

Cold Harbor. By June 15 the main part of his army had crossed the James to begin the investment of Petersburg.

The siege was punctuated by Grant's surprise move 3½ months later. In the pre-dawn darkness of September 29, he quietly slipped two corps back across the James River in a sudden attack on Forts Gilmer and Harrison, two strongly fortified positions in the Richmond defenses. His primary purpose was to prevent Lee from sending reinforcements to Gen. Jubal Early in the Shenandoah Valley. Fort Gilmer successfully resisted the assault but Fort Harrison was captured and renamed Fort Burnham by the Federals.

The next day, with Lee looking on, the outnumbered Confederates failed in repeated attempts to retake the fort. They then built new fortifications to compensate for their loss. The Union forces, to protect their position further and to neutralize Confederate gunboats, constructed Fort Brady a few miles south of Fort Burnham (Harrison) on a high bluff overlooking the James River. Along these respective lines the opposing forces faced each other until Grant broke Lee's lines at Petersburg on April 1, 1865, forcing the Confederates to abandon Richmond.

Upon evacuation of the city, the Confederate Government authorized the burn-

ing of warehouses and supplies, which resulted in considerable destruction to factories and houses in the business district. The end of the war was now close at hand. Before the charred ruins of Richmond had cooled, Lee, with the remnant of his army, surrendered to Grant at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865.

*And the night came with great quiet.
And there was rest.—Sandburg.*

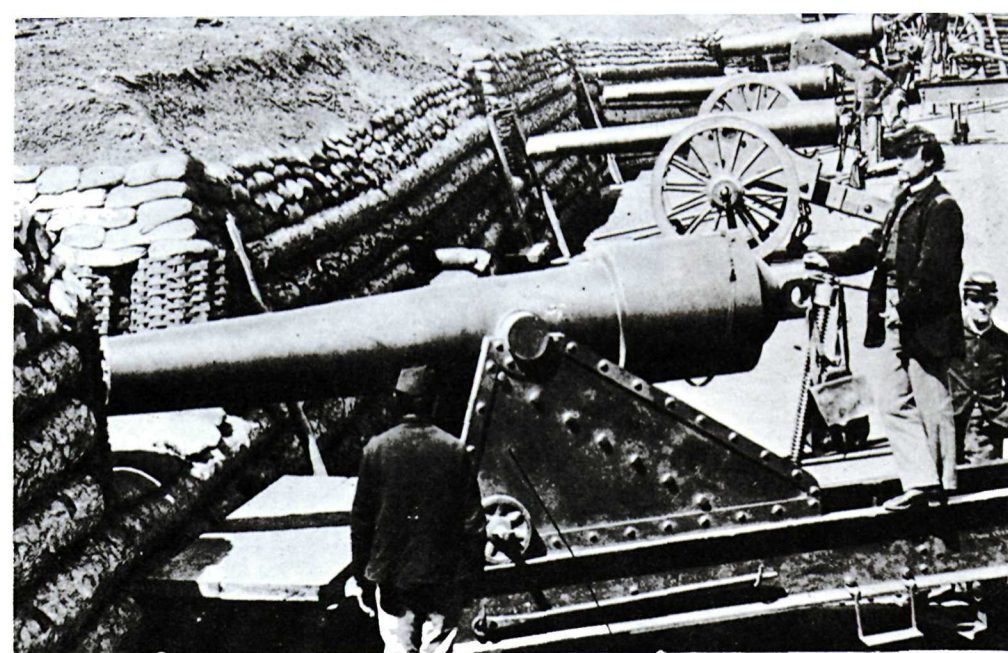
THE PARK

Richmond National Battlefield Park was established on July 14, 1944, as authorized by Congress. The property was originally acquired by a group of public-spirited Virginians who donated it in 1932, to the Commonwealth of Virginia. The park occupies nearly 800 acres of land in 10 separate parcels. Included are some 6 acres in Chimborazo Park on East Broad Street, site of the Chimborazo Hospital during the Civil War.

ABOUT YOUR VISIT

A complete tour of the battlefields requires a 57-mile drive which is outlined on the map. We suggest that you begin at

The parapet of Union Fort Burnham (formerly Confederate Fort Harrison). From a wartime photograph.



Members of the 1st Connecticut Artillery at Fort Brady, 1864. Photograph by Mathew B. Brady. Courtesy Library of Congress.

the main visitor center in Chimborazo Park, where exhibits and a library are available to enhance your appreciation of this battlefield area.

Markers, maps, and interpretive devices along the tour will help you to understand the military operations. You will see parts of the fields of combat, massive forts, and intricate field fortifications. Two houses on the battlefields have wartime associations—the Watt House (Gen. Fitz-John Porter's headquarters) and the Garthright House (Union field hospital).

There is also a museum and secondary visitor center at Fort Harrison, 10 miles southeast of Capitol Square in Richmond. You can get to this well preserved fort by way of State Route 5 and the main park entrance road, which is plainly marked.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fred A. Seaton, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, Conrad L. Wirth, Director

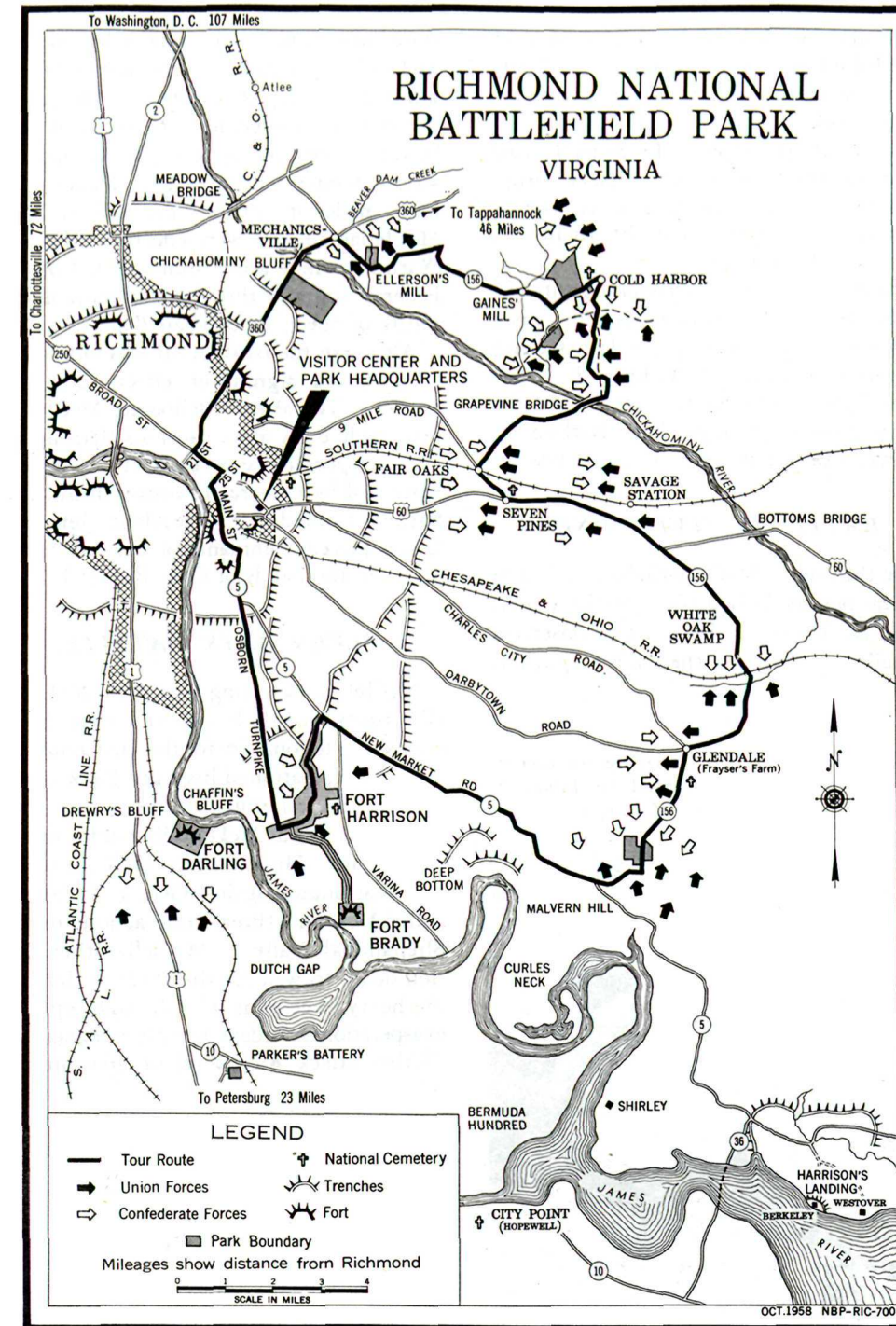


ADMINISTRATION

Richmond National Battlefield Park is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Richmond National Battlefield Park, 3215 East Broad Street, Richmond, Va., is in immediate charge.

MISSION 66

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



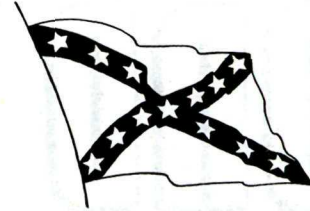
Cover: Confederates charge Union battery during Seven Days' Battles. From a sketch by A. C. Redwood.

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RICHMOND



NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK • VIRGINIA



RICHMOND

NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

Capital of the Confederacy for 4 years, Richmond was one of the main objectives of the Federal armies throughout the war.

After more than 80 years as Virginia's Capital, Richmond was made Capital of the Confederate States in May 1861. Situated at the head of navigation on the James River and only 110 miles from the Federal Capital at Washington, Richmond became the political, medical, and manufacturing center of the South. The North viewed the city also as the symbol of Secession and a prime psychological objective.

Of 7 "On-to-Richmond" drives launched by Union forces in the Eastern Theater of War, 2 came dangerously close to success—McClellan's Peninsular Campaign in 1862 and Grant's pulverizing campaign of 1864. But Richmond withstood all attacks until Grant's successful siege of Petersburg forced Lee to retreat westward from that city on April 2, 1865. The breakthrough at Petersburg forced final abandonment of Richmond on the next day. Flushed from his fortifications, Lee became prey to superior Union forces. His surrender at Appomattox Court House and the end of the Confederacy followed swiftly.

THE PENINSULAR CAMPAIGN

The Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) in July 1861 had been a humiliating experi-

ence for the North; and it had shown conclusively that ill-trained recruits could not successfully prosecute the war. During the winter of 1861-62, therefore, the Union forces defending Washington had been augmented, reorganized, and intensively trained. By spring these forces had been forged into a formidable instrument of war, more than 100,000 strong. It was called the Army of the Potomac and was commanded by Gen. George B. McClellan.

By spring, too, the Northern press and populace were impatiently demanding action. The Peninsular Campaign was the answer to this demand.

McClellan's plan was to transport his army by water from Washington to Fortress Monroe at the tip of the peninsula that lies between the York and the James Rivers; then to march up the peninsula to Richmond where he was to be joined by Gen. Irvin McDowell's corps from Fredericksburg; and, together, to crush Richmond's defenders and capture the Confederate Capital.

During March 1862 the waterborne movement to Fortress Monroe was accomplished. Then McClellan commenced a slow advance northwestward up the peninsula. He pushed through the under-

manned Confederate defense lines at Yorktown and Williamsburg, and on May 15 established his base of operations at White House on the Pamunkey River, a tributary of the York.

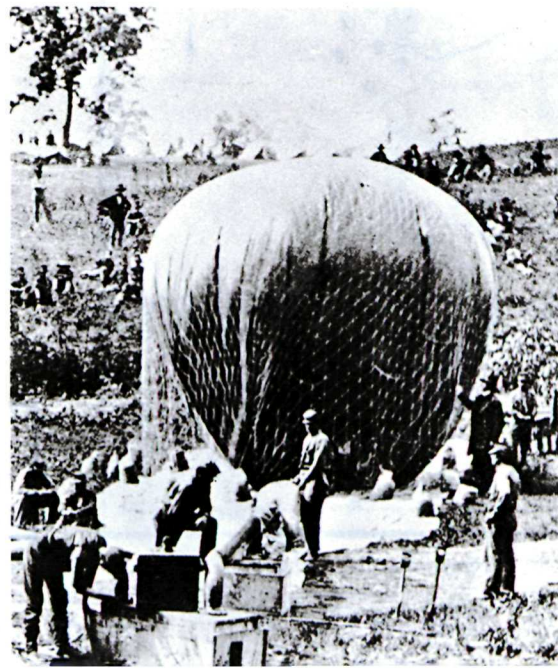
To transport supplies, the Federals used great numbers of steam vessels, brigs, schooners, sloops, and barges, as well as thousands of wagons and the Richmond and York River Railroad.

Meanwhile, a fleet of Federal gunboats, led by the ironclads *Galena* and the famed *Monitor*, had steamed up the James River to within 8 miles of Richmond. Near panic spread through the city before the heavy guns at strategic Fort Darling on Drewry's Bluff repulsed the Union fleet.

BATTLE OF SEVEN PINES

By the end of May, McClellan's advance up the peninsula had brought the Union Army so close to Richmond that observers in balloons could see the church spires in the city.

Union aerial observers preparing for ascent, 1862. Photograph attributed to James F. Gibson. *Courtesy Library of Congress.*



Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, the Confederate Army commander, now believing that McClellan planned to stay north of the James River, decided to attack. He caught the Federal commander with his army split by the Chickahominy River, a low, marshy stream bordered by swamps. Heavy rains had made it almost impassible; thus McClellan's forces were effectively divided. With his whole army, Johnston fell on the Federals south of the Chickahominy in the Battle of Seven Pines (Fair Oaks).

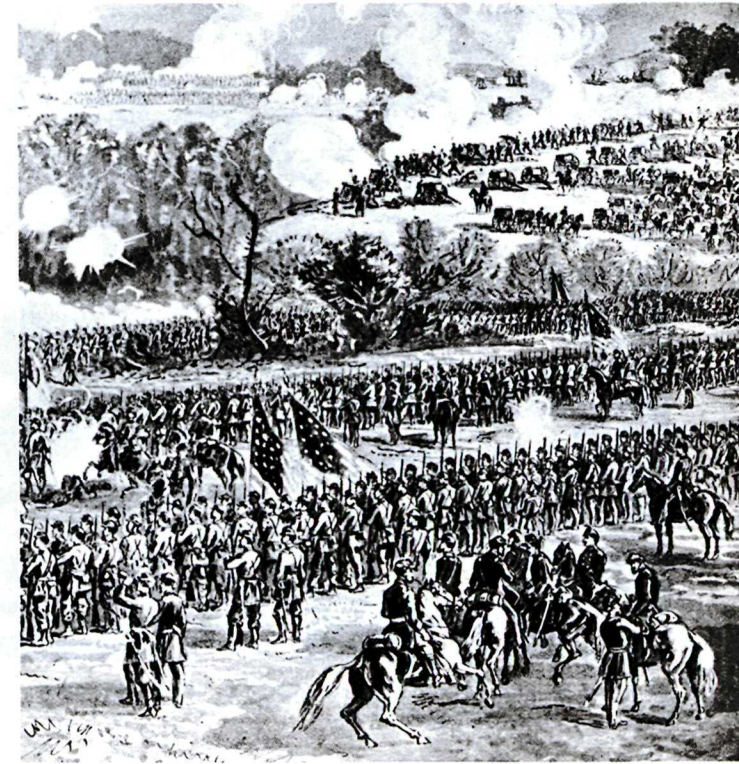
Although the battle itself was indecisive, it produced significant effects on both armies. The already deliberate McClellan was made even more cautious than usual. More important, as a result of the wound sustained by General Johnston during the battle, Confederate President Jefferson Davis placed command of the defending forces in the hands of Gen. Robert E. Lee.

SEVEN DAYS' BATTLES

McClellan, expecting Gen. Irvin McDowell's corps to march overland from Fredericksburg to join him for the final assault on Richmond, stationed his right flank north of the Chickahominy to hook up with McDowell. But McDowell could not join McClellan. He had been recalled to protect Washington against Gen. T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson's threatening actions in the Shenandoah Valley. McClellan then settled down to wait for the roads to dry and the heavy siege guns to be brought up. In exasperation President Lincoln telegraphed: "Either attack Richmond or give up the job."

Aware of McDowell's withdrawal, Lee promptly brought Jackson down from the valley. On June 26, in a bold gamble, Lee struck forcefully at McClellan's exposed right flank with three-fourths of his command. To mount this attack, he had left only about 20,000 troops to hold the main part of the Federal Army, about 70,000 strong, in front of Richmond.

Battle of Malvern Hill 1862. Union artillery (upper right) pours shot into charging Confederate ranks (upper left) as Union infantry waits for battle to approach.



This first of the Seven Days' Battles took place at Mechanicsville, or Beaver Dam Creek. Although the Confederates were repulsed, the appearance of Jackson's forces late in the day forced McClellan to fall back to a prepared position on Boatwain's Creek. Here, the next day, was fought the Battle of Gaines' Mill (First Cold Harbor), most costly and vicious of the Seven Days' Battles. When the Federal lines were finally broken that night, McClellan withdrew his right flank south across the Chickahominy and decided to change his base of operations from White House to Harrison's Landing on the James River, there to await reinforcements.

In attempts to destroy the Union Army as it marched south to Harrison's Landing, Lee attacked again on June 29 and 30 at Savage Station and Glendale (Frayser's Farm), where bitter rear-guard actions took place. But lack of coordination and proper timing on the part of Lee's subordinate gen-

erals, combined with McClellan's masterful organization for withdrawal, foiled Lee's strategy.

The last of the Seven Days' Battles was fought on July 1 at Malvern Hill. McClellan emplaced his artillery on the crest of this strong defensive position. As the Confederates charged up the slope, they were assailed by withering fire from these guns and their gallant attack was broken. This led Confederate Gen. D. H. Hill to remark: "Confederate infantry and Federal artillery, side by side on the same field, need fear no foe on earth."

The next day the Army of the Potomac was safely encamped at Harrison's Landing under protection of Federal gunboats on the James. Shortly thereafter it was recalled to Washington to support Gen. John Pope's campaign in Northern Virginia.

The Seven Days' Battles cost the Confederates 20,614, and the Federals 15,849, in killed, wounded, and missing.

COLD HARBOR

Almost 2 years passed before the Union Army again threatened Richmond. During this period the earthen forts and breastworks had been strengthened and extended until the city was almost encircled by three lines of defense.

In May 1864, Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, now in command of all Union Armies, crossed the Rapidan River with Gen. George G. Meade's Army of the Potomac. Grant had two objectives: destroy Lee's army and capture Richmond.

A month of fighting by day and marching by night had left the bloody Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields behind, and on June 1, the armies again came to grips at Cold Harbor, a strategic crossroads guarding the approaches to Richmond. After hard fighting which cost the Federals heavily, the Confederate lines were bent back in several places; but they were not broken.

Grant spent the next day maneuvering troops into position for another frontal assault. Lee's men took advantage of the lull to entrench themselves, using the existing terrain so effectively that they were

able to cover the Federal field of attack with a murderous fire.

Grant's corps commanders did not properly reconnoiter these fortified positions. Thus, the Union Army began a hopeless attack at 4:30 a. m. on June 3. It lasted less than 30 minutes, but left over 7,000 killed and wounded lying between the trenches. Union Gen. Martin T. McMahon observed: "In that little period more men fell bleeding as they advanced than in any other like period of time throughout the war." The horror of the day was cruelly intensified when a hot sun rose to torture the wounded men pinned down between the lines.

THE LAST 10 MONTHS

The battle of Cold Harbor saved Richmond for another 10 months, and proved to be Lee's last major victory. The battle had shown the hopelessness of frontal assaults on the well entrenched Confederates. Thus Grant was impelled to change his strategy from maneuver to the siege tactics exemplified at Petersburg. During the night of June 12, he secretly moved his troops out of the trenches at



The Federal attack at Cold Harbor, June 3, 1864. From a sketch by Alfred R. Waud. *Courtesy Library of Congress.*

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.