

## Pen Portraits of the Combatants



### David Hunter

A native of Washington and an 1822 graduate of West point, Hunter was also a veteran of the Seminole and Mexican Wars. He was a strong opponent of slavery and led a cavalry regiment at Bull Run where he was severely wounded. Later appointed as commander of the 'Department of the South', Hunter issued a proclamation to free the slaves, which he was forced to retract by Lincoln. Instead he began raising regiments of coloured troops on a local basis in South Carolina. Served on the court martial panel for Fitzjohn-Porter who was tried for loosing Harper's Ferry. Hunter took command in the Shennandoah Valley, as a result of Franz Siegel being relieved of command after the defeat at New Market in May 1864.



### Jeremiah Sullivan

Born in Indiana, son of a Virginian farmer, Jeremiah first joined the navy when he was 18 years old, only to resign his commission 6 years later to study law. At the outbreak of the war he raised a 3 month regiment and upon their mustering out he immediately re-joined as Colonel of the 13<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regt. He rose through the ranks quickly, commanding a brigade at Kernstown in 1862, later transferring to the Army of the Mississippi when again he commanded brigades at Iuka and Corinth. By 1863 he was fighting Nathan Bedford Forrest in Tennessee before participating in the Vicksburg Campaign. He eventually returned east and was assigned as a Divisional commander under General Benjamin F. Kelley, his father-in-law, and assigned the task of guarding the B&O Railroad.



### George Crook

Born in Talyorsville, Ohio, he attended the United States Military Academy and graduated in 1852. He served in California until the outbreak of the war, by which time he was a Captain and had experience Indian fighting in the far west. At the start of the war, Crook took command of the 36<sup>th</sup> Ohio infantry, promoted to brigadier General in 1862. A close friend of future US president Rutherford B Hayes, one of his brigade commanders and future commander of one General Custer during the Sioux Wars in the 1870s.



### Julius Stahel

Julius Stahel was born in Szeged, Hungary he entered the Austrian army but became a proponent of Hungarian independence, he joined the revolutionists and served at the battle of Branyiszk, February 5, 1849, Stahel sustained serious wounds and was decorated for bravery. When the revolt was suppressed he fled to Berlin, London, and then New York City where he worked for an illustrated German newspaper which earned him widespread recognition and respect among the German-speaking population of the city. He helped raise the 8<sup>th</sup> NY (German) Volunteers and fought at Bull Run with much credit, later promoted to command a brigade in Blenker's German Division, he got command of a division when he joined Siegal's corp in late 1862 .



### William Averell

Graduated West point in 1855, a native of New York, he was initially garrisoned in Missouri where he had first hand experience of the grueling partisan warfare before the outset of more general hostilities. Later he spent 2 years Indian fighting in the South West where he was involved in heavy fighting and invalided out of the service in 1859 due to a number of wounds. On the outbreak of war, Averell trekked to New Mexico to raise his old Mounted Infantry regiment and led them back east to enlist. A veteran of Bull Run, Seven days Battles, but contracted malaria and was laid low for much of the mid war period.