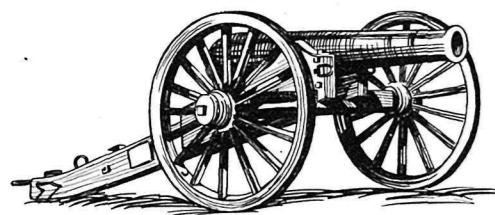


Gettysburg



NATIONAL MILITARY PARK • Pennsylvania



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, *Oscar L. Chapman, Secretary*

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, *Arthur E. Demaray, Director*

Scene of the decisive Battle of Gettysburg, marking the turning point of the American Civil War, and place where Abraham Lincoln made his celebrated Gettysburg Address

GETTYSBURG is the field of one of the greatest battles ever fought on American soil. The outcome affected the destiny of a nation. We now know that those who perished there on the field of battle did not die in vain. The field of Gettysburg ever will remain a place of pilgrimage for Americans. On it their Nation was tested. The Nation has endured.

The name of Gettysburg is immortalized not only by the heroic feats of arms which were performed there, but by Abraham Lincoln's noble address delivered a few months after the battle when he came to Gettysburg to dedicate a portion of the field as the burial ground of those who fell in the struggle. Lincoln's words have perpetuated in the minds and hearts of our people the high purpose of the brave men who died at Gettysburg. The spot on which the martyr President uttered his immortal words is now appropriately marked by the Soldiers' National Monument in the Gettysburg National Cemetery.

Battle of Gettysburg

In June 1863, as a result of victories at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville during

the preceding months, the military spirit of the Confederacy was at "high noon." By a daring thrust into Northern territory and a defeat of the Union Army on its own soil, Southern leaders felt that the strained bonds holding the North to the task of preserving the Union could be severed, the war ended, and peace established on the basis of Southern independence.

At Gettysburg on July 1, 2, and 3, 1863, the Confederate Army, commanded by Gen. Robert E. Lee, attempted to destroy the Union Army of the Potomac, commanded by Gen. George G. Meade, on its own soil. This battle has become known as the High Watermark of the Confederacy. It marked the turn of the tide in the war.

Using the Shenandoah Valley as an avenue of approach into Pennsylvania, Lee's army began moving northwestward from Fredericksburg on June 3, crossed the Potomac River at Williamsport and Shepherdstown, and proceeded toward Harrisburg. Unforeseen circumstances between June 25 and 29 deprived Lee of nearly every advantage he expected to gain by his daring march into the North. The absence of Stuart, commanding

the Confederate cavalry, during a long, circuitous tour around the rear of the Union Army, had deprived Lee of information concerning the movements of the enemy. The Union Army, moving due northward from Fredericksburg, had thus reached Frederick, Md., before Lee, across the mountains at Chambersburg, Pa., learned on June 28 of its near presence.

Lee at once altered his plans. He abandoned his proposed movement on Harrisburg, and directed a concentration of his entire force at the eastern base of the South Mountains, 8 miles from Gettysburg.

Meade needed information. Buford's cavalry division, with the infantry corps of Reynolds and Howard following close at hand, reached Gettysburg on June 30 to make a reconnaissance. On the morning of July 1 Buford moved to the ridge west of the town. Here, at 8 o'clock, he encountered Heth's Confederate division which was approaching Gettysburg from the west. Reynolds directed his troops into the struggle and also ordered forward those of General Howard. At this juncture Reynolds was killed. Heth's division, momentarily forced back, received reinforcements, but the Confederates were losing ground when Rodes' division, hastening southward on Oak Ridge, struck the right

flank of the Union line on McPherson Ridge. The opportune arrival of Early's Confederate division on the Harrisburg Road broke the Union line north of Gettysburg, forcing the Union troops to retreat southward through the streets of the town. The Union flank on the northwest and west was left exposed. It soon collapsed, and its fragments fell back through Gettysburg to Cemetery Hill.

The unexpected encounter of July 1 presented to Lee unforeseen advantages. The greater part of the Confederate Army was at hand. While the Union line was forming in the shape of a great hook, extending from Spangler's Spring to Cemetery Hill and southward toward Little Round Top, Lee was preparing his battle line on Seminary Ridge and eastward through the streets of Gettysburg.

The forenoon of July 2 wore away. Then at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon Longstreet's batteries on the Confederate right broke the silence. A Confederate division struck at Little Round Top. Failing there, the attack spread to Devil's Den and the Wheatfield. In the meantime, other Confederate troops swept through the Peach Orchard and drove Sickles' Union line from its advance position back to the foot of Cemetery Ridge. Confederate troops gained a foothold momentarily

on the crest of the ridge. Four hours of desperate struggle had broken the Peach Orchard salient, left the Wheatfield strewn with dead and wounded, and turned the base of Little Round Top into a shambles.

At the same time, Ewell, on the Confederate left, was expected to attack the Union position on Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill. The plan did not work perfectly, however, and the attack came a little late. Seldom, if ever, surpassed in its dash and desperation, this assault lacked the culminating fury of concerted action. Some of the Confederates stopped on the slopes of Culp's Hill, near Spangler's Spring. Early's men reached the crest of East Cemetery Hill, only to be forced back. Rodes' troops did not attack. Darkness brought an intermission to the bloody combat.

Lee, encouraged by partial success, determined to attack the Union center. The dawn of July 3, however, broke with the thunder of Union guns on the Union right in the area of Spangler's Spring and Culp's Hill. Seven hours of furious fighting found the Union troops again in possession of their earthworks at Spangler's Spring. The spring, whose waters had for a time served Confederate wounded and thirsty, had again become a Union possession.

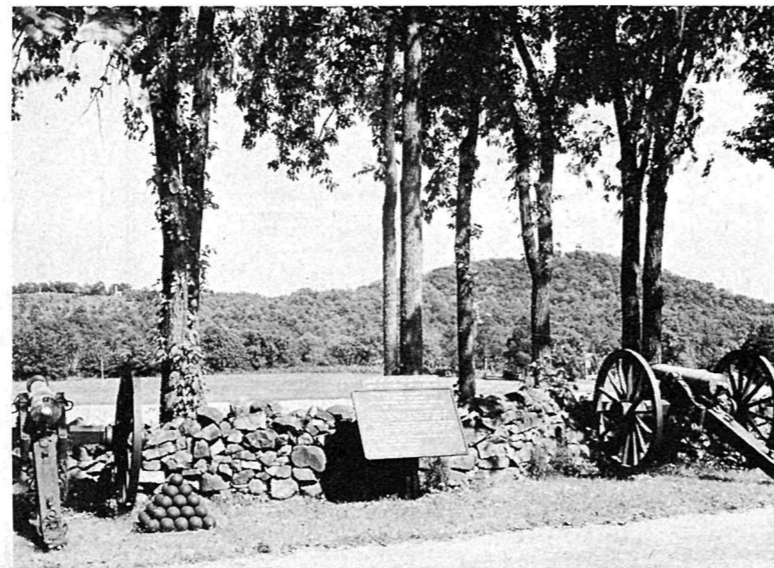
With the struggle ended at Spangler's

Spring, comparative quiet followed, except for casual skirmishing, the intermittent sniping of sharpshooters, and a brisk cavalry action in the rear of the Union lines. At 1 o'clock, 138 Confederate guns in line from the Peach Orchard to the Seminary let loose a terrific cannonade. Eighty Union guns on Cemetery Ridge responded in a duel which lasted nearly 2 hours.

Then, with Pickett's division as a spearhead, more than 15,000 Confederates advanced in magnificent array. On nearing the Union line at the stone wall on Cemetery Ridge, the Confederates charged into the withering fire of double canister and infantry volleys. From the front and flank fire, the advancing lines crumbled, reformed, and again pressed ahead. Only a hundred men crossed the stone wall at the Angle on Cemetery Ridge. The remnants of the division of Pickett, Heth, and Pender staggered back toward Seminary Ridge. The repulse of the attack became known as the High Watermark where the tide of the Confederacy had "swept to its crest, paused, and receded."

Lee's final great effort at Gettysburg had spent itself. Late on the afternoon of July 4, he began an orderly retreat southwestward over the Hagerstown Road, and on the night of July 13 crossed the Potomac into Virginia.

Big and Little Round Tops as seen from Confederate battle line



Lincoln's Gettysburg Address Memorial



Eternal Light Peace Memorial



Notes on the Battle

At Gettysburg, 18 States were represented in the Union Army and 12 in the Confederate. Maryland contributed military units to both armies. In the battle, 75,000 Confederates were pitted against 88,000 Union troops. Lee lost, in killed, wounded, and captured, a total of 28,000, as against a Union loss of 23,000. The bodies of approximately 7,000 men of both armies, given temporary burial on the battlefield, were later removed. Of these, 3,704 Federals were interred in Gettysburg National Cemetery and 3,320 Confederates were transferred to Southern cemeteries. An unknown additional number, totaling possibly 3,000, were reburied in home cemeteries.

The Park

In 1895, the battlefield of Gettysburg was made a national military park by act of Congress. In that year the Gettysburg Battlefield Memorial Association, which was founded a few months after the battle, transferred its holdings of 600 acres of land, 17 miles of avenues, and 320 monuments and markers to the Federal Government. Today the park contains approximately 2,542 acres of land, 26 miles of paved avenues, and 2,390 monuments and markers.

Service to the Public

Information and free literature concerning the park may be obtained at the National Park Service museum in the Post Office Building, at the office of the national cemetery, at the park entrance stations, and during the summer season at Little Round Top, where a ranger historian is stationed. The services of park historians are also available for tours with educational groups. A 56-page handbook relating to Gettysburg National Military Park may be obtained from the park superintendent or from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., at 25 cents a copy.

Battlefield guides, licensed by the National Park Service, operate under the supervision

of the park superintendent. A complete, guided tour of the park, visiting the battle-grounds of July 1, north and west of Gettysburg, and of July 2 and 3, south of the town, requires approximately 2 hours, and the guide fee is \$3. A special tour, covering the main points of interest and requiring about 1 hour, is available at \$2. The guide fee for a bus is \$5.

The Cyclorama, a painting of the battlefield on which is shown Pickett's Charge, is located on Baltimore Street near the National Cemetery. This magnificent painting by Philippoteaux, which was acquired by the National Park Service in 1942, is 370 feet in circumference and 30 feet in height. The admission fee for persons 12 years of age and over is 25 cents, plus 5 cents Federal tax. Children under 12 years old are admitted free, and school groups, 12 to 18 years of age, pay 5 cents tax only.

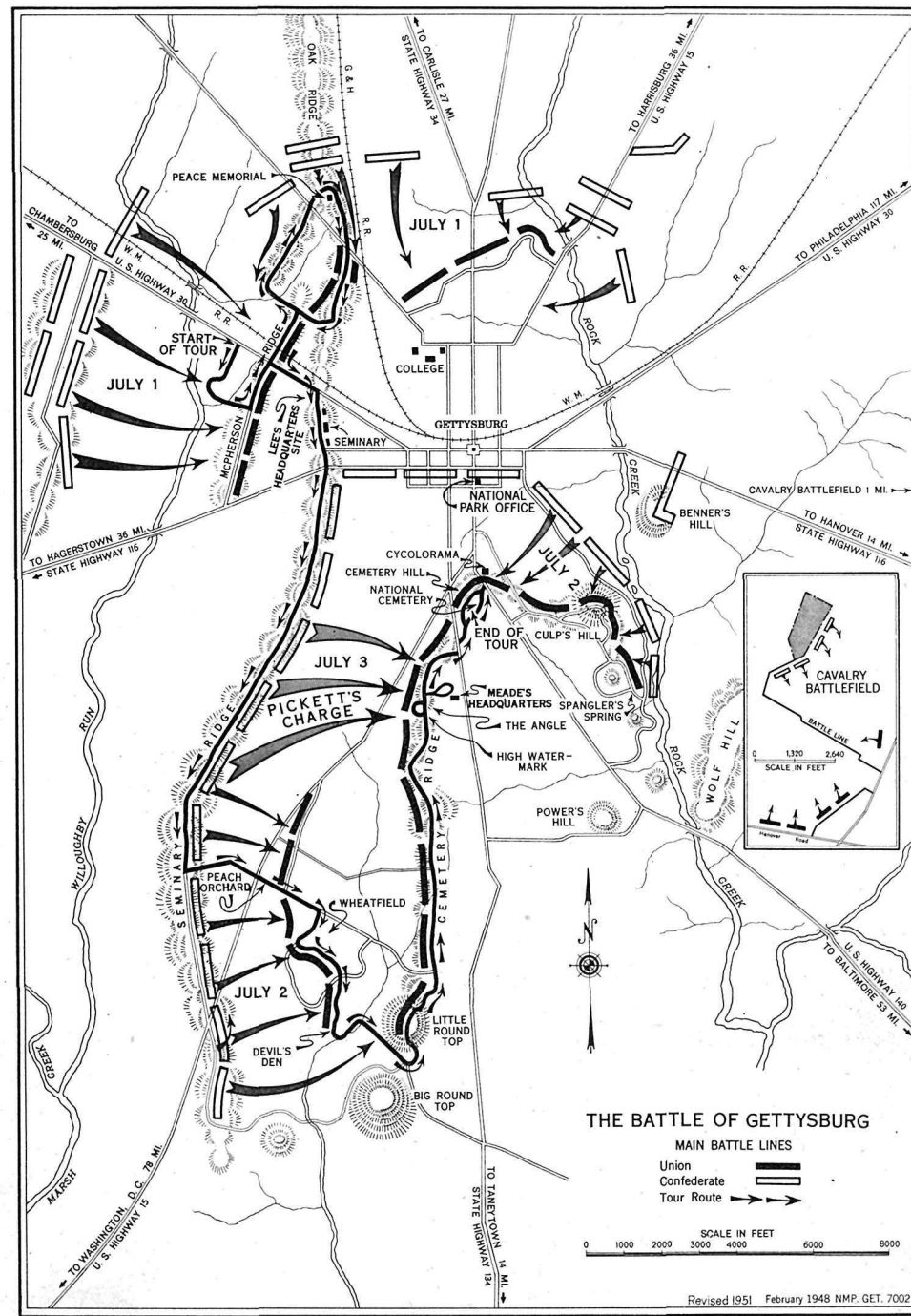
Field exhibits are located at important points in the park.

How to Reach the Park

Gettysburg National Military Park and National Cemetery are accessible by highway over U. S. No. 30 from the east and west; U. S. No. 15 from the north and south; U. S. No. 140 from Baltimore, Md.; State No. 34 from Carlisle, Pa.; and State No. 116 from Hagerstown, Md., and Hanover, Pa. Greyhound Bus Lines operate over U. S. Nos. 30 and 140; the Blue Ridge Lines over U. S. No. 15 from the south; and the Gettysburg-Harrisburg Bus Line over U. S. No. 15 from Harrisburg.

Administration

Gettysburg National Military Park is a part of the National Park System owned by the people of the United States and administered for them by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. Communications should be addressed to the Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, Pa.



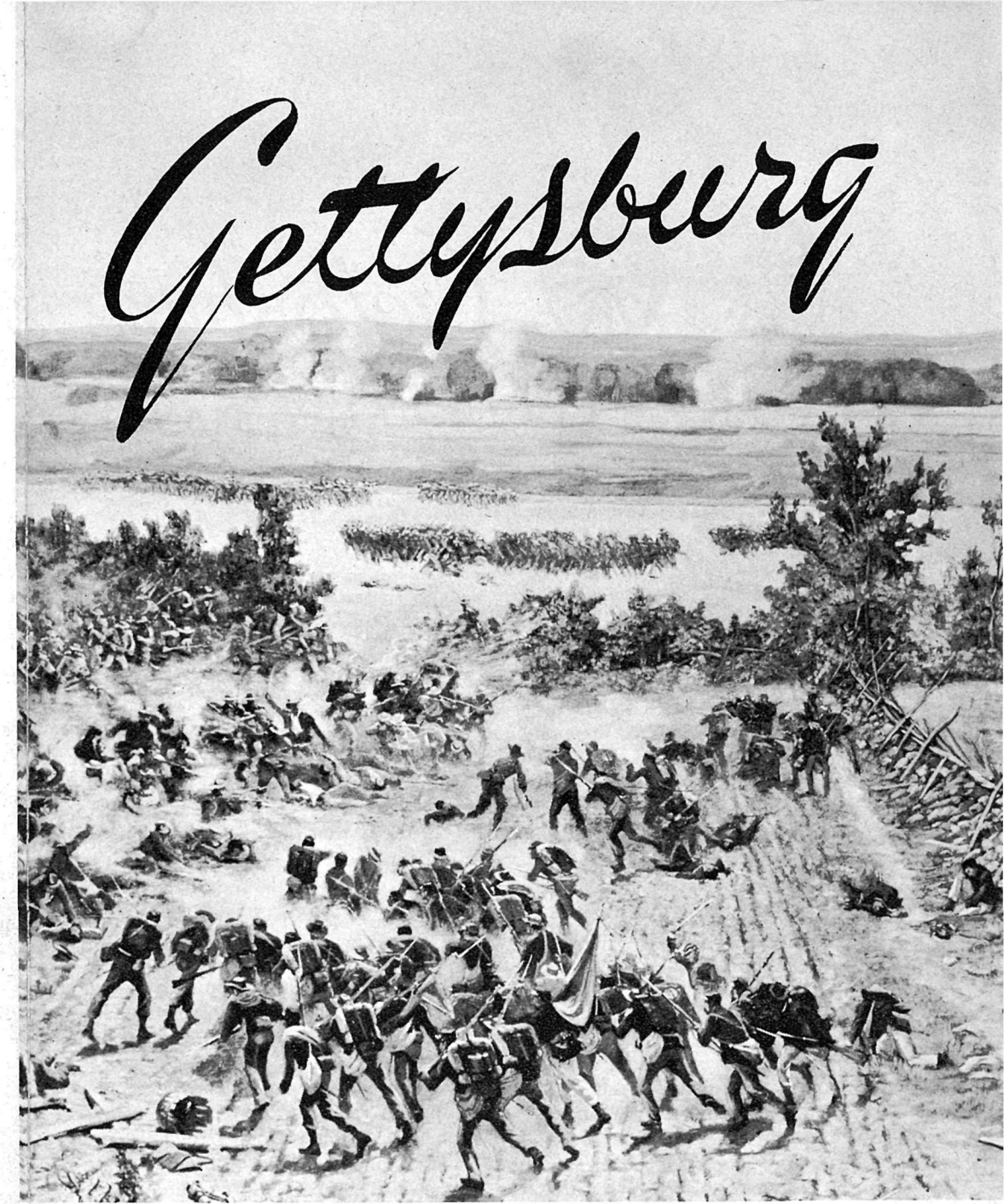
Cover: Field of Pickett's Charge, with his attack on the Union position at the Angle, in the foreground. From the Philippoteaux painting in the Gettysburg Cyclorama.

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