



# Defending the Canal

**Fact: Canal mules were taken by both Union and Confederate forces for use in their war efforts.**

In April 1861, the C&O Canal was on the border between two enemies. Throughout the war, all along the 184.5 mile canal, Confederate forces attempted to cross to invade the North, raid Union facilities, and destroy canal structures. Union troops built defenses and stood guard over the canal.

**To learn more, visit:** [www.nps.gov/choh](http://www.nps.gov/choh)

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