

## CHANCELLORSVILLE

"May God have mercy on General Lee, for I will have none." These words spoken by "Fighting Joe Hooker" were an indication of his confidence as he took command of the Army of the Potomac. Hooker was a good soldier, and in the first few months of 1863, he proved himself to also be an able organizer and executive. He turned the Army of the Potomac into a well-trained, competent fighting unit. Reinforcements had arrived and the number of men in the army exceeded 130,000. The Union army was stronger than it had ever been, and Hooker restored their confidence after the humiliation of Fredericksburg and the Mud March. Hooker had every reason to feel confident.

Hooker's plan called for attacking Lee from the West after crossing the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers. Hooker could then come up behind Lee's lines by crossing a dense wooded area called the Wilderness, which was so thick and tangled with vines that a soldier could see only a few yards ahead.

Hooker left a small part of his army under the command of Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick at Fredericksburg to decoy Lee and marched toward the rear of Lee's lines. Hooker passed a small crossroads called Chancellorsville and continued through the Wilderness. Realizing what was happening, Lee took forty-five thousand men and began a forced march for Chancellorsville. The two armies met, and Hooker, losing all of his confidence, pulled his troops back to Chancellorsville. Immediately, Lee set up a plan to put the Union forces between his men and those commanded by "Stonewall" Jackson. They would then close in and destroy the enemy.

What followed was one of the most confused battles in military history. In the moonlight, men attacked and retreated without knowing where they were. They fired without knowing at whom. Two Union groups battled each other for hours before they discovered their mistake. The Rebels, too, made mistakes. "Stonewall"

Jackson was wounded by his own forces who thought he was part of a Union cavalry charge, and his left arm had to be amputated. When Lee heard of Jackson's wound, he sadly said, "... He has lost his left arm but I have lost my right."

The following day, Hooker could still have attacked Lee's forces. Instead, he held a defense position and waited. Lee ordered a charge which sent the Union forces back to the Rappahannock. The Union artillery was brought in to stop the Rebel advances.

Hooker sent for John Sedgwick to reinforce him. Sedgwick's troops were beaten by the combined forces of McLaws, Anderson, and Early before they ever reached Hooker, who realized that he had no chance to win. "Fighting Joe", despite his words, had missed several chances for victory and had been defeated by an army half the size of his own. Hooker ordered his men to withdraw across the Rappahannock.

Military experts call the Battle of Chancellorsville Lee's masterpiece. To win it, Lee employed brilliant tactics which involved daring chances and courageous leadership. Chancellorsville also stands for the last, and the most dramatic, of all the Lee-Jackson maneuvers. Never again would this team of great leaders work together. When Jackson died of pneumonia eight days after the battle, Lee felt a deep sense of loss and personal grief.

Although Lee continued to exhibit the outstanding leadership and strategic genius for which he is remembered, the Army of Northern Virginia was never quite the same. When "Stonewall" Jackson died, the South lost the man who best carried out Lee's dynamic strategy.

Lee had prevented another attack on Richmond, and realizing that the Confederacy once again had the initiative, he went to Richmond to confer with Jefferson Davis about what course the Army of Northern Virginia should follow.

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. The Battle of Chancellorsville was a brilliant victory for Lee. Why was it his most costly victory?
2. By what means did Hooker's men cross the Rapidan and Rappahannock Rivers?
3. What did Hooker and McClellan have in common?



## THE SIEGE OF VICKSBURG

General Ulysses S. Grant was determined to take Vicksburg. Vicksburg, one of the great, fortified strongholds of the Civil War, was in a very strong defensive position. High, fortified bluffs overlooked the Mississippi River. These fortifications could sweep the river with cannon fire. The land on either side of the city was marshy with large areas of quicksand. The Rebels were firmly entrenched behind the city as well as above it. One cannon, in particular, became known by name. The Union troops called it "Whistling Dick" and claimed that its sound was unlike any other cannon.

Grant decided on a risky scheme to capture Vicksburg. His men marched along the west bank of the Mississippi through dense swamps. They crossed the river well below Vicksburg, so that his troops could face the enemy on dry ground.

Grant's plan depended on two things. The Union navy had to stop the Rebel shore cannon and bring supplies to the Union forces, and General Pemberton, who was in command of Vicksburg, had to be caught off guard.

The Union naval forces near Vicksburg were commanded by Rear Admiral David D. Porter, who was an excellent sailor. On April 16, 1863, Porter began moving his ships down the river in darkness. The Confederates saw the ships and bombarded them but with little effect. Several nights later, Porter ran several more ships past the Rebel guns.

Meanwhile, Grant had sent B. H. Grierson and his cavalry to raid in central Mississippi. Grierson destroyed the railroad supply lines leading to Vicksburg, making it impossible for the Confederates to move troops by train.

To further confuse Pemberton, Grant ordered General Sherman to attack Hayne's Bluff, above Vicksburg. Completely taken in, Pemberton countered Sherman's troops, while Grant crossed the river without any difficulty.

Grant put himself between two large Confederate armies—Pemberton's army at Vicksburg and Joe Johnston's army at Jackson. By capturing Jackson, Grant hoped to cut the supply lines which led to Vicksburg. The Union troops

moved quickly since they were living off the land and carrying only the essential supplies.

On May 14, 1863, the Rebels left Jackson. Gen. Sherman entered the city and ordered his men to take anything they wanted or could use. After looting the stores and homes, the Union troops burned the city.

Grant then moved on Vicksburg, having swung and approached from the east. On May 16, Pemberton met Grant at Champion Hill. The Rebels were driven back toward Vicksburg. Johnston advised Pemberton to leave, but it was too late. Pemberton's army was trapped inside the city.

On May 19 and May 22, Grant tried massive attacks to capture the city. A siege was the only answer. He would starve them out. Johnston desperately tried to gather enough men to rescue Pemberton, but he could not.

For weeks the Union troops waited as Porter's guns bombarded the city from the river, and Grant's cannon pounded Vicksburg from the Yankee lines. The people crowded together in storm cellars, basements, and caves to escape the rain of shells.

To hasten the surrender of Vicksburg, Grant tried to tunnel beneath the Rebel fortifications and blow them up. The plan was successful to a point, but Grant lost so many men that he abandoned it and decided to wait out the siege.

By July 3, 1863, Vicksburg was at the point of starvation. Pemberton and Grant met to discuss surrender terms. During the lull in the fighting, the Union and Confederate soldiers met and talked to each other. For many it was a family reunion, for brothers and cousins met for the first time since choosing opposing sides in the conflict. Vicksburg finally surrendered to Grant on July 4, 1863.

A few days later, Port Hudson fell. The last Confederate stronghold on the Mississippi was gone. The Union had broken the "backbone of the Rebellion" and split the Confederacy in two. The Mississippi River was controlled by the Union. The North had won a very important victory.



## UNION STRATEGY-VICKSBURG

To gain complete control of the Mississippi River, the Union forces had to capture the fortified city of Vicksburg, Mississippi. Gen. John C. Pemberton, Confederate commander of Vicksburg, believed that the Union had little chance of taking the city because Vicksburg was set on high bluffs overlooking the river, with its cannon positioned to sweep the river with deadly accurate barrages. Confederate troops were safely dug in, and nature had further fortified the city with areas of marshes and quicksand.

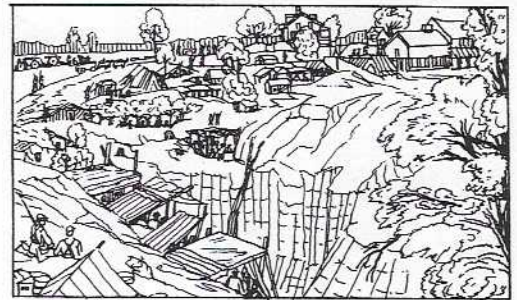
The monumental task of capturing this impregnable fortress fell to Ulysses S. Grant. While Pemberton waited for a frontal attack which could easily be repulsed, Grant was planning to knock at Vicksburg's "back door." Grant's gamble was taken partly to prevent a Confederate army, under Joseph E. Johnston, from reinforcing Pemberton's troops.

Grant moved his troops down river and landed them well below the city. The success of this action was due primarily to the skill of Rear Admiral David D. Porter, who moved his Union ships under the blazing guns of Vicksburg with little damage and managed to carry supplies and equipment to Grant's forces. Grant did not rely entirely on Porter and ordered his men to live off the land as they marched.

Under orders from Grant, a cavalry unit commanded by B. H. Grierson cut into central Mississippi and destroyed the rail lines leading to Vicksburg. General Sherman captured Jackson, Mississippi, and completely destroyed it after turning his troops loose to sack the city. Grant had cut between Johnston's troops and Vicksburg; Pemberton was on his own! On May 16, 1863, Pemberton's Rebels met Grant's forces at Champion Hill. In a bitter battle, Grant was able to drive the Confederates back into Vicksburg. His advance, however, stopped at the entrance to the city. Two massive assaults failed to force the Confederates to surrender.

Grant, more determined than ever to have his victory, decided to lay siege to the city. He would starve the Rebels out. The siege of Vicksburg lasted for six weeks. Grant's cannons

and Porter's gunboats pounded the city without mercy. As many as a hundred thousand shells fell in a single day. Every building—house, school, store, church—was fair game for the Union artillery officers. The city was reduced to rubble. The troops, aided by the entire civilian population, dug caves in the hillside. They renamed their city "Prairie Dogs' Village." Food became so scarce that the people lived on tree bark soup and blossom stew, but they had no thought of surrendering to the Yankees. In time they came to accept the Union shelling as part of their daily lives and even smiled good-naturedly when the Rebel sentries announced a fresh attack by calling, "Rats, into your holes!"



But the people of Vicksburg could not survive on will alone. On July 3, 1863, Pemberton asked for the terms of surrender. On July 4, Vicksburg fell into Grant's hands. To this day the defeat has blotted out the celebration of Independence Day on July 4 in the proud city of Vicksburg.

As Vicksburg was surrendering, events in the North were moving swiftly. A bold and daring Confederate move was about to set the stage for an event that would cost the Confederacy the war—Gettysburg would prove to be Lee's most costly mistake!

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Do you think a siege is a good means of winning a battle? Explain your answer.
2. Why did Grant think it was necessary to take Vicksburg?
3. What is the advantage of "living off the land?"
4. Explain the picture on this page.
5. Give a caption to the picture in the space provided.



## CONFEDERATE DARING—GETTYSBURG

The Confederate government had committed itself to an attack deep in Union territory. In addition to shocking the Union, it was hoped that this attack might influence England and France to again consider supporting the Confederate States of America.

General Lee massed his three armies under James Longstreet, A.P. Hill, and R.S. Ewell, and moved on Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania would be a "promised land" for the Rebel forces who were running short of food. They disregarded the facts that they were certain to be outnumbered and far from their own supply lines.

General Hooker, the Union commander, followed Lee's advance, keeping his troops between the Rebels and Washington, D.C. Hooker believed that Lee intended to maneuver for an attack on the Union capitol. By the end of June, Lee was in Pennsylvania, and Hooker had been removed from his command. Lincoln chose Gen. George G. Meade to succeed Hooker. Meade was a professional, well-trained soldier with a hot temper. Lee had known Meade before the war and knew that he could expect no mistakes by the new enemy commander.

Lee's army had become strung out on the long march. He looked for a place to stop and gather his forces. Lee chose a small crossroads town called Gettysburg near the Pennsylvania and Maryland border. Here Lee could wait for "Jeb" Stuart and his cavalry to join him. Lee did not know that Stuart, who had been cut off by Meade's troops, would never make it.

Pennsylvania was in a panic. The citizens feared that Lee would capture the ammunition stored at Harrisburg or that he would turn toward Baltimore to cut off Washington, D.C., from the rest of the Union.

Quite by accident, neither course was followed. Instead, the greatest single battle that has ever been fought in the Western Hemisphere took place at Gettysburg itself. On July 1, 1863, a small group of Rebel soldiers made their way toward Gettysburg in search of boots and other footwear which were desperately needed by the Confederate troops. These Rebels accidentally met John Buford's Yankee cavalry on a routine patrol.

The Cavalry dismounted and fired on the Rebel infantry. Buford's men held for two hours until Union infantry arrived. The Rebel advance was halted for the time being. Lee had not intended to have his battle at Gettysburg but decided that it had to be. He ordered the entire Rebel line to move. Meade rushed his men north to join the fight. The hard-pressed Union troops made a stand along Seminary Ridge. The Rebels pounded away until the Yankee line broke and ran through Gettysburg to Cemetery Hill, which was a high rise beyond the town. Here they regrouped and settled in to hold the hill until Meade's main forces could arrive. If the line held, the Rebels could be defeated.

Lee had ordered Gen. Richard Ewell to take Cemetery Hill. Ewell had taken command of "Stonewall" Jackson's troops, but Ewell was no Jackson. Realizing that Yankee reinforcements had arrived, Ewell called off his attack and did nothing. Meade was able to move up his entire force and set up his command post on Cemetery Ridge.

Lee decided to attack in force. Meade's line stretched for three miles from two hills called Round Top and Little Round Top through Cemetery Ridge to Culp's Hill. The Rebel line ran parallel to the Union line. Meade's strength was concentrated on the three hills.

Longstreet attacked Little Round Top and almost managed to take it. The two forces fought face to face, hand to hand. Finally the Union troops drove the Rebels back with a bayonet charge. Throughout the entire day the battle raged all along the Union line. As night fell, Lee ordered Ewell to attack at Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill. Ewell was eager to compensate for his failure to act the day before. Ewell attacked several times and was beaten back each time. The day ended with neither side gaining anything but casualties!

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What was the purpose of the Confederate venture into Pennsylvania?
2. In what way did Hooker misinterpret Lee's plans?



## THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Meade decided that he would not attack or retreat. Lee would have to make the next move.

On July 3, Lee's troops attacked Culp's Hill with no success. A lull settled on the battlefield as the Rebels moved their artillery to face the center of Meade's line. Cemetery Ridge was bombarded, but the Rebel gunners aimed too high. The Union gunners saved their ammunition for the Confederate charge, which was inevitable. Fifteen thousand Rebel troops moved forward like a human wall. Lee wanted to batter Meade's line at its strongest point. It couldn't be done! The Confederate line was crushed. Only Gen. George Pickett and his Virginians were left to attack Cemetery Hill.

Pickett's Charge was the "High Tide of the Confederacy" as Pickett and his men made a glorious and heroic charge against an impossible bombardment of cannon, grapeshot, and bullets. A handful of survivors reached the summit of the hill and planted the Confederate flag before they were killed or captured.

The Battle of Gettysburg was over. The following day Lee and his troops turned toward the Potomac. As Lee looked at the mangled remnants of his army he said, "All this has been my fault."

The Union forces at Gettysburg had numbered about 85,000, while the Confederate army had nearly 75,000 men on the field. Nearly 7,500 men had died on the bloody battlefield at Gettysburg, while almost 45,000 were wounded or missing. The Union had lost about 23,000

men, and the South nearly as many. Lee had lost nearly a third of his whole army. The manpower of the South was almost exhausted.

As Lee retreated southward, Meade followed him slowly but did not attack. The battle had been too costly for him to consider renewing it. On July 14, 1863, Lee was safely across the Potomac, his dream of victory in the North dead forever. Never again would the South invade the North. Confederate troops had taken the offensive against Union troops for the last time. The defeat at Gettysburg and the loss of Vicksburg signified the beginning of the end for the Rebel cause.

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why has the term "Pickett's Charge" become synonymous with a brave but foolhardy gesture?
2. Why did Meade decide to let Lee make the first move?
3. Two mistakes proved costly to Lee's plans. What were they?
4. After his victory why didn't Meade press an attack on Lee's beaten troops?
5. Explain the statement, "The greatest single battle of the Civil War was a mistake."
6. Study this poem carefully and answer the questions in the space provided.

My war is over, here I lie.  
I was too young, afraid to die.  
"Charge," they cried, my heart grew chilled.  
Our flag surmounts the blackened ridge.  
"Retreat," they cried, my heart was stilled.

- a. To what event does the poem refer? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. To what army did the soldier belong? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. What happened to him? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Complete this chart. You may reproduce this chart on a separate sheet of paper and fill it in as you complete your study of the Civil War.

MAJOR BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR

BATTLE	STATE	DATE	COMMANDERS		RESULTS
			North	South	
Siege of Vicksburg					
Gettysburg					





## MR. LINCOLN SPEAKS

Immediately after the Battle of Gettysburg, plans were made to convert part of the battlefield into a military cemetery which would honor the dead from all states who had been with the Union forces at Gettysburg. Seventeen acres of Cemetery Hill were to be called Gettysburg National Military Park. Preparations were made for formal dedication ceremonies to take place November 19, 1863. Edward Everett, one of the most famous orators of the day, agreed to give the dedication speech.

As the dedication day approached, the planning committee realized that no official of the United States Government had been asked to attend. A blanket invitation was hurriedly sent to Lincoln, the Cabinet, and members of Congress. The committee probably hoped that Lincoln would not attend, for his popularity at this time was at a low ebb. If he did come, he would have to be invited to speak, and they did not want anyone to take the spotlight from Everett. The President did accept and was told that he would be given time to make a "few appropriate remarks."

It has been said that President Lincoln wrote his speech on the back of an envelope as he rode the train to Gettysburg, but the truth is that he wrote it before he left Washington.

On the day of the dedication Lincoln rose to

give his "few appropriate remarks" after Everett completed his speech which lasted for two and a half hours. Lincoln spoke just three minutes. The huge crowd was polite but not enthusiastic. The newspapers which reported the speech were generally not impressed, and Lincoln himself thought that the speech was poor.

Through the years, however, these few lines which have come to be known as the Gettysburg Address have been an inspiration to many Americans. The words, like the man himself, were simple and uncomplicated. The message was a clear statement of what Lincoln believed—the states had to put aside the Civil War and once more become the United States of America.

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why did the committee hope that President Lincoln would not attend the dedication?
2. The speech has come to be regarded as one of the greatest historical statements in our history. a. Why do you think it was so poorly accepted at first? b. Why have people come to regard the speech so highly?
3. Read the Gettysburg Address carefully. In your own words express the ideas which President Lincoln expressed.

### THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate—we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion; that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.



## GRANT TAKES COMMAND

After the Chattanooga campaign, Grant was made commander of all the Union forces. Ulysses S. Grant did not look like a commanding general. In fact, he didn't look much like a soldier at all. He was short and thin; a slightly stooped man with a poorly-kept black beard.

Lincoln had repeatedly tried in vain to find an able commander. In Grant, he felt that he had finally found the right man for the job. Gen. Grant had a number of qualifications for the job. He was a master of strategy and military planning. He was one of the few Union officers who understood the particular problems of the war. Grant was a plain man with great determination. In his own mind, Grant knew the solution to the war. The entire Confederate Army had to be destroyed. With characteristic determination, he made his plans to accomplish this destruction.

Grant was not without his problems in his own army. Many of the officers he now commanded considered themselves far more capable than Grant.

As a child, he showed little talent except for breaking horses and changing his name. He was baptized Hiram Ulysses Grant. After several years of being taunted with the nickname "Hug", the boy changed his name to Ulysses Hiram Grant. It didn't help much for he was soon being called by a new nickname, "Useless."

Grant's Congressmen applied for a West Point appointment for him even though he had no desire to be a soldier. Grant agreed to go to West Point so that he would have a chance to travel. He admitted that he did not expect to graduate from the Point, but if he did, he had

no intention of remaining in the army. Through an error in registration he became Ulysses Simpson Grant—"Uncle Sam" to his classmates and U.S. Grant to his instructors. He was not a good student, showing talent only for mathematics, horsemanship, and trips to the local off-limits tavern.

Grant did graduate but was denied a commission in the cavalry. He served in Missouri and Louisiana before going to the Mexican War. Grant opposed the war as unjust but nevertheless distinguished himself during the conflict. It was during this war that Grant and Lee first crossed paths but neither man seemed too impressed with the other.

Grant was married shortly after he returned to St. Louis from the Mexican War, but remained in the army because life as a civilian was so uncertain. When he was sent to Vancouver in 1851, he was forced to leave his family behind because of the high cost of living in the West. Years of loneliness in desolate posts without his family caused Grant to drink excessively and in 1851, he was told to reform or resign. He resigned.

There followed years of trying to make a living, first on a farm near St. Louis and then as a clerk in a leather shop in Galena, Ill. His efforts brought him little money.

At the start of the Civil War, Grant organized a company of Galena volunteers. He asked to return to active duty and was eventually accepted. Grant was on his way down the road which would eventually lead him to the Presidency.



GENERAL  
ULYSSES S. GRANT

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What were Grant's major qualifications for the job of commanding all the northern armies?
2. How did Grant propose to end the war?
3. What nicknames did Grant have?
4. How did the Mexican War provide a preview of the Civil War?
5. Give several examples to show that Grant was a better soldier than he thought he was.



## THE WAR AT SEA

The war at sea began on April 19, 1861, when President Lincoln declared that the ports of the secessionist states would be closed by a blockade. The declaration was one thing; the deed was another. The purposes of the blockade were to keep ships from bringing in to the South the badly needed supplies and to hurt the South economically by preventing it from trading with other countries.

The Union had only three ships ready for action. The other Union vessels, numbering less than a hundred, needed to be reconditioned before they could sail. Even so, Lincoln proposed to seal off some one hundred and eighty southern ports and to patrol more than three thousand miles of the Atlantic coastline. In addition, the Union vessels would have to patrol the Mississippi and its tributaries, as well as the Gulf of Mexico coastline. This added four thousand more miles of surveillance.

Vessels of all descriptions were outfitted with guns and pressed into blockade duty. Whalers, ferryboats, tugs, fishing boats, and old clipper ships joined the chain around the southern coastline. The more sophisticated war ships concentrated on the main ports of Charleston, Savannah, Pensacola, and New Orleans.

One by one, the smaller ports were closed or captured. In the winter of 1861, Port Royal, South Carolina, surrendered to the Union navy and remained a Union base until the end of the war. Norfolk, Roanoke, Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Mobile, Galveston, and Charleston all came under the guns of the Union Navy.

Charleston, a symbol of secession, was a particular target. On several occasions, the Union ships tried to silence Fort Sumter and to capture the city. Even with the newly developed ironclad vessels, each attempt failed.

Under the direction of Admiral David Farragut, New Orleans fell in April, 1862. Farragut then went on to attack Mobile, Alabama, which was the safest harbor for the Confederate blockade runners. These ships were, for the most part, privateers who risked capture in the hope of

making a great profit. Cotton was carried to Nassau, Bermuda, Havana, or Matamoros, and exchanged for medicine or ammunition. Often luxury items were smuggled in as well. These items were sold at tremendous prices to the luxury-starved southern aristocracy.

On August 12, 1864, Farragut entered Mobile Bay with a fleet of wooden vessels tied together in pairs. Farragut's ship, the *Hartford*, braved the Confederate mines and the shore batteries. The Rebel ironclad, *Tennessee*, was brought up. The *Hartford* and two other Union ships battered the *Tennessee* into submission. With the surrender of the *Tennessee*, Mobile was closed to the blockade runners.

Confederate ships roved the seas seeking Union merchant ships to destroy. Most of these ships were built in English shipyards. Usually the Rebel pirates would fly the Union flag or the British flag until they found a Union ship. The most famous of these raiders was the *Alabama*. Commanded by Raphael Semmes, the *Alabama* destroyed more than six million dollars worth of northern ships and cargoes in two years. In June of 1864, the *Alabama* challenged the Union ship, *Kearsarge*, to a duel in a French port. In a brisk exchange of broadsides, the *Alabama* was sent to the bottom. Semmes, however, escaped.

In the end, the blockade proved to be the most successful Union tactic. The blockade strangled the South until it was too weak to recover.

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why did the South have no navy?
2. In what other war did the use of privateers prove to be very effective?
3. Why did the Union want to capture Charleston so badly?
4. Define and briefly tell about the introduction of ironclads into the Civil War.
5. Why did the South desperately need the supplies from England and other foreign countries?
6. Explain each of the following: blockade; privateers; exchange of broadsides.



## SHERMAN'S MARCH TO THE SEA

In May of 1864, Gen. Sherman led one hundred thousand seasoned troops into northern Georgia. It was up to Confederate General Joe Johnston and the Army of the Tennessee to stop the Union invasion. Both Sherman and Johnston were excellent commanders. Johnston was a master of defense, and Sherman was an expert tactician. While Johnston played a waiting game, Sherman attempted to maneuver his enemy into the open. Johnston hoped to hold out until after the Presidential election took place in the North. The war was going badly for the Union, and the Confederacy was certain that Lincoln would be defeated.

The two armies feinted and parried all over northern Georgia until they reached the area surrounding Atlanta, where Johnston withdrew to Kennesaw Mountain. Sherman launched an all-out frontal attack on June 27, but soon realized, like Grant, that a frontal assault on entrenched Rebels was doomed to failure and returned to his war of maneuvering. Johnston was forced to pull back to the Chattahoochee River and then to the outskirts of Atlanta itself.

Atlanta was the main industrial city of the Confederacy. The fall of Atlanta would be a crippling blow to the Rebel cause. Jefferson Davis removed Johnston and replaced him with General John Bell Hood. Hood was a fighter, and he liked to take chances. With Sherman's army massed before Atlanta, Hood would have to strike boldly. In several desperate assaults, Hood tried in vain to break the noose that was closing around Atlanta.

On September 2, 1864, Union troops occupied Atlanta. The civilian population was ordered to leave the city, and Atlanta was promptly converted into a Union fortress.

Sherman decided on a bold plan. He would move through the heart of the South and march

toward Savannah and the sea. Sherman planned to have his men live off the land and destroy anything of use to the Confederates. By his action, Sherman hoped to destroy the spirit of the Confederacy, as well as vital supplies.

Grant finally agreed, and Sherman carried out the first step of his bold plan—the burning of Atlanta. Sherman ordered that warehouses, railroad depots, factories, and other strategic buildings be burned, but his over-zealous soldiers put most of Atlanta to the torch.

On November 15, 1864, Sherman began his march "to make all Georgia howl." As the army moved, it attracted thousands of runaway slaves and lawless stragglers called "bummers." Many of these bummers were Union deserters and soldiers who were A.W.O.L. Sherman's foraging parties would go out each morning in search of supplies and return each night with wagonloads of booty. Sherman's bummers looted, robbed, and burned their way across Georgia.

Sherman made no attempt to control the looting, killing, and burning, for although the bummers were more brutal than he might have wished, they were laying waste the Confederacy. This was total war! Sherman wanted the people of the Confederacy to feel "the hard hand of war" on their own home soil.

The troops camped at Milledgeville, the state capitol, where they burned Confederate money in huge bonfires. On December 22, 1864, Sherman approached Savannah. The ten thousand Rebel troops who guarded the city fled northward. Sherman marched into the city in triumph. Although he left Savannah untouched, Sherman had inflicted over a hundred million dollars worth of damage on his march to the sea. He was called the "Scourge of the South", and his march left scars on southern hearts and minds that would be slow to heal.

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Northern Georgia was called the Chessboard by some people. Tell why.
2. What did Cold Harbor and Kennesaw Mountain have in common?
3. Do you think Sherman's "March to the Sea" was justified? Explain your answer.
4. One of the casualties at Kennesaw was Colonel Daniel McCook. Who were the "Fighting McCooks?"
5. Many southern newspapers characterized Sherman as a reincarnation of Attila the Hun. Why?
6. What does A.W.O.L. mean?



## THE FINAL DAYS

The war was all but over for the South. The end would come with only one result, but the South stubbornly refused to accept the inevitable.

Grant was at Petersburg. On February 1, 1865, Sherman and his sixty thousand combat veterans, now called bummers by everyone, including Sherman, were ready to swing through the Carolinas. Thirty thousand starving, poorly equipped Confederates stood between Grant and Sherman. The Rebels could not stop Sherman; they could only hope to slow him down.

On February 3, the Confederate government asked the Federal government if it would be willing to discuss peace terms. President Lincoln and Secretary of State Seward met with a Confederate delegation headed by Vice-President Alexander Stephens. The conference was held on a Federal vessel in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Lincoln's terms were simple—the South would disband its armies and recognize the sovereignty of the Federal government. This would mean that the South would have to accept the Thirteenth Amendment and the abolition of slavery. To the Confederacy, these simple terms spelled one thing—unconditional surrender. With justifiable fear the South was concerned about its future if the radical Republicans had their way. The terms were refused and, in Richmond, President Davis announced that the South would fight to the end.

In its death throes, the Confederacy fought desperately to put off the inevitable. The South tried to get both France and Great Britain to recognize them in return for its promise to abolish slavery. The offer was ignored. Slaves were considered as a source of military manpower. General Lee called Gen. Joseph Johnston back to active duty to stop Sherman. Johnston

knew it was hopeless but he would do his best to slow Sherman's march.

Sherman's men swept through South Carolina and laid waste to the "mother of secession." They looted and burned and destroyed as never before, determined to make the people of that state suffer. On February 17th, Sherman marched into Columbia. On the same day Gen. Beauregard evacuated the city of Charleston. Fort Sumter was abandoned and Union vessels steamed into Charleston Harbor. Sherman moved into North Carolina.

Lee now realized that he was coming to the end of the road. His lines facing Grant at Petersburg were over-extended. He was facing a force twice the size of his. He knew that he might have one last chance. He had to slip past Grant and head south. He would join his troops with the remnants of Johnston's forces. Together they might take care of Sherman. Then they could return and attack Grant.

In a desperate gamble, Lee sent his men against the center of Grant's lines in an attempt to capture the rail lines which supplied the Union forces. The attack failed.

On April 2nd, Grant was ready for his own attack. The Rebel lines fell.

In Richmond, Jefferson Davis was at church when he received the news. As Lee's troops retreated from Petersburg, Davis made preparations to lead his government into exile. His last order was to destroy anything in Richmond that the Union troops could use. As the Confederate government and the army left Richmond, the city was ablaze.

On April 12, 1865, the Confederate flag came down, and the Stars and Stripes was raised over the Capitol in Richmond.

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why did the Confederacy fear the Radical Republicans?
2. Why do you think the Confederacy's appeal for recognition fell on deaf ears in France and Great Britain?
3. During his March to the Sea, Gen. Sherman made use of "corduroy roads." Research and explain what these were.
4. Why do you think Sherman's men were so eager to destroy everything they found in South Carolina?



## APPOMATTOX

General Lee's army left Petersburg on its last march. With these men and the troops from Richmond, Lee still hoped to join Johnston. His path was blocked, however, by a Union force commanded by Gen. Philip Sheridan. Lee headed for Lynchburg. Sheridan cut off a part of Lee's rear guard and captured six thousand Rebels. Lee observed that he had just lost one-half of his army. He continued on, only to find that the race had gone to the swifter Union cavalry. General George Custer had gone to Appomattox Station and captured supplies waiting for Lee.

On April 9th, Lee came to the small town of Appomattox Court House. Sheridan and his cavalry blocked his way and behind them were solid blocks of blue-coated infantry. His road to Lynchburg was cut off. Another mass of Union infantry was at Lee's rear. With fewer than thirty thousand poorly-armed troops at his command, Lee was surrounded.

The Union troops waited for the command to attack. The Rebels with their battle flags waving proudly prepared for their final battle. Instead, a single Confederate cavalryman rode forward, carrying a fluttering white flag. Both armies stared at the rider in silence. They could not believe what they were seeing. The end had come at last!

"I must go see General Grant," said Lee, "and I would rather die a thousand deaths."

Palm Sunday—April 9, 1865. Two generals faced each other in the parlor of a farmhouse owned by Wilmer McLean. General Lee arrived dressed in a new uniform and carrying his ceremonial sword at his side. Grant arrived in his muddy field uniform and with no weapon. The two commanders faced each other. Both wanted a good peace. Lee knew that the South was beaten and would have to make the best of whatever happened. Grant wanted only to prove that Northerners and Southerners could be fellow citizens once again.

Grant's terms were very generous. Each Rebel soldier was to be allowed to go home undisturbed. Officers were to be allowed to keep

their weapons and personal possessions. Any man who had a mule or horse was to be allowed to keep the animal.

At four o'clock, the two men shook hands and it was over. Lee mounted his horse, Traveller, and returned to his men. The Union guns began to fire victory volleys which were halted at once by Grant. "We will not exult over their downfall," he said.

The formal document of surrender was signed by six deputy officers on April 10, 1865.

The surrender of Lee ended the war. Small pockets of resistance remained in Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi, but by the end of May these holdouts, too, had laid down their arms. Jefferson Davis vainly tried to keep the Confederacy going, but he was captured near Irwinville, Georgia, on May 10, 1865. The Confederate States of America ceased to exist.

The war was over. The South and the North now had to be re-united. That task proved as difficult as the war itself.

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Wilmer McLean played an unusual part in two events of the Civil War. Tell briefly about both of these events.
2. Find out and tell what tribute the Union troops paid Gen. Lee as he returned to Richmond after the surrender.
3. Why do you suppose Grant's terms were so generous?
4. What does the physical appearance of the two generals tell about their attitudes toward the surrender?
5. How did the federal government deal with Robert E. Lee and Jefferson Davis after the war?
6. Do some outside reading about the surrender and answer the following questions.
  - a. After the formal surrender, how did Gen. Joshua Chamberlain and his men pay tribute to the Confederate troops?
  - b. Read Chamberlain's account of the incident and describe it in your own words.





## PEACE!

On March 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln began his second term as President of the United States. In his inaugural address he spoke of the task that lay before the country as he said, "We must finish the work we are in...with malice toward none; with charity for all..."

Now the war was over and Lincoln looked at the grave task before him. He had to "reconstruct" the United States. He believed that both sides shared the blame for the war and the terrible devastation on the battlefield. He was determined that both the North and South would share the fruits of victory. "Let 'em up easy," he had told Grant and Sherman. He wanted to follow his own advice, even though he knew that he would be bitterly opposed by the Radical Republicans.

Fate stepped in and took the responsibility for reconstruction away from President Lincoln.

On the evening of April 14, 1865, Good Friday, President Lincoln and his wife went to Ford's Theater to see a comedy, *Our American Cousin*. The presidential party arrived at the theater about nine o'clock and entered the brightly draped President's box. An hour later a shadowy figure found the unguarded entrance to the stairway leading to the President's box and slipped quietly up the stairs. John Wilkes Booth silently entered the box and fired a shot at the back of the President's head. Booth then leaped from the box shouting, "Sic semper tyrannus!" Booth's spur caught on the draping of the box as he jumped onto the stage, causing him to break his leg. Booth, a well-known actor, knew

the theater well and escaped through the stage door where he had a horse waiting in the alley. Booth headed south, thinking that if he could reach Confederate territory he would be hailed as a hero. Poor Booth did not realize that he had done the South more harm than all of Sherman's bummers.

At the same time, in other parts of Washington, other members of the government were being attacked by Booth's fellow conspirators in an insane plot to avenge the honor of the Confederacy.

The President was carried to a house across the street from the theater and there he remained in a coma for the rest of the night. A little before seven-thirty on Saturday morning, Abraham Lincoln died. Secretary Stanton spoke the news quietly, "Now he belongs to the ages."

The nation was plunged into a period of profound mourning which was accompanied by an almost unquenchable desire for revenge. The assassination of the President was blamed on the South. Booth's insane actions sentenced the entire South to be punished for a crime in which it had no part. Historians have studied the assassination of Lincoln for years to find some definite answers to the questions which surround the event. Did Booth organize the plan himself? Was he, in fact, a tool of Radical Republicans who wanted Lincoln out of the way?

Much has been written about the assassination and the events which took place before and after it. The complete truth will probably never be known.

TO THINK ABOUT: Answer these questions fully on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Explain how both the North and South could be blamed for the war.
2. How would Lincoln's death benefit the Radical Republicans?
3. Find out and tell what Booth's original plan had been.
4. What other members of the cabinet were to be killed with Lincoln?
- 5.a. What does *Sic semper tyrannus* mean? b. What is the source of the quotation?
6. Walt Whitman used figurative language to tell of the death of Lincoln in his poem, *O Captain! My Captain!* Read these first few lines of his poem and then answer the questions.

O Captain! my Captain! our fearful trip is done,  
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,...

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| a. Who is the <i>Captain</i> ? | c. What does <i>our fearful trip is done</i> mean?            |
| b. What is <i>the ship</i> ?   | d. What is the meaning of <i>the prize we sought is won</i> ? |