

ROBERT EDWARD LEE

Methuen making an advance in the dark in quarter column left 700 of the Highland brigade dead upon the ground in five minutes. At Nicholsons Nek the mules bolted with the ammunition and heliographs, leaving a thousand men from two veteran regiments to surrender. Doubtless similar analogues could be discovered if one were to search the records of the more recent war, which would temper criticism of Lee's misadventures.

The military charge against Lee is that he did not follow up his victories. No general ever did; not after Austerlitz, Jena, Sadowa, Wörth, Passchendaele, the Somme. There is one exception, as C. R. Ballard in his admirable essay points out, Waterloo; and that because two fresh corps of Prussians had arrived. After First Bull Run or Manassas, as it is known in the South, Jackson, who there earned the name of Stonewall, exclaimed as the surgeon was dressing his wound, "Give me 10,000 fresh troops, and I will be in Washington to-morrow." He had no fresh troops, and there is a limit to human endurance. To march is more than to walk. Let any man walk carrying a burden of 59 pounds as the British soldier did in the recent war, and he will make that discovery for himself. Even Jackson was late on two occasions in the Seven Days by reason of the fatigue of his troops. In the last year of his life Lee broke his habitual silence to explain why he had not moved on to Washington after Second Bull Run: "Because my men had nothing to eat; they had nothing to eat for three days; I went into Maryland to feed my army." War is as simple as that.

There were deep reasons for Lee's failure: hunger, cold, nakedness, fatigue, despair. The institution of negro slavery was hard to justify in the eyes of the world. From the first Lee's task was impossible. When the South was refused access to the Atlantic and the Mississippi, and cut athwart by Sherman's devastation, the end had come. Even chloroform