

Petersburg National Battlefield



Battle of Five Forks



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Fact: *The name Five Forks refers to the intersection of four roads at the site where the battle took place.*

By March 1865 the Union army was strong enough to either go around or break the Confederate's 37-mile line around Petersburg. Ulysses S. Grant attacked the right end of the Robert E. Lee's line at Five Forks on April 1, 1865 and captured the South Side Railroad, the last line into Petersburg. On the evening of April 2, as his defenses continued to crumble, Lee ordered the evacuation Petersburg and Richmond.