

Fredericksburg National Military Park



Upper Pontoon Crossing



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Battle of Fredericksburg

Date: December 11-13, 1862

In the pre-dawn hours of December 11, 1862, Union engineers began constructing floating bridges, known as pontoons, across the Rappahannock River opposite Fredericksburg. When Confederate sharpshooters fired on the engineers, Union soldiers crossed the river in boats and drove them from the town in brutal house-to-house fighting. It was the first urban combat in American history.