

SHILOH

*National
Military
Park*

T E N N E S S E E



SHILOH

NATIONAL MILITARY PARK



*Shiloh—" . . . a case of Southern dash against Northern pluck and endurance . . .
The troops on both sides were Americans . . . united they need not fear any foreign foe."*

—GEN. U. S. GRANT

SCENE OF THE FIRST MAJOR ENGAGEMENT in the western campaigns of the War Between the States, Shiloh was a struggle between Northern and Southern Armies composed largely of unseasoned troops. The dogged determination and tenacity shown by Union and Confederate soldiers alike upon this battlefield make it an inspiring memorial to American courage. Fought in heavily wooded terrain, upon rain-soaked ground, the battle was marked by great confusion that prevailed generally on both sides. At the end of the first day a great victory seemed to be within the grasp of the South. Overnight, heavy reinforcements joined the Northern Army and, on the second day, the Union troops forced the Confederates to retire from the battlefield and to retreat southward. This battle opened the way for the Union forces to gain possession of the Mississippi River during the following year and to split the Confederacy with the capture of Vicksburg.

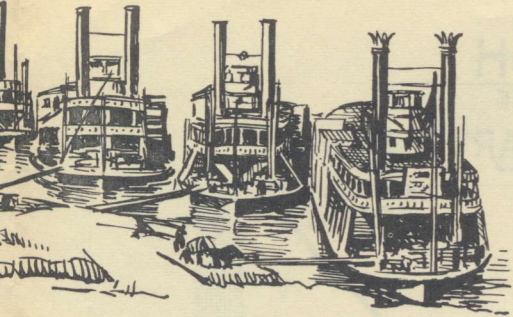
The Battle of Shiloh

After the capture of Fort Henry and Fort Donelson by the North in February 1862, the Confederates, commanded by Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, withdrew southward, abandoning all of Kentucky and most of Tennessee west of the mountains. They formed a new line of

defense along the railroad which ran from Memphis, on the Mississippi River, to Chattanooga. Johnston concentrated about 44,000 men at the important rail center of Corinth, Miss. In the meantime, a Federal army of 40,000 men, commanded by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, had moved up the Tennessee River to Pittsburg Landing, 22 miles from Corinth. It was Grant's plan to wait at Pittsburg Landing until General Buell's army from Nashville should join him. Then the two combined armies would attack the Confederates in Corinth.

When Johnston learned that Buell's army would reinforce Grant in a few days, he determined to attack before Buell arrived. His plan was to drive a wedge between the Union Army and the river and to force Grant away from the Northern Army's base of supplies at Pittsburg Landing. Johnston then planned to turn upon Buell.

After marching from Corinth over rain-drenched roads, the Confederates reached the vicinity of Shiloh on the late afternoon of April 5, 1862. The following morning, Sunday, they struck the Federal camps along the south and west fronts shortly after daybreak. Some of the most stubborn fighting during the morning occurred near Shiloh Church, a small log structure after which the battlefield is named, and which the Union right held tenaciously as it stood near



erected where he fell. Late in the afternoon the Confederates finally closed in upon Prentiss' Union division, in the Hornets' Nest, and forced him to surrender, together with 2,200 men.

The Union Army continued to retreat. By the end of the day it had been driven from 1 to 3 miles. At sunset, the army stood on the bluffs above Pittsburg Landing with its back to the river. Here it rallied, however, and drove back the last Confederate attacks of the day.

During the night about 25,000 fresh Union troops, largely from General Buell's army, arrived to reinforce Grant. On the morning of April 7, the Confederates with 34,000 men faced Union forces numbering 54,000. Greatly outnumbered, the Confederates were forced to give ground as the battle progressed. At 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the new Confederate commander, Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard, ordered his army to withdraw from the battlefield. It fell back to Corinth.

The losses for the North in the 2-day battle in killed, wounded, and missing were 13,017; for the South, 10,699.

After the Battle of Shiloh, the Confederates were compelled to withdraw southward. Corinth was abandoned to the North on May 30, cutting the railroad from Memphis to Chattanooga. By the end of June 1862, only those forts

the intersection of strategically important roads. Finally, about 10 o'clock in the morning, the Federal forces in the vicinity of the church fell back before the Confederate assaults.

In the meantime, the Northern center and left center had fallen back to positions known as the Hornets' Nest and the Peach Orchard. Here the heaviest fighting of the day continued for hours. In the Hornets' Nest, a natural fortress of dense woods and thickets, the Union line held firmly, driving back one Confederate assault after another. While directing an attack against the Federal left near the Peach Orchard, General Johnston was struck in the leg by a rifle ball. He died from the loss of blood about 2:30 p. m. A monument has been

Pittsburg Landing, long a stopping place for Tennessee River steamboats, was the Federal base of supply and landing point for troops



Bloody Pond



on the Mississippi River near Vicksburg remained in Southern hands. After a long siege, Vicksburg itself fell to the North on July 4, 1863, cutting the Confederacy in two.

The Park and Cemetery

Shiloh National Military Park was established by an act of Congress in 1894. It contains 3,729.26 acres of Federal lands, which include the areas of the heaviest fighting in the battle. There are 147 monuments which have been erected to commemorate the deeds of those who fought on this battlefield. Other areas dealing with the western campaign in the War Between the States are Fort Donelson National Military Park, Tenn.; Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, Ga.-Tenn.; and Vicksburg National Military Park, Miss.

The national cemetery, established in 1866 and containing 10.2 acres, is near the park headquarters on a high bluff overlooking the Tennessee River. Over 3,700 Federal soldiers are buried here, two-thirds of whom are unidentified.

How to Reach the Park

Shiloh National Military Park is situated along the west bank of the Tennessee River, on State Route 22, 17 miles northeast of Corinth,

Miss., 5 miles south of U. S. 64, Crump, Tenn., and 10 miles south of Savannah, Tenn. It is 13 miles east of U. S. 45, at Selmer, Tenn., via State Route 142, and 11 miles north of Pickwick Dam, via State Route 142.

About Your Visit

To orient yourself before taking a tour of the park, we suggest you visit the exhibit room and library in the headquarters building which is located near Pittsburg Landing and the Tennessee River. There are relics, books, and maps relating to the battle and the war, and illustrated talks are given daily. The exhibit room and library are open from 8:30 a. m. until sunset.

Those who plan to visit in a group may receive special service if advance arrangements are made with the superintendent.

Additional information on this and other areas of the National Park System may be obtained at park headquarters.

Administration

Shiloh National Military Park and Cemetery are administered by the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Pittsburg Landing, Tenn., is in immediate charge.

Graves of six Wisconsin colorbearers overlook the Tennessee River—Shiloh National Cemetery



Self-Guided Tour

Numbered markers have been placed at points of interest in the park to correspond with those tabulated below and shown on the map on the next page. For the complete tour, Nos. 1 to 17 should be followed consecutively.

1. *Iowa State Monument.*
2. *Michigan State Monument.*
3. *Confederate Monument*—Erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy to the memory of the Confederate soldiers who took part in the battle.
4. *Ruggles' Batteries*—Positions of 62 Confederate guns concentrated upon the Union positions in the Hornets' Nest.
5. *Confederate Burial Trench*—The largest of five trenches in which the Confederate dead were buried. It contains the remains of more than 700 soldiers.
6. *Illinois State Monument.*
7. *Shiloh Church Site*—On this site stood the original log Shiloh Church from which the battle took its name. The present church was erected in 1949.
8. *Fralay Field*—The Battle of Shiloh opened in this field at daybreak, Sunday, April 6, 1862.
9. *Putnam Stump.*
10. *Hornets' Nest and Sunken Road*—The Union forces, protected by an old sunken road, defended this area against 12 Confederate assaults, but were forced to surrender over 2,200 men near the end of the first day's fighting.
11. *Johnston's Monument*—Adjacent to this monument stands the remains of a large white oak tree near which Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was mortally wounded.
12. *Peach Orchard*—In bloom at the time of the battle, this was a scene of fierce and deadly conflict.
13. *War Cabin*—This cabin was on the field at the time of the battle.
14. *Bloody Pond*—During the battle the wounded of both sides came here for water.
15. *Indian Mounds*—Two types of prehistoric mounds overlook the river—the earlier dome-shaped earthwork covering burials and later flat-topped mounds which served as bases for ceremonial houses. An ancient village nearby belonged to the builders of the burial mounds. The Shiloh mounds were partially explored in 1899 and again in 1934 by the Smithsonian Institution. A few objects from the mounds are in the park museum.
16. *Overlook*—Point affording an excellent view of the picturesque and historic Tennessee River and the surrounding country.
17. *Pittsburg Landing*—Federal base during the battle, this river landing had for many years been used by the steamboats on the Tennessee.

The National Park System, of which these areas are units, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of its people.



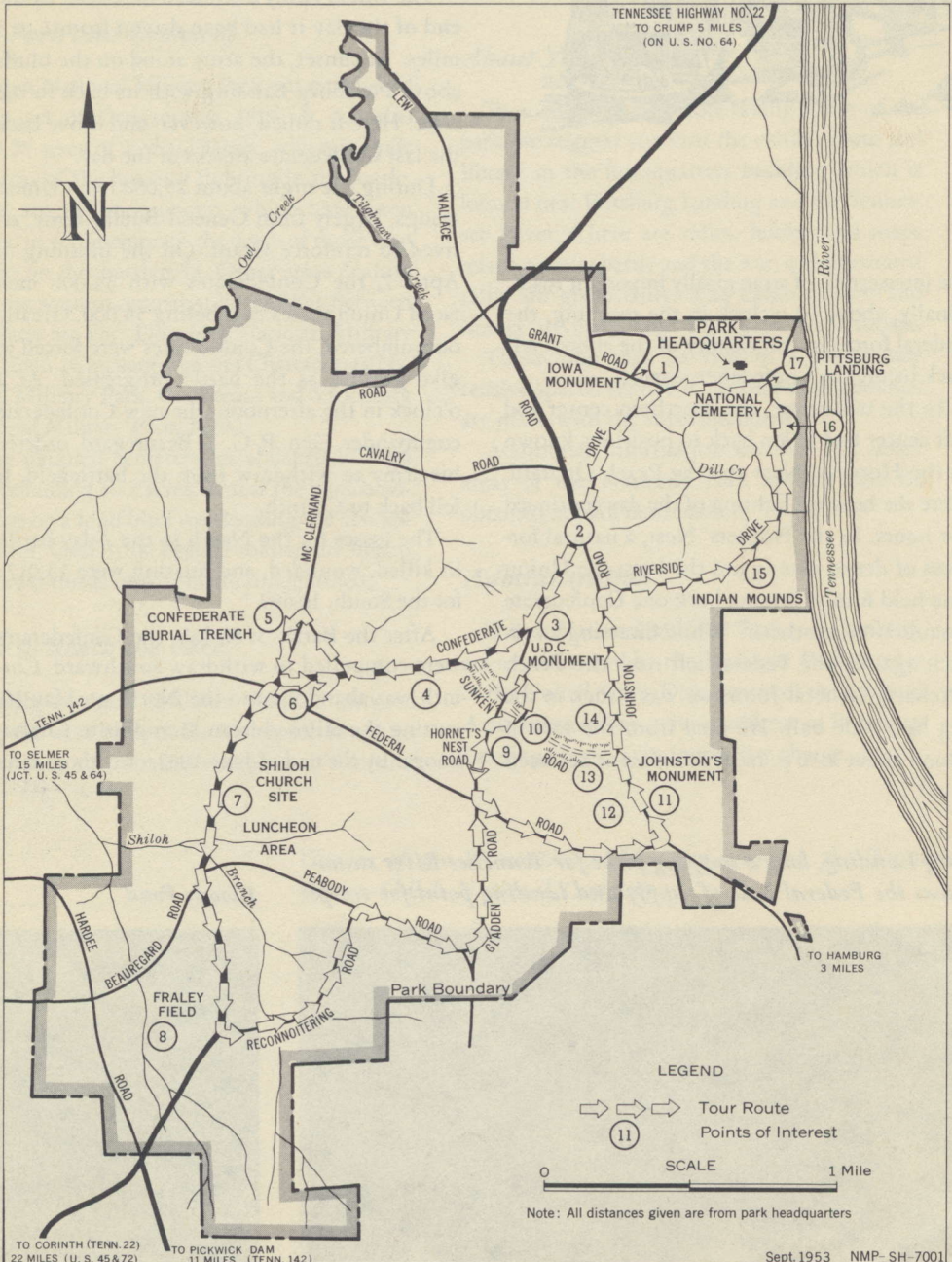
United States Department of the Interior
Douglas McKay, Secretary
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • Conrad L. Wirth, Director



SHILOH

TENNESSEE

NATIONAL MILITARY PARK



REPRINT 1955

Sept. 1953 NMP-SH-7001

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1955 O-F-320529

A 48-page handbook may be obtained at the park or from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., for 25 cents.