

HISTORY OF THE CORPS.

How They Were Formed and of What Troops Composed.

THE SIXTH CORPS.

Hard Fighting During the Peninsular Campaign.

MALVERN HILL, VA.

Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg.

FRANKLIN'S Division, of McDowell's Corps, started from eastern Virginia for Fort Monroe, via Baltimore on the afternoon of April 13, 1862, arriving at Yorktown, Va., on the 23d, and was disembarked on the north bank of the York River, with the intention of operating against the rebel works on Gloucester Point. All preparations had been completed for an assault, when suddenly the news arrived on the morning of May 4 that the rebels had evacuated Yorktown. Gen. Franklin was at once ordered to proceed with his command up the York River to West Point, and arrived at that place on the 6th, landing his command during the night.

Early next morning he came in contact with the enemy, and after a serious engagement, in which he lost 186 killed, wounded and missing, succeeded in repulsing the attack made on him. This was the first important affair in which the division was engaged, and Gen. McClellan in his official report says it "was highly creditable to Gen. Franklin and his command."

On the 16th the divisions of Franklin, Smith and Porter had reached the White House, and a permanent depot was established at that place. Gen. McClellan here organized, with the consent of the President, the Fifth and Sixth Provisional Corps, the Sixth consisting of the divisions of Franklin, of the First, and W. F. Smith, of the Fourth Corps, and Gen. William B. Franklin was assigned to the command.

The composition of the corps thus organized was as follows: Brig-Gen. William B. Franklin commanding.

First Division—Brig-Gen. Henry W. Slocum. First Brigade—Brig-Gen. George W. Taylor—1st, 2d, 3d and 4th N. Y. Second Brigade—Col. Joseph J. Bartlett—5th Me, 16th



GEN. W. B. FRANKLIN.

and 27th N. Y. and 96th Pa. Third Brigade—15th, 31st, 32d N. Y. and 95th Pa. Artillery—1st Battery Mass., 1st Battery N. J., and Battery D, 2d U. S. Art.

Second Division—Brig-Gen. William F. Smith. First Brigade—Brig-Gen. Winfield S. Hancock—6th Me, 43d N. Y., 49th Pa., and 5th Wis. Second Brigade—Brig-Gen. W. T. H. Brooks—2d, 3d, 4th, 5th and 6th Vt. Third Brigade—7th Me, 20th, 33d, 49th and 77th N. Y. Artillery—Battery E, 1st N. Y., 1st and 3d N. Y. ind'p't batteries, and F, 5th U. S. Art. Co. I and K of the 5th Pa. and the 1st N. Y. Cav. were also attached to the corps.

Smith's (Second) Division while belonging to the Fourth Corps participated in the siege of Yorktown, losing 35 killed, 121 wounded and nine missing, and also in the battle of Williamsburg on the 5th of May.

Gen. Franklin was a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy, promoted in the Army to Brevet Second Lieutenant Topographical Engineers July 1, 1843; Second Lieutenant, Sept. 21, 1846; First Lieutenant, March 3, 1853; and Captain July 1, 1857. At the outbreak of the rebellion he was appointed Colonel 19th Inf., May 14, 1861, and Brigadier-General May 17, 1861, and Major-General of Volunteers July 4, 1862. He was in command of a brigade in the first battle of Bull Run, Va., July 21, 1861, and of his division in its organization in September, 1861, to the time of his assignment to the command of the Sixth Corps, in May, 1862.

He served in command of this corps during the Peninsular campaign, the Maryland and Fredericksburg campaign from December, 1862, to Jan. 24, 1863, in command of the Left Grand Division. He was awaiting orders from January, 1862, to June 27, 1863,

when assigned to duty in the Department of the Gulf, and served in command of the troops in and about Baton Rouge, La., from July 28 to Aug. 15, 1863, when he was placed in command of the Nineteenth Corps. He was wounded in the battle of Sabine Crossroads, April 8, 1864. He resigned his commission in the army on March 15, 1866, and is now a resident of Hartford, Conn.

At the battle of Gaines' Mills, June 27, Slocum's Division was sent to the left bank of the Chickahominy to support Porter and was hotly engaged with the enemy, losing in this action alone over 2,000 men. On the same day a part of Smith's Division had quite a fierce engagement at Garnett's, on the Nine Mile road, across the Chickahominy, the fighting being done by the reserve artillery. After desperate fighting the Union troops fell back, but Jackson, being apprehensive of a rally, sent to Longstreet for reinforcements. At about dark French and Meagher, of Richardson's Division, arrived on the field and restored the broken Union line, which under the fire of its own guns fell back to the bridges, which they crossed that night. The 2d N. Y., of Slocum's Division, continued on the field after their comrades had retired and, finding themselves surrounded, were obliged to surrender. The loss in guns and horses was very heavy.

The line of retreat to the James was across White Oak Swamp, and the passage of the retreating army was exceedingly difficult because of the enormous trains. Keyes's Corps took the advance, and by noon of the 28th had seized and occupied strong positions on the opposite side to cover the passage of the troops. The train of 5,000 wagons, with about 2,500 beef cattle, then followed, all having to traverse the morass by one narrow defile. Meanwhile Smith's Division, of the Sixth Corps, with Sumner's and Heintzelman's Corps, remained on the Richmond side of the White Oak Swamp in a position which covered the roads from Richmond and Savage Station, on the railroad.



GEN. JOHN SEDGWICK.

On the morning of the 29th Lee's columns started in pursuit of the Union forces, his intention being to intercept the retreat and sweep down the south bank of the Chickahominy.

On the same morning Sumner moved in the direction of Savage Station, advancing his position from Allen's farm to that place, and was there joined by Smith's Division, of the Sixth Corps. Upon this change of position by Sumner, Gen. Heintzelman, who had been directed to hold the Williamsburg road, fell back and crossed White Oak Swamp. This movement left no force to oppose the Confederates, who were pushing forward on the Williamsburg road, and Sumner, not knowing of Heintzelman's retirement, was surprised at finding the enemy on his front at Savage Station. These circumstances resulted in the battle of Savage Station, and was the second serious blow inflicted by the enemy upon the retreating army. Sumner withstood the attack with great daring, during which the artillery and wagons and ambulances moved all day and night on their way to the James, and during the night the rear-guard also crossed White Oak Swamp.

Under orders from McClellan, Sumner was ordered to leave behind at Savage Station the general hospital tent, with more than 2,000 sick and wounded. In this battle a portion of Smith's Division, of the Sixth Corps, took a prominent part and sustained heavy losses.

The morning of the 30th found the whole of the army across White Oak Swamp, and a portion had already reached the James River. The Confederate pursuit was continued, Jackson with five divisions pressing closely by way of White Oak Swamp and Longstreet with an equal force by the roads along the James River. The crossing by Jackson of White Oak Swamp would unite the whole of Lee's army, and to prevent such junction became a necessity to the Union forces. This necessity brought on the battle of Glendale, or New Market Crossroads. The bridge at White Oak Swamp having been destroyed, an attempt was made by Jackson about noon of the 30th to pass by the ordinary crossing, which was held by Franklin with a portion of the Sixth Corps, who poured into the head of the column such a severe artillery fire as to cause an abandonment of the attempt to effect a crossing. This action insured the safety of the Union army, and during the night the troops quietly withdrew, and before Lee was able to renew his attack the army, united, had become strongly posted on Malvern Hill, in line of communication with its new base on the James River.

On the morning of July 1 the Confederate columns resumed their march of pursuit, and were soon again in contact with the army, which at this time occupied a position extending obliquely across the line of march in front of Malvern Hill, and in front of this position the army was concentrated for final battle. Heavy forces of artillery and infantry were posted on Malvern Hill. Porter's Corps took position on the left; Couch's Division, of the Sixth Corps, was placed on the right of Porter; next were Kearny and Hooker; next Sedgwick and Richardson; next Smith and Slocum, with their divisions of the Sixth Corps, and next was a part of Keyes's Corps extending almost to the river.

At about 3 o'clock in the afternoon Couch's front was attacked by Anderson's Brigade, of Hill's Division, which, after a desperate hand-to-hand conflict, was repulsed with considerable loss. About 6 o'clock in the evening the Confederates made a fierce charge upon the Union forces, but were repulsed with heavy losses. The fiercest of the attacks were made upon Porter and Couch, and to the skill and daring of the latter, who came into command of the whole left center, was due in large degree the success in which the engagement resulted. The engagement lasted until 9 o'clock, and resulted in the complete repulse of the enemy, with a loss to them of about 5,000 men. This closed the Peninsular campaign, during which the losses on the Union side were more than 15,000; on the Confederate side more than 19,000.

The following is a detailed statement of the loss of the Sixth Corps:

Table with columns: Command, Officers, Enlisted men, Wounded, Killed, Capt'd or missing, Aggregate. Rows include Slocum's Division, Second Brigade, Third Brigade, Artillery, W. F. Smith's Div., Second Brigade, Third Brigade, Artillery, Cavalry, and Unattached Cavalry.

*No loss reported.

On Aug. 3 Gen. McClellan was ordered by telegram from the War Department to withdraw his entire army from the Peninsula to Aquia Creek, and there form a junction with Pope. On Aug. 9 a severe engagement took place near Cedar Mountain between Banks's Corps and a portion of Jackson's command, which occasioned apprehensions as to the safety of Washington, and Gen. McClellan then hurried his whole army to Aquia Creek and Alexandria.

After the battle of Manassas, which resulted in the defeat of the Union forces, the army, under orders of Gen. Halleck, was on Sept. 2 drawn within the lines of Washington. Between the 4th and 7th of September the whole Confederate army crossed the Potomac and encamped near the city of Frederick. When this fact became known McClellan, who in the meantime had been restored by the President to the command of the Army of the Potomac, moved toward that city. The advance was made by five parallel roads, the columns being so disposed as to cover Washington and Baltimore. The right wing was composed of the First and Ninth Corps, the center of the Second and Twelfth Corps, and the left wing of the Sixth Corps, under Gen. Franklin, which at this time embraced the divisions of Slocum, Couch and W. F. Smith. On the 12th of September the advance forces of McClellan's army entered Frederick, where they had a brisk skirmish with the rear-guard of the Confederate army, the main body having passed on two days before, marching toward Harper's Ferry. McClellan continued in pursuit, and on reaching South Mountain, on the morning of the 14th, a severe engagement ensued which resulted in the defeat of the Confederates, who sustained a loss of more than 3,000 men, of whom about 1,500 were prisoners. The loss on the Union side was about 1,500 killed and wounded. Among the killed was Gen. Reno, who commanded the Ninth Corps. During this engagement Franklin was making heroic efforts to force a passage at Crampton's Pass. With Slocum's Division on the right and Smith's on the left Franklin advanced his line, drove the Confederates from their position at the base of the mountain, forced them to near its summit, and finally carried the crest after a desperate struggle of three hours, in which several hundred prisoners, nearly a thousand stand of arms, one piece of artillery and three colors were captured. The total loss of the Sixth Corps was between 500 and 600.

The victory of the Sixth Corps was a severe blow to the Confederates, who regarded the holding of Crampton's Pass as of so much importance that General Cobb, who was sent there with three brigades, was instructed to hold the Pass even if he lost his last man in doing it.

About noon on the 17th, while the battle of Antietam was raging with great fury, Franklin, with Slocum's and Smith's Divisions, arrived on the field, Couch's Division having been left behind to occupy Maryland Heights. It had been the intention of McClellan to hold Franklin on the east side of Antietam so as to be available for operation on either flank or center as occasion might require, but before he reached the field it became necessary for him to rapidly cross the creek to assist the right, which was confronted with a strong opposing force. The arrival of Franklin was exceedingly fortunate, as Sumner had been repulsed on the right, and the enemy was directing his attacks upon the portion of the line between the right and center. Smith, without awaiting orders, hastened to fill up the position with a part of his division, and his third brigade, under Col. Irwin, made an impetuous charge which drove back the advance in great disorder. It was the intention of Franklin then to make a strong assault upon the enemy, and had already formed the available portion of his corps for that purpose, but the plan was abandoned by reason of the intervention of Sumner, who feared that should the attack result in repulse the safety of the whole army would be endangered.

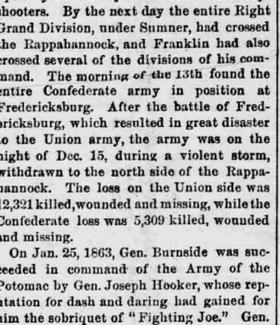
By General Orders, No. 182, War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, dated Nov. 5, 1862, Gen. McClellan was relieved from the command of the Army of the Potomac and Gen. Burnside was assigned to the command of that army.

Upon assuming command of the army Gen. Burnside formed the six corps of the Army of the Potomac into three Grand Divisions of two corps each. The Right Grand Division was placed under command of Gen. Sumner, and consisted of the Second Corps, under Gen. Couch, and the Ninth Corps, under Gen. Wilcox. The Center Grand Division was placed under command of Gen. Hooker, and consisted of the Third Corps, under Gen. Stoneman, and the Fifth Corps, under Gen. Butterfield. The Left Grand Division was placed under command of Gen. Franklin, and consisted of the First Corps, under Gen. Reynolds, and the Sixth Corps, under Gen. W. F. Smith.

On Nov. 15 Gen. Burnside commenced his march from Warrenton to Fredericksburg, thus putting into execution his project of changing the line of operations. The line of march was to be by the north bank of the Rappahannock to Falmouth, at which point the army was to cross to Fredericksburg by means of a pontoon bridge, the boats for which were to be sent from Washington. The plan was to construct five bridges; three immediately opposite the city and two a short distance below. Sumner's and Hooker's Grand Divisions were to cross the bridges opposite the city, and Franklin's Grand Division was to cross on the bridges below. Before day on Dec. 11, everything being in readiness, the construction of the bridges began; but the artificers had hardly got fairly to work when they were opened upon by the enemy's batteries and sharpshooters. By the next day the entire Right Grand Division, under Sumner, had crossed the Rappahannock, and Franklin had also crossed several of the divisions of his command. The morning of the 13th found the entire Confederate army in position at Fredericksburg. After the battle of Fredericksburg, which resulted in great disaster to the Union army, the army was on the night of Dec. 15, during a violent storm, withdrawn to the north side of the Rappahannock. The loss on the Union side was 12,321 killed, wounded and missing, while the Confederate loss was 5,309 killed, wounded and missing.

On Jan. 25, 1863, Gen. Burnside was succeeded in command of the Army of the Potomac by Gen. Joseph Hooker, whose reputation for dash and daring had gained for him the sobriquet of "Fighting Joe." Gen. Hooker at once inaugurated various measures of reform. He abolished the "Grand Division" organization, gave to the different corps distinctive badges, etc., etc., and by the close of April, 1863, the Army of the Potomac had attained a high degree of efficiency. It was divided into seven corps, consisting of the First (Gen. Reynolds); Second (Gen. Couch); Third (Gen. Sickles); Fifth (Gen. Meade); Sixth (Gen. Sedgwick); Eleventh (Gen. Howard); and Twelfth (Gen. Slocum).

On the night of April 28 the Fifth, Eleventh and Twelfth Corps crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford, and took the line of march toward Chancellorsville, which point they reached in the afternoon of the 30th, after having waded across the Rappidan, the water of which was in some places up to the arm-pits. On the same afternoon Couch succeeded in crossing the Rappahannock and marched straight on to Chancellorsville, to which point Gen. Hooker on the same night removed his headquarters. So quietly and successfully was the crossing of the Rappahannock effected that Lee was not aware of the movement until it had been accomplished. In the successful execution of the movement great credit was awarded Gen. Sedgwick for the skilful manner in



GEN. H. G. WRIGHT.

which he masked the flank march, for which duty the First and Third Corps, in addition to his own (Sixth) Corps, had been placed under his command. Thursday night Hooker with his four corps concentrated at Chancellorsville, and the Confederate forces were rapidly pushed toward that point to prevent Hooker from seizing the Confederate communications with Richmond. On Friday morning, May 1, Hooker advanced his columns toward the open country beyond the Wilderness, and by this movement he secured an elevated position commanding Chancellorsville, thus uncovering Banks's Ford and shortening by about 12 miles the communication between his force on the Chancellorsville line and the two corps near Fredericksburg under Sedgwick. Suddenly and unexpectedly, however, the three columns were ordered to withdraw back to Chancellorsville.

The columns accordingly returned to Chancellorsville and were followed by Lee, who rapidly pushed forward his columns. On Friday night a line of battle was formed extending about five miles from a short distance east of Chancellorsville. The Fifth Corps formed the left, the Twelfth Corps with one division of the Third the center, and the Eleventh Corps the right—the other divisions being held in reserve.

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The battle of Chancellorsville resulted in heavy losses to both sides; those of the Confederates aggregated between 10,000 and 11,000; those of the Union army between 17,000 and 18,000 in killed, wounded, and missing. The Union army also lost 14 pieces of artillery and 20,000 stand of arms. Their killed and wounded were left on the field.

On June 28 Gen. Hooker was, at his own request, relieved from the command of the Army of the Potomac, and Gen. George G. Meade was appointed in his stead. At this time the army was lying near Frederick, while the Confederate forces had gone up the Cumberland Valley, had already occupied York and Carlisle, Pa., and threatened to cross the Susquehanna at Columbia and Harrisburg.

By the morning of July 2 the entire Union army, excepting the Sixth Corps, had reached Gettysburg, as had also the whole of the Confederate army, excepting a part of Longstreet's Corps. Meanwhile Sedgwick was pressing forward, but having been farthest away—at Manchester, 38 miles distant—when the orders to concentrate at Gettysburg were given, was necessarily the last to reach that point.

When on the morning of July 5 it became positively known that the Confederate forces were in retreat, Sedgwick with the Sixth Corps was sent in pursuit along the Fairfield road, and in the evening of the same overtook the rear of the Confederate column, but before any attack was made Sedgwick was recalled. After recrossing the Potomac, Lee fell back into the Shenandoah Valley and took position on the line of Opequan Creek, being the same position which he occupied after his retreat from Antietam.

By the latter part of July Lee had made good his retreat, and had retired to the vicinity of Culpeper. Following came a considerable period of inactivity, and both armies became materially reduced—the Union army by the withdrawal of a large force which was sent to South Carolina, and by the withdrawal also of a large force which was sent to New York to quell the draft riots in that city; the Confederate force by the withdrawal of Longstreet's Corps, which was sent to Tennessee to reinforce Gen. Bragg, who was being closely pressed by Rosecrans. Shortly thereafter the cavalry force of the Union army was sent across the Rappahannock, driving the enemy across the Rapidan. The whole force soon followed and occupied Culpeper and all the region between the Rappahannock and Rapidan; but before a plan of operations could be formulated, it became necessary to withdraw the Eleventh and Twelfth Corps and send them to Tennessee, where reinforcements were needed in consequence of Rosecrans's defeat at Chickamauga. Thus reduced, the Army of the Potomac was forced to the defensive. Early in October Lee resolved upon an effort to force Meade back from the line of the Rapidan. Accordingly, on the 9th, Lee crossed the Rapidan, moved to Meade's right and attacked his advance posts on the right at James City, driving them back to Culpeper. Before day on the morning of the 11th, Meade fell back across to Rappahannock and blew up the bridge at Rappahannock Station. Learning that Lee had halted at Culpeper, Meade in the afternoon of the 12th counter-marched the Second, Fifth, and Sixth Corps to the south bank of the Rappahannock with the view of continuing back to Culpeper to give battle to Lee at that point. Lee, however, had taken a different direction to that supposed, and the morning of the 13th found both the opposing forces on the north side of the Rappahannock. During that day Meade fell back along the line of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad, and Lee reached Warrenton. After destroying the Orange & Alexandria Railroad from the vicinity of Bull Run to the Rappahannock, Lee began a retrograde movement and retired behind the Rappahannock.

The Army of the Potomac was then advanced as far as Warrenton, and after repairs to the railroad had been effected continued (Nov. 7) the advance toward the Rappahannock, with Gen. Sedgwick in command of the right wing, consisting of the Fifth and Sixth Corps, which was to cross the Rappahannock at Rappahannock Station. The passage of Sedgwick was rendered extremely critical because of the occupancy by the Confederates of a series of works on the north bank of the river at Rappahannock

Station, which some time before had been built by Union troops. These works were held by about 2,000 men. A little before a storming party, consisting of two brigades (Russell and Upton) of the Sixth Corps, succeeded in carrying the works, capturing about 1,500 prisoners, several guns, and eight stand of colors. The loss of the Sixth Corps was about 300 in killed and wounded.

Toward the end of November planned a movement against Mine Run, which was begun before day on the morning of the 26th. The Third and Sixth Corps were to cross the Rapidan at Jacobs's Mill Ford, march to Robertson's Tavern and there form a junction with the Second Corps. Owing to some delay the passage of the river, which it was intended should be effected that day, was not accomplished until the following morning.

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The Army of the Potomac was then advanced as far as Warrenton, and after repairs to the railroad had been effected continued (Nov. 7) the advance toward the Rappahannock, with Gen. Sedgwick in command of the right wing, consisting of the Fifth and Sixth Corps, which was to cross the Rappahannock at Rappahannock Station. The passage of Sedgwick was rendered extremely critical because of the occupancy by the Confederates of a series of works on the north bank of the river at Rappahannock

Station, which some time before had been built by Union troops. These works were held by about 2,000 men. A little before a storming party, consisting of two brigades (Russell and Upton) of the Sixth Corps, succeeded in carrying the works, capturing about 1,500 prisoners, several guns, and eight stand of colors. The loss of the Sixth Corps was about 300 in killed and wounded.

Toward the end of November planned a movement against Mine Run, which was begun before day on the morning of the 26th. The Third and Sixth Corps were to cross the Rapidan at Jacobs's Mill Ford, march to Robertson's Tavern and there form a junction with the Second Corps. Owing to some delay the passage of the river, which it was intended should be effected that day, was not accomplished until the following morning.

(Continued on third page.)

and under cover of night he withdrew his corps across the Rappahannock at Banks's Ford.

The battle of Chancellorsville resulted in heavy losses to both sides; those of the Confederates aggregated between 10,000 and 11,000; those of the Union army between 17,000 and 18,000 in killed, wounded, and missing. The Union army also lost 14 pieces of artillery and 20,000 stand of arms. Their killed and wounded were left on the field.

On June 28 Gen. Hooker was, at his own request, relieved from the command of the Army of the Potomac, and Gen. George G. Meade was appointed in his stead. At this time the army was lying near Frederick, while the Confederate forces had gone up the Cumberland Valley, had already occupied York and Carlisle, Pa., and threatened to cross the Susquehanna at Columbia and Harrisburg.

By the morning of July 2 the entire Union army, excepting the Sixth Corps, had reached Gettysburg, as had also the whole of the Confederate army, excepting a part of Longstreet's Corps. Meanwhile Sedgwick was pressing forward, but having been farthest away—at Manchester, 38 miles distant—when the orders to concentrate at Gettysburg were given, was necessarily the last to reach that point.

When on the morning of July 5 it became positively known that the Confederate forces were in retreat, Sedgwick with the Sixth Corps was sent in pursuit along the Fairfield road, and in the evening of the same overtook the rear of the Confederate column, but before any attack was made Sedgwick was recalled. After recrossing the Potomac, Lee fell back into the Shenandoah Valley and took position on the line of Opequan Creek, being the same position which he occupied after his retreat from Antietam.

ADM'L GOLDSBOROUGH.

A Sea Dog of the Old and Best School.

ROUGH AND SMOOTH SIDE.

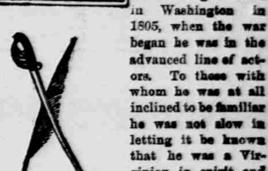
A Sailor in Every Known Water of the Globe.

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BY C. D. BRIGHAM, WASHINGTON, D. C.

IF any man was ever with propriety and accuracy described as a "Sea Dog" of the old and best school, that man was Rear-Admiral Louis M. Goldsborough. Born in Washington in 1805, when the war began he was in the advanced line of seafarers. To those with whom he was at all inclined to be familiar he was not slow in letting it be known that he was a Virginian in spirit and blood, and in particular that he married the daughter of the distinguished William Wirt; that he carried and consulted hourly the gold watch of rare workmanship of that great man, and had in his possession his gold-headed cane. By listening to these few particulars with becoming attention one could not fail of establishing good relations with the old Commodore.



He had a rough and a smooth side. This can be said with positiveness, but inside of all he had as warm a heart as any man ever had. His part in the war was principally in connection with the Burnside expedition into the North Carolina Sounds through Hatteras Inlet. It was an assimilated command of the army and navy, and it is to the credit of both Burnside and Goldsborough that they worked