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Mary Doubleday

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 8, 1893.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. BLODGETT, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3819.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 3819) granting a pension to Mary Doubleday, have examined the same and report:

The beneficiary under this bill is the widow of Bvt. Maj. Gen. Abner Doubleday, and now advanced in life, being over 60 years of age, left in a destitute condition.

After the war he settled at Mendham, N. J., on retired pay, but aside from what was necessary for living expenses was contributed to the regular payment of premiums on his \$15,000 policy of life insurance, which was a failure, and up to the present there has not been, and is not now, any prospect of any recovery whatever; and it is impossible to get any rating at the Pension Department on account of the failure to prove that the disease of which he died was contracted while in service.

The claimant stood guard at Fort Moultrie on account of the small garrison, and accompanied her husband wherever the service would allow her, and rendered important aid at different times during the managements of the late war.

The following is an abstract of the services of Abner Doubleday, made in accordance with instructions issued from the Adjutant-General's Office of the Army to the general officers who had served in the war of the rebellion, requesting them to furnish a statement or brief military record, to be placed on file in the War Department.

Abner Doubleday entered as a cadet at West Point, N. Y., September 1, 1838, his residence at that time being Auburn, Cayuga County, N. Y. He was graduated July 1, 1842. Commissioned as brevet second lieutenant in the Third United States Artillery July 1, 1842. Promoted to be a second lieutenant in the First United States Artillery July 24, 1845.

WAR WITH MEXICO.

He was engaged in the war with Mexico from 1846 to 1848. In the battle of Monterey, September 21, 22, and 23, 1846. In operations connected with the battle of Buena Vista, February 22 and 23, 1847.

Promoted to be first lieutenant in the First United States Artillery, March 3, 1847.

SENT TO MEXICO AS A COMMISSIONER.

Sent to Mexico at the request of the United States Senate committee, of which Pierre Soulé was chairman, as a commissioner to investigate the Gardner Mine Claim, October 11, 1852.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES IN TEXAS.

Engaged in hostilities with the Apache Indians on the frontier of Texas, 1854 and 1855.

Promoted to be captain in the First United States Artillery, March 3, 1855.

INDIAN HOSTILITIES IN FLORIDA.

Engaged in hostilities with the Florida Indians from 1856 to 1858.

THE WAR FOR THE UNION.

He was second in command in Fort Sumter, S. C., at the time of its first bombardment, April 12 to 14, 1861, on which occasion he aimed the first gun of the war on the side of the Union.

Made major of the Seventeenth United States Infantry May 14, 1861.

Engaged in the operations of Gen. Patterson's column in the valley of the Shenandoah, Virginia, June 3, 1861.

Assigned to the command of the artillery defenses of Washington, D. C., August 30, 1861.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL OF VOLUNTEERS.

Appointed brigadier-general United States Volunteers February 3, 1862.

Assigned to the command of the defenses of Washington same date.

May 22, 1862, he was ordered to join Gen. McDowell's column at Fredericksburg, Va. On the 10th of August, 1862, he left that place with his brigade, which belonged to King's division, to reënforce our troops who were fighting at Cedar Mountain. August 19, 1862, he withdrew with the remainder of Pope's army to hold the line of the Rappahannock against the advance of the Confederate forces under Gen. Robert E. Lee.

MINOR ENGAGEMENTS.

August 21, 1862, he was engaged in an artillery duel with the enemy.

August 22, 1862, the same.

August 26, 1862, the enemy having crossed the Rappahannock and captured Sulphur Springs, Gen. Doubleday's brigade was sent to drive them back across the river, which was successfully accomplished.

BATTLE OF GROVETON.

August 28, 1862, he was engaged in the battle of Groveton, where Doubleday's and Gibbon's brigades encountered the advance of Stonewall Jackson's main army. After a severe action, in which both sides lost heavily, the enemy's advance was checked.

SECOND BATTLE OF BULL RUN.

August 29, 1862, he was engaged in the battle of Manassas (sometimes called the Second Bull Run). At the close of the action Hatch's and Doubleday's brigades were sent forward under the supposition that Jackson was retreating. They encountered a fresh army under Longstreet, which had just arrived, and after a severe struggle the two brigades, only numbering about 3,000, were driven back.

August 30, 1862, the battle was renewed. As Gen. Hatch was wounded, Gen. Doubleday succeeded to the command of the division. He was directed by Gen. Hooker to hold the turnpike far in advance of the stone bridge, and did so against the concentrated fire of the enemy's batteries until nightfall, when he was ordered to fall back and retreat with the main body of the army.

His brigade soon after formed a part of McClellan's army in the Maryland campaign.

BATTLE OF SOUTH MOUNTAIN.

September 14, 1862, in the attack on South Mountain, Doubleday's brigade, assisted by Ricketts's and Patrick's brigades, after a sharp fight, took the height immediately north of the road which led through Turner's Gap, and the enemy retreated.

BATTLE OF ANTIETAM.

September 16, 1862, Gen. Hatch being again wounded, Doubleday, again in command of the division, held the extreme right of Gen. McClellan's line of battle, and formed his line (September 17) under the fire of the enemy's batteries. His command opened the battle. In this action he lost heavily, but took six battle flags from the enemy. When our forces took up a line in rear, Gen. Doubleday was directed to open fire with thirty-two guns against a column of Stonewall Jackson's men, which were forming for the assault. In consequence of the severity of this cannonade, the attack was not made.

Gen. Doubleday was made a brevet lieutenant-colonel in the regular Army for this action.

MAJOR-GENERAL OF VOLUNTEERS.

November 29, 1862, Gen. Doubleday was appointed a major-general of volunteers.

BATTLE OF FREDERICKSBURG.

December 12, 1862, Gen. Doubleday's division of the First Corps took position on the left of Gen. Burnside's line of battle at Fredericksburg, Va., forming under the fire of the enemy's guns.

December 13, 1862, the battle began, and Gen. Doubleday, who held the left flank of the army, resisted successfully the enemy's cavalry and the concentrated fire of several batteries, it being the evident intention of Jackson's force to turn that flank.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST PORT CONWAY.

April 20 and 21, 1863, Gen. Doubleday was sent with two regiments to make a demonstration against Port Conway, on the Lower Rappa-

hannock, with a view to attack the rebel forces in that direction and thus facilitate the crossing of Gen. Hooker's army above.

SECOND ATTACK ON FREDERICKSBURG.

April 29, April 30, and May 1, 1863, Gen. Doubleday's division cooperated under fire in the passage of the river below the town.

BATTLE OF CHANCELLORSVILLE.

May 2, 3, 4, and 5, Gen. Doubleday's division was engaged at Chancellorsville. The First Corps arrived in time to take a position on the right of the army, to take the place of the Eleventh Corps, which had been routed.

IN COMMAND OF THE FIRST CORPS.

Gen. Hooker having appointed Gen. Reynolds to the command of one wing of his army, consisting of three corps, Gen. Reynolds turned over the command of the First Corps to Gen. Doubleday, who commanded it in the Gettysburg campaign in consequence of this assignment.

FIRST DAY AT GETTYSBURG.

July 1, 1863, Gen. Doubleday went forward to Gettysburg, by order of Gen. Reynolds, to reënforce Buford's cavalry, who were holding the ridge west of the seminary, Gen. Reynolds being killed within fifteen minutes after the firing began. Gen. Doubleday took his place, acting for some hours in command of the field, when Gen. Howard made his presence known. The Eleventh Corps were thrown in on the right of the First Corps, but soon gave way. This threw the weight of all the Confederate forces on the First Corps, who had been contending from 10 a. m. until 3 p. m. in a single line against double lines of A. P. Hill's troops, who outflanked them for a quarter of a mile on the left, while two divisions under Ewell came down upon their right flank. The First Corps, after successive and desperate echelons of resistance, fell back to the cemetery above the town. The First Corps went into this contest about 8,200 strong and came out with only about 3,500 men. The men fought desperately and there seemed to be no straggling. On this occasion the First Corps captured Archer's brigade, the greater part of Davis's brigade, and almost annihilated Iverson's brigade.

SECOND DAY AT GETTYSBURG.

When the enemy pierced the center of Gen. Meade's line on the ridge, Gen. Doubleday's division (including a brigade of fresh troops from Vermont, under Gen. Stannard, which had been ordered to report to him) was sent to assist in regaining the position. The enemy were already retreating when he arrived, but he followed them up and retook six guns which they had captured.

July 2, 1863, Gen. Doubleday was brevetted colonel in the regular Army for Gettysburg.

THIRD DAY AT GETTYSBURG.

When Pickett's grand charge advanced against the left center of Gen. Meade's line of battle it struck Gen. Webb's division on the right

of Gen. Doubleday's command. In their advance the charging column exposed their right flank, and Gen. Doubleday's front line, under Gen. Stannard, wheeled, threw themselves upon the vulnerable point, and disordered the enemy's advance to such an extent that they were easily repulsed. On their retreat they occupied temporarily a slashing where trees had been cut to clear the ground for our artillery fire. There two of Gen. Doubleday's regiments under Col. (now General) Gates, of the Twentieth New York State Militia, charged the slashing, drove out the enemy, and completed the rout of Pickett's force.

At the close of the action Gen. Doubleday was struck by a piece of shell and knocked from his horse.

REPORTS TO WASHINGTON.

After the battle Gen. Doubleday ascertained that a junior officer was assigned to the command of the corps. He remonstrated against this, and was ordered to report to Washington.

PRESIDENT OF A MILITARY COMMISSION.

There he was assigned to duty as president of a military commission, which, by its prompt punishment of fraudulent contractors, deserters, and bounty-jumpers, was shown by a detailed statement published in one of the Philadelphia papers to have saved to the Government more than \$3,000,000.

EARLY'S RAID ON WASHINGTON.

July 12, 1864, Gen. Doubleday was assigned to the command of a division composed of citizen clerks in the different departments and about 1,200 soldiers on duty in the forts the other side of the Eastern Branch. The enemy were skirmishing there within sight of the capital at the time. The arrival of the Sixth Corps from the Army of the Potomac drove them away.

MUSTERED OUT OF THE VOLUNTEER SERVICE.

August 24, 1865, at the close of the war, Gen. Doubleday was mustered out of the volunteer service and assumed his position as lieutenant-colonel in the regular Army, which dated from September 20, 1863.

RAISING THE OLD FLAG ON FORT SUMTER.

April 14, 1865, Gen. Doubleday, in accordance with an invitation from the War Department, accompanied the expedition to raise over Fort Sumter the same old flag which had floated there at the beginning of the war.

THE CHOLERA AT HART ISLAND, NEW YORK.

On May 15, 1866, Gen. Doubleday assumed command of the recruiting rendezvous of his regiment, the Seventeenth United States Infantry, at Hart Island, New York Harbor. The troops under him underwent the severe ordeal of a cholera epidemic, which proved to be very destructive.

ASSUMES COMMAND AT GALVESTON, TEX.

On the 15th May, 1866, Gen. Doubleday assumed command of the post of Galveston, Tex., he having been ordered there September 22, 1866.

COLONEL THIRTY-FIFTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY.

September 15, 1867, Gen. Doubleday was appointed colonel of the Thirty-fifth United States Infantry.

THE YELLOW FEVER AT GALVESTON.

In September, 1867, the yellow fever broke out with great violence at Galveston. Gen. Griffin, the commander of the department, died of it. Gen. Doubleday was taken sick, but recovered. Being too weak to do duty he was directed to proceed to New York in company with some of the bereaved officers' family.

MEMBER OF A RETIRING BOARD.

In 1868 he was detailed as a member of a retiring board in New York City, which acted on the cases of Gen. Joseph Hooker and others.

UNASSIGNED.

March 15, 1869, he was temporarily unassigned in the general reorganization of the Army.

ORDERED TO SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

On April 26, 1869, Gen. Doubleday was directed to take charge of the recruiting service on the Pacific coast, his headquarters being at San Francisco, Cal.

COLONEL OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY.

In the reorganization of the Army he was assigned to the colonelcy of the Twenty-fourth United States Infantry, whose headquarters was at Fort McKavett, Tex. He was on duty there, defending the frontier against Indian incursions, until the summer of 1872, when he was ordered to proceed with his regiment to Brownsville, Tex., to relieve the Tenth Infantry. There he did much to tranquillize the frontier and allay the national enmities which had been engendered by designing people on both sides of the line.

RETIRES FROM ACTIVE SERVICE.

On his way to Brownsville, while crossing the sand desert beyond Corpus Christi, Gen. Doubleday was stung in the night by some venomous reptile. His health was seriously impaired, and as he had been more than thirty years in service, he applied to be retired. He was offered an indefinite sick leave, but as he could not reconcile himself to receive full pay without rendering any equivalent, he preferred to retire. He did so December 11, 1873, on the lineal rank of colonel.

BREVETS.

Besides the minor brevets stated, he was brevetted both a brigadier-general and a major-general in the regular Army to date from March 13, 1865, his rank in the volunteer service having been that of a full major-general.

Your committee therefore recommend that the bill be amended as follows: By striking out the words "one hundred" in line 7, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "fifty;" and that the bill do pass as amended.

