

1. LEES 1862 INVASION OF MARYLAND pdf

1: 32nd Mississippi Infantry at Lee's simultaneous invasion of Maryland,

Lee hatched a bold plan in which he divided his numerically inferior force in order to strike simultaneously into western Maryland and seize the Federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry. The Union Army of the Potomac is still licking its wounds from the Manassas fight when Lee's invasion commences.

Little did he know that he would set off a chain of events that would change the war and the course of the nation forever. By the late summer of the American Civil War had taken a dramatic turn. A prolonged and bloody siege of the city seemed inevitable. The Confederacy was facing its first real test. However, as fate would have it, on May 31st the commander of the Confederate forces, General Joe Johnston, was wounded at the Battle of Seven Pines. Without hesitation, Confederate President Jefferson Davis appointed his most trusted military advisor, Robert E Lee, to take over the command. Lee came from one of the most celebrated families in the nation. However, Jefferson Davis could not have chosen a better man for the job. When the Civil War began, Colonel Robert E Lee was considered by his peers as one of the best soldiers the nation had. He was offered the command of all the Union forces by Abraham Lincoln, but he declined and followed his home state of Virginia out of the Union. Replacing General Johnston he named his new command the Army of Northern Virginia; it would become one of the most famous armies in history. In two months the bold and aggressive Lee would shift the fighting from the outskirts of Richmond to within 30 miles of Washington DC. With the initiative well in hand Lee had a critical decision to make, and he had several different options to choose from: He could stay where he was near Manassas Junction and wait for the Federals to attack. He could withdraw back to the Richmond defenses, dig in and wait for an attack. He could move his army west into the Shenandoah Valley. Or he could keep the initiative by continuing the offensive, moving his army into Maryland and Pennsylvania. The first three options presented Lee with no real advantage. Certainly, he could have used this time to rest and refit his tired army. He also knew that if he assumed a defensive posture, it would be only a matter of time before the superior numbers of men and material the North possessed overwhelmed his army. In the end, Lee decided that the best defense is a good offense. In addition, an operation into the North presented several military and political possible upsides for the confederacy. First, they could take the fighting out of the worn down countryside of northern Virginia and into the fertile farmlands of Maryland and Pennsylvania where food and fodder were plentiful. It would also, as the Confederacy believed, allow the citizens of Maryland to throw off the oppressive government of Abraham Lincoln and join ranks with the Confederate states. A victory on northern soil would demonstrate to France and England that the Confederacy was a legitimate nation deserving of recognition. Recognition by Europe was critical to the future of the Southern government. It was equally critical to the Lincoln administration to prevent such a move by England and France. Because of its recent defeats in the past few months Lee felt the Army of the Potomac was demoralized, beaten and not at all ready for renewed fighting. He also read in the northern papers that the Federal forces were getting some 60,000 raw recruits; it would take some time to train, coordinate, and fold these new men into the army. These two factors made Lee believe that it would be several weeks before the Union Army could get organized and come out of the Washington defenses to offer him battle. McClellan was an over achiever his whole life, and early on in the war he was one of the few Union generals who actually won battles. He was soon elevated to commander of the Army of the Potomac and devised a plan that he was sure would defeat the Confederacy. He would float his massive army down the Potomac River and land it on the Virginia Peninsula, overwhelm the Confederates in front of Richmond, capture the city and end the war. This was a very ambitious strategy. Although he was extremely confident in his own abilities, McClellan was glacially slow on the battlefield. For almost a year he drove the Lincoln administration crazy with his incredibly plodding movements. After being chased off the Peninsula, his army was taken from him piece by piece to reinforce General Pope now advancing below Washington DC. McClellan was in a state of flux. It would not take long before he was thrust into the spotlight once again. Defeated, Pope retreated back to Washington DC. Lincoln felt his only choice to save the day was to place Little Mac, as he was called, back in command. For all of his failings as a field commander Lincoln knew

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McClellan did possess assets that would be essential at this point: He was also the one Union general that held the confidence and support of the rank and file soldiers. He would skillfully use these assets to reform and refit the army in an incredibly short amount of time and get it ready for operations. This sent waves of panic and misinformation throughout the North. Lee was as confident as his men. Then fate took over. Lee had divided his army sending a large part of it to capture the federal stronghold at Harpers Ferry. This was one of those rare military opportunities that only happens once in a generation. If he moved quickly, McClellan could destroy the Confederate force in detail. But that was contrary to his nature. He did move just fast enough however to compel Lee to fight a holding action at South Mountain on the 14th. Being in a very tight spot with his army scattered all over Lee contemplated withdrawing from Maryland. Just then a timely message arrived from Confederate General Stonewall Jackson the garrison at Harpers Ferry had capitulated and he was marching the bulk of his force north to rejoin Lee. It was at this time Lee decided to concentrate his army at the small hamlet of Sharpsburg, Maryland. This quite dusty crossroad sat in a crook of land between the Antietam Creek and the Potomac River. Lee was still in a very vulnerable spot, but he again counted on the slow moving McClellan to give him the time he needed to gather his widely scattered army. McClellan did not disappoint; he did not have his men in place and ready to attack until the night of the 16th. Lee had arranged his men in a defensive line just west of the Antietam Creek. McClellan set up east of the river. The Union general outnumbered his opponent by almost two to one, but he believed just the opposite was true. McClellan sent two corps across the river to attack the confederates at first light the next morning. The Confederates were not fooled by this obvious move and shifted several regiments to their left flank to meet this attack. On that day, September 17th, the epic Battle of Antietam took place. It is known as the bloodiest day in American history. The day would see over 23,000 casualties, including more than 10,000 killed. When all of the dust settled and the smoke cleared the massive battle was essentially a tactical draw. During the course of the Maryland Campaign, McClellan had several excellent chances to destroy the rebel army, but he missed every single one. It was a campaign marked by desperate gambles and missed opportunities. McClellan did, however, manage to check Robert E Lee and his seemingly unstoppable force. In the nine months to follow the Confederate tide would surge again as Lee would go on to cement his reputation as one of the finest military minds this nation has ever produced. This freed all the slaves living in states currently rebelling against the government. It was a political masterstroke. Without immediately freeing a single slave, Lincoln lifted the war to a higher moral ground. It would also end any real hopes of England and France intervening on behalf of the South. The war was dramatically changed, at least north of the Mason Dixon line, from one of preservation of the Union to one of emancipating slaves. McClellan would eventually be fired by Lincoln because of his unwillingness to pursue the Confederates and finish them off. Undeterred, the audacious Robert E Lee would invade the North again less than a year later. That campaign would culminate near a small town in Pennsylvania called Gettysburg. But that is another story.

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2: Rebel Invasion of Maryland

The Maryland Campaign or Antietam Campaign occurred September 17, 1862, during the American Civil War. Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North was repulsed by the Army of the Potomac under Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, who moved to intercept Lee and his Army of Northern Virginia and eventually attacked it near Sharpsburg, Maryland.

Generals at the Battle of Antietam: Major General George B. McClellan commanded the Federal Army. Lee commanded the Confederate Army. Numbers involved in the Battle of Antietam: The Federal Army comprised 87,000 troops with guns. The Confederate Army comprised 41,000 troops with guns. Arms and equipment at the Battle of Antietam: Both sides suffered from significant difficulties in conducting land warfare in the 19th century. Small arms, with the Minie style of rifled musket, had become significantly more lethal than with the old short ranged, grossly inaccurate, smooth bore muskets that had been the standard infantry weapon for nearly 2 centuries. Rifled guns firing shell projectiles increased the range and effectiveness of artillery. More sophisticated systems of transport and organisation of supply, made possible by railroads and advances in industrial production, allowed for much larger armies. Tactics had advanced little from the era of the Napoleonic Wars of the beginning of the 19th Century in Europe. Probably only the Prussian army with its long standing General Staff had conducted sufficient study of the impact of changes in warfare to enable it to train its staff officers and generals to control the substantially greater and more sophisticated armies of the period. The French and British had first shown their failure to grasp the problems of warfare in the second half of the 19th Century during the Crimean War. In each of these wars reliance was placed on successful colonial commanders with reputations made in small scale native wars who had little idea how to handle the large armies involved in a major war. The Federal regiments wore dark blue. The Confederates in theory wore a light grey uniform. In practice the Confederate government was unable to maintain a proper supply of uniform clothing for its troops who wore whatever they could get their hands on. In many instances the readiest supply of uniforms lay in captured Federal supplies, leading to confusion on several battlefields, when Confederate troops were mistaken for Federals. Lacking a manufacturing base and cut off from European import by the Federal blockade, the Confederate government was forced to equip its soldiers with stocks of weapons seized from Federal armouries located in southern states. These were largely the old smooth bore muskets of short range and notoriously inaccurate. Many Confederate troops, without even these weapons, were forced to use whatever firearms they were able to bring on enlistment. As with small arms, the Northern access to European markets and its own manufacturing base gave the Federal army an immense advantage in the production of cannon. Broadly the Federal artillery was equipped with rifled guns firing shells, while the Confederate artillery was equipped with the old style smooth bore cannon, of lesser range and accuracy, firing ball, grape shot and case shot. The Confederate army was a small homogenous force of highly experienced soldiers commanded by senior officers who fought as a team, providing support to each other without necessarily waiting for orders to do so. The Confederate artillery had been recently re-organised by Colonel Pendleton and was effective. The Federal army was much larger but comprised a high proportion of newly enlisted and wholly inexperienced regiments. In every area the Federal troops benefited from a generous supply of equipment. The Confederate troops that invaded Maryland were near to destitute. Uniforms were threadbare and in many instances replaced with captured Union clothing. Orders of battle at the Battle of Antietam: Brigadier General James B. Major General George G. Sumner Major General Israel B. Brigadier General William H. Major General George W. Brigadier General Andrew A. Major General Henry W. Major General Darius N. Brigadier General Orlando B. Brigadier General Samuel D. Kanawha Division of Brigadier Jacob C. Brigadier General Alpheus S. Brigadier General George C. Major General Richard H. Jackson Major General D. Brigadier General John R. Brigadier General Alexander R. Reserve artillery commanded by Brigadier General William N. Stuart Background to the Battle of Antietam: Following his campaign in the Peninsular and his unsuccessful advance on the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia, in the early summer of 1862, General McClellan withdrew his Federal army by sea and up the Potomac River to the area of

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Washington DC to combine it with the Federal Army of Northern Virginia commanded by General Pope. General Lee then embarked on an invasion of Western Maryland. Several reasons are given for the invasion. Maryland was known to harbour many Confederate sympathisers and it was hoped that the arrival of the Confederate army would bring in significant numbers of recruits. The Confederacy needed to achieve international recognition for its independent status. It was hoped that a victory on Federal soil would cause Britain and France to concede that recognition. It was hoped to bring pressure to bear on the Northern Electorate in the upcoming elections by carrying the war to the North, thereby encouraging the large northern peace movement. Few additional Marylanders joined the Confederate army. General Lee was at Sharpsburg with only 12,000 men. McClellan failed to act with expedition to take advantage of this information continuing his slow advance. Withdrawing from Hagerstown the Confederates were able to delay the Federal advance at the battles of Crampton Gap and South Mountain on 14th September. The Confederates occupied the rising ground North West of the town and additional rising ground to the East. The Antietam Creek varied between around 50 to 100 feet in width and was fordable in several places although the banks were high making it difficult for bodies of troops to access the fords. Roads crossed the creek by bridge in 4 places in the proximity of Sharpsburg: While the Upper and Middle Bridges were a mile or so from the Confederate positions, 2 Confederate brigades occupied hills immediately overlooking the Lower Bridge. The Antietam Bridge played no part in the battle other than as the point of crossing for A. It must have been apparent that General Lee hoped to inflict significant casualties on the Federal army by giving battle from a defensive position. The consequence of the lack of co-ordination of the Federal attacks was that General Lee was enabled to reinforce the section of his line that was under attack with troops from the other sections. The broad timings of the attacks were: I Corps camps overnight around the North Wood. First Federal assault on the bridge driven back. Confederate positions are further reinforced. Fighting around Bloody Lane comes to a halt. Burnside abandons his attack and falls back to the Lower Bridge to await reinforcement by McClellan. McClellan declines to reinforce him. The course of the Battle of Antietam: General Hooker with his I Corps of the attacking Federal army had the least difficulty crossing the Antietam, using the Upper Bridge, which was well away from the Confederate positions and not under artillery fire. His troops soon encountered a large field on the east side of the road, containing a standing crop of corn. His three divisions took the field against strong Confederate resistance, both infantry and artillery, but were driven back. Federal guns supported their infantry from positions further up the Hagerstown Pike and on the east bank of the Antietam Creek. Here a network of rural lanes, sunken by years of farm traffic and lined by wooden railings, provided the Confederate troops with the anchors for their line. As in many battles in the War such positions enabled defending infantry to inflict significant casualties on troops advancing across country to attack them. The fighting was fierce but the lack of pressure on the Confederate right enabled Lee to commit sufficient reinforcements to drive back the Federal attack. The Confederate brigade of Brigadier General Robert Toombs occupied the hilly ground overlooking the bridge. Burnside has been severely criticised for failing to press his attack with sufficient vigour and for failing to find alternative crossing points to the bridge. The attack on the bridge was made more difficult by the lay of the approach road along the east bank of the creek, directly under the fire of the Confederates positioned on the hill on the far bank. General McClellan directed Burnside to begin his attack at some time between 9am and 10am. At around midday Burnside launched his second attempt to cross the Rohrbach Bridge. Aware that the attacks on the Confederate left and centre were foundering and that the Federal troops were in considerable danger in those parts of the battle field, McClellan was sending increasingly frenzied demands to Burnside to cross the bridge and attack towards Sharpsburg. These highly experienced and effective Confederate infantry at around 3. As in the other parts of the battlefield stalemate had been imposed. McClellan still had significant numbers of uncommitted troops. The Confederate Army had largely been fought to a standstill. Lee had virtually no reserves left. His casualties had been substantial and several key brigades had virtually ceased to exist as fighting entities. McClellan chose not to renew the attack and the battle ended. Out of 41,000 troops engaged the Confederates lost 9,000 killed and wounded. Generals Branch and Starke were killed.

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3: Battle of Antietam, Maryland – “Bloodiest 1-Day Battle in American History” – Legends of America

Listen here On this day in Confederate General Robert E Lee began his first invasion of the North, initiating the Maryland Campaign that would culminate in the Battle of Antietam (or Sharpsburg as it was called in the South).

Corps General Robert E. Hill the Light Division , Brig. Jones , and Maj. The remaining units were the Cavalry Corps, under Maj. Stuart , and the reserve artillery, commanded by Brig. The Second Corps was organized with artillery attached to each division, in contrast to the First Corps, which reserved its artillery at the corps level. One of the more unusual aspects of the Maryland Campaign was the severely understrength condition of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee had commanded nearly 90, men in when he assumed command of the army in June , but the Seven Days Battles cost him 20, casualties and the Northern Virginia Campaign another 12, or so. Along with the marching into Maryland, the manpower of the army dropped even more due to straggling, lack of food, and a significant number of soldiers in Virginia regiments deserting on the grounds that they had signed up to defend their state and not invade the North. Significant numbers of Confederate soldiers had no shoes and were unable to handle the macadamized roads of Maryland. Lee may have had under 40, men on the field at Antietam, the smallest and most ragged his army would be until the final days of the Petersburg Siege. Many brigades were the size of regiments, their regiments company-sized. Despite the ragged condition of the army, morale was high and almost all of the Confederate were veterans, which put them at an advantage over the numerous green Union regiments. The divisions of McLaws and D. Hill had been left in the Richmond area during the Northern Virginia Campaign; they quickly rejoined the army for the march into Maryland. Lee was also reinforced by Brig. The exact size of the Army of Northern Virginia at Antietam has been a source of debate since the 19th century; Lost Causers during the postwar years presented a picture of Lee being severely understrength and possibly having as few as 30, men on the field. Union generals and veterans of the war generally believed that the Army of Northern Virginia was not that small on September 17, and estimated Confederate strength as high as 50, men. Other Confederate divisions such as D. The lack of food was a serious problem for the Army of Northern Virginia, as most crops were a month away from harvesting in September and many soldiers were forced to subsist on field corn and green apples, which gave them indigestion and diarrhea. On the same day, Lee began shifting his army north and west from Chantilly towards Leesburg, Virginia. The main body of the army advanced into Frederick, Maryland , on September 7. The 55,man army had been reinforced by troops who had been defending Richmond–the divisions of Maj. Hill and Lafayette McLaws and two brigades under Brig. Walker –but they merely made up for the 9, men lost at Bull Run and Chantilly. Davis wrote to explain to the public and, indirectly, the European Powers why the South seemed to be changing its strategy. Until this point, the Confederacy had claimed it was the victim of aggression and was merely defending itself against "foreign invasion. He wrote there was "no design of conquest," and that the invasions were only an aggressive effort to force the Lincoln government to let the South go in peace. They stressed that they had come as liberators, not conquerors, to these border states , but they did not address the larger issue of the Confederate strategy shift as Davis had desired. After receiving intelligence of militia activity in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania , Lee sent Maj. James Longstreet to Boonsboro and then to Hagerstown. The intelligence overstated the threat since only 20 militiamen were in Chambersburg at the time. This left only the thinly spread cavalry of Maj. Stuart and the division of Maj. One possibility is that he knew it commanded his supply lines through the Shenandoah Valley. Before he entered Maryland he had assumed that the Federal garrisons at Winchester , Martinsburg , and Harpers Ferry would be cut off and abandoned without firing a shot and, in fact, both Winchester and Martinsburg were evacuated. Although he started from Chantilly with 55, men, within 10 days this number had diminished to 45, Countless others became ill with diarrhea after eating unripe "green corn" from the Maryland fields or fell out because their shoeless feet were bloodied on hard-surfaced Northern roads. Although Maryland was a slaveholding state, Confederate sympathies were considerably less pronounced among the lower and middle classes, which generally supported the Union cause, than among the pro-secession legislature, the majority of the members of which hailed from Southern Maryland, an area

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almost entirely economically dependent on slave labor. Furthermore, many of the fiercely pro-Southern Marylanders had already traveled south at the beginning of the war to join the Confederate Army in Virginia. Pennsylvania Governor Andrew Curtin called for 50, militia to turn out, and he nominated Maj. Reynolds , a native Pennsylvanian, to command them. Halleck ordered Reynolds to serve under Curtin and told Hooker to find a new division commander. As far north as Wilkes-Barre , church and courthouse bells rang out, calling men to drill. Baltimore, which Lee incorrectly regarded as a hotbed of secession merely waiting for the appearance of Confederate armies to revolt, took up the war call against him immediately. Crowds milled in the street outside newspaper offices waiting for the latest bulletins, and the sale of liquor was halted to restrain the excitable. The public stocked up on food and other essentials, fearing a siege. The whole population [of Frederick] seemed to turn out to welcome us. John Gibbon [30] McClellan moved out of Washington starting on September 7 with his 87,man army in a lethargic pursuit. He also was maintaining running arguments with the government in Washington, demanding that the forces defending the capital city report to him. McClellan and the Union Army of the Potomac , outnumbering him more than two to one, Lee chose the risky strategy of dividing his army to seize the prize of Harpers Ferry. While the corps of Maj. James Longstreet drove north in the direction of Hagerstown , Lee sent columns of troops to converge and attack Harpers Ferry from three directions. The largest column, 11, men under Jackson, was to recross the Potomac and circle around to the west of Harpers Ferry and attack it from Bolivar Heights, while the other two columns, under Maj. Lafayette McLaws 8, men and Brig. Walker 3, , were to capture Maryland Heights and Loudoun Heights, commanding the town from the east and south. The order indicated that Lee had divided his army and dispersed portions geographically, thus making each subject to isolation and defeat in detail. Upon realizing the intelligence value of this discovery, McClellan threw up his arms and exclaimed, "Now I know what to do! I think Lee has made a gross mistake, and that he will be severely punished for it. I have all the plans of the rebels, and will catch them in their own trap if my men are equal to the emergency. Will send you trophies. South Mountain is the name given to the continuation of the Blue Ridge Mountains after they enter Maryland. It is a natural obstacle that separates the Shenandoah Valley and Cumberland Valley from the eastern part of Maryland. He chose not to abandon his invasion and return to Virginia yet, because Jackson had not completed the capture of Harpers Ferry. Instead, he chose to make a stand at Sharpsburg, Maryland. In the meantime, elements of the Army of Northern Virginia waited in defense of the passes of South Mountain. Miles , Union commander of the garrison, insisted on keeping most of the troops near the town instead of taking up commanding positions on the surrounding heights. The South Carolinians under Brig. Kershaw encountered the slim defenses of the most important position, Maryland Heights, but only brief skirmishing ensued. Strong attacks by the brigades of Kershaw and William Barksdale on September 13 drove the mostly inexperienced Union troops from the heights. Jackson methodically positioned his artillery around Harpers Ferry and ordered Maj. Hill to move down the west bank of the Shenandoah River in preparation for a flank attack on the Federal left the next morning. By the morning of September 15, Jackson had positioned nearly 50 guns on Maryland Heights and at the base of Loudoun Heights. He began a fierce artillery barrage from all sides and ordered an infantry assault. Miles realized that the situation was hopeless and agreed with his subordinates to raise the white flag of surrender. Before he could surrender personally, he was mortally wounded by an artillery shell and died the next day. Jackson took possession of Harpers Ferry and more than 12, Union prisoners, then led most of his men to join Lee at Sharpsburg, leaving Maj. To the south, Maj. Lee realized the futility of his position against the numerically superior Union forces, and he ordered his troops to Sharpsburg.

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4: Robert E. Lee's Letter to the Citizens of Maryland

Lee's simultaneous invasion of Maryland, Over about the same period of time when Gen. Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee was invading Kentucky, Gen. Robert E. Lee embarked on is own campaign into Maryland.

Hill brigades of Brig. Ripley , Robert E. Rodes , Samuel Garland, Jr. Anderson , and Col. The remaining units were the Cavalry Division , under Maj. Stuart , and the reserve artillery, commanded by Brig. The Second Corps was organized with artillery attached to each division, in contrast to the First Corps, which reserved its artillery at the corps level. Prelude to battle Battlefield of Antietam, situation September 15 to 16, Overview of the Battle of Antietam Near the town of Sharpsburg, Lee deployed his available forces behind Antietam Creek along a low ridge, starting on September While it was an effective defensive position, it was not an impregnable one. The terrain provided excellent cover for infantrymen, with rail and stone fences, outcroppings of limestone , and little hollows and swales. The creek to their front was only a minor barrier, ranging from 60 to feet 18â€™”30 m in width, and was fordable in places and crossed by three stone bridges each a mile 1. The disposition of Union forces during the battle made it impractical to consider retreating in that direction. As the battle progressed and Lee shifted units, these corps boundaries overlapped considerably. He arrived at this decision because of the configuration of bridges over the Antietam. The lower bridge which would soon be named Burnside Bridge was dominated by Confederate positions on the bluffs overlooking it. The middle bridge, on the road from Boonsboro , was subject to artillery fire from the heights near Sharpsburg. McClellan planned to commit more than half his army to the assault, starting with two corps, supported by a third, and if necessary a fourth. He intended to launch a simultaneous diversionary attack against the Confederate right with a fifth corps, and he was prepared to strike the center with his reserves if either attack succeeded. He shifted men to his left flank and sent urgent messages to his two commanders who had not yet arrived on the battlefield: Lafayette McLaws with two divisions and A. Hill with one division. He issued to each of his subordinate commanders only the orders for his own corps, not general orders describing the entire battle plan. Therefore, the battle progressed the next day as essentially three separate, mostly uncoordinated battles: Northern end of the battlefield Assaults by the I Corps, 5: Cornfield The battle opened at dawn about 5: Four brigades were held in reserve inside the West Woods. Confederate fire was from the horse artillery batteries under Jeb Stuart to the west and four batteries under Col. Lee on the high ground across the pike from the Dunker Church to the south. The conflagration caused heavy casualties on both sides and was described by Col. Lee as "artillery Hell. A savage battle began, with considerable melee action with rifle butts and bayonets due to short visibility in the corn. Officers rode about cursing and yelling orders no one could hear in the noise. Rifles became hot and fouled from too much firing; the air was filled with a hail of bullets and shells. Photograph by Alexander Gardner. Christianâ€™”had difficulties reaching the scene. Hartsuff was wounded by a shell, and Christian dismounted and fled to the rear in terror. When the men were rallied and advanced into the Cornfield, they met the same artillery and infantry fire as their predecessors. Rifles are shot to pieces in the hands of the soldiers, canteens and haversacks are riddled with bullets, the dead and wounded go down in scores. Cook of the 12th Massachusetts Infantry, on the attack by the Louisiana Tigers at the Cornfield [33] While the Cornfield remained a bloody stalemate, Federal advances a few hundred yards to the west were more successful. The Confederate brigade withdrew after being exposed to fierce return fire from the Iron Brigade, and Starke was mortally wounded. Confederate reinforcements arrived just after 7 a. The divisions under McLaws and Richard H. Anderson arrived following a night march from Harpers Ferry. The Texans attacked with particular ferocity because as they were called from their reserve position they were forced to interrupt the first hot breakfast they had had in days. They were aided by three brigades of D. Artillery, and Gibbon himself saw to it that his previous unit did not lose a single caisson. When asked by a fellow officer where his division was, Hood replied, "Dead on the field. After two hours and 2, casualties, they were back where they started. It was estimated that the Cornfield changed hands no fewer than 15 times in the course of the morning. Concerned that his men would bolt under fire, he marched them in a formation that was known as "column of companies, closed in mass," a bunched-up formation in which a regiment was arrayed

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ten ranks deep instead of the normal two. As his men entered the East Woods, they presented an excellent artillery target, "almost as good a target as a barn. This breach of the line forced Hood and his men, outnumbered, to regroup in the West Woods, where they had started the day. Federal forces held most of the ground to the east of the turnpike. Ricketts, had also been wounded. But with Hooker removed from the field, there was no general left with the authority to rally the men of the I and XII Corps. The Dunker Church after September 17, Here, both Union and Confederate dead lie together on the field. But the plan went awry. They became separated from William H. Walker, newly arrived from the Confederate right. The morning phase ended with casualties on both sides of almost 13,, including two Union corps commanders. Center of the Confederate line Sunken Road: Sunken Road By midday, the action had shifted to the center of the Confederate line. Eager for an opportunity to see combat, French found skirmishers in his path and ordered his men forward. Hill commanded about 2, men, less than half the number under French, and three of his five brigades had been torn up during the morning combat. The first brigade to attack, mostly inexperienced troops commanded by Brig. Max Weber, was quickly cut down by heavy rifle fire; neither side deployed artillery at this point. The second attack, more raw recruits under Col. Dwight Morris, was also subjected to heavy fire but managed to beat back a counterattack by the Alabama Brigade of Robert Rodes. The third, under Brig. Nathan Kimball, included three veteran regiments, but they also fell to fire from the sunken road. Lee sent his final reserve divisionâ€”some 3, men under Maj. But at the same time, the 4, men of Maj. Leading off the fourth attack of the day against the sunken road was the Irish Brigade of Brig. As they advanced with emerald green flags snapping in the breeze, a regimental chaplain, Father William Corby , rode back and forth across the front of the formation shouting words of conditional absolution prescribed by the Roman Catholic Church for those who were about to die. Corby would later perform a similar service at Gettysburg in The mostly Irish immigrants lost men to heavy volleys before they were ordered to withdraw. Richardson personally dispatched the brigade of Brig. Caldwell into battle around noon after being told that Caldwell was in the rear, behind a haystack , and finally the tide turned. Anderson was wounded early in the fighting. Other key leaders were lost as well, including George B. Tew of the 2nd North Carolina, was killed minutes after assuming command [53] and Col. Gordon of the 6th Alabama. Gordon received 5 serious wounds in the fight, twice in his right leg, twice in the left arm, and once in the face. He lay unconscious, face down in his cap, and later told colleagues that he should have smothered in his own blood, except for the act of an unidentified Yankee, who had earlier shot a hole in his cap, which allowed the blood to drain. These losses contributed directly to the confusion of the following events. We were shooting them like sheep in a pen. If a bullet missed the mark at first it was liable to strike the further bank, angle back, and take them secondarily. Barlow and men of the 61st and 64th New York saw a weak point in the line and seized a knoll commanding the sunken road. This allowed them to get enfilade fire into the Confederate line, turning it into a deadly trap. In attempting to wheel around to meet this threat, a command from Rodes was misunderstood by Lt. Lightfoot, who had succeeded the unconscious John Gordon. Lightfoot ordered his men to about-face and march away, an order that all five regiments of the brigade thought applied to them as well. Confederate troops streamed toward Sharpsburg, their line lost. Longstreet drove them back. A counterattack with men led by D. Hill got around the Federal left flank near the sunken road, and although they were driven back by a fierce charge of the 5th New Hampshire, this stemmed the collapse of the center. Reluctantly, Richardson ordered his division to fall back to north of the ridge facing the sunken road. His division lost about 1, men.

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5: Battle of Antietam

This is not to say that Lee envisioned an invasion of Maryland when he unleashed his attack against McClellan on June 26, However, as opportunities presented themselves over the next few weeks, Lee took advantage of them.

ONCE more we hail thee, Chief! Thou art Our chosen Leader. Press on, young Chieftain, foremost in the van! The Hour of need has come—be thou the Man! AT the hour we write it is uncertain whether the rebel army in Maryland is being absolutely extinguished, or whether it is recuperating from the defeat it suffered at the hands of General McClellan on 14th. Before these lines reach the reader he will probably know the facts. Lee may possibly maintain himself in some strong position until reinforcements reach him from Richmond, and may thus be enabled to renew the contest. But the chances are that he will suffer so much, and be so hardly pressed, that, by the time Beauregard reaches him with the 40,000 men who are said to have marched from Gordonsville, his army will be a wreck, and escape, not victory, will be his exclusive object. Well-informed observers never could be made to believe that Lee would cross the Potomac. General McClellan is said to have replied, when he was told the rebels had crossed: It was evident, as we took occasion to show in our last number, that to cross the river and not to take Washington or Baltimore would be fatal to the rebel army. Nothing but the immediate capture of one or both of these cities could redeem the step, or save the army from its inevitable consequences. McClellan knew perfectly well that Lee could not take either Washington or Baltimore, and therefore argued that he would not cross the river. People are asking what was the object of the rebels in invading Maryland, if the invasion was so sure to be fatal to them? In the first place, it is not likely that the rebel leaders were aware of the strength of Washington, or of the defenses of Baltimore. They may, perhaps, have believed that they could make a sudden dash upon the railroad and seize one or other of these cities. If our armies had been handled awkwardly, if they had delayed to follow the rebels across the river, if McClellan had marched on Leesburg, as some of his generals are said to have advised, this hope might have been realized. It was only when Jackson discovered the enormous army of McClellan moving westwardly toward the Monocacy. Again, some of the rebel leaders are said to have been so foolish and so ignorant as to rely upon what they called "a popular rising" in Maryland. We at the North, who have had pretty frequent occasion of late to take the measure of Maryland, knew all along how much this resource amounted to. We had thought of the "popular rising" long before it occurred to the rebels, and had applied the antidote. Baltimore might have "risen" if her people had chosen; but it would only have been to fall prostrate in ashes in very short order. Annapolis might have "risen;" but twenty-four hours would have settled her account with history. Whatever the opinions of the Marylanders may be—and we hope they are sound and loyal—they had no more chance of "rising" than the convicts in a well-ordered penitentiary. We can not help thinking that the true secret of the rebel invasion of Maryland, and of the similar demonstration against Ohio, is simply the utter desperation of the rebel leaders. Can any one wonder at their being desperate? What could they do except to attempt some wild, desperate scheme, such as the invasion of Maryland and Ohio, and trust to luck, accident, or the blunders of our generals for success? To remain where they were, and wait to be attacked by a million of men, was simply ruin without a chance of escape. To invade us was also probably ruin; but there was a remote possibility that in some extraordinary freak fortune might come to their aid and enable them to seize Washington or Cincinnati. To this vague hope they probably clung, and hence their late movements. Let us beware of our past errors. Let us not pronounce our generals imbecile, or traitors, or cowards, because they are not uniformly successful. See what McClellan has done now! Let us not cry aloud to Heaven to restore the chaos when we meet with a trifling check. We shall meet with many checks yet before the war ends: THIS law will or should be in full operation by the time these lines are read. It would have been in force before but that it absolutely required some time to organize the machinery required for its execution. It is possible that that machinery may not be perfected before 1st October. Direct taxation is so new a thing in this country that the whole system of tax-districts, tax-gatherers, and taxable products had to be blocked out of raw material; to set these in order so as to carry out the intentions of Congress naturally required some time. The law as it now stands bristles with errors, as might have been expected. To swell their receipts to this sum they will be

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compelled to protract appeals before them to an unreasonable length, and to resort to other "dodges" which are familiar to officials in the service of the United States, but the practice of which should rather be discouraged than stimulated. Two thousand dollars are a large sum, no doubt, but there are men in every city who spend more. A prominent politician, who is conversant with the "practice of politics," estimates the revenue of the assessors in this city and in the manufacturing towns at three to four times the amount contemplated by Congress. Commissioner Boutwell has instructed the collectors that they have an ungracious office to fill, and that its proper discharge will require the exercise of urbanity, discretion, and forbearance. They are especially warned against bullying and oppression. The tax collector is unpopular in every community, and perhaps more so here than in Europe, from the reason that our people are less accustomed to be taxed than foreigners. Collectors have been directed to discharge their duty as leniently as is consistent with the interest of Government, and in every case in which the payment of the tax is resisted, to refer the matter to the legal authorities. Distraints such as accompany the collection of taxes in Great Britain will here be as rare as possible. At the same time there is no doubt but the two great taxes—the income tax of 3 per cent. There are a number of other taxes—direct tax, special taxes upon articles of comfort and luxury, etc. It is plain to see that the tax law will sooner or later effect a social revolution in this country. Hitherto we have paid no taxes, and have lived more extravagantly than any other people on the face of the earth. We spend twice as much for rent, food, servants, and clothing, as people do in the dearest country in Europe. It has cost, hitherto, nearly twice as much to live in New York as in London, and nearly three times as much as in Paris, or Berlin: These prices are of course utterly fictitious, but as everyone agrees to them, they are the established rule. The tax law will have some effect upon these prices. In this light the tax law will do us a great deal of good. We in this country—at least the new generation—have grown up in utter ignorance of and with some contempt for economy. Every body expects to make a great fortune in a short time, and no one thinks of saving money. Our fathers lived on fewer hundreds than their sons require thousands, and when they made more than they needed, saved the balance. The unexampled prosperity which this country has derived from the settlement of the fertile prairies of the West, from the discovery of gold in California, and from the development of industry in the older States, have blinded most of our people to the first principle of political economy—namely, that wealth is far oftener the product of economy than of enterprise. The tax law occurs opportunely to correct this defect. Under the law, the Government will just take from prosperous men the sum they have been accustomed to squander, or to expend in unnecessary comforts or luxuries; and the result will necessarily be that lavish and needless expenditures will be curtailed. THE sooner the Government of the United States understands the popular feeling the better for the safety of the country. Men are beginning to say what they have long thought, "Here we are giving men and means to save the nation, willingly sacrificing all that we have and are, and the Government stands shilly-shally, doubting, wondering; hoping that something will turn up; devoutly praying to good Lord and good Devil in the same breath. They earnestly wish the success of the Government they have, and they are willing to do all that men can do to save it. But the moment they see, as they now begin to fear, that the loudest and most indiscriminating supporters of the present policy of the Administration are those who are at heart notoriously disloyal, that moment they will consider very gravely. For they know that the present policy is extolled by those men because they think its dilatoriness and slackness favor their own hopes. In a word, the enemies of the country praise hesitation and half-measures in the war because they think that such a course will tire out the North, and make it willing to accept any terms of peace with the rebellion. If the Government would save the cause, it must therefore make it plain that it is doing all that can be done to secure the victory; that it is superseding officers who have been tried and are found wanting; that it is dismissing corrupt agents every where; that it is insisting upon rabid movements and hard fighting; that it is cutting away every root and tendril of the rebellion which it can find; that, in fine, it is so active, so thorough, so earnest, so confident of the popular desire to crush the conspiracy at every cost, that no loyal man could for a moment suppose it possible to find a more vigorous Administration. It has stood on one leg long enough. Let it now put two feet to the ground and run on to victory. We sleep on the ground without any other covering than a blanket, and consider ourselves fortunate if we are not frozen stiff before morning. The nights are both damp and cold. An inquiry being instituted, they confessed that, eight months ago, they were soldiers in our

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army, but that, being tired of service, they had deserted, and joined the ranks of the enemy. Without farther ado the General ordered them to be hung to a tree, which was done in the presence of a large portion of his army. The prisoner was mounted on a horse, his hands tied behind him, and he was driven beneath a tree. The rope, which was a little larger than an ordinary bed-cord, then being adjusted, he was ordered to stand upon the saddle. As he did so a soldier gave a sharp cut to the animal, and in a second more the spy was jerking convulsively from the limb above him. The men who do and endure these things are men who mean that the war they wage shall hurt the enemy; and so long as that enemy is unwilling to hurt them in every way it can, so long these men will triumph. Yet there are newspapers and demagogues at the North who, under the silly cry that this is not an abolition war, insist that these rebels shall be allowed the free use of their slaves to do their work and supply their armies. Why do they insist upon it? Because they are afraid that if the people of the country demand that the rebellion shall be at once suppressed by weakening the rebels in every way, it will be suppressed, and without compromising the honor of the nation. But if it is suppressed without that compromise, the political hopes of those newspapers and demagogues are ruined forever. They love their old party cries more than their country. They are willing that the political liberty of every laboring white man in the North should be destroyed rather than that the black men of the South should have a chance of personal freedom. IF when a country is at war its producing classes can stay steadily at home and raise the necessary supplies for the army, that army will always be strong and effective. If the other party to the war is really in earnest and means to conquer at every hazard, what will it do? Of course it will cut off those supplies if it can. If it can destroy a supply train, or capture a supply ship, will it hesitate to do it? Nay, if it does hesitate, will it not show that it is either utterly incapable, or that it does not wish to beat? But if it will try to cut off the supply trains and ships, if it will destroy the stores of an enemy which it can not use for itself, why should it not stop the production of supplies? And if it can not stop it altogether, why not do what it can? Does a General decline to destroy one baggage or supply train because he is not sure that he can destroy all that the enemy have? Does he hesitate to shoot or capture one soldier of the enemy because he may not be able to kill or capture the whole army? Now the slaves are the producing class among the rebels. The rebels openly and defiantly boast that they are sure of bringing as many men upon any point as we can, because the old men and women can look after the slaves who raise the supplies, so that all their able-bodied men can go into the field; while they say that hundreds of thousands of our able-bodied must stay at home to raise our supplies. But their producing class naturally like us and hate their masters. If therefore we say to them, "You know that we are your friends, help us!

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6: Maryland Campaign - Wikipedia

Civil War Harper's Weekly, September 27, Welcome to the online editions of all the Harper's Weekly newspapers published during the Civil War.

Additional Information In lieu of an abstract, here is a brief excerpt of the content: Duncan The secession crisis and its subsequent eruption into civil war had far-reaching ramifications for the state of Maryland and its citizens. Those sympathetic with the South believed that the state was being held in the Union by force. Northerners, remembering the rioting in Baltimore on April 19, 1861, against the Sixth Massachusetts regiment and noting other displays of pro-southern sentiment, regarded Maryland with suspicion. However, the crucial test of her loyalty came in the fading summer of 1862 when southern forces invaded and occupied much of the western portion of the state. An invasion of Maryland posed definite advantages for the South. An army threatening Washington, Baltimore, or Philadelphia would relieve pressure on Richmond and also would allow farmers in Virginia to gather their crops without interference. Another important consideration was the liberation of Maryland from Union control. As many southerners believed that Federal forces were denying Marylanders the right to freely choose their destiny, it followed that the presence of a Confederate army in the state would allow its citizens that opportunity to express themselves and, very likely, declare for the Confederacy. War Dept, *The War of the Rebellion: Hereafter cited as OR with all references to Ser. I*; Clifford Dowdey ed. Lee Boston, 1963, pp. Witii shouting, cheering, and a brass band playing "Maryland, My Maryland," the southerners assumed the spirit of a liberating army as they marched into the state. Despite their enthusiasm, however, their reception was not what they had anticipated. The expected upsurge of sentiment in favor of the Confederacy failed to materialize. Unionists received them coolly, and many who sympathized with the southern cause held aloof from identifying themselves with the Confederates. Perhaps the ragged, dirty, and odorous condition of the army helped to destroy some of their romantic illusions and caused them to temper their welcome. As the news of the crossing spread rapidly throughout the western part of the state, citizens in Frederick became excited and alarmed. The local provost marshal, Captain W. Faithful, attempted to maintain order, and one individual was arrested for spreading sensational reports. Captain Faithful, fearing that the government stores in the city would fall into Confederate hands, wired Colonel D. The Colonel ordered the destruction of all stores and the removal of government horses to Pennsylvania. Through his quick action, most of the supplies were saved; the remainder, which were not of much value, were burned. You are not currently authenticated. View freely available titles:

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7: Battle of Antietam - Wikipedia

On September 4, the Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Potomac River in an invasion of Union territory. The ragged Confederates, many of whom were barefoot, spilled into western Maryland, concentrating 3 days later at Frederick on the 9th.

The party of those whose homes are wasted, whose hearts bleed and break under the loss of their brave heroes? Would it be the party of those whose kindred lie in the unhallowed and treason-tainted soil of Virginia? Would it be the party of the true-hearted and generous who, rather than see the glory of their country dimmed by a compromise of hopeless injustice, or by a disintegration breeding endless wars hereafter, would see the loyal citizens of the land struck down at their own doors? A party which at this moment makes terms in its loyalty is one whose aims are perfectly evident. It wishes to show both the rebel and the loyal part of the country that loyal men are divided. Its flag is a white flag. Its cry, if it dared to utter it, is "Peace any how," It stands and beckons to Jeff Davis to push on. It wishes to dishearten. It says "Union," and means what he meant who said "My brother, how is it with thee? It grovels in dishonor, and calls it fraternity. It slays the country, and with it all future hope of free institutions and of popular civil Liberty, and calls it peace. It surrenders the essential principle of the Government and submits to anarchy, then calls it compromise. It is the party of the rebellion working in our own camp. Let us hope that there is none such. But should it appear, let every faithful man help to crush it. The amusing absurdity that any loyal man is making upon the President "outrageous demands to violate his oath and trample on the Constitution" is simply political gag of the most melodramatic kind. The intention of repeating it from day to day is to help the success of the rebellion by dividing the North. The object of this war is the restoration of the Union. It is not waged to hurt a single hair upon the head of any man, loyal or disloyal: It is not waged to do any body or thing the least injury in the world: Its object is simply and only to maintain the Government, without which no man has the smallest guarantee for any right whatever. But if in maintaining it, a hundred thousand men are shot upon the field, if property of every kind is seized and appropriated, if acres and districts are utterly desolated, if cities are laid in ashes, and slaves are liberated that they may not strengthen the enemy, all will be done, and done constitutionally, and done rightly, for all this is infinitely better than that the Government should be overthrown. Yet the Constitution guarantees to every man security of life and property by the most solemn pledges. They can be taken from him only by due course of law—except when he is resisting the law. But to enforce his obedience to the law every thing which strengthens his resistance may be taken from him, and at last even his life itself. No man has any right more sacred than that to his life. The Constitution authorizes the Government, in the name of all the people, to kill any man who resists the laws after he has been properly summoned to yield. In precisely the same way, when a formidable combination resists the laws, and not only resists, but makes war upon the country, it is to be suppressed by every means known to warfare. And those means are employed, not for the purpose of hurting the men or of meddling with their local institutions, but to maintain the law. When citizens arm themselves against the Government, which represents the sovereignty of the people, they put all their lives, all their institutions—every thing which they have and are, and which may aid their resistance—in mortal peril. They do it, and not the Government; just as a man who forcibly stops you by night upon the road exposes his life. If you kill him, it is he who has done it. Neither the liberation of the slaves, nor the brave soldiers who fight, nor the stout sailors, nor the seizure of rebel property, nor the occupation of rebel land, nor the destruction of rebel homes and cities, nor all the means of warfare combined, may suffice to suppress the rebellion. No man is so foolish as to suppose that any single means will answer; no man is sure that all means together will succeed. But every man who wishes his country well, who believes that the hope of equal human rights falls with our fall, who feels that our defeat is the victory of Despotism and an Aristocracy, earnestly prays that, if that defeat must come, it may not be embittered by the thought that we did not do to save ourselves all that we might have done. The only question for a man who looks solely at the salvation of the Government is, Does slavery help the rebellion? If not, he will not urge emancipation. If it does, he will insist that to help save the Union the slaves shall be freed. Can the person, the paper, or the party

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that asks him, really be loyal to that Government? The army, it must be remembered, is made up of the brothers, sons, and friends of all of us. They are citizens of the United States. They are in arms to defend its Government. They know why they are there. To ask a general to lead them against the Government is to invite them to be traitors. The general who should try it would probably find in a very summary way that they were not so. Nor is there any general in the field who commands that idolatrous admiration which is essential to such an enterprise. The corps of the different commanders are generally warmly attached to them. But there is no single general who unites them over all others. This we all know, because every man has hundreds of friends in the army, and he knows that being citizens they differ and discuss exactly as we do at home. If, therefore, any general should be seduced into the fatal movement, he would find that he had an army to fight him as well as one to follow him. Meanwhile the enemy would conquer, but that is precisely what those who suggest the plan desire. There is another point. What opinion can those hold of a Union general who propose to him to become a traitor? What would the American people have thought of a man in the Revolution who should have urged Washington to turn his arms to coerce the Congress of the Confederation, dilatory and distracted as it was? If it had been an editor who dared to suggest it they would have kicked him out of his office, and Washington, if he did not shoot the fellow upon the spot, would have had him whipped out of camp. Such infamy was in their minds only, not in his. None of our armies has ever been attached to its general as that of the West was to Fremont. But his serene obedience to the constituted authorities of the Government was just what it ought to have been; and with a word he repressed even the slightest manifestation of displeasure upon the part of his men. Such men, who love their leaders because they believe in them, such leaders who trust and try the bravery of their men, are the soul and body of invincible armies. There have been hard things said of General McClellan, but there has been no insinuation so base as this, and this not from his enemies but his professed friends. The next day, having met the Colonel, he asked him why he placed the candle by his trap? Caesar, being asked by Brutus how many eggs he ate for breakfast, answered, "Et tu, Brute. Hard drinking, if you keep it up, will cover your wife with weeds. The consequence was, that a good many of the girls got Hood-winked. There are people who mistake impertinence for wit, and often get more than a Roland for their Oliver. One of these persons, seeing a man of learning enjoying the pleasures of the table, said, "So, Sir, I see philosophers can indulge in the greatest delicacies. It would be very imprudent of any railway company to allow a washer-woman to dry clothes upon their line. FOR details of the rebel invasion of Maryland we refer the reader to page Here we may briefly say that the rebels under Jackson, Lee, Longstreet, and other Generals, crossed the lower fords of the Upper Potomac near Leesburg on the 4th, 5th, and 6th September, and moved directly on Frederick, Maryland, which place they occupied in force. Our troops were wildly welcomed; but when General Burnside passed through on 13th, and when General McClellan arrived the same day, the enthusiasm of the citizens knew no bounds. They turned out en masse to greet them, and it was with difficulty that McClellan could reach his head-quarters through the surging crowd of excited people. General Burnside at once pushed on after the rebels with his whole force, occupying every road, and even crossing the fields to come up with them. The three stone bridges across the Monocacy were found uninjured, though the fine iron railroad bridge was destroyed. The rebels devoured almost all the provisions in Frederick before they left, and even robbed the hospital of all the medical stores, although they left four hundred and fifty of their own sick behind them. General Franklin has captured a rebel train of a hundred ammunition and subsistence wagons, and sent back one hundred and fifty prisoners to Frederick. On 14th, early in the morning, our advance, under Hooker and Reno , attacked the enemy, who was on the heights near Hagerstown. The battle lasted all day, and ended in a Union victory, the rebels being driven from the heights with great loss. Simultaneously General Franklin, on our leftâ€”i. On the morning of the 15th the enemy commenced a rein at toward the Potomac, in the direction of Williamsport , and General McClellan pushed on toward Hagerstown and Sharpsburg. Rumor states that it is probably going on now 17th. After a very severe engagement the corps of General Hooker and General Reno have carried the heights commanding the Hagerstown road by storm. The troops behaved magnificently. They never fought better. General Franklin has been hotly engaged on the extreme left. I do not yet know the result, except that the firing indicated progress on iris part. The action continued until after dark, and terminated leaving us in possession of the

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entire crest. It has been a glorious victory. I can not yet tell whether the enemy will retreat during the night or appear in increased force during the morning. I regret to add that the gallant and able General Reno was killed.

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8: Battle of Antietam breaks out - HISTORY

But Lee gave Lincoln no respite and the Confederate invasion of Maryland forced him to place an army in the field. Given the pace of events, Lincoln had no choice but to place McClellan in command. McClellan had the army's confidence.

As soldiers tried to wipe away the dampness, cannons began to roar and sheets of flame burst forth from hundreds of rifles, opening a twelve hour battle that swept across the rolling farm fields in western Maryland. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia. In Kentucky and Missouri , Southern armies were also advancing as the tide of war flowed north. After splashing across the Potomac River and arriving in Frederick, Virginia, Lee boldly divided his army to capture the Union garrison stationed at Harpers Ferry. The gateway to the Shenandoah Valley, Harpers Ferry, Maryland, was a vital location on the Confederate lines of supply and communication back to Virginia. McClellan to protect the capital and respond to the invasion. Lee decided to make a stand at Sharpsburg. Lee and his men watched the Union army gather on the east side of Antietam Creek. Thousands of soldiers in blue marched into position throughout September 15th and 16th as General McClellan prepared for his attempt to drive Lee from Maryland. For the next seven hours, there were three major Union attacks on the Confederate left, moving from north to south. After clashing for over eight hours, the Confederates were pushed back but not broken; however, over 15, soldiers were killed or wounded. Major General George B. His first task would be to capture the bridge that would later bear his name. A small Confederate force, positioned on higher ground, was able to delay Burnside for three hours. After taking the bridge at about 1: Finally, the advance started only to be turned back by Confederate General A. Neither flank of the Confederate army collapsed far enough for McClellan to advance his center attack, leaving a sizable Union force that never entered the battle. Despite over 23, casualties of the nearly , engaged, both armies stubbornly held their ground as the sun set on the devastated landscape. The next day, September 18, , the opposing armies gathered their wounded and buried their dead. That night General Robert E. Now, the Civil War had a dual purpose of preserving the Union and ending slavery. The Battle of Antietam was the bloodiest one day battle in American History. In the end, an estimated 23, casualties were suffered. Today, the Antietam National Battlefield Site is a part of the National Park System and provides a number of historic sites for visitors as well as a museum. The Antietam National Battlefield Site was established August 30, , to commemorate the significant events of September 17, , and to preserve the important features of the battlefield. Administered by the War Department until , the site was then transferred to the U. Department of the Interior to be administered by the National Park Service. The Battle of Antietam was fought over an area of 12 square miles. The site today consists of acres containing approximately 5 miles of paved avenues. Located along the battlefield avenues to mark battle positions of infantry, artillery, and cavalry are many monuments, markers, and narrative tablets. Key artillery positions on the field of Antietam are marked by cannon. And 10 large-scale field exhibits at important points on the field indicate troop positions and battle action. The National Cemetery, located at the eastern limits of Sharpsburg, is the burial place of Federal dead from the Battles of Antietam, South Mountain, and other minor engagements. Of the 4, Civil War burials, 1, are listed as unidentified.

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9: Robert E. Lee's Proclamation to the People of Maryland | IGN Boards

General Robert E. Lee launched his September invasion into Maryland with a variety of goals in mind, including all of the following except capturing Yorktown and possibly Baltimore. The Civil War is sometimes called the first modern war because it used weapons and other technological advances of the industrial revolution.

September 4, 1862, Area: After decisively defeating the Union Army of Virginia under Maj. Gen. Robert E. Lee proposed a bold operation to relieve war-ravaged Virginia, acquire thousands of Maryland recruits, earn European diplomatic recognition for the Confederacy, and perhaps force the Union to sue for peace. Lee followed his victory with an immediate attempt to invade the North. The ragged Confederates, many of whom were barefoot, spilled into western Maryland, concentrating 3 days later at Frederick on the 9th. Lee proposed with this bold movement to relieve war-ravaged Virginia during the fall harvest. While at Frederick, Lee formulated the details of his audacious campaign. In Special Order No. 191, Lee planned to move his army north into Pennsylvania. To open a supply line into the Shenandoah Valley, he sent Maj. Gen. Jackson to capture Harpersburg. After capturing this force, Jackson was to reunite with Lee. Lee believed he could combine his divided command before his troops could be overtaken by the pursuing reunited Army of the Potomac. McClellan had reorganized his army. He advanced from Washington, D. C. For 5 days, the Union army filled the Maryland roads, its cavalry probing the horizon for the elusive Confederates. On the 10th, McClellan learned that the Confederates had abandoned Frederick, and the march quickened. Two days later, the Union army entered Frederick, 48 hours behind the Confederates, and the next morning on the 13th, 2 Union infantrymen found a paper wrapped around 3 cigars. He suddenly possessed a great opportunity to destroy his divided opponent. McClellan, however, waited 16 hours before moving. At dawn on September 17, the Battle of Antietam, or Sharpsburg, began soon after dawn on a field shrouded in fog. Hammering Union assaults were met with howling Confederate counterattacks. Artillerists on both sides scorched the field with shells and waves of canisters. Lee parried the thrusts by shifting troops from his right to the left and center. In spite of crippling casualties, Lee continued to face McClellan throughout the 18th, while skirmishing. On the 20th, McClellan sent a force in pursuit, which Jackson repulsed. A turning point had been reached. President Lincoln relieved McClellan of command. The Confederate cavalry continued to be active in the Shenandoah Valley. In order to gather supplies, Gens. Grumble Jones and John D. Imboden combined forces for raids into West Virginia. Five days after the battle, on September 22, Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. The Union armies now had another goal, human freedom.

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