

About Your Visit.

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 2 miles north of Marietta, Ga., a short distance off U.S. 41, is open all year. Organized groups receive special services if advance arrangements are made with the superintendent.

There are picnic areas at the visitor center and on Cheatham Hill. Camping is not permitted, and fires are limited to gasoline stoves or charcoal burners. Hiking trails of 2-, 5-, 8-, and 14-mile round trips from the visitor center are available. All encompass some moderately steep climbing. The 2-mile hike is a self-guiding historical-nature trail with a guide booklet. If long hikes are planned, please register at the visitor center. You are requested to respect the historical and natural features of the park and to leave them unimpaired for others to enjoy.

Administration

Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. The superintendent, whose address is Box 1167, Marietta, Ga. 30060, is in immediate charge.

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—has a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



Kennesaw Mountain

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD • GEORGIA

When Ulysses S. Grant assumed command of all the Federal armies in 1864, Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman succeeded to the direction of the principal military operations in the West. In May 1864, Sherman, with a virtually independent command but coordinating his movements with those of Grant in the East, launched his three armies south from Chattanooga. His goal: Atlanta, rail hub and manufacturing center of the Confederacy. He intended throwing his force of nearly 100,000 men against Gen. Joseph E. Johnston's Confederate army of about 50,000, crushing it if possible, but certainly keeping the Southerners constantly on the defensive by a series of flanking movements that would threaten Confederate communications.

In a series of movements, Sherman forced Johnston back to the vicinity of Kennesaw Mountain. Here, by June 5, Johnston began taking up positions, turning the area into a fortress, and trusting that the difficult terrain and strong fortifications would make up for the disparity in numbers.

The weather also came to Johnston's aid. For

a month the rains poured, turning the roads into quagmires and preventing Sherman from again marching around the Confederate position. Still, Sherman forced Johnston's Southerners back to the mountain itself.

During June there were constant skirmishes and artillery duels. On June 22, the two armies met at Kolb's farm, 6 miles south of Big Kennesaw Mountain. The Confederates suffered heavily. In spite of this action, Sherman's men were still impatient. They were tired of the rain, the marching, and the interminable flanking movements. They wanted to fight. At 9 a.m. on June 27, Sherman gave them their wish and launched two major offensives against the Kennesaw line. Both thrusts failed; even the Southern defenders shuddered at the carnage.

The rains now ended. The roads began to harden, and Sherman, able to use his flanking tactics again, marched southeastward. On the night of July 2, Johnston abandoned Kennesaw Mountain and retired toward Atlanta. By the 9th he was across the Chattahoochee. The siege and fall of Atlanta soon followed. Then Sherman began his devastating March to the Sea.

