

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 71. }

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 24, 1863.

With profound regret the General-in-Chief announces the decease of Major General E. V. SUMNER, U. S. Army, at Syracuse, N. Y., on the 21st instant.

General SUMNER entered the Army in March, 1819, and it was his fortune to be connected with all the stirring military events which occurred throughout the long period of his service. His indomitable energy, and high-toned military spirit, impelled him always to seek assignment to duty in the field. He was twice brevetted for gallant and meritorious conduct in the Mexican battles. Subsequently, he commanded the Department of New Mexico, and directed important campaigns against the restless tribes within its limits. At the commencement of the Rebellion, being then a Colonel of Cavalry, he was appointed Brigadier General in the Army, and was then ordered to command on the Pacific coast. His last urgent entreaty, before departing to that distant station, was that he might be promptly recalled to take part in any conflicts which might occur with the rebels in the neighborhood of the Capital. His ardent patriotism and martial fire would not permit him to rest until he was recalled, and assigned to a high command in the Army of the Potomac. The name of SUMNER is identified with nearly every fierce struggle in which that Army has been engaged, and every page of its history will perpetuate the fame of this noble soldier. His gallantry was acknowledged first by the commission of Major General of Volunteers, and then by the brevet of Major General on his army commission.

Having been relieved from duty with the Army of the Potomac, at his own request, after the battle of Fredericksburg, he was assigned to command the Department of the Missouri. While on the way to St. Louis, to enter upon this important command, he, who had escaped the dangers of so many battles, fell suddenly a victim to disease. The regrets of the whole Army go with him. He will be lamented and remembered, not for his soldierly traits alone, but for his generous and courteous bearing, the offspring of a true and noble nature.

As appropriate military honors to the memory of the deceased General, the several posts within the Department of the Missouri will fire thirteen minute guns, commencing at 12 o'clock m., and display the National flag at *half staff*, from the same hour until sunset, the day next after the receipt of this order.

BY COMMAND OF MAJOR GENERAL HALLECK :

L. THOMAS,
Adjutant General.

OFFICIAL :

Assistant Adjutant General.