

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 20 should be followed consecutively.

1. *Iowa Monument.*
2. *Grant's Last Line.*—Cannon mark final positions of the Union Army on the first day.
3. *Michigan Monument.*
4. *U. D. C. Confederate Monument.*
5. *Sunken Road.*—Union troops held the road against repeated Southern attacks on the first day.
6. *Ruggles' Batteries.*—Site of 62 Confederate guns concentrated upon the Hornets' Nest.
7. *Confederate Burial Trench.*—The largest of five trenches in which Southern dead were buried. It contains the remains of more than 700 soldiers.
8. *Water Oaks Pond.*
9. *Illinois Monument.*
10. *Shiloh Church Site.*—Here stood the original Shiloh Church from which the battle took its name. The present church was completed in 1949.
11. *Reconnoitering Road and Fraley Field.*—On Sunday, April 6, 1862, Federal Scouts moved over this road and struck Confederates advancing into Fraley Field to the west. There, at daybreak, began the Battle of Shiloh.
12. *Putnam Stump.*—A monument to the memory of a private soldier.

13. *Center of Hornets' Nest.*—Union forces fought here for 8 hours before surrendering more than 2,200 men near the end of the first day. The Arkansas, Minnesota, and Wisconsin monuments are nearby.
14. *Site of Tent Hospital.*—One of the first tent hospitals on any battlefield was established here by Federal surgeons.
15. *Johnston Monument.*—Adjacent to this monument stands the remains of an oak tree near which Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston was mortally wounded.
16. *Peach Orchard and War Cabin.*—The orchard was in bloom during the fighting. The log cabin was on the field at the time of the battle.
17. *Bloody Pond.*—During the battle, soldiers of both sides came here to drink and to bathe their wounds.
18. *Indian Mounds.*—Two types of mounds built by prehistoric Indians overlook the river—the earlier dome-shaped earthwork which covered burials, and the later flat-topped mounds on which stood ceremonial houses.
19. *Tennessee River Overlook.*
20. *Pittsburg Landing.*—Federal base during the battle and, for many years, a landing point for river steamers.

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 inspiration of its people.

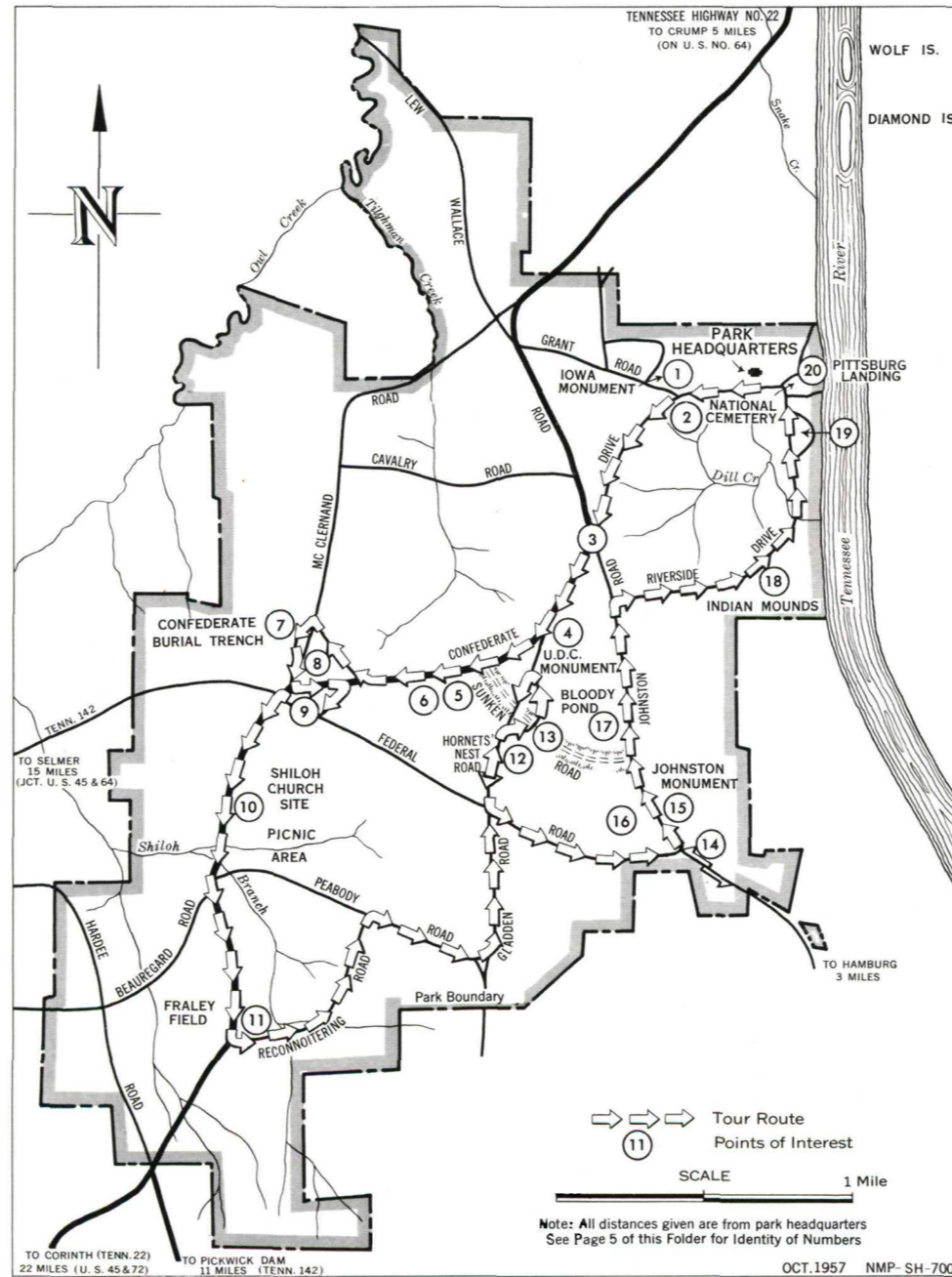


United States Department of the Interior
Fred A. Seaton, Secretary

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE • Conrad L. Wirth, Director



SHILOH TENNESSEE NATIONAL MILITARY PARK



Reprint 1957

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1957—O-447264

A 48-page handbook may be purchased while you are in the park or by mail from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., for 25 cents.

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*

SHILOH WAS the first major battle in the western campaigns of the War Between the States. The courage and devotion shown here by the unseasoned soldiers of the North and of the South make the battlefield an inspiring memorial to American valor. The bitter struggle was grim proof that each side would fight to the last in defense of its principles. Out of the tragic confusion of Shiloh came lessons in warfare that commanders and men of the opposing armies never forgot. By opening the road to Union victory in the west, the battle struck a fatal blow to the dream of a Southern Confederacy. Northern forces won control of the Mississippi River in the following year and split the South with the capture of Vicksburg.

The Battle of Shiloh

The capture of Forts Henry and Donelson by Union forces in February 1862 forced Confederate Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston to withdraw from Kentucky and most of Tennessee. The Confederates retired southward and formed a new line of defense along the railroad which ran from Memphis to Chattanooga. Johnston concentrated 44,000 men at the important rail center of Corinth, Miss. While the Southern troops reorganized, Gen. U. S. Grant's Federal army of 40,000 troops steamed up the Tennessee River to Pittsburg Landing, 22 miles northeast of Corinth. Grant was ordered to wait at Pittsburg Land-

ing for the arrival from Nashville of Gen. D. C. Buell's army. The Northern armies planned to combine and then attack the Confederates at Corinth.

Warned that Buell would join Grant in a few days, Johnston determined to strike before his enemies could unite. He intended to force his way between Grant's army and the river, thereby cutting off the Northern forces from their base of supply at Pittsburg Landing. With Grant's army destroyed, Johnston would then turn on Buell.

After a strenuous march from Corinth, through spring rains that turned the roads into rivers of mud, the Confederates formed their battlelines near Shiloh late on the afternoon of Saturday, April 5, 1862. Shortly after daybreak the following morning, they stormed the Federal camp along the south and west fronts. During the morning, furious fighting swirled around Shiloh Church, a small log building for which the battlefield is named. The Union right flank fought desperately to hold the important crossroads near the church, but was forced to fall back about 10 a. m. The Federals were driven toward the river instead of away from it as Johnston had planned.

In the meantime, the Union center had withdrawn to positions in the Peach Orchard and in the Hornets' Nest, a natural fortress of dense woods and thickets. Here, as the day wore on, raged the deadliest fighting in

the battle. In the Hornets' Nest, the Union line stood fast, shattering wave after wave of attacking Confederates. Near the Peach Orchard, General Johnston, while directing a charge against the Federal left, was struck in the right leg by a rifle ball. The Confederate commander died from loss of blood about 2:30 p. m. Confederate Gen. Daniel Ruggles collected 62 cannon from scattered points on the field and concentrated a withering fire on the Federals in the Hornets' Nest. Late in this afternoon of April 6 the Confederates made their 12th charge upon the Union troops who had defended the Hornets' Nest and Sunken Road for 8 bitter hours. They forced Gen. Benjamin Prentiss and 2,200 men to surrender.

The Union Army continued to retreat, some units falling back as much as 3 miles.

As darkness fell over smoke-filled woods and clearings, Grant's weary men stood on the bluffs above Pittsburg Landing with their backs to the river. Here they rallied and, with the help of massed artillery and two gunboats, repulsed the last Confederate attempt to capture the landing.

During that rainy night, about 25,000 fresh Union troops, from General Buell's army and Gen. Lew Wallace's division, took position in Grant's line. At dawn on April 7, 34,000 Confederates faced Union forces of 54,000, and the thin Confederate line gave ground as the Northern counterattack gathered strength. At 2 p. m., Johnston's successor, Gen. P. G. T. Beauregard, ordered his outnumbered forces to withdraw from the field. A few days later the Confederates were again encamped at Corinth.

The 2-day battle cost the North 13,047 men killed, wounded, and missing. Total losses for the South were 10,699.

The Battle of Shiloh was a vital link in the chain of victories which won the Mississippi Valley for the Union. The Confederate base at Corinth was abandoned on May 30 to the Federals. The railroad from Memphis to Chattanooga was thereby lost to the Confederacy. By the end of June 1862, only those forts on the Mississippi River near

Vicksburg remained in Southern hands. After a long siege, Vicksburg itself fell to the North on July 4, 1863. The Confederacy was cut in two.

The Park and Cemetery

Shiloh National Military Park was established by an act of Congress in 1894. It contains approximately 3,700 acres of Federal lands, including the areas of heaviest fighting in the battle. The national cemetery, established in 1866 and containing 10 acres, is near park headquarters on a high bluff overlooking Pittsburg Landing and the Tennessee River. More than 3,700 Federal soldiers are buried here, two-thirds of whom are unidentified.

Other areas dealing with the western campaigns in the War Between the States are Fort Donelson and Stones River National Military Parks, Tenn.; Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park., Ga.-Tenn.; and Vicksburg National Military Park, Miss.

Location

The park is located on the west bank of the Tennessee River about 17 miles north of Corinth, Miss. It is 5 miles south of U. S. 64,

the main route between Chattanooga and Memphis.

About Your Visit

To acquaint yourself with the battle story before taking a tour of the park, we suggest you visit the exhibit room in the headquarters building near Pittsburg Landing. Relics, exhibits, and maps relating to the battle and the war are displayed, and illustrated talks are given throughout the day. A library is also available for your use. The park museum is open every day from 8 a. m. until 4:30 p. m. in winter and until 5:30 p. m. in summer.

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 the museum. Written requests for information should be addressed to the superintendent.

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.

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



Bloody Pond



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

