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Gen. David S. Stanley

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GEN. DAVID S. STANLEY.

APRIL 29, 1892.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BELKNAP, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 7767.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7767) for the relief of Brig. Gen. and Bvt. Maj. Gen. David S. Stanley, U. S. Army, submit the following report:

The object of this bill is to retire Gen. David S. Stanley with the full rank of major-general, a rank which he now holds by brevet. There can be no question as to the merit of this measure, the services of this gallant soldier being so well known to all the people who read the records of the war of the rebellion. More than forty years of active service in the Army is hereby made a part of this report, as are also letters commending Gen. Stanley by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, Gen. U. S. Grant, Gen. Philip H. Sheridan, Gen. Winfield S. Hancock, Gen. J. M. Schofield, Gen. John Pope, Gen. O. O. Howard, Gen. C. C. Auger, Gen. George Crook, and a brief of claims of Col. D. S. Stanley, for promotion to brigadier-general.

Your committee recommends the passage of the bill.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 Washington, April 11, 1892.

Statement of the military service of David S. Stanley, of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office.

Cadet at the U. S. Military Academy, July 1, 1848, to July 1, 1852, when he was graduated and appointed—

Brevet second lieutenant, Second Dragoons.....	July 1, 1848
Second lieutenant.....	Sept. 6, 1853
Second lieutenant, First Cavalry.....	Mar. 3, 1855
First lieutenant.....	Mar. 27, 1855
Captain (Fourth Cavalry, 3 Aug., 1861).....	Mar. 16, 1861
Major, Fifth Cavalry.....	Dec. 1, 1863
Brigadier-general of volunteers.....	Sept. 23, 1861
Major-general of volunteers.....	Nov. 29, 1862
Honorably mustered out of volunteer service.....	Feb. 1, 1866
Colonel Twenty-second Infantry.....	July 23, 1866
Brigadier-general.....	Mar. 24, 1884

Brevetted: Lieutenant-colonel, December 31, 1862, "for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Stone River, Tenn.;" colonel, May 15, 1864, "for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Resaca, Ga.;" brigadier-general, March 13, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious services in the battle of Ruff's Station, Ga.;"

major-general, March 13, 1865, "for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Franklin, Tenn."

Service.—He served at the Cavalry School for Practice, Carlisle Barracks, Penn., from September, 1852, to May, 1853; on Pacific Railroad Reconnaissance to June, 1854; en route to and with his regiment in Texas, to April 16, 1855; on sick leave and conducting recruits to Fort Pierre, Dak., to September 8, 1856; with his regiment in Kansas, to May, 1857; on Cheyenne expedition to September, 1857; in Kansas to June, 1858; on the march to Arkansas River and in the Indian Territory to May, 1859; with his regiment in Arkansas and the Indian Territory to May, 1861, and in Missouri to November, 1861; on sick leave (with broken leg) to January, 1862; member of a military commission at St. Louis, Mo., to March, 1862; commanding second division, Army of Mississippi, to November, 1862; chief of cavalry, Department of the Cumberland, to November, 1863; commanding first division, fourth corps, to July, 1864; and the fourth corps (was wounded at Jonesboro, Ga., September 1, 1864, and at the battle of Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864) to December 1, 1864; on sick leave (disabled by wound) to January, 1865; commanding fourth corps to September, 1865; commanding the central district of Texas to December, 1865; on leave and awaiting orders to October, 1866; commanding his regiment and the post of Fort Leavenworth, Kans., to April, 1867; Fort Sully, Dak., to July, 1874; (being in command of the Yellowstone expedition, July 18 to October 23, 1873) and Fort Wayne, Mich., to September, 1876; superintendent general recruiting service, to October, 1878; commanding regiment and Fort Porter, N. Y., to April, 1879; commanding his regiment in Texas (being also in command of the district of central Texas and of the district of Nueces) to December 9, 1880; commanding Department of Texas, to January 3, 1881; commanding his regiment and Fort Clark, Tex., (on leave May 25, to September 22, 1881), to November, 1882; commanding regiment in the district of New Mexico, to February, 1883; commanding regiment and Fort Lewis, Colo., to September, 1883; on leave, to November 3, 1883; commanding district of New Mexico to May 1, 1884; commanding the Department of Texas to present date.

During his service in the Army he has been engaged in the following actions, etc.:

Near Fort Arbuckle, Indian Territory, February 27, 1859.
 Forsyth, Missouri, June 27, 1861.
 Dug Spring, Missouri, August 31, 1861.
 Wilsons Creek, Missouri, August 10, 1861.
 New Madrid, Missouri, March 13, 1862.
 Island No. 10, Mississippi River, April 7, 1862.
 Farmington, Mississippi, May 28, 1862.
 Siege of Corinth, Mississippi, April 22 to May 30, 1862.
 Iuka, Mississippi, September 19, 1862.
 Corinth, Mississippi, October 3, 4, 1862.
 Franklin, Tennessee, December 15, 1862.
 Stone River, Tennessee, December 31, 1862, to January 4, 1863.
 Bradyville, Tennessee, February 13, 1863.
 Snow Hill, Tennessee, March 10 and 30, 1863.
 Franklin, Tennessee, April 11, 1863.
 Middleton, Tennessee, May 22, 1863.
 Shelbyville, Tennessee, June 27, 1863.
 Elk River, Tennessee, July 2, 1863.
 Alpine, Georgia, September 9, 1863.
 Resaca, Georgia, May 15, 1864.
 Cassville, Georgia, May 17, 19, 1864.
 Dallas, Georgia, May 25, 28, 1864.
 Pine Mountain, Georgia, May 28 to June 20, 1864.
 Kenesaw Mountain, Georgia, January 20 to July 2, 1864.
 Rugs Station, Georgia, July 4, 1864.
 Peach Tree Creek, Georgia, July 19, 21, 1864.
 Siege of Atlanta, Georgia, July 22 to September 2, 1864.
 Lovejoys Station, September 2, 1864.
 Near Nashville, Tennessee, November 24, 29, 1864.
 Spring Hill, Tennessee, November 29, 1864.
 Franklin, Tennessee, November 30, 1864 (where he was wounded).
 At the mouth of Powder River, August 18, 1872, and a number of small skirmishes.

J. C. KELTON,
Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE TENNESSEE,
Nashville, Tenn., September 14, 1865.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

SIR: In an especial and particular manner I desire to call your attention to the services and merits of Maj. Gen. D. S. Stanley, commanding Fourth Army Corps, asking your favorable consideration of the same and requesting that he receive such promotion in the Army of the United States as shall be deemed consistent with the interests of the service and not unjust to him.

Maj. Gen. Stanley has served in the same Army with myself since the year 1862, and under my command from the time I took command of the Department of the Cumberland until his corps was ordered to Texas.

Occupying the intimate relations to each other of superior and subordinate, and being of necessity closely allied to each other, I had abundant opportunity both to observe and judge of his ability and capacity as an officer, and I am therefore not at a loss to speak intelligently on the subject.

In the discharge of his duties in the various positions held by him as a division and corps commander, as well as in less responsible positions, he has given entire satisfaction. By his personal attention to the wants and necessities of the troops subject to his orders, he was enabled to report more than the usual proportion as being fit for duty, and, though a strict disciplinarian, his just and impartial treatment of all won for him the respect and high esteem of his entire command. Careful and skillful in the handling and management of troops, both in putting them in proper positions and in directing movements under fire, he at all times exhibited before his troops those sterling qualities of a true soldier which they were but waiting to adopt as their own, and with their leader breast the storm of battle. A more cool and brave commander would be a difficult task to find, and, although he has been a participant in many of the most sanguinary engagements in the West, his conduct has on all occasions been so gallant and marked that it would be almost doing an injustice to him to refer particularly to any isolated battlefield.

I refer, therefore, only to the battle of Franklin, Tenn., November 30, 1864, because it is the more recent and one in which his gallantry was so marked as to merit the admiration of all who saw him.

It was here that his personal bravery was more decidedly brought out, perhaps, than on any other field, and the terrible destruction and defeat which disheartened and checked the fierce assaults of the enemy is due more to his heroism and gallantry than to any other officer on the field.

I am unable to recite his entire military history, but confidently refer you to the records and reports of operations in this department, in which he has acted a most important part. Maj. Gen. Stanley is an officer of acknowledged ability, industrious and faithful in the discharge of every duty, alive to the interests of the Government as well as the welfare of the troops under his command, and in the full exercise of an energetic and persevering devotion to his country, has contributed much to the successful overthrow of the rebellion.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. H. THOMAS,
Major-General, U. S. A., Commanding.

I heartily concur with Gen. Thomas in his estimate and classification of the services of Gen. Stanley, and earnestly recommend him for as high rank as can be given him in the reorganization of the Army, which must necessarily take place.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., January 25, 1866.

Official copy:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., March 30, 1879.

[Copy of indorsement upon application of Col. D. S. Stanley for promotion, etc.]

CHICAGO, June 8, 1881.

I take pleasure in stating that I have known Col. D. S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, for a long time. He is a gallant and accomplished officer, serving during the rebellion with conspicuous merit in the exercise of large commands of both cavalry and infantry. His war record is so well known that it is unnecessary for me to speak of it. Since the close of the war he has served on the Western frontiers with the same justly conspicuous merit.

P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General.

GOVERNOR'S ISLAND, N. Y., *April 3, 1883.*The ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,
Washington, D. C. :

SIR: In the event of a vacancy in the position of brigadier-general in the line of the Army, I have the honor to suggest Col. and Bvt. Maj. Gen. D. S. Stanley for appointment thereto.

Gen. Stanley's honorable and distinguished record, covering a period of more than thirty years' service, is doubtless well known at the War Department. As a brigadier, division, and corps commander during the late war, he rendered very conspicuous and valuable services to the country, for which he was made brigadier and major-general of volunteers, and breveted to the same grades in the Regular Army. He was twice wounded in battle at Jonesboro and at the battle of Franklin, Tenn. Since the close of the war he has been almost continuously on duty in command of troops on our Western frontier and has successfully conducted a number of important operations against hostile Indians, some of them under my command in the Department of Dakota.

I speak from personal knowledge when I state that I always found him prompt, able, and energetic, and fully competent for all of the requirements and responsibilities of his position. I earnestly commend him to the appointing authority.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WINFIELD S. HANCOCK,
Major-General, U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE GULF,
*New Orleans, La., April 4, 1881.*The ADJUTANT-GENERAL,
Washington, D. C.

SIR: I have the honor to invite the attention of the War Department to the claim of Col. David S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, to promotion, for meritorious and distinguished services as major-general of volunteers, commanding the Fourth Army Corps, in the year 1864. Gen. Stanley served in close association with me, and a portion of the time under my command. At Spring Hill, on the 29th of November, 1864, one of Gen. Stanley's divisions, under his immediate personal command, received and repelled the enemy's attack and held that position, which was of vital importance to the necessary night march of the army. On the following day, at Franklin, a part of the Fourth Army Corps, under Gen. Stanley, bore its full share with the Twenty-third Corps, under Gen. J. D. Cox, in sustaining and repelling a most desperate assault, and in achieving one of the most signal and important victories of the war. Gen. Stanley was present with his troops at the principal point of attack, and was severely wounded.

As a reward for his distinguished services Gen. Stanley received, at the close of the war, the rank of colonel in the Army, which rank he still holds. I have recently visited his command at Fort Clark, Tex., and found it in admirable condition, evincing the constant care of an efficient and faithful commander.

Gen. Stanley has now served nearly fifteen years in his present grade of colonel, and he is one of the most deserving of promotion among all the gallant officers of the Army whose distinguished services have as yet been only partially rewarded by the Government. I beg leave to earnestly express the hope that Gen. Stanley may be one of the first to be hereafter promoted to the rank of brigadier-general.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. SCOFIELD,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE MISSOURI,
Fort Leavenworth, Kan., April 26, 1881.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES:

SIR: Although I think it wholly superfluous for me to invite your attention to an officer so distinguished and so well known to the country as Gen. D. S. Stanley, colonel Twenty-second Infantry, yet as he desires me to do so, it gives me great pleasure and gratification to say to you that for the first year of the war Gen. Stanley served under my immediate command as brigadier-general of volunteers in Missouri, at New Madrid, at Island No. 10, and at Corinth, and that he rendered such distinguished service during that time as entitled him to the highest consideration of the Government.

His subsequent career to the close of the war is a part and a most honorable part of the history of the country, and his special skill and desperate fighting at the battle of Franklin I have heard spoken of by officers who were present in enthusiastic language, many of them asserting that but for his conduct that battle would have been lost to our arms.

Gen. Stanley is an officer and gentleman of the highest character, to whose hands the Government could safely confide any Army commission whatever, and who is certainly, by services and ability, entitled to such promotion as may be at the command of the Executive,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN POPE,
Brevet Major-General, U. S. Army, Commanding

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF WEST POINT,
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., April 13, 1881.

The ADJUTANT GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,
Washington, D. C.:

SIR: Col. D. S. Stanley served a long time with me during the war of the rebellion. He was sometimes exercising command near me and in several battles under my immediate supervision, as at Taylors Ridge, Resacca, Adairsville, etc., on to Atlanta. He was a brave and able commander. After I was relieved by promotion he was advanced to the command of the Fourth Army Corps.

His able administration, gallant conduct, and successful generalship became a subject of record and of public commendation.

Nothing gives me more pleasure than to renew my remembrances of Stanley's conduct as a man, soldier, and general officer, and to give expression to my satisfaction therewith.

In case his name comes up for consideration for promotion upon merit, it is due to him to recall his faithful, able, and persistent work during the war.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. O. HOWARD,
Brigadier-General, U. S. A., formerly Major-General of Volunteers.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, Tex., April 27, 1881.

In reference to the application for promotion of Col. D. S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, I desire respectfully to say that, although, with the exception of the last three months, I have never served with Col. Stanley, I am yet familiar with the record of his distinguished services during the late war, and of his services on the plains since that time, and that in my opinion there can be no question of his qualifications for a higher grade in the service.

C. C. AUGUR,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Department.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE,
COMMANDING GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Fort Omaha, Nebr., April 27, 1881.

To his excellency JAMES A. GARFIELD,
President of the United States;

MY DEAR GENERAL: I am informed that the name of Gen. David S. Stanley, colonel Twenty-second Infantry, will be presented to you, asking for him promotion in the event of a vacancy in the rank of brigadier-general in the Army.

As Gen. Stanley was a classmate of mine at the Military Academy and a warm personal friend, and as I served under his command in the Army of the Cumberland while he was in command of the cavalry of the Army, I feel that perhaps no one has better reasons for urging his claims than myself.

Gen. Stanley has been conspicuous for more than twenty years as a most honorable, chivalrous, and cultivated gentleman, and as a soldier whose gallantry and abilities have only been equaled, never surpassed. The rare qualities which so eminently fit him to be a leader of men have been shown on so many hard-fought

fields that it would be invidious to call especial attention to any one occasion, particularly in addressing one who has himself participated in so many of the same battles, and knows the story of all so well.

I feel now as I have always felt, that Stanley has never received the reward that was due for the glorious part he took in our victory at Franklin. I trust that should a vacancy occur he may receive the merited promotion. I ask this, knowing that his appointment would be gratefully and unanimously welcomed by the Army, and reflect credit upon your administration.

I am, general, very respectfully and sincerely, your friend,

GEORGE CROOK,
Brigadier-General, U. S. Army.

[NOTE.—General Terry's recommendation is missing, but is on file in the War Department. It is of a very flattering nature.]

Brief of claims of Col. D. S. Stanley for promotion to brigadier-general.

(1) General fitness for the position, as proven by long and faithful service through every grade from second lieutenant to corps commander, during which service he merited and gained the approval and commendation of his superior officers, and as shown by accompanying letters from general officers now in commission.

(2) Special fitness for a general officer, as proven by his holding that position from an early period of the war of the rebellion to its close, his corps being, after its long, arduous, and able work in the Army of the Cumberland, selected to strike the final blow in the extreme south, next on the Mexican frontier.

(3) Successful service as commander of the cavalry of the Army of the Cumberland during the most important operations, and then as commanding general of the Fourth Corps through its varied and distinguished operations up to and including the battle of Franklin.

(4) Special services in the battle of Franklin, where the Fourth Corps, under his command, distinguished itself and him, where he led his men in persistent and successful charges until victory was had, though he was severely wounded.

(5) Long and continued service in command on the Indian frontier since the war of the rebellion, during which time his general information and knowledge of the complications incident to Indian affairs have been frequently called upon by the Government.

(6) A special claim is made as an old officer of the Army of the Cumberland, which grand division of the National Army, during the war of the rebellion, has now no representative among the general officers of the line of the Army. The only officer of that Army rewarded for services in it was its chief, Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas, who, if he lived, would have strongly urged the promotion of Col. Stanley. This assertion is made, not only by Col. Stanley himself from his personal knowledge, but by personal and confidential staff officers of Gen. Thomas now living.

The President's attention is respectfully invited to the fact that later appointments of general officers of the line have been for services against Indians, services in which few only have been permitted to have important commands.

Gen. Stanley submits his record as a general officer during operations of great magnitude, but also invites attention to his nearly eight years' continuous station among the Sioux Indians, and the large operations carried on for the protection of the engineering parties of the Northern Pacific Railroad from the year 1871 to 1873, with numerous combats with hostile savages, said operations being under the direct command of Gen. Stanley.

True copies:

O. M. SMITH,
First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-second Infantry.

NOTE.—The above brief is by Lieut. Col. Alfred L. Hough, 16th Infantry, the staff officer of Gen. Thomas referred to in the sixth specification.

[Extract from pages 207, 8, 9, 10, Badeau's History of the Life of Gen. Grant.]

During the 24th and 25th the enemy skirmished with Schofield's troops in front of Columbia, but showed only dismounted cavalry; and on the 26th and 27th the rebel infantry came up and pressed the national lines strongly, still without assaulting. These movements betrayed an undoubted intention to cross the river above or below the town, and during the night of the 27th Schofield evacuated Columbia and withdrew to the northern bank. He had at first strong hopes of being able to hold the line of Duck River until reinforcements could arrive. Two divisions of infantry were posted to hold all the crossings in the neighborhood of Columbia. Stanley was placed in reserve on the Franklin road to keep open communication in that direction, and the cavalry, under Wilson, covered the crossings on the left or east of the command. But on the 28th the rebel cavalry succeeded in pressing Wilson back and effected a crossing at Heweys Mills, 5 miles above Columbia, and by daybreak on the 29th Hood's infantry was following in force. From Heweys Mills a road leads direct to Spring Hill, 15 miles in rear of the National Army, and on the Franklin road. If the rebels could reach Spring Hill in advance of Schofield they would be able either to cut off his retreat or strike him in flank as he moved.

Schofield at once sent Stanley with two divisions of infantry to occupy Spring Hill and cover the trains, directing Cox to hold the crossing at Columbia, while the remainder of the infantry was faced towards Heweys Mills, where the rebel army was crossing. Wilson was cut off, and no communication could be had with the cavalry. Stanley reached Spring Hill just in time to drive off a body of rebel cavalry and save the trains; and about 4 o'clock Hood came upon the ground in force. Stewart's and Cheatham's corps were with him, and one division of S. D. Lee; the remainder of the rebel infantry was left at Columbia, the only point where artillery could cross the river.

Cheatham had the advance, and the attack on Stanley was made at once. The engagement was serious and lasted until after dark, but Stanley held his own and repulsed the enemy repeatedly, with heavy loss.

At about 3 p. m. Schofield became convinced that Hood would make no attack at Columbia, but was pushing his principal columns direct upon Spring Hill. He thereupon gave orders for the withdrawal of Cox's forces at dark, and pushed on himself, with Ruger's troops, to open communication with Stanley. The head of the main column followed close behind. Schofield struck the enemy's cavalry at dark, about 3 miles south of Spring Hill, brushing them away without difficulty, and reaching Spring Hill at 7. Here he found Stanley still in possession, but the rebel army bivouacking within 800 yards of the road. Posting one brigade to hold the road, he pushed on with Ruger's division to Thompson's Station, 3 miles beyond. At this point the camp fires of the rebel cavalry were still burning, but the enemy had disappeared, and the crossroads were secured without difficulty. The withdrawal of the forces at Columbia was now safely effected, and Spring Hill was passed without molestation in the night, the troops moving within gunshot of the enemy. Before daylight the entire national column had passed, and at an early hour on the 30th Schofield's command was in position at Franklin.

Thus one of the most difficult and dangerous operations in the war was executed with equal success and skill; the army was extricated from a situation of imminent peril in the face of greatly superior numbers, and the opportunity for which Hood had labored so long was snatched from his grasp.

It was one of the most brilliant exploits of the war and one of the most important as well, for had Schofield been defeated at Columbia the entire Northwest might have been endangered. Chicago and Cincinnati were defended at Spring Hill.

A true copy.

O. M. SMITH,
First Lieutenant and Adjutant Twenty-second Infantry.