

A SESQUICENTENNIAL MOMENT

MAY 4 - 10, 1863

Confederate Gen. Stonewall Jackson died on May 10, 1863, after being wounded by friendly fire during the Battle of Chancellorsville.



In a chilling account first published in 1866, Medical Director Wilbur C. Morrison described Jackson's suffering as "intense."

"His hands were cold, his skin clammy, his face pale, and his lips compressed and bloodless; not a groan escaped him - not a sign of suffering."

Doctors had amputated the general's left arm before moving him to the Chandler plantation near Guinea Station, Va., to spare him from potential capture. Then pneumonia set in.

Morrison gave the following account of Jackson's last words:

"A few minutes before he died, he cried out in his delirium: 'Order A.P. Hill to prepare for

action! Pass the infantry to the front rapidly! Tell Major Hawks' "And then (he) stopped, leaving the last sentence unfinished.

Presently, a smile of ineffable sweetness spread itself over his pale face, and he said quietly, and with an expression, as if of relief: 'Let us cross over the river, and rest under the shade of the trees.'

"And then, without pain, or the least struggle, his spirit passed from earth to the God who gave it."

This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Commission and the West Virginia Division of Culture and History, Archives and History Section.

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