

Shiloh

NATIONAL MILITARY PARK • TENNESSEE



Federal forces, pushing southward and gobbling up Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland Rivers, forced Confederate Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston to abandon southern Kentucky and much of West and Middle Tennessee. He established his new line covering the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, concentrating 44,000 men at Corinth, Miss. Gen. U. S. Grant followed him, steaming up the Tennessee River with 40,000 troops of the Army of the Tennessee to Pittsburg Landing, 22 miles from Corinth. Ordered to wait there until Gen. D. C. Buell's Army of the Ohio could join him, Grant camped his men in the woods and fields near Shiloh Church.

Warned that Buell would join Grant, Johnston decided to strike before the two armies could unite. When his Army of the Mississippi hit the Federal camps on the morning of April 6, some Northern troops fought doggedly to hold their line; others, caught unprepared, barely had time to get out to re-form elsewhere. Along the Sunken Road the Federals exacted a fearful toll. Confederate soldiers knew they had struck a "hornets' nest," and named it that.

To conquer the Hornets' Nest, Confederate Gen. Daniel Ruggles brought up 62 cannon, the largest artillery concentration till then seen on a North American battlefield. Under cover of the hammering guns, Confederate infantry swept forward, surrounded the Union defenders and captured most of them. That sacrifice bought time for Grant to establish his final line near Pittsburg Landing.

To the right and left of the Hornets' Nest, Federal forces fell back before the Confederate onslaughts, and the fighting became a confused slugging match. On both sides, regiments became disorganized and companies disintegrated. One thing became painfully evident to the Confederate command: the melee was driving the Federals toward their base at Pittsburg Landing, rather than away from it as the Southerners had planned. Johnston was killed while trying to push home attacks on the river side of the battlefield to isolate the Unionists from the landing, and Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard took over the Confederate command.

By late afternoon Grant's surviving troops were safe in their final line. The Confederates, now

more disorganized than the Federals, tried the flanks of the Federal position. The Union right beat them off easily. The vanguard of Buell's army crossed the Tennessee and filed into position on Grant's left covering Pittsburg Landing. Union infantry, artillery, and gunboat fire on that flank hurled back the Confederate attempt to cross the rugged Dill Creek terrain, and the fighting sputtered out for the night. While Confederates tried to reorganize, Northern gunboats sent salvos crashing into their lines at 15-minute intervals, and the remainder of Buell's army crossed the river.

At dawn on April 7 the combined Federal armies, now 55,000 strong, began their attack. In spite of a gallant Confederate counterattack at Water Oaks Pond, the Federals pushed the 37,000 Confederates off the field. They withdrew beyond Shiloh Church and began their weary march to Corinth. The exhausted Federals did not pursue. The battle was over.

In late April and May the Federals crept toward Corinth and seized it, while an amphibious force on the Mississippi was destroying the Confederate River Defense Fleet and capturing Memphis. From these bases the Federals pushed on down the Mississippi to besiege Vicksburg. With the surrender of Vicksburg and the fall of Port Hudson the Confederacy was cut in half. The war went on, but careful observers knew that the Confederacy must lose.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

The park is about 10 miles south of Savannah and Adamsville, Tenn., via U.S. 64 and Tenn. 22; 15 miles southeast of Selmer, Tenn., via U.S. 45 and Tenn. 142; and 23 miles north of Corinth, Miss., via Miss. 2 and Tenn. 22.

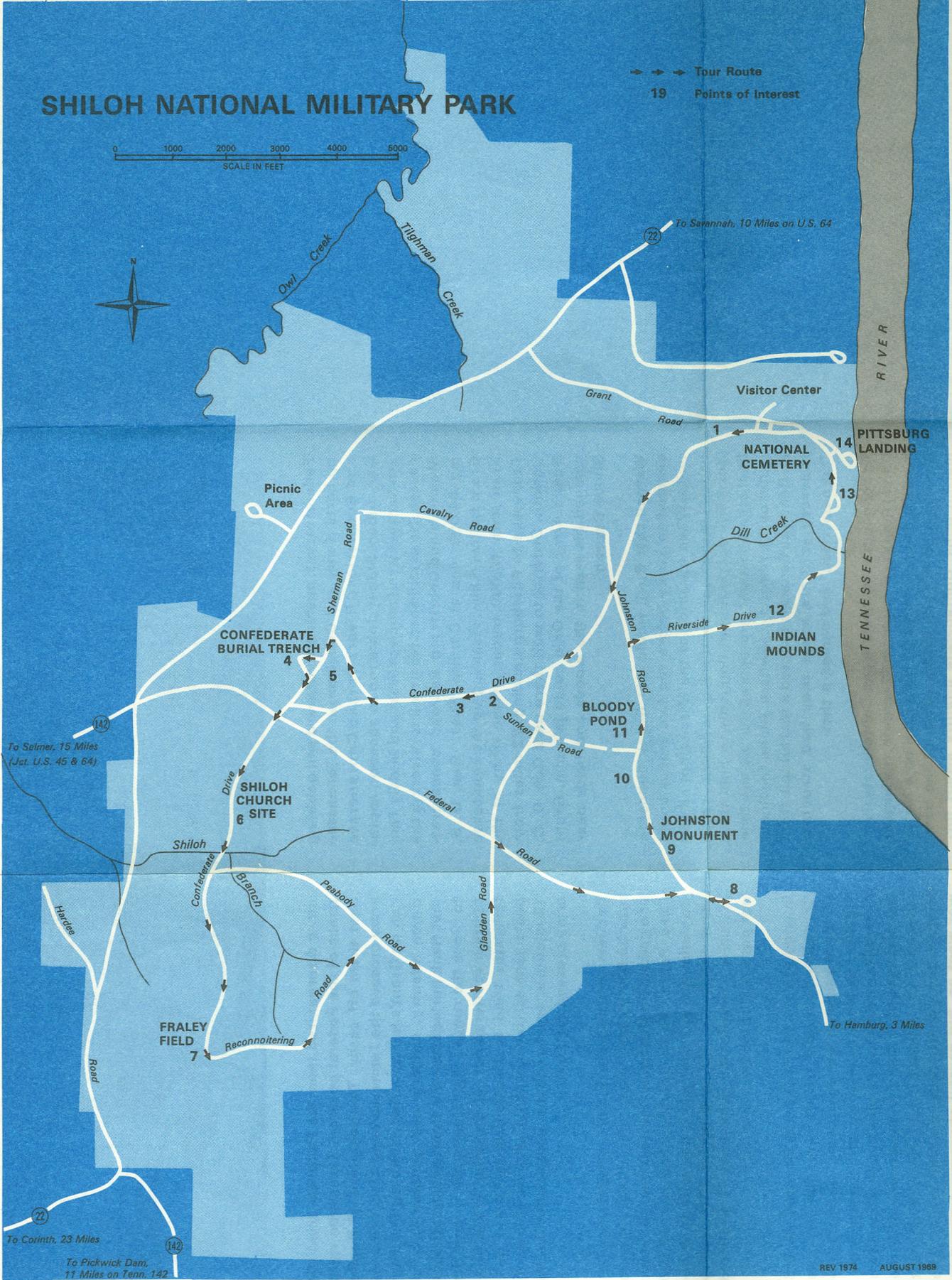
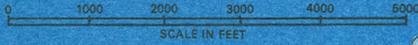
The visitor center is open every day except December 25.

ADMINISTRATION

Shiloh National Military Park and Cemetery are administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Shiloh, Tenn. 38376, is in immediate charge.

SHILOH NATIONAL MILITARY PARK

→ → Tour Route
19 Points of Interest



SELF-GUIDED AUTO TOUR

The tour starts at the visitor center, which contains artifacts, exhibits, and maps relating to the battle and the war. This guide lists the main points of interest, while markers on the field tell more of the story.

- 1. Grant's Last Line.** Cannon here mark the final positions of the Union army on the first day.
- 2. Sunken Road.** Union troops held this road against repeated Southern attacks on the first day.
- 3. Ruggles' Battery.** Site of the 62 Confederate guns that pounded the Hornets' Nest.
- 4. Confederate Burial Trench.** The largest of five trenches in which Southern dead were buried. More than 700 soldiers lie here.
- 5. Water Oaks Pond.** Scene of a gallant but unsuccessful Confederate counterattack on the second day of the battle.
- 6. Shiloh Church.** Here stood the original Shiloh Church from which the battle took its name. The present church was built in 1949.
- 7. Fraley Field.** On Sunday, April 6, 1862, Federal scouts moved over the road here and struck Confederates advancing into Fraley Field to the west. There, at daybreak, the Battle of Shiloh began.
- 8. Tent Hospital Site.** Federal surgeons established here one of the first tent hospitals used in the Civil War.
- 9. Johnston's Death Site.** Adjacent to the monument stands the remains of an oak tree near which Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was mortally wounded.
- 10. Peach Orchard.** The orchard was in bloom as the Confederates attacked through it. The log cabin originally stood in Perry Field on the Federal right and was moved to this spot a few weeks after the battle.
- 11. Bloody Pond.** During the battle, soldiers of both sides came here to drink and to bathe their wounds.
- 12. Indian Mounds.** Two types of mounds built by prehistoric Indians overlook the river: the earlier dome-shaped earthwork which covered burials, and the later flat-topped mounds on which stood ceremonial houses.
- 13. The Left Flank.** Here stood the defenders of the left flank of Grant's last line. Reinforced by Buell's vanguard, these troops repulsed the last Confederate attack on April 6.
- 14. Pittsburg Landing.** Federal base during the battle and, for many years, a landing for river steamers. Here Buell's Army of the Ohio crossed the river to join Grant on the late afternoon and night of April 6-7, 1862.

NOTE: Park regulations prohibit the use of metal detectors.

SAFETY: Make your visit a safe and enjoyable one. You will be sharing the park roads with others. Motorists, cyclists, and hikers—all should use caution. Be extremely careful near the river banks.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service

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