

Wanted: A Good Union Commander

The Union Army was plagued with poor generals throughout the first half of the Civil War. President Abraham Lincoln went through five commanders before finally settling on one. Read the captions below and learn why each commander ultimately lost his post as Commander of the Army of the Potomac. Then, based on the captions below that describe traits of INEFFECTIVE generals make a WANTED poster on the next page announcing a vacancy for Commander of the Army of the Potomac and list the qualities of EFFECTIVE generals required for the job.

Irvin McDowell	George B. McClellan	Ambrose Burnside
Battle Plans were too complex for inexperienced soldiers	Too indecisive; often overestimated the size of opposing army; insubordinate to the president.	Prone to critical delays in attacking; poor communicator
Joseph Hooker	George Meade	
Disorganized; immoral; and	Fairly effective, although	
easily outwitted by superior	grumpy; prone to complacency.	
Confederate generals	Failed to pursue Confederates at Gettysburg.	



COMMANDER OF THE ARMY OF THE POTOMAC

REPORT FOR DUTY BY MARCH, 1864

In-action Drawing

THE UNION ARMY NEEDS A LEADER WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALITIES:

