

Touring Richmond's Battlefields

Richmond National Battlefield Park consists of the eleven units and the visitor center. A complete tour of the park involves an 80-mile drive as outlined on the [map](#).

On the map the park units have been color-coded according to the campaign in which each figured most prominently. Park units associated with McClellan's 1862 campaign are indicated in **red**, those associated with Grant's 1864 campaign in **blue**.

1862

Chickahominy Bluff. A part of the outer Confederate line defending Richmond, this bluff offers a fine view of Mechanicsville and the Chickahominy River Valley. Within sight of the earthworks here, Gen. Robert E. Lee watched the beginning of the Seven Days' Battles.

Beaver Dam Creek. Part of the 3-mile Union front which the Confederates unsuccessfully attacked on June 26 lies here in the valley of Beaver Dam Creek at Ellerson's mill. Few Confederates crossed the stream as Union artillery and infantry fire stopped Lee's attack all along the line.

Gaines Mill (Watt House). On June 27 Confederate infantry repeatedly assaulted the fortified Union line along Boatwain's Creek, about one mile from the mill. By nightfall the opposing armies had suffered more than 15,000 casualties, victims of the heaviest fighting of the Seven Days' Battles. Near the Watt House, a restored landmark built about 1835, Union Gen. Fitz-John Porter had established his headquarters at a critical point in the fighting. By walking the short trail beginning near the house, you can visit the site where Texas and Georgia troops broke through the line and hastened the Union withdrawal.

Glendale (Frayser's Farm). On June 30 Union troops protected the vital crossroads near the old Frayser farm, "Glendale," while McClellan's retreating army snaked south toward Malvern Hill. Throughout the afternoon Confederate forces repeatedly assaulted the position but failed to carry it. Lee's frustration at this lost opportunity left him bitterly disappointed. The next day, when a Confederate general commented that it appeared McClellan would get away, Lee responded: "Yes, he will get away because I cannot have my orders carried out."

Malvern Hill. Fought July 1, this was the last of the Seven Days' Battles, after which McClellan withdrew to his base at Harrison's Landing. The Federals, on the defensive, dug no trenches. Instead they stood at bay in parade-ground, line-of-battle formation across the gently sloping fields, their massed artillery and infantry fire shattering the ranks of the attacking Confederates. The steep slopes of Malvern Hill on the Union left and the swampy bottoms on the right forced the southern-ers to advance across open ground. According to one Confederate officer, "it was not war-it was murder." Follow the short walking trail to view the steep slopes that protected the Federal left flank.

Drewry's Bluff. Union soldiers called this Confederate guardian of the James River Fort Darling. On May 15 five Federal vessels, including the famous ironclad Monitor, attacked the fort but were driven off. The unsuccessful attack prevented Richmond from being shelled early in the war, and the presence of the fort was a deterrent to other Union naval forays up the James. The fort and surrounding area served as the Confederate Naval Academy and Marine Corps Camp of Instruction during much of the war. Exhibits along a self-guiding trail give details of the fort's history.

Other battlefields not part of the park but important to an understanding of McClellan's 1862 campaign are Seven Pines/Fair Oaks (May 31-June 1), Oak Grove (June 25), Savage Station (June 29), and White Oak Swamp (June 30). State historical markers and monuments explain the fighting at

these places.

1864

Cold Harbor. Midway between two shabby crossroad taverns—Old and New Cold Harbor—the Confederates dug in on June 1-2 to await Grant's attack. It came on June 3, a frontal assault on a narrow section of the line, and it cost the Federals 7,000 casualties in 30 minutes. The well-preserved trenches along the 1.5 mile tour road are fine examples of Civil War field fortifications. The actions at Cold Harbor changed the course of the war in the East from a war of maneuver to one of siege. Cold Harbor also influenced the strategy and tactics of future wars by demonstrating that well-selected, well-manned entrenchments, supported by artillery, were practically impregnable against frontal assaults. A one-mile walking trail begins at the visitor center.

Garthright House. This restored house served as a Union field hospital during the Battle of Cold Harbor. Afterwards, it became a Confederate hospital. The house is an exterior exhibit only and is not open to the public. Portions of the house date to the early 1700s.

Fort Harrison and Vicinity. After Cold Harbor, Grant crossed the James River and directed his main effort against Petersburg. In a surprise attack designed to prevent Lee from shifting troops to another sector of operations, Union soldiers captured Fort Harrison on September 29. The gallantry of several regiments of black Union troops that day was recognized by the awarding of Medals of Honor to 14 black soldiers. The fort was occupied and enlarged by the Federals, thus forcing a realignment of Richmond's southern defenses. [Forts Gilmer, Gregg, Johnson and Hoke](#) were all Confederate defense works connected by miles of breastworks. Union Fort Brady, constructed after September 29, was designed to neutralize Fort Darling across the river on Drewry's Bluff and to anchor the Federal line from Fort Harrison. Exhibits and signs along a self-guiding trail through Fort Harrison provide details of the battle and the fort. An overlook at Fort Brady affords a splendid view of the James River.

Parker's Battery. This small Confederate artillery work helped to immobilize Union Gen. Benjamin F. Butler's Army of the James during its attack on Richmond in May. Fighting which continued into June successfully "bottled up" Butler at Bermuda Hundred. The battery then became part of the Howlett Line helping to defend Richmond until the capital was abandoned in April 1865. This site has no visitor facilities.

The Civil War at a Glance

When John Brown raided Harpers Ferry in 1859, he set in motion events that led directly to the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861. This folder, organized yearly through maps and chronologies, shows the course of the war from Fort Sumter in 1861 to Appomattox Court House and beyond in 1865. It is divided according to the two principal theaters in which the major military operations took place: (1) The Eastern Theater, roughly comprising the area east of the Appalachians in the vicinity of the rival capitals of Washington and Richmond, and (2) the Western Theater, primarily between the western slope of the Appalachians and the Mississippi River. Lesser operations that took place along the coasts and inland waterways and the isolated trans-Mississippi area are included in the Western Theater. Naval encounters on the high seas between cruisers, privateers, and blockade runners have been omitted.

Eastern Theater

Like a bolt of lightning out of a darkening sky, war burst upon the American landscape in the spring of 1861, climaxing decades of bitter wrangling and pitting two vast sections of a young and vigorous nation against each other. Northerners called it the War of the Rebellion, Southerners the War Between the States. We know it simply as the Civil War.

In the East, beginning in the spring of 1861, the cry from Union headquarters was "On to Richmond!" For the next four years a succession of Northern commanders struggled desperately to do just that -- get to Richmond. One well-designed effort in 1862 used the mammoth naval might of the Union to reach the vicinity of the Confederate capital by water routes. The other attempts stubbornly slogged across a narrow central Virginia corridor and sought to disperse tenacious Southern defenders who seemed always to be athwart the path. Confederate successes offered occasional opportunities to take the war north into Maryland and Pennsylvania and to threaten Washington. Both sides came to see the enemy army as the proper goal, and both recognized the obligation of the enemy army to defend its respective capital city against military threats. The consequence was four years of war fought to the death mostly in a relatively small strip of Virginia countryside between Washington and Richmond.

When the guns were finally silenced in the spring and early summer of 1865 and the authority of the Federal Government was once again restored, the Union had been permanently scarred. As Mark Twain put it, the war had "uprooted institutions that were centuries old ... transformed the social life of half the country, and wrought so profoundly upon the entire national character that the influence cannot be measured short of two or three generations."

1861 [Map \(85k\)](#)

The high spirits with which North and South naively go to war after the attack on Fort Sumter first meet the test of battle on a large scale in mid-July as Union troops under Brig. General Irvin McDowell clash with Confederate soldiers under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston and Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard on the plains of Manassas, Virginia. A sweeping Confederate victory in what Southerners call the First Battle of Manassas (the North calls it Bulls Run) inspires the Federal Government to renewed effort and makes the South over-confident. For the rest of the year the contending armies remain static between Manassas and Washington, giving Union Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan plenty of time to organize and train his new Army of the Potomac. A small Federal force overwhelmed and crushed at Ball's Bluff, Virginia, in October includes a friend and ally of President Abraham Lincoln, so the political repercussions of that battle outstrip its military significance. In December, Confederate cavalry leader J.E.B. Stuart fights a small affair at Dranesville, Virginia. All of the 1861 actions combined do not equal in scope a single day of the famous battles fought later in the war.

Mar 4 Abraham Lincoln is inaugurated 16th President of the United States

Apr 12-13 Bombardment and surrender of Fort Sumter, S.C.

Apr 15 President Lincoln calls for 75,000 volunteers

Apr 17 Virginia secedes

Apr 19 Confederates occupy Harpers Ferry, Va. (now W.Va.)

Jun 10 Engagement at Big Bethel, Va. First land "battle" in Virginia

Jul 11 Engagement at Rich Mountain, Va. (now W.Va.)

Jul 21 First battle of Manassas (Bull Run), Va.

Jul 27 George B. McClellan takes command of Union Army of the Potomac

Oct 21 Battle of Ball's Bluff, Va.

1862 [Map \(218k\)](#)

Joe Johnston's Confederates abandon their long-held lines around Manassas in early March and withdraw toward Richmond. McClellan's Army of the Potomac moves by water to Fort Monroe and Newport News at the tip of the Virginia peninsula and prepares to march on Richmond some 70 miles to the northwest. Confederate delaying tactics and heavy rains slow McClellan's advance and it is nearly two months before he comes within sight of the city's steeples. When a Southern offensive at Seven Pines on May 31-

June 1 fails to dislodge the Federals and Johnston is wounded, Robert E. Lee assumes command of the Army of Northern Virginia and drives McClellan's troops away from the Southern capital in the Seven Days' Battles.

Victories during August by Maj. Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson at Cedar Mountain and by Lee's army at the Second Battle of Manassas push the Federals back to the outskirts of Washington. Within nine weeks, Lee has transferred the war from his own capital to the edge of his enemy's. A Confederate offensive across the Potomac is halted and turned back after battles at South Mountain and Antietam (Sharpsburg), Maryland, in mid-September. The final action of the year ends in Federal disaster when McClellan's successor, Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside, throws his army against Lee's near Fredericksburg, Virginia, in a series of frontal assaults that are easily and bloodily repulsed.

Mar 9 USS Monitor vs CSS Virginia in Hampton Roads, Va. First naval battle between ironclad vessels.

Mar 23-Jun 9 Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign, Va.

- Mar 23 Battle of Kernstown
- May 8 Battle of McDowell
- May 23 Battle of Front Royal
- May 25 First Battle of Winchester
- Jun 8 Battle of Cross Keys
- Jun 9 Battle of Port Republic

Apr 4 McClellan's Army of the Potomac begins advance up the Virginia peninsula toward Richmond

Apr 5-May 4 McClellan's Army of the Potomac begins advance up the Virginia peninsula toward Richmond.

May 15 Battle of Drewry's Bluff, Va.

May 31-Jun 1 Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks), Va.

Jun 1 Robert E. Lee assumes command of the Army of Northern Virginia

Jun 25-Jul 1 Seven Days' Battles Around Richmond, Virginia

- Jun 25 Battle of Oak Grove
- Jun 26 Battle of Mechanicsburg
- Jun 27 Battle of Gaines' Mill
- Jun 29 Battle of Savage's Station
- Jun 30 Battle of Glendale (Fraser's Farm)
- Jul 1 Battle of Malvern Hill

Aug 9 Battle of Cedar Mountain, Va.

Aug 28-30 Battle of Second Manassas (Bull Run), Va.

Sep 1 Battle of Chantilly (Ox Hill), Va.

Sep 12-15 Siege and capture of Harpers Ferry, Va. (now W.Va.)

Sep 14-17 Battles of South Mountain and Antietam (Sharpsburg), Md.

Nov 7 Ambrose E. Burnside replaces McClellan as commander of the Army of the Potomac

Dec 11-13 Battle of Fredericksburg, Va.

1863 [Map \(92k\)](#)

The 1863 campaigns open along the Rappahannock in the final days of April as Burnside's replacement, Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker, leads the Army of the Potomac upstream to slip around Lee's left flank. Lee responds aggressively and during the first week of May wins what has been called his greatest victory. That victory is costly, because, Stonewall Jackson is mortally wounded, but it gives the Confederate the opportunity to march northward into Pennsylvania. The Army of the Potomac follows, and, now under Maj. Gen. George G. Meade's direction, gives Lee a stinging defeat at Gettysburg on July 1-3.

After Lee's retreat into Virginia, both armies spend the next three months recuperating while the military frontier alternates between the river lines of the Rappahannock and Rapidan west of Fredericksburg. Both armies are also reduced in strength as troops are ordered west to bolster operations around Chattanooga. Lee's attempt to turn Meade's flank in October crests in defeat at Bristoe Station. A similar move by Meade south of the Rapidan culminates in stalemate at Mine Run at the end of November.

Jan 1 Lincoln issues Emancipation Proclamation

Jan 19-23 Burnside's Mud March

Jan 26 Joseph Hooker succeeds Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac

Apr 11-May 4 Siege of Suffolk, Va.

Apr-May, Chancellorsville Campaign, Va.

- Apr 29-May 8 Stoneman's Rd.
- May 1-4 Battle of Chancellorsville
- May 2 Stonewall Jackson

- May 3 Second Battle of Fredericksburg
- May 3-4 Battle of Salem Church

May 10 Stonewall Jackson dies at Guiney's Station, Va.

Jun 3-Jul 13 Gettysburg Campaign, Pa.

- Jun 9 Battle of Brandy Station, Va.
- Jun 13-15 Second Battle of Winchester, Va
- Jun 28 George G. Meade replaces Hooker as commander of the Army of the Potomac
- Jul 1-3 Battle of Gettysburg

Jul 13-16 New York City draft riots

Oct 9-22 Bristoe Campaign, Va.

- Oct 14 Battle of Briscoe Station

Nov 6 Battle of Droop Mountain, W. Va.

Nov 7 Engagement at Rappahannock Station, Va.

Nov 19 Lincoln delivers his Gettysburg Address.

Nov 26-Dec 2 Mine Run Campaign, Va.

1864 [Map \(97k\)](#)

The last full year of campaigning in the east begins with Federal forces east and west making a unified effort to wear down the South's will to continue fighting. Lincoln has given Ulysses S. Grant the received rank of lieutenant general and placed him in command of all Union armies. His mission: destroy Joe Johnston's Army of Tennessee and Lee's Army of Northern Virginia.

Leaving Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman to deal with Johnston, Grant concentrates on Lee. Their first encounter, the Battle of the Wilderness, opens on May 5 and for the next 40 days the armies remain locked in deadly embrace. The course of the fighting leads through Spotsylvania Court House, across the North Anna River to Cold Harbor, and finally to Petersburg. There the opponents settle down to a siege, punctuated by Grant's relentless efforts to outflank the Confederates and seize vital transportation arteries. His attempt to capture Petersburg outright fails at the Battle of the Crater. Meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Jubal Early's Confederate troops expel Union forces from the Shenandoah Valley and march to the outskirts of Washington, before being turned back at Fort Stevens. Outnumbered but defiant, they return to the Valley where, in a series of hard-fought engagements, Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan erases Early's army from the war.

May 5-6 Battle of the Wilderness, Va.

May 8-21 Battle of Spotsylvania Court House, Va.

May 9-24 Sheridan's Richmond Raid.

May 15 Battle of New Market, Va.

May 16 Battle of Drewry's Bluff, Va.

May 23-26 Battle of North Anna River, Va.

May 31-Jun 12 Battle of Cold Harbor, Va.

Jun 5 Battle of Piedmont, Va.

Jun 11-12 Battle of Trevilian Station, Va.

Jun 15-18 Battle of Petersburg, Va.

Jun 17-18 Battle of Lynchburg, Va.

Jun 18-Dec 31 Siege of Petersburg, Va.

- Jul 30 Battle of the Crater
- Aug 18-25 Battle of Weldon Railroad and Ream's Station
- Sep 29 Engagement at New Market Heights
- Sep 29-30 Battle of Fort Harrison (Chaffin's Farm)
- Sep 29-Oct 2 Battle of Peebles' Farm
- Oct 27-28 Battle of Burgess' Mill (Boydton Plank Road)

Jun 23-Jul 25 Early's Washington Raid

- Jul 9 Battle of Monocacy, Md.
- Jul 12 Battle of Fort Stevens, near Washington, D.C.
- Jul 24 Second Battle of Kernstown, Va.

Aug 7-Oct 19 Sheridan's Shenandoah Valley, Campaign, Va.

- Sep 19 Third Battle of Winchester (Opequon Creek)
- Sep 22 Battle of Fisher's Hill
- Oct 19 Battle of Cedar Creek

Nov 8 Lincoln reelected President of the United States.

1865 [Map \(89k\)](#)

The year opens with both armies largely inactive and still entrenched around Petersburg. With each passing week, the hopelessness of Lee's cause becomes more apparent. Early in February, Grant sends his cavalry and infantry south and west of Petersburg in an attempt to sever the only remaining supply lines into the city and to force Lee to extend his already strained defensive positions. Confederate attempts to halt the movement are checkmated at Hatcher's Run. As March begins, Lee realizes that he cannot hold the Petersburg-Richmond lines much longer. On the 25th he makes a desperate attempt to extricate his army by attacking Federal Fort Stedman east of Petersburg. The attempt fails and Lee tells President Davis: "I fear now it will be impossible to prevent a junction between Grant and Sherman..." Shortly thereafter, the Federals achieve the inevitable and break the thin Confederate defenses at Five Forks, southwest of Petersburg. Lee evacuates the city and Richmond falls. his forlorn retreat lasts one week until Grant cuts off the remnant of the Army of Northern Virginia at Appomattox Court House. Lee's surrender on April 9 signals the early end of the Confederacy.

Jan 1-Apr 2 Siege of Petersburg continued

- Feb 5-7 Battle of Hatcher's Run
- Mar 25 Battle of Fort Stedman
- Apr 1 Battle of Five Forks
- Apr 2 Petersburg lines breached

Apr 2 Confederates evacuate Richmond and Petersburg

Apr 3 US forces occupy Richmond

Apr 6 Battle of Sayler's Creek, Va.

Apr 9 Lee surrenders at Appomattox Court House.

Apr 14 Lincoln shot by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theater, Washington, D.C.

May 23-24 Grand Review of Federal armies in Washington, D.C.

Western Theater [Map \(170k\)](#)

When the Civil War began, the Confederacy possessed fewer military resources and pursued principally a defensive posture while the Union took a more aggressive role. Northern strategy was directed at keeping the Border States of Kentucky and Missouri (along with Delaware and Maryland in the East) within the Union; starving the South by blockading her coastline from Virginia to Texas; regaining control of the Mississippi; and dividing and subdividing the Confederacy.

The Border States were secured by the spring of 1862 and a string of Union victories--Forts Henry and Donelson, Pea Ridge, Shiloh, Island No. 10, and New Orleans--caused many to believe that the Confederacy was finished. The North's blockade of Southern

ports to deny the Confederates access to much-needed foreign war material and manufactured goods and to keep them from exporting cotton was slow to take effect. But each year the blockade continued to tighten and more and more Confederate ports fell to Union forces. Union amphibious operations to regain control of the Mississippi River began in 1862 and, although initially thwarted, eventually culminated in Grant's successful Vicksburg Campaign of 1863 and the subsequent fall of Port Hudson. This not only closed down the South's most important commercial waterway; it also severed the Confederacy on a north/south axis.

By 1864, with the development of a unified command system, Northern strategy focused on cutting the Confederacy along an east/west axis in order to destroy its food supply and its war-making industrial capacity in the deep South. Sherman's Atlanta Campaign and his subsequent March to the Sea achieved the desired results by the end of the year. By early 1865, with Sherman's troops pushing northward into the Carolinas, it was clear that the days of the Confederacy were numbered.

Where the Armies Fought

More than 10,000 military actions of one kind or another took place during the Civil War. Only a small percentage were big battles like Gettysburg or Vicksburg; most were relatively small affairs, many of them forgotten today. The following breakdown by State shows where most of these events took place.

Virginia 2,154
Tennessee 1,462
Missouri 1,162
Mississippi 772
Arkansas 771
West Virginia 632
Louisiana 566
Georgia 549
Kentucky 453
Alabama 336
North Carolina 313
South Carolina 239
Maryland 203
Florida 168
Texas 90
Indian Territory 89
California 88
New Mexico Territory 75

From the Civil War Day by Day: An Almanac, 1861-1865. New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc., 1971.

NPS War Sites

Fort Sumter, South Carolina * Fort Pickens, Florida * First Manassas, Virginia * Wilson's Creek, Missouri * Fort Donelson, Tennessee * Pea Ridge, Arkansas * Glorieta Pass, New Mexico * Shiloh, Tennessee * Fort Pulaski, Georgia * Seven Days' Battles, Virginia * Mechanicsville, Virginia * Gaines' Mill, Virginia * Malvern Hill, Virginia * Second Manassas, Virginia * Harpers Ferry, West Virginia * Antietam, Maryland * Fredericksburg, Virginia * Stones River, Tennessee * Chancellorsville, Virginia * Gettysburg, Pennsylvania * Arkansas Post, Arkansas * Vicksburg, Mississippi * Chickamauga, Georgia * Chattanooga, Tennessee * Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia * Brices Cross Roads, Mississippi * Tupelo, Mississippi * The Wilderness, Virginia * Spotsylvania Court House, Virginia * Cold Harbor, Virginia * Petersburg, Virginia * Monocacy, Maryland * Fort Stevens, District of Columbia * Appomattox Court House, Virginia

1861 [Map \(76k\)](#)

Confederate strategy in the early months is mainly defensive in the face of Federal efforts to retain control of the slave-holding Border States of Delaware, Maryland, Kentucky, and Missouri; to tighten a blockade of the Southern coastline; and to regain control of the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, to the Gulf of Mexico. In Missouri, in a lightning-like campaign, Brig. Gen. Nathaniel Lyon crowds the Missouri State Guard into the southwestern part of the State before being killed and his army defeated at Wilson's Creek in August. The Missouri State Guard moves on the besiege and capture Lexington, but retires into southwest Missouri when threatened by Federal columns converging from the east and west. A union army is defeated at Belmont, Mo., early in November--the first test of battle for a rising young brigadier general named Ulysses S. Grant. Along the Southern coasts, Federals cling to several forts and employ their power afloat to seize and establish additional fortified enclaves at Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina, Port Royal Sound, South Carolina, and Ship Island, Mississippi. These enclaves not only provide bases for blockading squadrons but serve as spring boards for future amphibious operations.

Apr 12-13 Bombardment and surrender of Fort Sumter, S.C.

Jul 5 Engagement at Carthage, Mo.

Aug 10 Battle of Wilson's Creek

Aug 27-29 Battle of Hatteras Inlet, N.C.

Sep 12-20 Siege and capture of Lexington, Mo.

Nov 7 Battle of Belmont, Mo.

Nov 7 Battle of Port Royal Sound, S.C.

Dec 9 Engagement at Chusto-Talasa, Indian Territory

Dec 26 Engagement at Chustenahlah, Indian Territory

1862 [Map \(87k\)](#)

From January through June, Union forces thrust deep into the South, forcing Confederates to abandon southern Kentucky, much of Middle and West Tennessee, and southwest Missouri following defeats at Mill Springs, Kentucky, Forts Henry and Donelson, Tennessee, and Pea Ridge, Arkansas. Early in April, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston's army assails Federal troops under Grant at Pittsburg Landing, Tennessee, But Johnston is killed and his army beaten in the two-day battle of Shiloh. In Mississippi in June, Union amphibious forces converge on but fail to capture the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg.

July brings a dramatic change in the tide of war as Confederate armies invade Union territory from the trans-Mississippi to the Atlantic seaboard. By early October, however, the offensives are halted, and during the last two months of the year Federal forces are again pressing ahead. In Middle Tennessee on December 31 Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans' Union army confronts Gen. Braxton Bragg's Confederate army at Stones River in a battle that lasts into the new year. In north Mississippi, Grant's attempts to take Vicksburg are thwarted by slashing Confederate cavalry raids on his supply lines. The blockade tightens as Union forces capture Roanoke Island and Fort Macon on the North Carolina sounds and bombard Fort Pulaski, Georgia, into surrender.

Jan 19 Battle of Mill Springs, Ky.

Feb 6-16 Forts Henry & Donelson Campaign, Tenn.

- Feb 6 Battle of Fort Henry
- Feb 13-16 Battle of Fort Donelson

Feb 8 Battle of Roanoke Island, N.C.

Feb 21 Engagement at Valverde, New Mexico Territory

Mar 6-8 Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark.

Mar 26-28 Battle of Glorieta Pass, New Mexico Territory

Apr 6-7 Battle of Shiloh, Tenn.

Apr 7 Capture of Island No. 10, Tenn.

Apr 10-11 Bombardment and capture of Fort Pulaski, Ga.

Apr 29-May 30 Siege of Corinth, Miss.

Apr-Aug Farragut's Mississippi River Operations

- Apr 18-24 Battle of Forts Jackson and St. Philip, La.
- Aug 5 Battle of Baton Rouge, La.

Jun 6 Battle of Memphis, Tenn.

Aug 29-30 Battle of Richmond, Ky.

Sep 19 Battle of Luka, Miss.

Sep 14-17 Siege of Munfordville, Ky.

Oct 3-4 Battle of Corinth, Miss.

Oct 8 Battle of Perryville, Ky.

Oct 16-Dec 20 Grant's First Vicksburg Campaign, Miss.

- Dec 11-Jan 1 Forrest's West Tennessee Raid
- Dec 17-28 Van Dorn's Holly Springs Raid

Dec 7 Battle of Prairie Grove, Ark.

Dec 27-29 Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Miss.

Dec 31 Battle of Stones River, Tenn., begins.

1863 [Map \(87k\)](#)

Grant's efforts to capture Vicksburg are finally rewarded on July 4 when, after one of the great campaigns of military history and a 47-day siege, the Confederacy's mighty bastion succumbs to Union arms. Five days later Port Hudson surrenders and Lincoln proclaims "The father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea." The South is cut in half along the Mississippi. Meanwhile, Rosecrans' brilliant Tullahoma Campaign forces Bragg to abandon most of Tennessee and concentrate around Chattanooga. In September Rosecrans occupies Chattanooga and pursues Bragg into Georgia, where, at Chickamauga Creek, the Confederates turn on the Northerners and drive them back.

To relieve the beleaguered Federal troops, the Union Government rushes reinforcement to Chattanooga, names Grant to command in the west, and replaces Rosecrans with Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas. In several battles around Chattanooga between October and November, Grant's armies defeat Bragg's troops, forcing them to retreat to Dalton, Georgia, where Bragg is succeeded in command by Gen. Joseph E. Johnson. The two-week siege of Union-occupied Knoxville by Lt. Gen. James Longstreet's Confederate troops ends December 3 with the approach of a relief column led by General Sherman.

Charleston, under attack much of the year, enters the third winter of the war battered but unconquered.

Jan 1-2 Battle of Stones River, Tenn., continued.

Jan 1 Battle of Galveston, Tex.

Jan 9-11 Battle of Arkansas Post, Ark.

Mar 29-Jul 4 Grant's Second Vicksburg Campaign, Miss

- Apr 11-May 3 Streight's Raid, Tenn.-Ala.
- Apr 16-22 Union fleet passes Vicksburg river batteries
- Apr 17-May 2 Grierson's Raid, Tenn.-Miss.-La.
- Apr 29 Battle of Grand Gulf
- May 1 Battle of Port Gibson
- May 12 Battle of Raymond
- May 14 Battle of Jackson
- May 16 Battle of Champion Hill
- May 17 Battle of Big Black River Bridge
- May 19-Jul 4 Siege and surrender of Vicksburg
- Jun 7 Battle of Milliken's Bend

Apr 7 Federal Ironclads attack Charleston, S.C.

May 21-Jul 9 Siege and surrender of Port Hudson, La.

Jun 23-Jul 4 Tullahoma Campaign, Tenn.

Jul 2-26 Morgan's Raid, Ky.-Ind.-Ohio

Jul 10-16 Siege of Jackson, Miss.

Jul 11 & 18 Assaults on Fort Wagner, Charleston, S.C.

Jul 17 Battle of Honey Springs (Elk Creek), Indian Territory

Aug-Sep Chickamauga Campaign, Ga.

- Sep 18-20 Battle of Chickamauga

Sep 8 Battle of Sabine Pass, Tex.

Oct-Nov Chattanooga Campaign, Tenn.

- Oct 28-29 Wauhatchie Night Attack

- Nov 23-25 Battle of Chattanooga

Nov-Dec Knoxville Campaign, Tenn

- Nov 17-Dec 4 Siege of Knoxville

1864 [Map \(91k\)](#)

Ulysses S. Grant, promoted to lieutenant general and transferred East to command all Union armies, calls for a war of attrition against the Confederacy's two principal armies: Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Joseph E. Johnston's Army of Tennessee. Early in May, with Atlanta as his objective, Sherman, Grant's successor in the West, attacks Johnston at Rocky Face Ridge west of Dalton. For the next eight weeks the two armies grapple their way south into central Georgia. On July 17, With Sherman's armies approaching Atlanta, Confederate President Jefferson Davis fires Johnston and replaces him with Gen. John B. Hood. Hood Abandons Johnston's defensive strategy and boldly sends his troops to attack Sherman in a series of costly battles that only serve to underscore the futility of such tactics.

On September 1, after a long siege by Sherman's soldiers, Atlanta is evacuated and Hood withdraws, regroups, and advances into Tennessee. Within three months his Army of Tennessee is virtually destroyed in battles at Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville. Meanwhile, in mid-November, Sherman burns Atlanta and begins his famous "March to the Sea." Elsewhere, the blockade continues to tighten as Union amphibious forces seize the forts guarding the entrance to Mobile Bay and Admiral Farragut's ocean-going squadron crushes a Confederate fleet.

Feb 3-Mar 4 Meridian Expedition, Miss.

- * Feb 22 Battle of Okolona

Feb 20 Battle of Olustee (Ocean Pond), Fla.

Mar 12-May 20 Red River and Camden Campaigns, La.-Ark.

- Mar 23-May 3 Camden Expedition, Ark.
- Apr 8 Battle of Mansfield, La.
- Apr 9 Battle of Pleasant Hill, La.
- Apr 30 Battle of Jenkins' Ferry, Ark.

Apr 12 Fort Pillow "massacre," Tenn.

May 7-Sep 2 Sherman's Atlanta Campaign, Ga.

- May 13-15 Battle of Resaca
- May 25-28 Battles of New Hope Church, Pickett's Mill, and Dallas.

- Jun 27 Battle of Kennesaw Mountain
- Jul 20 Battle of Peachtree Creek
- Jul 22 Battle of Atlanta
- Jul 28 Battle of Ezra Church
- Aug 31-Sep 1 Battle of Jonesboro
- Sep 2 Union troops occupy Atlanta

Jun 10 Battle of Brice's Cross Roads, Miss.

Jul 14 Battle of Tupelo, Miss.

Aug 5 Battle of Mobile Bay, Ala.

Aug 29-Dec 25 Price's Raid, Ark.-Mo.-Kan.-Indian Terr.-Tex

Nov 15-Dec 21 Sherman's Savannah Campaign (March to the Sea), Ga.

- Nov 22 Engagement at Griswoldville, Ga.
- Nov 30 Engagement at Honey Hill, S.C.
- Dec 13 Capture of Fort McAllister, Ga.
- Dec 21 Savannah, Ga., occupied

Nov 29-Dec 27 Hood's Tennessee Campaign

- Nov 29 Affair at Spring Hill
- Nov 30 Battle of Franklin
- Dec 15-16 Battle of Nashville

1865 [Map \(76k\)](#)

The year begins with Union forces capturing Fort Fisher guarding the approaches to the Cape Fear River and Wilmington, North Carolina. Wilmington is occupied February 22, the same day that Joseph E. Johnston is restored to the command of what is left of the Army of Tennessee and given the impossible task of stopping Sherman's armies then sweeping northward through South Carolina. Sherman's troops occupy Columbia on February 17 and compel the evacuation of Charleston that evening. Entering North Carolina, Sherman defeats Johnston at Averasboro and at Bentonville.

At Goldsboro, Sherman is joined by Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield's force, fresh from victory at Kinston. The outnumbered Johnston surrenders his troops to Sherman on April 26, at Durham Station. Meanwhile in Alabama, Mobile falls to Federal forces while Maj. Gen. James H. Wilson's Union cavalry corps sweeps through Selma and Montgomery and on to Columbus and Macon, Georgia. Near Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, his troopers capture Confederate President Jefferson Davis, who had fled Richmond when that city was evacuated on April 2. From Jonesboro, Tennessee, Maj. Gen. George Stoneman and his 4,000 cavalymen raid eastward across the Appalachians into

southwest Virginia and North Carolina's Piedmont region. By June 23, the last Confederate army is surrendered and the long war is finally over.

Jan 13-14 Attack and capture of Fort Fisher, N.C.

Jan 14-Apr 26 Sherman's Carolinas Campaign

- Mar 8-10 Battle of Kinston, N.C.
- Mar 16 Battle of Averasboro, N.C.
- Mar 19-21 Battle of Bentonville, N.C.
- Apr 13 Raleigh, N.C. occupied
- Apr 26 Surrender of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate forces near Durham Station, N.C.

Feb 22 Capture of Wilmington, N.C.

Mar 22-Apr 22 Wilson's Alabama and Georgia Raid

Apr 2 Battle of Seima, Ala.

Mar 23-Apr 23 Stoneman's North Carolina and Virginia Raid

Mar 25-Apr 12 Mobile Campaign, Ala.

- Mar 27-Apr 8 Siege of Spanish Fort
- Apr 2-9 Siege and Capture of Fort Blakely
- Apr 12 Surrender of Mobile

May 4 Surrender of Lt. Gen. Richard Taylor's Confederate forces at Citronelle, Ala.

May 12-13 Battle of Palmito Ranch, Tex. Last Civil War land engagement.

May 26 Surrender of Lt. Gen. E. Kirby Smith's Confederate forces at New Orleans, La.

Jun 23 Surrender of Brig. Gen. Stand Watie's Confederate Indian forces at Doaksville, Indian Territory.

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