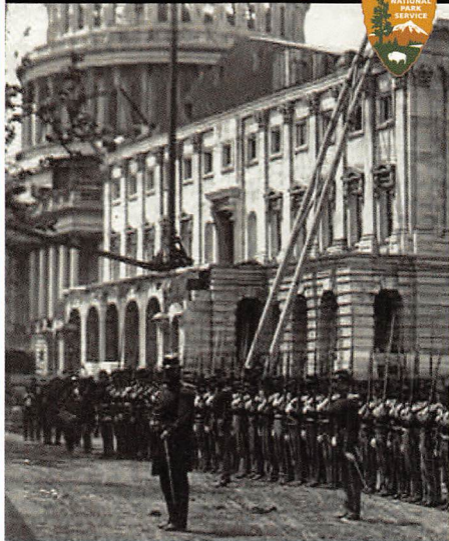


Civil War Defenses of Washington



Civil War Washington



Civil War Washington

Fact: Defenseless at the start of the war, by 1865 Washington was one of the world's most fortified cities.

As headquarters for the Union, the capital city was filled with the sights & sounds of the wartime effort. Soldiers' camps, temporary hospitals, and marching troops became part of daily life. Cannons perched on the ridgeline system of forts watched for enemy attacks from surrounding states. In 1864 the capital was unsuccessfully attacked, but the undercurrent of political strife, espionage and fear was always present.