

ALBERT

Anzelm

ALBERT ANZELM (1819—1893)

Born in 1819 at Budapest. He prepared for a military career from the time of his early youth, attended the military schools at Graz and Vienna. After his graduation he became a lieutenant in the Austrian Army, but resigned in 1845, after a service of twelve years, including the years of his schooling. He spent the next three years in London and Paris, but when the war broke out in Hungary in 1848, he hurried back to Hungary where he was appointed to the staff of General Charles Kmetty, and rose to the rank of major. He took part in several battles and distinguished himself especially in the ill-fated battle at Temesvár. In the siege of Buda, he was the commander of one of the four besieging columns. He fled to Turkey in the company of General Kmetty, but they were captured by the hostile Roumanian peasants before they reached Viddin, locked in a wooden shed which was then set afire. The shed was in flames already when General Bem, who was also fleeing, arrived with a few hundred men, and saved them.

From this time on, he remained with Bem, went with him to Viddin, and together with Bem, John Fiala, Felix Nemegyei, Ladislaus Barothy and others, were forced by circumstances to become Mohammedans. They went to Aleppo, Syria, together, where General Bem died.

He arrived in the United States at the port of New Orleans at the end of 1851, ten days before Louis Kossuth arrived in New York. When Kossuth spoke on March 31, 1852, at New Orleans, which was not favorably disposed toward him, Albert, together with John Fiala, Felix Nemegyei, László Arvay, Hugo Hollán and Ladislaus Barothy, attended the meeting armed with swords and revolvers, and surrounded Kossuth, thus protecting him from any possible harm. From New Orleans he went to Davenport, Iowa, thence to Omaha, Nebraska, and later settled permanently in St. Louis, where there already were many Germans, also Hungarian emigrants.

He enlisted at the very beginning of the Civil War, and on July 24, 1861, became Lieutenant-Colonel of the 3rd Missouri Infantry Regiment, in St. Louis. A few months later he was appointed Colonel on the staff of General John C. Frémont, whose adjutant and later chief-of-staff he became. He took part in many battles with General Alexander Asboth, and was severely wounded in the battle of Wilson's Creek. He was captured by the rebels, but a few days later was exchanged for Lt. Col. Charles H. Tyler.

When he recovered he rejoined Frémont, and remained with him, until his chief resigned in 1864. Frémont recommended his appointment to the rank of Brigadier General, since for sometime he had been an acting brigadier. Frémont was not "persona grata" with Congress, so his recommendation was not acted upon favorably.

At the beginning of 1862, when the Germans began a movement for the rehabilitation of Generals Frémont and Sigel, Albert also took

(ARVAY: Lincoln's  
Hungarian heroes)

an active part in it. This meant a number of large and noisy public meetings, and for this reason was considered by General H. W. Halleck a conspiracy, and he wanted to arrest the leaders, among them Albert, also. However, nothing came of it.

When General Fremont made his last report in December, 1865, he spoke in the highest terms of four of his officers, among them Anzelm Albert and Charles Zagonyi. These are Fremont's words: "To the four last mentioned I feel especially bound to record personally my acknowledgements. Their uncommon professional ability, joined by previous long experience in the field, rendered their services of the greatest value to me, throughout a very laborious and hazardous campaign." (Dec. 30, 1865.)

Albert resigned from the Army on June 8, 1864. After the Civil War, he became wealthy as the president of the Metropolitan Bank of St. Louis, but lost his fortune due to unfortunate business reverses. He was the assistant editor of the German newspaper "Amerika", then he worked for more than 14 years as District Assessor, which office he relinquished only at the end of his life, because of ill health. He died on November 20, 1893, at the age of 74, at his home, 1725 Michigan Ave. He left his widow and a daughter.

(In Bibliography see: Numbers 66, 68, 82, 87, 173, 219, 223.)

