

1: Antietam Campaign

The Battle of Antietam / Ā! n Ēˆ t iĒ• t Ē™m /, also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, particularly in the Southern United States, was a battle of the American Civil War, fought on September 17, , between Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and Union General George B. McClellan's Army of the Potomac, near Sharpsburg, Maryland and Antietam Creek.

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 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.

2: Antietam Campaign - The American Civil War

Antietam Campaign The bloodiest single-day battle of the Civil War took place on Maryland soil, as Confederate soldiers crossed the Potomac River and clashed with Union forces in the sleepy town of Sharpsburg.

Antietam, Battle of The appointment of Gen. Union armies and naval forces had won impressive victories along the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts and the river systems of Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas, overrunning some 50, square miles of the Confederacy. The Confederate States of America seemed doomed. Hoping to strike a knockout blow that would force the Lincoln administration to sue for peace, Lee decided to invade Maryland. Great possibilities rode with the Army of Northern Virginia as it began crossing the Potomac River northwest of Washington on 4 September. The most powerful nations in the world, Britain and France, were considering diplomatic recognition of the Confederacy; one more military victory would win that crucial goal. A large faction in the Northern Democratic Party wanted peace negotiations; another Union defeat might enable them to capture the House of Representatives in the fall. President Abraham Lincoln had decided in July to issue a proclamation to free the slaves in Confederate states and was awaiting a Union military victory to announce it. On 13 September at Frederick, Maryland, he had extraordinary luck: If he moved quickly, McClellan could destroy the separated units piecemeal. He did not move quickly. Union attacks did overrun Confederate defenders in the South Mountain gaps west of Frederick on 14 September, but failed to save the 12, Union troops at Harpers Ferry, which surrendered to Jackson on 15 September. Although he outnumbered Lee by about 80, troops to 45, McClellan assumed that the enemy outnumbered him. After deliberate preparations that gave Lee time to unite his army, McClellan attacked at dawn on 17 September. The Union attacks were uncoordinated, enabling Lee to shift troops from quiet sectors to threatened points. Meanwhile, the commander on the Union left flank, Maj. Ambrose Burnside, tried to force his troops across a bridge over the Antietam instead of fording that shallow stream. But at about 4: The sun set on the deadliest single day in the Civil War – indeed, in all of American history. Some 6, men lay dead or dying, and another 16, were wounded. The fighting was not renewed next day, and that night Lee retreated to Virginia. McClellan failed to follow up, but nevertheless claimed a victory. Britain and France did not recognize the Confederacy. Republicans retained control of the House in November. And five days after the battle, Lincoln issued his preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. Military and Diplomatic Course. Murfin, The Gleam of Bayonets: The Battle of Antietam and the Maryland Campaign of, Sears, Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam, Essays on the Maryland Campaign, McPherson Pick a style below, and copy the text for your bibliography.

3: Maryland Campaign

The fighting at Antietam was so fierce that Sept. 17, 1862, is said to have been the bloodiest single day of the war with some 23,000 dead and wounded, evenly divided between the sides. It was a Union victory only in the sense that Lee's invasion was stopped.

After three hours of savage fighting, what came to be known as Bloody Lane finally fell. At that point, Union general William B. Although losses for both sides totaled 5,000, out of more than 17,000 men engaged, neither army had been able to fully dislodge the other. Burnside was to attack the Confederates on their far right, over the southernmost bridge. The idea was to prevent Lee from borrowing troops from his right to reinforce his left, and after a short delay, the attack got started between nine and ten in the morning. Burnside made several small runs at the Confederates on the west bank of the Antietam, but the bridge—“an arched, stone walkway”—was too narrow to mount an effective charge. Finally, Burnside sent troops downstream, where they found a place to ford the creek and then came upon the Confederates from behind. One Virginia soldier described the fighting as “volumes of musketry and noise of the artillery mingled in one vast roar that shook the earth. Cox crossed the bridge and aligned itself for an attack. Only the arrival of A. In the preceding twelve hours, nearly 95,000 men had struggled in the fields around Sharpsburg, with about a quarter of those, or approximately 22,000, ending up killed, wounded, or missing. No single-day battle has ever seen as many American casualties before or since September 17, 1862. Shepherdstown Ford Shepherdstown Ford That evening both commanders assessed their options. Lee stubbornly refused to retreat, bringing up ammunition and stragglers to prepare to defend his new position. At first, McClellan ordered an attack, but shortages of artillery ammunition and reinforcements, plus a recurrence of a fever he had been battling since the spring, persuaded him to postpone it. On the evening of September 18, Lee reluctantly ordered his men back across the Potomac River at Shepherdstown Ford, while still making plans to move north again on September 19. After a difficult night-crossing of the river, Lee moved toward Charlestown, leaving a rearguard to prevent Union troops from following. He had not achieved Confederate independence, had not fed his army on the riches of Maryland and Pennsylvania, and far from damaging Union morale, had only boosted it. Still, at a cost of 14,000 casualties, he had fought gallantly. McClellan, meanwhile, had lost nearly twice as many. And after reassembling an army thoroughly demoralized after Second Manassas, marching it seventy miles, and driving Lee from two battlefields, he was content to rest his men rather than continue the pursuit. His was a strategic victory that included the capture of 39 enemy flags, 13 cannon, 15,000 small arms, and 6,000 prisoners. More importantly, it presented Lincoln a huge political opportunity. After two months of waiting, Lincoln used the victory at Antietam to issue the Emancipation Proclamation on September 22. It became effective January 1, 1863. The document offered seceded states the right to return to the Union and keep their slaves, but if they did not, their slaves were declared “forever free. In addition, the proclamation could not free slaves in non-seceded states, but it did make enslaved African Americans in the Confederate states an economic and political object of the war while satisfying political pressure from Radical Republicans to more forcefully address the slavery question. In the process, the Lincoln administration shifted its reason for fighting from restoring the union to ending slavery. While Confederates were predictably outraged and some Union soldiers grumbled, the shift helped the president diplomatically. England and France had long abolished slavery, and Lincoln correctly judged that they would not now intervene on behalf of a slave state. Victory at Antietam did nothing to abate a long-simmering tension between Lincoln and McClellan. Even in 1862, it was well established that successful generals became presidents, and the Republicans were not anxious to jeopardize their political control by lionizing McClellan, who was a Democrat. General McClellan Lincoln became impatient when McClellan refused to send his exhausted and poorly supplied army after Lee. On October 2, the president visited his general near Sharpsburg and ordered him to march overland to Richmond, a strategy the general, and Winfield Scott before him, had long opposed. McClellan in command of the defenses of Washington, D. C. September 3, - Confederate general Robert E. Union general George B. McClellan is ordered to assemble a field army. September 4, - Confederate general Thomas J. September 5, - Advance elements of Robert E. Abraham

Lincoln and Henry W. Halleck offer Union general George B. McClellan field command of Union forces. He is reassigned to the Department of the Northwest to help suppress a Sioux Indian uprising in Minnesota.

September 7, - The Army of Northern Virginia concentrates approximately 65,000 of its men in Frederick, Maryland. Lee issues a "Proclamation to the People of Maryland," declaring that his campaign would free Marylanders to join the Confederacy. Union cavalymen skirmish with Confederate pickets at Urbana.

September 9, - Confederate general Robert E. Lee issues Special Orders No. 46. Pursuant to Special Orders No. 46, Confederate general Thomas J. Mitchell of the 27th Indiana finds a stray copy of Robert E. Lee's Special Orders No. 46.

September 15, - Thomas J. Lee calls off the Confederate retreat and moves to concentrate his forces on Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland.

September 16, - As the Union and Confederate armies consolidate their forces near Sharpsburg, Maryland, an artillery duel breaks out across Antietam Creek.

September 17, 5:00: Soon after, Union forces under Joseph Hooker attack the Confederate left. Fighting ranges from the West Woods to the high ground around the Dunker Church.

September 17, 7:00: Mansfield is mortally wounded at the Battle of Antietam.

September 17, 8:00: McClellan dispatches two divisions of Edwin V. Union general John Sedgwick is shot three times.

September 17, 9:00: For the next two hours, Union troops cross the bridge and organize for an attack. Hill arrives in time to attack Burnside and halt his advance. Lee decides to retreat back across the Potomac River. Union and Confederate artillery duel throughout the day. That evening, Union troops cross the ford and attack Confederate positions, capturing five cannon.

McClellan at his headquarters near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The president orders the general to march overland to Richmond, a strategy McClellan has long opposed. He is transferred to duty in Trenton, New Jersey.

November 7, - Union general George B. The Maryland Campaign of September

Wartime Papers of R. Kent State University Press, Taken at the Flood. The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union. Indiana University Press, Sealed With Their Lives. Bitternut and Blue, Cite This Entry Clemens, T. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 20 Sep. September 13, Last modified: September 20, Contributed by Thomas G. Give feedback about this entry Name Optional.

4: Antietam Campaign | www.enganchecubano.com

Maryland Campaign. Contributed by Thomas G. Clemens. The Maryland Campaign, which culminated in the Battle of Antietam (fought September 17, , and sometimes referred to as the Battle of Sharpsburg), proved to be one of the most pivotal Union strategic victories of the American Civil War ().

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 Richmondâ€™the divisions of Maj. Hill and Lafayette McLaws and two brigades under Brig. Walker â€™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 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.

5: Maryland Campaign - Wikipedia

Antietam campaign *Antietam* [], Sept., , of the Civil www.enganchecubano.com the second battle of Bull Run, Gen. Robert E. Lee crossed the Potomac to invade Maryland and Pennsylvania.

Visit Website General Robert E. What happened next was pivotal: Mitchell and Sergeant John M. Bloss, discovered a copy of Special Order with detailed Confederate troop movements, allegedly wrapped around three cigars. And when Lee heard a copy of Special Order was missing, he knew his scattered army was vulnerable and rushed to reunite its units. Instead, Lee ordered his army to regroup at Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg. Troops from both sides faced-off across a acre cornfield owned by David Miller. Confederate troops ferociously fought off offensive after offensive to prevent being overrun, turning the cornfield into a massive killing field. Just eight hours in, there were over 15, casualties. Three hours later, Union troops had pushed the Confederates back and over 5, men were either dead or injured. The fighting was so gory Sunken Road earned a new name: Battle of Antietam Ends As night fell, thousands of bodies littered the sprawling Antietam battlefield and both sides regrouped and claimed their dead and wounded. Just twelve hours of intense and often close-range fighting with muskets and cannons had resulted in around 23, casualties, including an estimated 3, dead. The next day, as Lee began the painstaking job of moving his ravaged troops back to Virginia, McClellan, surprisingly, did nothing. Despite having the advantage, he allowed Lee to retreat without resistance. He thought McClellan missed a great opportunity to kick the Army of Northern Virginia while they were down and potentially end the war. Even so, the Union claimed victory. And keeping Confederates in their southern box enabled President Lincoln to finally release his Emancipation Proclamation on September 22, They also ended any hope of France and Great Britain acknowledging the Confederacy and coming to their aid. This further isolated the Confederacy and made it harder for them to re-supply their troops and citizens. There has never been a bloodier day in American military history than September 17, Perhaps the reality of the battle was best described by Union soldier Charles Goddard in a letter to his mother:

6: Antietam Timeline - Antietam National Battlefield (U.S. National Park Service)

ANTIETAM, BATTLE OF. ANTIETAM, BATTLE OF. The Battle of Antietam took place on 17 September With an estimated 23, total casualties, it was the bloodiest single-day battle of the American Civil War.

7: Maryland Campaign & Battles of the Civil War – Legends of America

Antietam Campaign is the latest in a series of games based on Civil War campaigns. Scenarios cover the battles of Antietam, South Mountain and Harper's Ferry. All can be linked together to re-create the entire campaign.

8: Battle of Antietam - HISTORY

Garry Adelman provides an overview of the Maryland Campaign and the Battle of Antietam - the bloodiest single day of the American Civil War.

9: Antietam Campaign | Board Game | BoardGameGeek

Title The Antietam Campaign - Sept. Summary Shows the area between Mercerville, Md., to the north and the Potomac River to the south.

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