



## Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston

## By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

BRUARY 3 is the anniversary of the birthday

of two American soldiers whose careers afford some striking similarities and some equally striking differences. They bore the same family name, yet were not related. They were graduated from the same

military school, both achieved distinction as Indian fighters, both attained high ranks in both the United States army and the Confederate army, yet one rose to the heights as a military leader only to be cheated of his reward by death, while the other lived to see his fame as a soldier end in something of an anti-climax. The two were Albert Sidney Johnston and Joseph Eggleston Johnston



all the Confederate forces in the West. The fall of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson to the Union forces under Foote and Grant followed and the new leader fell back to Murfreesboro where he began reorganizing his troops. Then he moved to Corinth, Miss., the key of the defense of the railroad system in the lower Mississippi valley, where by April 1, 1862, he had about 40,000 men, poorly armed and badly supplied. Grant, commanding the right wing of the Union army, was concentrating at Pittsburg Landng on the Tennessee river with so 40,000 men and Buell was rapidly approaching with 40,000 more. With a Napoleonic flash of genius Johnston decided to beat the enemy in detail and to attack Grant before Buell could arrive. On April 3 he started on his 25 mile march to Pittsburgh Landing but he was delayed by bad roads and did not arrive until the 5th. At a council of war General Beauregard, his second in command, protested against an attack and advised a return to Corinth. Johnston overruled him and on Sunday morning, April 6, he led his army to the attack. It was a complete surprise, for Grant was not even on the field. The struggle lasted all day and was proceeding successfully just as Johnston had planned. The Union army was being crowded into an angle between Snake creek and the Tenessee river and was facing annihilation. About 2:30 o'clock in the afternoon Johnston, while leading a charge which crushed the left wing of Grant's forces, fell with a mortal wound, Beauregard, with enough daylight left to complete the victory, vacillated and ordered the attack to cease. That night Buell's army came up and the next day the Confederates were driven from the field. Had the bullet which struck down Albert Sidney Johnston reached another target, the history of the Civil war might have been vastly different. Unlike Albert Sidney Johnston, who was a Southerner of Northern ancestry, Joseph Eggleston Johnston was a Southerner of the Southerners. He was born in Cherry Grove, Va., on February 3, 1807, the scion of a Virginia family which had been in this country for nearly 200 years. He was graduated from West Point in 1829 in the same class that gave Robert E. Lee to the army and commissioned a second lieutenant in the Fourth artillery. With the exception of service in the Black Hawk war in 1832, most of his first six years in the army was spent in garrison duty at various posts along the Atlantic seaboard.

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston

brevetted lieutenant colonel and colonel and during the next fifteen years performed various duties in the West (including that of acting inspector-general for the Utah expedition commanded by the other Johnston-Albert Sidney) which led finally to his commission of quartermastergeneral of the United States army.

Johnston resigned from the army when Virginia seceded, was commissioned a major-general of volunteers by Virginia and with Robert E. Lee organized the soldiers who poured into Richmond to defend the capital of the state. Next he was appointed commander of the army of the Shenandoah and led it to the aid of General Beauregard when McDowell attacked on July 21, 1861, at Manassas. Johnston outranked Beauregard and took command so that he is cred ited with the victory at Bull Run. The next month he was appointed one of the five full generals authorized by the Confederate congress (among them Albert Sidney Johnston) but was placed fourth on the list. Johnston protested against this, since he felt that his high rank in the United States army when he resigned should have placed him first on the list, and in this he was justified by a previous congressional act. This protest is said to have been the beginning and cause of the hostility towards him shown by President Jefferson Davis throughout the war. The quarrel between the two men, according to Allen Tate in his recent biography of Davis, "was to outlast the Confederacy and have a paralyzing influence upon its career." After the Battle of Seven Pines in 1862, at which Johnston was seriously wounded, Davis replaced him in command of the Confederate forces in the East with Gen. Robert E. Lee and the eclipse of Joseph E. Johnston as an outstanding military leader began. The next year he was sent to take command of the Department of the West. "Johnston was one of the three or four best soldiers in the South." writes Tate. "But he tended to avoid assuming responsibility; he was touchy and quarrelsome; and his instinctive dislike of offensive warfare had, inconsistently enough, undermined the President's confidence in him since his retreat up the peninsula before McClellan in the spring. In the end, Davis' lack of confidence may have been sheer dislike; Johnston had not handled him, in his rancorous letters, with kid gloves. So, when Johnston went west his instructions were a little vague . . . . . Both Davis and Johnston have their ardent partisans in the historic dispute between the two and it seems impossible to arrive at any conclusion as to who was most to blame. But the net result was disaster in the West which further weakened the "Lost Cause" and contributed its share to the downfall of the Confederacy. It fell to his lot to play a leading role in the last military scene of the great tragedy which befell the American people between 1861 and 1865, Just as he had been in command at the first major engagement of the war, so was he in command when the last important armed forces of the Confederacy laid down their arms. On April 26, 1865, Johnston surrendered his army to General Sherman on the same terms under which Lee had surrendered to Grant.

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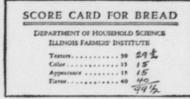
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Albert Sidney Johnston was born on February 3, 1803, in Washington, Ky., the son of a Connecticut country physician and was graduated from the United States Military academy, eighth in his class, in 1826. He was assigned to the Second Infantry and served as chief of staff to Gen. Henry Atkinson in the Black Hawk war in 1832. Resigning from the army in 1834, he was a farmer for a short time near St. Louis, then in 1836 joined the Texas patriots in their struggle for freedom

Although entering the Texan army as a private he rapidly rose through all the grades to the command of the army and in 1838 President Mirabeau Lamar of the Lone Star republic made him secretary of war. The next year he led a campaign against hostile Indians and in two brilliant battles defeated them and drove them out of Texas. Next we find him a planter in Texas but at the outbreak of the Mexican war he was in the field again as colonel of the First Texas rifles. This regiment soon disbanded but Johnston continued in the service and was inspector general of Butler's division at the battle of Monterey. Although Gen. Zachary Taylor called him "the best soldier he ever commanded," and his superiors recommended him for an appointment as brigadier-general, he was passed over (for political reasons) and again retired to his farm.

There he lived in poverty and neglect until President Taylor in 1849 suddenly appointed him a paymaster in the United States army and six years later President Pierce appointed him colonel of a new regiment, the Second cavalry.

In 1857 he was placed in command of the expedition to restore order among the Mormons in Utah, who were in open revolt against the government. By a forced march of 920 miles in 27 days, he reached his little army of 1,100 men, to find them lost amid the snow-filled defiles of the Rockies, with the temperature at 16 below zero, their supplies cut off by the hostile Mormons and their starving teams their only food. By an extraordinary display of energy and wisdom Johnston led the army safely into winter quarters and by using equally commendable diplomacy he put an end to the rebellion without a drop of blood being shed. For this exploit he was brevetted brigadier-general and a short time later placed in command of the department of the Pacific.

Loyal to the army and the nation, the coming of the Civil war brought the deepest distress to Johnston, But when Texas seceded he resigned his commission-but he regarded his command as such a sacred trust that he concealed his resignation until he could be relieved-and went at once to Richmond where in September, 4861, he was placed in command of

But in 1836 he became aide-de-camp to Gen. Winfield Scott in the war with the Seminole Indians in Florida and won a brevet as captain for gallantry in action when troops under his command feil into an ambuscade, from which Johnston extricated them skillfully. On this occasion his uniform was perforated with no less than 30 bullets! In 1842-43 he was again in Florida serving against the Seminoles.

In the war with Mexico he was at the slege of Vera Cruz and in the battles of Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec and the attack on the City of Mexico. He was severely wounded at Cerro Gordo and again at Chapultepec, where he was the first to plant regimental colors on the ramparts of the fortress. For his gallantry at Cerro Gordo, he was

After the war Johnston was president of a railroad in Arkansas, president of an express company of Virginia and agent for various insurance companies. In 1877 he was elected to congress from Virginia and ten years later he was appointed United States commissioner of railroads by President Cleveland. He died in 1891.

(@ by Western Newspaper Union.)

covered is being placed on exhibition in the American Museum of Natural History. The huge shell is seven feet four inches in length over the curve. five feet wide, and nearly three feet in depth. In life the specimen times heavier than the largest liv-New York zoological park. The skull, neck, limbs and tail are cast from parts of the same individual. or modeled in proportion from its nearest living relative-a species from one of the Galapagos Islands. This gigantic fossil of pleistocene age was discovered by Barnum Brown in the Siwalik hills of northern India in 1923, when Mr. Brown was collecting there on an American museum expedition financed by Mrs. Henry C. Frick, Fragments of

large tortoises have been known in India since the early days of the last century, but no complete shell had previously been discovered. When found, the specimen was broken into so many thousands of pieces that it has taken one preparator nearly two years to reconstruct it. There are large turtles living today on the Galapagos island west of

South America, and related forms on the islands east of Africa, which when compared with the small land

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nearly related to the living Galapagos tortoise than to those of the African islands.

The name of this fossil giant is colossochelys atlas, a name that seems particularly appropriate when weighed 2,100 pounds, being seven one looks at the shell, and it is easily understood why so many mying land tortolse exhibited in the thologies of the East are based on a huge turtle supporting the world.

#### His Lucky Day

When a bandit ordered Earl Walker, Detroit filling station attendant. to put up his hands Walker did not comply at once and the holdup man fired at him. Walker, feeling a jar on his chest, thought he was done for. Putting his hand to the spot, he found the bullet stuck in his vest. Watching Walker stand unhurt and pull the bullet apparently out of his vest pocket was too much for the bandit, who made his getaway without further ceremony. It is supposed the cartridge in the holdup's gun was defective and the bullet lacked force.

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No Suppression There We asked the prominent westerner if it were true that the California papers suppressed all news of local seismological disturbances.

"Not when I lived there they didn't," he answered emphatically. "Why," whenever there was an earthquake in Los Angeles all the San Francisco papers would carry the story and if the temblor happened to be in San Francisco, you could find all the details in the Los Angeles press."-M. M. in the Osakia Mainichi.

### Hard to Explain Ring

A solid gold ring set with brilliants was found by Helmuth Voight attached to the right foot of a pheasant he shot in a hunt near Lyons, N. Y. The bird's left foot had been amputated just above the spur. The hunter said it had been cut off in a steel trap, but he had no idea how the ring got on the other foot.

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