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Maj. Gen. Alexander Stewart Webb.

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MAJ. GEN. ALEXANDER STEWART WEBB.

JANUARY 25, 1898.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT.

[To accompany S. 1901.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1901) to place Lieut. Col. and Bvt. Maj. Gen. Alexander Stewart Webb on the retired list of the United States Army, have had the same under consideration, and submit the following favorable report:

Alexander Stewart Webb served as an officer in the United States Army for over fifteen years, from July 1, 1855, to November 25, 1870. It seems scarcely necessary to submit a special report upon the bill, for the service of General Webb was of so conspicuous a nature that it requires little remark. Within six months from his graduation from the United States Military Academy, on July 1, 1855, he was on active military service with his regiment in Florida in quelling the uprisings of the Seminole Indians, there getting a foretaste of the more extensive military operations that were soon to come and in which he was to take so brilliant a part. He was a man of scholarly as well as of military attainments, being assistant professor of mathematics at the United States Military Academy for the three years immediately preceding the civil war, and principal assistant professor of geography, history, and ethics at the Military Academy for several years after the war.

At all times during the war his service was of the most active and valuable nature. He was in the field in Virginia in 1861 and participated successively in seventeen different actions and battles, among which were such important ones as Mechanicsville, Antietam, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, and Spottsylvania. The gallantry of his services was not without recognition. For gallant service at Gettysburg he was brevetted major and awarded a medal of honor "for distinguished personal gallantry in the battle of Gettysburg." He was brevetted lieutenant-colonel at the battle of Bristoe Station, colonel for gallant and meritorious service at the battle of Spottsylvania, brigadier-general for gallantry in the campaign ending in the surrender of Gen. R. E. Lee, major-general for gallant and meritorious service during the war, major-general volunteers for gallant and dis-

tinguished conduct at the battles of Gettysburg, Bristoe Station, the Wilderness, and Spottsylvania. At the battles of Gettysburg and Bristoe Station, in the Mine Run campaign, and at the battles of Martins Ford, the Wilderness, and Spottsylvania he was in command, successively, of the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the Second Corps, Second Division of the Second Corps, and First Brigade of the Second Division of the Second Corps.

General Webb's conduct at Gettysburg, July 3, 1863, is particularly worthy of mention. He was in command of the Second Brigade of the Second Division of the Second Corps, and had been with the color-guard of the Seventy-second Pennsylvania Volunteers, of whom every man was wounded or killed. General Webb left the color-guard and went across the front of the companies to the right of the Sixty-ninth Pennsylvania all the way between the lines in order to direct the fire of the latter regiment upon a company of rebels who had rushed across the low stone wall, led by the rebel general Armisted. Thus General Armisted and General Webb were both between the lines of troops and both were wounded, but by this act of gallantry General Webb kept his men up to their work until more than one-half were killed or wounded. In this action he was wounded by a bullet which struck him near the groin. General Meade, in his letter presenting a medal to General Webb, mentions this act as one not surpassed by any general on the field.

General Webb was also more severely wounded at Spottsylvania May 12, 1864, in the head. He served in various positions after the war, as shown by the appended documents, until December 31, 1870, when he was honorably discharged at his own request. He is to-day president of the College of the City of New York, and is ill much of the time from the results of his wounds, and as a consequence will be unable to continue his work. He has no other means of support. The bill was referred to the Secretary of War for remark, who referred it to the Adjutant-General, whose report is herewith printed, and will be seen to be in terms of the highest commendation. It was also referred to the Major-General Commanding the Army, whose report is herewith printed. There is also appended a statement of the military service of General Webb from the records of the Adjutant-General's Office.

This measure was also before the Senate in the Fifty-fourth Congress, during the first session of which your then committee ordered the same favorable report, and the bill was passed by the Senate.

In view of the facts above set forth, and as appearing in the papers herewith printed, your committee recommend the passage of this bill without amendment.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, December —, 1895.

Statement of the military service of Alexander S. Webb, late of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office.

He was a cadet at the United States Military Academy July 1, 1851, to July 1, 1855, when he was graduated and appointed brevet second lieutenant, Fourth Artillery, July 1, 1855; second lieutenant, Second Artillery, October 20, 1855; first lieutenant April 28, 1861; captain, Eleventh Infantry, May 14, 1861; major, First Rhode Island Light Artillery, September 14, 1861; lieutenant-colonel, A. I. G. (by assignment), August 20, 1862; brigadier-general of volunteers June 23, 1863; honorably mustered out of volunteer service January 15, 1866; lieutenant-colonel, Forty-fourth Infantry, July 28, 1866; transferred to Fifth Infantry March 15, 1869; unassigned March 24, 1869.

He received the brevets, of major, July 3, 1863, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa.; lieutenant-colonel, October 11, 1863, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Bristow Station, Va.; colonel, May 12, 1864, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Spottsylvania, Va.; brigadier-general, March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services in the campaign terminating with the surrender of the insurgent army under Gen. R. E. Lee; major-general, March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services during the war, and major-general volunteers, August 1, 1864, for gallant and distinguished conduct at the battles of Gettysburg, Pa., Bristow Station, the Wilderness, and Spottsylvania, Va.

He was awarded a medal of honor "for distinguished personal gallantry in the battle of Gettysburg."

SERVICE.

He was on duty at the Military Academy, July 5 to August 28, 1855.

He joined his regiment January 9, 1856, and served with it in Florida, in operations against hostile Seminole Indians, to November 19, 1856; at Fort Independence, Mass., to July 3, 1857; absent sick to September 20, 1857; with company at Fort Snelling, Minn., to October 31, 1857.

On duty as assistant professor of mathematics at the United States Military Academy, November 10, 1857, to January 7, 1861, and on duty with the West Point Light Battery to April 5, 1861; with battery at Fort Pickens, Fla., to July 4, 1861; in the field in Virginia to August 12, 1861; assistant to chief of artillery, Army of the Potomac, to August 20, 1862; inspector-general and chief of staff of Fifth Army Corps to November, 1862; inspector of artillery, camp of instruction, Camp Barry, D. C., to January 18, 1863; inspector-general Fifth Army Corps to June 26, 1863; commanding Second Brigade, Second Division, Second Corps (temporarily commanding Second Division, Second Corps, August 16 to September 5, 1863), to October 7, 1863; commanding Second Division, Second Corps, to April 5, 1864, and First Brigade, Second Division, Second Corps, until severely wounded at the battle of Spottsylvania, Va., May 12, 1864; absent sick on account of wounds to June 21, 1864; superintendent of recruiting for Second Army Corps, and on court-martial duty in New York City to January, 1865; chief of staff to General Meade, headquarters Army of the Potomac, January 11 to June 28, 1865; acting inspector-general, Division of the Atlantic, July 1, 1865, to February 21, 1866, and on leave of absence to June 13, 1866.

Principal assistant professor of geography, history, and ethics at the Military Academy, July 1, 1866, to October 21, 1868.

He joined his regiment October 24, 1868, and commanded it at Washington, D. C., to March 30, 1869.

At Richmond, Va., commanding First military district, April 2 to 20, 1869, after which latter date he performed no duty, having been, at his own request, left without assignment in the consolidation of infantry regiments.

On November 25, 1870, he requested to be discharged from the military service under the provisions of section 3, act July 15, 1870, to take effect December 31, 1870, and was honorably discharged accordingly.

During his service he participated in the following battles, actions, etc.:

Siege of Yorktown, April and May, 1862; Mechanicsville, May 27, 1862; Hanover C. H., May 27, 1862; Gaines Mill, June 27, 1862; Malvern Hill, July 1, 1862; Antietam, September 17, 1862; Shepherdstown, September 19, 1862; Snickers Gap, November 14, 1862; Chancellorsville, May 2 to 5, 1863; Gettysburg, July 1 to 3, 1863; Bristow Station, October 14, 1863; Mine Run campaign, November 26 to December 2, 1863; Mortons Ford, February 6, 1864; Wilderness, May 5 to 6, 1864; Spottsylvania, May 8 to 12, 1864; siege of Petersburg, January to April, 1865; Hatcher's Run, February 5 and 6, 1865.

GEO. D. RUGGLES, *Adjutant-General.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 8, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith Senate bill No. 1106, providing for the reappointment in the Army and retirement as lieutenant-colonel of Alexander S. Webb, late lieutenant-colonel and brevet major-general, United States Army, which has been referred to the Department by the Senate Committee on Military Affairs for information.

At the close of the war General Webb was transferred to the Forty-fourth Infantry, then known as an invalid regiment, composed of wounded and disabled officers and men. Upon the reduction of the Army in 1869, this regiment was consolidated with the Fifth Infantry, an active regiment. Many of the officers of this regiment were then retired. As General Webb was physically incapacitated for active service on

the plains with the Fifth Infantry, he sought retirement. In this he was unsuccessful. He thereupon resigned, and has since been occupied in civil life.

Could the retiring board have foreseen the effects of the severe wound that he received, there can be no doubt that its verdict would have been that he was incapacitated for active service.

It is held that he was justly entitled to retirement at that time. Had he then been reported incapacitated for active duty, he would have gone on the retired list with the rank and pay of brigadier-general, under the act of July 28, 1866, the actual rank he held and was exercising when wounded.

His appointment and retirement now as a lieutenant-colonel, the rank which he held when discharged from the Army, is recommended as simple justice to a gallant and disabled officer, distinguished at Bristow, in receiving Pickett's charge at Gettysburg, at Spottsylvania, and in the last campaign of the late war. I inclose a summary of his military record.

Very respectfully,

GEO. D. RUGGLES,
Adjutant-General.

The SECRETARY OF WAR.

[Indorsement of Major-General Commanding.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, *Washington, January 20, 1896.*

Respectfully returned to the honorable the Secretary of War, concurring in within report and recommendation of the Adjutant-General.

NELSON A. MILES,
Major-General Commanding.