good officer from the time of his first commission. An excellent captain or a creditable colonel does not necessarily become a good general. The supply of competent general officers is not inexhaustible; rather their loss, in the case of small nations, may mean that less competent men will succeed them. The maintenance of the necessary standard of command may depend less on training and combat experience than on the size of the population. Unless there is vast manpower from which to sift and develop soldiers, mere experience may not be enough to assure continuing good field command above the grade of colonel.

Thus Douglas S. Freeman summarizes in his new work, *Lee's Lieutenants*, the development of the higher command in the Army of Northern Virginia. His conclusions suggest a source of reassurance to us in the present conflict where size of population may compensate for initial lack of proven high command.

Dr. Freeman tells us that he was impelled to undertake this further study of the Civil War period, so finely begun in his *R. E. Lee*, by a question that plagued and pursued: "In holding the light exclusively on Lee, had one put in undeserved shadow the many excellent soldiers of his Army?" Jackson, Longstreet, and Stuart have won permanent place in the history of American wars, but a score of other able officers under Lee's command are being rapidly forgotten. Dr. Freeman concluded that, before transferring his many years of study of the struggle to another period of military history "that company of gallant gentlemen should be placed in their proper relationship to their chief." But how was he to avoid duplication of what had been done by others, even though the author had uncovered much new material? Some words of Lee suggested the solution: "Our army would be invincible if

it could be properly organized and officered. But there is the difficulty—proper commanders—where can they be obtained?" It was determined that the book would be a review of the command of the Army of Northern Virginia, rather than a history of the Army itself; hence the sub-title, "A Study in Command," the story of the effort to create and maintain competent senior officers against the forces of constant and heavy attrition.

The results, representing six years of so-called spare time, are contained in three large volumes, of which the first now published deals with the period from Manassas to Malvern Hill. Like the

earlier *R. E. Lee*, they are a monument to the ability and inexhaustible industry of the author, who has found time for historical research and creative literature of the first order in the midst of a life filled with professional activities of newspaper editorship, daily radio broadcasts, instruction at the War College in Washington and the Columbia School of Journalism, to say nothing of numberless calls for public addresses from one of the leading figures of the South.

The method of treatment of so numerous a company was a serious consideration. The procedure finally adopted was the gradual introduction of the actors,

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combined with cross references and the assignment of large sections of the work to the more outstanding of the characters. While no arbitrary standard was followed in the allocation of space, each man treated won his place by the extent of his deeds.

It was a task that bristled with difficulties for any but the most skilled, and the degree of success obtained bears witness to the great competence of the author. Again, as in the *R. E. Lee*, we find the same vivid clarity of narrative, the justness of military observation by a highly regarded civilian analyst of war, and the broad grasp of the often confused scene that won for the earlier work the Pulitzer Prize Award. The characters are presented with conviction and authenticity. Dr. Freeman has succeeded to a large extent in giving animation to the least important of the actors, in spite of frequent lack of available detailed material. Some repetition of campaign description is present but it has been held to minimum. Certain operations such as the Valley Campaign, First Manassas and the actions around Yorktown, which received only cursory treatment in the *R. E. Lee*, are developed at length to throw full light on the capacities of Jackson, Magruder, Johnston and others. A valuable feature is an occasional summary analysis of the capacities of the commander under review. For the casual reader seeking a short-cut memory aid to the more important figures, a series of thumbnail sketches and photographs is included.

It must be conceded, however, that even the skill of Dr. Freeman is put to serious test in dealing with so varied a fare. There are moments when the work approaches too closely a detailed recital of military actions. It seems questionable whether so ample an account of the var-

ious battles was required in order to arrive at a judgment of the command capacities of the several actors. Selectivity and concentration could possibly have been used to greater advantage. Minor leaders are occasionally permitted to walk the stage and speak their brief lines to the disadvantage of the general flow of the narrative. A certain degree of confusion is produced at times from this over-inclusiveness. One senses a possible reluctance to overlook any candidates worthy of citation. But perhaps this is merely the impression of a non-Southern reader.

The cover carries a reproduction of one of the splendid murals from the Battle Abbey in Richmond by the great French artist, Charles Hoffbauer, who is now an American citizen and residing in Hollywood. It seems an oversight not to have given him credit by name.

NEWS OF CLASSES

1907

Rafael Pimentel died April 18, 1942, in Mexico City at Londres 112, where he lived with his wife and daughter.

1918

Fritz Karge is now with the Flour Corporation in Los Angeles.

1920

Robert Carson Smith is a captain in the Army Chemical Warfare Service, Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland.

1921

Major Smith Lee, U. S. Army, recently visited Los Angeles on his way from Utah to a new assignment on the Pacific Coast. Al Hall, Jerry Lavagnino, Art Spence, Dale Barcus, R. J. Hare, Ray Miller and H. J. Honsaker met with Major Lee for a brief reunion at Rene and Jean's Restaurant.

1922

Jay J. DeVoe is now captain in command of a signal training battalion at Camp Crowder, having been called to active duty last December.

Harold R. Harris, formerly with Panagra, is now stationed in Washington as Chief of the Plans Division in the Air Transport Command, where he says he is enjoying his work thoroughly.

Donald F. Shugart is a lieutenant colonel of the Air Corps, stationed at Fort Bragg, N. C.

Douglas MacKenzie has been promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel. He was executive assistant to the area engineer in charge of the construction of Cochran Field, Macon, Georgia, the basic flying school which was the first completed by the Corps of Engineers. Colonel MacKenzie was called into service March 17, 1941, and served seven months as chief of Military Construction Division of the Savannah, Georgia District Engineer's Office and later as Area Engineer at Camp Stewart, Georgia. In World War I he served as a private in a training camp at Los Angeles and received his reserve commission as a second lieutenant in 1922.

Paul Ames is now with the patent department of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and his office is in Radio City, New York.

1923

Bernie Evans has accepted a commission as Captain in the U. S. Marine Corps and is now on duty in San Diego.

1924

Vincent Manchee is stationed at the Huntsville Arsenal in Alabama after being commissioned a captain in the chemical warfare service last April.

1925

Oscar S. Larabee is on duty in Washington as a Major, Engineer Corps, with the Air Corps, and from all reports, spends half his time flying around the country.

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