

## Union Corps Histories

### 4th Corps (Army of the Potomac)

Siege Of Yorktown; Lee's Mills; Williamsburg; Seven Pines; Fair Oaks; Oak Grove; Seven Days Battle; Malvern Hill; Antietam.

Organized under General Orders No. 101, March 13, 1862, by which the First, Second, and Third Corps were also created. It was formed by the divisions of Couch, Smith, and Casey, with General E. D. Keyes in command of the corps. The returns for March 31, 1862, show that the Fourth Corps then numbered, in the aggregate, 37,910, with 60 pieces of artillery; of this number, there were 32,919 present for duty. The corps moved to the Peninsula in March, 1862, with General McClellan's Army, taking part in the siege operations at Yorktown, and participating in the battle of Williamsburg, where it sustained a slight loss only.

On May 18th, General Wm. F. Smith's Division was detached and assigned to the newly formed Sixth Corps, leaving the Fourth Corps to consist of the divisions of Generals Couch and Casey. After this reduction, it numbered on May 31st, 25,317 present and absent, with 17,132 present for duty; the artillery numbered 38 guns.

At the battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks) the full force of the Confederate attack was directed on an advanced position held by Casey's Division, which stood its ground for an hour, inflicting a severe loss on the enemy, and not retiring until sufficient supports had arrived to save the day. Couch's Division was also hotly engaged, the losses in the corps aggregating 384 killed, 1,747 wounded, and 466 missing; total, 2,597 out of less than 12,000 engaged. Over half the loss at Fair Oaks fell on the Fourth Corps.

During the Seven Days Battle, the corps guarded the trains during their withdrawal to the new base of supplies, but Couch's Division took a prominent part in the battle of Malvern Hill, losing over 600, killed or wounded there.

When the army was ordered to abandon its position before Richmond, the Fourth Corps was divided. Couch's (1st) Division accompanied the Army of the Potomac on the Maryland campaign, some of the regiments becoming slightly engaged at Antietam. After that battle, Couch's Division was transferred, entire, to the Sixth Corps, becoming the Third Division of that corps, with General John Newton commanding the division. General Couch was promoted to the command of the Second Corps.

In the meantime, Peck's (2d) Division of the Fourth Corps was ordered

to remain on the Peninsula, from whence it went, after a few months stay, to Suffolk, Va. The Fourth Corps was officially discontinued in August, 1862, and its divisions were never reunited.

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Union Corps Histories  
4th Corps (Army of the Cumberland)

Missionary Ridge; Orchard Knob; Dandridge; Dalton; Rocky Face Ridge; Resaca; Cassville; Adairsville; New Hope Church; Pickett's Mills; Kennesaw Mountain; Smyrna Camp Ground; Vining's Station; Peach Tree Creek; Siege Of Atlanta; Jonesboro; Lovejoy's Station; Spring Hill; Franklin; Nashville; Occupation Of Texas.

This corps was composed of fighting regiments. Of the regiments in the Western armies, take the ones that sustained the greatest losses in battle, and it will be found that more of them were in the Fourth Corps than in any other. Although all of their fighting was not done while in the Fourth Corps, it was done either in it or in the two corps which were consolidated in order to form the Fourth.

On October 9, 1863, the Fourth Corps was organized by the consolidation of the Twentieth (McCook's) and Twenty-first (Crittenden's) Corps, in compliance with the President's order of September 28th. Though newly-formed, it was composed of veteran brigades whose battle flags were scarred with the marks of hard fought fields; within this new command they were destined to wave amid the smoke and fire of many more. The command of the Fourth Corps was given to General Gordon Granger, the man who marched his division to Chickamauga with no other orders or direction than "the sound of the enemy's cannon." The three divisions of this new corps were placed under the commands of Generals Palmer, Sheridan, and Wood. Soon after its organization the corps went into action at Missionary Ridge, where it distinguished itself by its brilliant and successful charge up the heights. In this battle the two divisions of Sheridan and Wood lost 280 killed, 2,078 wounded, and 12 missing; total, 2,370, or more than half the casualties at Missionary Ridge. The first division, under command of General Cruft, was also engaged.

During the following winter the corps marched to the relief of

Knoxville, a campaign memorable for the suffering, hunger, and hardships endured by the men. In May, 1864, it moved on the Atlanta campaign, General Howard commanding the corps, and Generals Stanley, Newton, and Wood the divisions. Its hardest fighting during that campaign occurred at Pickett's Mills, and in the unsuccessful assault on Kennesaw Mountain.

After the evacuation of Atlanta, the Fourth and Twenty-third Corps, under General Thomas, marched northward to confront Hood's forces, while Sherman, with the main army, wended his way, unmolested, to the sea. General Stanley was then in command of the Fourth Corps, General Howard having been promoted to the command of the Army of the Tennessee, upon the death of MacPherson; Kimball, Wagner, and Wood were in command of the divisions. On November 20, 1864, a few days before the battle of Spring Hill, the corps numbered 14,715 present for duty; about 2,200 more joined before the battle of Franklin. In that battle the Confederates received the bloodiest repulse of the war, their men fighting with unusual desperation, while twelve of their generals were killed or wounded in their unsuccessful attack on the Union entrenchment's. At Franklin, Opdycke's Brigade of the Fourth Corps won special distinction by its promptness and gallantry in retaking a part of the works which the enemy had seized. General Stanley was severely wounded in this action, and General Thomas J. Wood succeeded to his place.

General Wood had served with honor in the armies of the Ohio, and the Cumberland, from the commencement of the war. He commanded the Fourth Corps in its last battle --its last victory, at Nashville. His division generals in that engagement were Kimball, Elliott, and Beatty; the casualties in the corps were 135 killed, 834 wounded and 22 missing; total, 991. The corps joined in the pursuit of Hood's defeated army, after which General Wood assembled it at Huntsville, Ala., arriving there January 5, 1865. On March 15th it moved into East Tennessee, in order to prevent the possible escape of Lee's and Johnston's armies, returning in April to Nashville, where it remained until June 16th, when it was ordered to New Orleans, en route for Texas. Although the war had virtually ended, the Fourth Corps remained in Texas during the rest of 1865, forming a part of Sheridan's Army of Occupation. The most of the regiments were, however, mustered out in December, 1865, in time for the men to spend Christmas in their homes.

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Source: "Regimental Losses in the American Civil War (1861-1865)" - William F. Fox

