

Richmond National Battlefield Park



Cold Harbor



Battle of Cold Harbor

Fact: Much of the Battle of Cold Harbor was fought on the same ground as the 1862 Battle of Gaines' Mill.

Despite lasting nearly two weeks, the Battle of Cold Harbor, May 31-June 12, 1864, is best known for what happened on June 3. Ulysses S. Grant's Union soldiers launched futile direct attacks against Robert E. Lee's Confederates, who defended seven miles of powerful earthen fortifications. Repulsed with heavy loss, Grant halted his direct move against Richmond and marched toward Petersburg.