

biggest battles of the civil war

The Biggest Battles of the Civil War: A Deep Dive into America's Defining Conflicts

biggest battles of the civil war hold a significant place in American history, shaping the nation's future in profound ways. These monumental clashes were not just about soldiers facing off on battlefields; they represented ideological struggles, strategic maneuvers, and moments that tested the resolve of both the Union and the Confederacy. If you're curious about the most consequential encounters during this turbulent period, let's explore some of the biggest battles of the Civil War, their impact, and why they remain etched in the collective memory of the United States.

Understanding the Significance of the Civil War Battles

Before diving into specific battles, it's important to grasp why these conflicts were so pivotal. The American Civil War (1861-1865) was fought over deeply rooted issues, primarily slavery and states' rights. The battles were often brutal and showcased evolving military tactics and technologies. From massive troop engagements to strategic sieges, each battle influenced the war's trajectory and ultimately the preservation of the Union.

The Biggest Battles of the Civil War

When discussing the biggest battles of the Civil War, many come to mind due to their scale, casualties, and strategic importance. These battles often involved tens of thousands of soldiers and resulted in high fatalities, making them some of the bloodiest encounters in American history.

Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863)

Arguably the most famous battle of the Civil War, Gettysburg marked a turning point in the conflict. Fought in Pennsylvania, it was the largest battle ever fought in North America, involving over 160,000 soldiers. The Union army, under General George G. Meade, successfully repelled the Confederate forces led by General Robert E. Lee.

Why was Gettysburg so pivotal? It ended Lee's invasion of the North and shifted momentum in favor of the Union. The staggering casualties—over 50,000 combined—highlight the battle's intensity. The aftermath also inspired President Abraham Lincoln's iconic Gettysburg Address, which redefined the purpose of the war and emphasized national unity.

Battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862)

Known as the single bloodiest day in American military history, the Battle of Antietam took place near Sharpsburg, Maryland. The Union forces, commanded by General George McClellan, clashed

with Lee's Confederate army in a brutal and chaotic fight.

Despite the inconclusive tactical outcome, Antietam had massive strategic consequences. It halted Lee's first invasion of the North and provided President Lincoln the opportunity to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation. With around 23,000 casualties in just one day, Antietam remains a stark reminder of the war's human cost.

Battle of Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862)

Taking place in southwestern Tennessee, the Battle of Shiloh was one of the early large-scale battles in the Western Theater of the war. Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant faced a surprise Confederate attack but ultimately secured victory after two days of savage fighting.

Shiloh shattered illusions about the war being a short conflict. Casualties exceeded 23,000, shocking both the North and South. The battle also highlighted the importance of effective communication and coordination among troops, lessons that shaped future engagements.

Battle of Chickamauga (September 19-20, 1863)

Often overshadowed by Gettysburg, the Battle of Chickamauga was the second bloodiest battle of the Civil War and a significant Confederate victory. Fought in northern Georgia, Confederate General Braxton Bragg's forces dealt a serious blow to the Union army under General William Rosecrans.

Despite the Confederate success, the battle did not decisively change the war's course but set the stage for the Union Siege of Chattanooga. With nearly 35,000 casualties, Chickamauga demonstrated the brutal nature of warfare in the Western Theater.

Battle of Fredericksburg (December 11-15, 1862)

The Battle of Fredericksburg stands out for the devastating losses suffered by the Union army in repeated frontal assaults against well-entrenched Confederate defenders. Located in Virginia, this battle saw General Robert E. Lee's troops repelling Union forces under General Ambrose Burnside.

The Union's failure at Fredericksburg exposed flaws in leadership and tactics, but it also underscored the resilience of Confederate positions. Casualties were staggering, with the Union suffering over 12,000 losses compared to the Confederates' roughly 5,000.

Why These Battles Matter Today

Exploring the biggest battles of the Civil War goes beyond recounting historical facts; it offers insights into the complexities of war, leadership, and the human spirit. These battles illustrate how geography, logistics, and morale can influence outcomes, lessons still relevant to military strategy

today.

Moreover, battlefields like Gettysburg and Antietam have become sacred sites, preserved to honor those who fought and died. Visiting these historic places allows us to connect with the past, appreciate the sacrifices made, and understand the forces that shaped modern America.

Lessons from the Civil War Battlefields

- **Leadership Under Pressure:** Commanders like Grant and Lee made decisions that could mean life or death for thousands. Studying their choices reveals the weight of leadership during crisis.
- **Technological Evolution:** The Civil War introduced new weapons and tactics, such as rifled muskets and trench warfare, that foreshadowed modern combat.
- **The Human Cost:** High casualty rates remind us of war's devastating impact on soldiers and civilians alike, emphasizing the importance of striving for peace.

Exploring Civil War Battles Beyond the Biggest Engagements

While the largest battles often dominate discussions, numerous smaller engagements and sieges also influenced the war's outcome. Battles like Fort Sumter (where the war began), Vicksburg (which gave the Union control of the Mississippi River), and Chancellorsville (a Confederate tactical masterpiece despite the loss of General Stonewall Jackson) each played essential roles.

Understanding these diverse battles enriches our perspective on the Civil War, showing that victory was not just about winning a few major fights but a series of interconnected struggles across multiple fronts.

Visiting the Battlefields: Tips for History Enthusiasts

If you're inspired to learn more about the biggest battles of the Civil War firsthand, consider planning visits to national parks and historic sites. Many battlefields offer guided tours, museums, and reenactments that bring history to life.

- **Plan Ahead:** Check the official park websites for visitor hours and special events.
- **Engage with Rangers:** Battlefield rangers provide valuable context and answer questions.
- **Explore Museums:** Artifacts and exhibits deepen understanding of the soldiers' experiences.
- **Respect the Site:** Remember these are places of sacrifice; preserve their dignity for future generations.

Exploring these sites can be a powerful way to connect with the past and gain a fuller appreciation of the Civil War's complexity.

The stories behind the biggest battles of the Civil War remain compelling because they reflect not just military might but the resilience, tragedy, and hope of a nation divided yet striving for unity.

Whether you're a history buff or a curious learner, delving into these epic confrontations offers a window into a transformative era of American history.

Frequently Asked Questions

What was the largest battle of the American Civil War?

The Battle of Gettysburg is considered the largest battle of the American Civil War, involving around 165,000 soldiers over three days in July 1863.

Why was the Battle of Gettysburg significant in the Civil War?

The Battle of Gettysburg was significant because it marked the turning point of the Civil War, ending General Robert E. Lee's invasion of the North and resulting in a major Union victory.

Which battle had the highest number of casualties during the Civil War?

The Battle of Gettysburg had the highest number of casualties during the Civil War, with approximately 51,000 soldiers killed, wounded, or missing.

What was the outcome of the Battle of Antietam?

The Battle of Antietam, fought in September 1862, ended in a tactical draw but gave President Abraham Lincoln the opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, shifting the war's focus to ending slavery.

How did the Battle of Chickamauga impact the Civil War?

The Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863 was a significant Confederate victory in the Western Theater, leading to the Union siege of Chattanooga but ultimately failing to change the overall course of the war.

Additional Resources

Biggest Battles of the Civil War: An Analytical Review of Key Engagements

biggest battles of the civil war represent pivotal moments in American history that shaped the trajectory of the nation's most defining conflict. The Civil War, spanning from 1861 to 1865, was marked by numerous fierce confrontations between the Union and Confederate forces.

Understanding these battles is essential for comprehending the strategic, political, and social ramifications of the war. This article delves into the largest and most consequential battles, examining their scale, impact, and legacy in a neutral and investigative manner.

The Significance of the Biggest Battles of the Civil War

The term “biggest battles of the civil war” generally refers to engagements distinguished by the number of troops involved, casualties sustained, and strategic importance. These battles were not merely military encounters; they influenced public sentiment, political decisions, and ultimately the outcome of the war. Analyzing these clashes provides insight into military tactics, leadership decisions, and the evolution of warfare during the mid-19th century.

The Battle of Gettysburg: Turning Point of the War

Often cited as the largest battle of the Civil War, the Battle of Gettysburg took place over three days in July 1863. Involving approximately 165,000 soldiers, this confrontation resulted in massive casualties estimated at over 50,000 combined. Gettysburg's significance lies in its decisive Union victory which halted General Robert E. Lee's invasion of the North. The battle also featured notable tactical elements such as Pickett's Charge, a failed Confederate assault that epitomized the ferocity and desperation of the conflict.

Gettysburg's aftermath had profound political implications. President Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address reframed the war's purpose, emphasizing national unity and human equality. Militarily, the battle weakened Confederate forces, marking a shift in momentum towards the Union.

The Battle of Antietam: Bloodiest Single Day

Fought on September 17, 1862, the Battle of Antietam holds the grim distinction of being the bloodiest single day in American military history, with around 23,000 casualties. Though tactically inconclusive, the battle ended Lee's first invasion of the North and provided President Lincoln the opportunity to issue the preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.

Antietam's strategic importance cannot be overstated. It bolstered Northern morale, discouraged foreign powers from recognizing the Confederacy, and shifted the war's focus towards the abolition of slavery. The battle also exposed the brutal realities of industrialized warfare, with intense artillery bombardments and close-quarters combat.

The Battle of Chickamauga: Largest Battle in the Western Theater

While Eastern battles often dominate Civil War narratives, the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863 was the largest engagement in the Western Theater. Approximately 125,000 troops clashed in dense forests of northern Georgia, resulting in a Confederate victory but with heavy losses on both sides.

Chickamauga's outcome disrupted Union advances into the South and prolonged the conflict. The battle demonstrated the complexities of terrain and command coordination, as both armies struggled with communication and maneuvering in challenging environments. Though a Confederate

victory, it ultimately failed to secure long-term strategic advantage.

Comparative Analysis of Scale and Impact

When assessing the biggest battles of the civil war, several criteria emerge as relevant: troop strength, duration, casualties, and strategic consequences. The Battle of Gettysburg involved the largest number of combatants, while Antietam's casualty figures highlight the brutality of the conflict. Chickamauga's significance lies in its regional impact and illustration of Western Theater dynamics.

- **Troop Deployment:** Gettysburg (~165,000), Antietam (~113,000), Chickamauga (~125,000)
- **Casualties:** Gettysburg (~50,000), Antietam (~23,000), Chickamauga (~34,000)
- **Duration:** Gettysburg (3 days), Antietam (1 day), Chickamauga (2 days)

These metrics underscore the varied nature of Civil War battles, reflecting differences in strategy, geography, and command decisions. The scale of these conflicts often translated into significant shifts in military momentum and political resolve.

Other Noteworthy Battles

Beyond the most famous, several other large-scale battles merit attention for their contributions to the war's progression:

1. **Battle of Fredericksburg (December 1862):** Known for its devastating Union losses during frontal assaults against fortified Confederate positions.
2. **Battle of Stones River (December 1862 - January 1863):** A bloody and inconclusive fight that bolstered Union control in Tennessee.
3. **Battle of Vicksburg (May-July 1863):** A prolonged siege culminating in Union control of the Mississippi River, effectively splitting the Confederacy.

Each of these battles contributed uniquely to the broader strategic picture, influencing logistics, morale, and territorial control.

Military Leadership and Tactical Innovations

The biggest battles of the civil war were also stages for evolving military doctrine and leadership styles. Commanders such as Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, George Meade, and William Rosecrans shaped the conflict through decisions that balanced aggression with caution. For instance, Grant's persistence at Vicksburg and later in the Overland Campaign contrasted with Lee's audacity at Gettysburg and Chickamauga.

Technological advancements, including rifled muskets, artillery, and telegraph communications, affected how battles were fought and coordinated. The high casualty rates partly reflected the mismatch between traditional tactics and modern weaponry, a factor evident in the intense and costly confrontations.

Impact on Civilian Populations and Societal Change

While military analysis often focuses on troop movements and outcomes, the biggest battles of the civil war had profound effects on civilian populations. Towns like Gettysburg and Chattanooga were transformed into war zones, enduring destruction and displacement. The enormous human cost resonated throughout American society, influencing attitudes toward the war and shaping post-war reconstruction efforts.

Moreover, battles such as Antietam provided the political context for transformative policies, including the Emancipation Proclamation, which redefined the war's moral and political stakes. These engagements thus intersected with broader themes of freedom, national identity, and human rights.

The legacy of these battles continues to be studied and commemorated, reflecting their enduring place in American historical consciousness.

The biggest battles of the civil war reveal a complex tapestry of tactical prowess, human endurance, and historical consequence. Exploring these engagements offers a deeper appreciation for the conflict's scale and the sacrifices it entailed, highlighting their continued relevance in understanding America's past.

Biggest Battles Of The Civil War

biggest battles of the civil war: The Ten Biggest Battles of the Civil War Charles River Editors, 2025-05-02 Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War and its biggest battles, particularly Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh, all of which involved Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant. But one of the 6 biggest battles of the war, and the one that took the heaviest toll by % on both armies was fought at the end of 1862 in Tennessee, and it involved neither of those generals. In late December 1862, William Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland was contesting Middle Tennessee against Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee, and for three days the two armies savaged each other as Bragg threw his army at Rosecrans in a series of desperate assaults. Bragg's army was unable to dislodge the Union army, and he eventually withdrew his army after learning that Rosecrans was on the verge of receiving reinforcements. Though the battle was stalemated, the fact that the Union army was left in possession of the field allowed Rosecrans to declare victory and embarrassed Bragg. Of all the Civil War battles fought, and of all the victories achieved by Robert E.

Lee at the command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, the Battle of Chancellorsville is considered the most tactically complex and ultimately the most brilliant Confederate victory of the war. In early May 1863, the Army of the Potomac was at the height of its power as it bore down on Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia near Fredericksburg, where the Confederates had defeated them the previous December. The Union behemoth had spent most of the winter season being reorganized and drilled by "Fighting Joe" Hooker, an aggressive commander who had fought hard at places like Antietam. With an army nearing 130,000 men, Hooker's Army of the Potomac was twice the size of the Army of Northern Virginia. Lee's heavily outnumbered army won the most stunning victory of the war at Chancellorsville, but it cost them Stonewall Jackson. Moreover, the reorganization of the armies and the battle itself played an influential role in the way the Pennsylvania Campaign and the Battle of Gettysburg unfolded later that summer. Without question, the most famous battle of the American Civil War took place outside of the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which happened to be a transportation hub, serving as the center of a wheel with several roads leading out to other Pennsylvanian towns. From July 1-3, Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia tried everything in its power to decisively defeat George Meade's Union Army of the Potomac, unleashing ferocious assaults that inflicted nearly 50,000 casualties in all. Day 1 of the battle would have been one of the 25 biggest battles of the Civil War itself, and it ended with a tactical Confederate victory. But over the next two days, Lee would try and fail to dislodge the Union army with attacks on both of its flanks during the second day and Pickett's Charge on the third and final day. Meade's stout defense held, barely, repulsing each attempted assault, handing the Union a desperately needed victory that ended up being one of the Civil War's turning points. After the South had lost the war, the importance of Gettysburg as one of the "high tide" marks of the Confederacy became apparent to everyone, making the battle all the more important in the years after it had been fought. While former Confederate generals cast about for scapegoats, with various officers pointing fingers at Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, and James Stuart, historians and avid Civil War fans became obsessed with studying and analyzing all the command decisions and army movements during the entire campaign. Despite the saturation of coverage, Americans refuse to grow tired of visiting the battlefield and reliving the biggest battle fought in North America.

biggest battles of the civil war: *The Biggest Battles of the Civil War* Kirsten Schefelton, Molly Kolpin, 2014-07-01 Describes the biggest battles of the American Civil War, including the first and second Battles of Bull Run, Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh--

biggest battles of the civil war: [The 5 Biggest Civil War Battles: Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Spotsylvania Court House, Chancellorsville, and the Wilderness](#) Charles River Charles River Editors, 2013-08-25 *Includes pictures of the battles' important generals. *Includes several maps of the battles. *Includes accounts of the battles written by important generals. *Includes a Bibliography for each battle.. Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War, marveling at the size of the battles, the leadership of the generals, and the courage of the soldiers. Since the war's start over 150 years ago, the battles have been subjected to endless debate among historians and the generals themselves. By 1863, the Civil War had reached a level of ferocity not yet seen, and the 5 biggest battles would take place in 1863-1864, starting with Chancellorsville. Of all the Civil War battles fought, and of all the victories achieved by Robert E. Lee at the command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, the Battle of Chancellorsville is considered the most tactically complex and ultimately the most brilliant Confederate victory of the war. Despite being outnumbered by over 2-1, Lee's army won a battle that saw 30,000 casualties inflicted upon the two sides. Less than 2 months later, the Army of the Potomac and Army of Northern Virginia faced off in the most famous and biggest battle of the war at Gettysburg. Day 1 of the battle would have been one of the 25 biggest battles of the Civil War itself, and it ended with a tactical Confederate victory. But over the next two days, Lee would try and fail to dislodge the Union army with attacks on both of its flanks during the second day and Pickett's Charge on the third and final day. Meade's stout defense held, barely, repulsing each attempted assault, handing the Union a desperately needed victory that ended up being one of the Civil War's turning points. The second bloodiest battle of the Civil War came in

September 1863 at Chickamauga, which saw George H. Thomas save the Union Army of the Cumberland from a disaster on the second day of the battle after a Union blunder had created a gap in the line. After nearly 35,000 casualties suffered by the two sides, Thomas prevented the destruction of the Union army by Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee, and Chickamauga's long been considered the last great chance for the Confederates in the West. With Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia continuing to frustrate the Union Army of the Potomac's attempts to take Richmond in 1862 and 1863, President Lincoln shook things up by turning command of all the armies of the United States to Ulysses S. Grant in March 1864. Attaching himself to the Army of the Potomac, Grant ordered Army of the Potomac commander George Meade, Lee's army is your objective point. Wherever Lee goes, there you will go also. At the Battle of the Wilderness (May 5-7, 1864), Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee had fought to a standstill in their first encounter, failing to dislodge each other despite incurring nearly 30,000 casualties between the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Despite the fierce fighting, Grant continued to push his battered but resilient army south, hoping to beat Lee's army to the crossroads at Spotsylvania Court House, but Lee's army beat Grant's to Spotsylvania and began digging in, setting the scene for on and off fighting from May 8-21 that ultimately inflicted more casualties than the Battle of the Wilderness. In fact, with over 32,000 casualties among the two sides, it was the deadliest battle of the Overland Campaign. The 5 Biggest Civil War Battles comprehensively covers all 5 battles, including the events that led up to the battle, the fighting itself, and the aftermath of the battles. Accounts of the battles by important participants are also included, along with maps of the battles and pictures of important people, places, and events. You will learn about the 5 bloodiest Civil War battles like you never have before.

biggest battles of the civil war: The History of the Civil War Charles River Charles River Editors, 2013-09-21 *Includes pictures of important people, places, and events. *Includes accounts of the fighting written by the generals of the battles. *Includes maps of the battles. *Explains the causes and chain of events that led to the secession of Southern states and the formation of the Confederacy. *Includes a Bibliography for further reading. The Civil War was the deadliest conflict in American history, and had the two sides realized it would take 4 years and inflict over a million casualties, it might not have been fought. Since it did, however, historians and history buffs alike have been studying and analyzing the biggest battles ever since. Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War, marveling at the size of the battles, the leadership of the generals, and the courage of the soldiers. Since the war's start over 150 years ago, the battles have been subjected to endless debate among historians and the generals themselves. The secession of the South was one of the seminal events in American history, but it also remains one of the most controversial. The election of Abraham Lincoln was the impetus for secession, but that was merely one of many events that led up to the formation of the Confederacy and the start of the Civil War. The Confederacy's hope of being let go in peace ended at 4:30 a.m. on the morning of April 12, 1861, when Confederate Brigadier-General P.G.T. Beauregard ordered the first shots to be fired at the federal garrison defending Fort Sumter in the Charleston Harbor, effectively igniting the Civil War. Today First Bull Run is remembered as the first important land battle of the Civil War, but with over 350 killed on each side, it was the deadliest battle in American history to date, and both the Confederacy and the Union were quickly served notice that the war would be much more costly than either side had believed. The 10 biggest Civil War battles were incredibly bloody, desperate fights that involved the war's most famous figures and determined the fate of several states. All told, over a quarter of a million casualties were inflicted by the two sides during the 10 largest battles, and the fates of the battles and the war itself hung in the balance. Shiloh, Stones River and Chickamauga would all feature Union heroes like Ulysses S. Grant and George H. Thomas preserving Federal control over Tennessee and Kentucky. But during those same periods of time, Robert E. Lee was leading the Army of Northern Virginia to victory over several Union commanders at Fredericksburg, Second Bull Run, and Chancellorsville. Of course, the most famous battles of the war involved the Army of the Potomac blunting Lee's offensives at Antietam and Gettysburg. Antietam was the bloodiest day of

the war and forced Lee out of Maryland, allowing Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. The following summer would see the biggest and most famous battle at Gettysburg. Lee would try and fail to dislodge the Union army with attacks on both of its flanks during the second day and Pickett's Charge right down the center of the line on the third and final day. Meade's stout defense held, barely, repulsing each attempted assault, handing the Union a desperately needed victory that ended up being one of the Civil War's turning points. The History of the Civil War comprehensively analyzes the events that brought about the war, the major campaigns and decisive battles, and the aftermath of the nation's deadliest conflict. Accounts of the battles by important generals are included, along with analysis of the generals and fighting. Along with maps of the battle and pictures of important people, places, and events, you will learn about the Civil War like you never have before.

biggest battles of the civil war: *The 10 Biggest Civil War Battles* Charles River Editors, 2013-08-18 *Includes pictures of the battles' important generals. *Includes several maps of the battles. *Includes accounts of the battles written by important generals. *Includes a Bibliography for each battle.. Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War, marveling at the size of the battles, the leadership of the generals, and the courage of the soldiers. Since the war's start over 150 years ago, the battles have been subjected to endless debate among historians and the generals themselves. The Civil War was the deadliest conflict in American history, and had the two sides realized it would take 4 years and inflict over a million casualties, it might not have been fought. Since it did, however, historians and history buffs alike have been studying and analyzing the biggest battles ever since. The 10 biggest Civil War battles were incredibly bloody, desperate fights that involved the war's most famous figures and determined the fate of several states. All told, over a quarter of a million casualties were inflicted by the two sides during the 10 largest battles, and the fates of the battles and the war itself hung in the balance. Shiloh, Stones River and Chickamauga would all feature Union heroes like Ulysses S. Grant and George H. Thomas preserving Federal control over Tennessee and Kentucky. But during those same periods of time, Robert E. Lee was leading the Army of Northern Virginia to victory over several Union commanders at Fredericksburg, Second Bull Run, and Chancellorsville. Of course, the most famous battles of the war involved the Army of the Potomac blunting Lee's offensives at Antietam and Gettysburg. Antietam was the bloodiest day of the war and forced Lee out of Maryland, allowing Lincoln to issue the Emancipation Proclamation. The following summer would see the biggest and most famous battle at Gettysburg. Lee would try and fail to dislodge the Union army with attacks on both of its flanks during the second day and Pickett's Charge right down the center of the line on the third and final day. Meade's stout defense held, barely, repulsing each attempted assault, handing the Union a desperately needed victory that ended up being one of the Civil War's turning points. At the Battle of the Wilderness (May 5-7, 1864), Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee fought to a standstill in their first encounter, failing to dislodge each other despite incurring nearly 30,000 casualties between the Union Army of the Potomac and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia. Despite the fierce fighting, Grant continued to push his battered but resilient army south, hoping to beat Lee's army to the crossroads at Spotsylvania Court House, but Lee's army beat Grant's to Spotsylvania and began digging in, setting the scene for on and off fighting from May 8-21 that ultimately inflicted more casualties than the Battle of the Wilderness. In fact, with over 32,000 casualties among the two sides, it was the deadliest battle of the Overland Campaign. The 10 Biggest Civil War Battles comprehensively covers all 10 battles, including the events that led up to the battle, the fighting itself, and the aftermath of the battles. Accounts of the battles by important participants are also included, along with maps of the battles and pictures of important people, places, and events. You will learn about the 10 bloodiest Civil War battles like you never have before.

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both armies was fought at the end of 1862 in Tennessee, and it involved neither of those generals. In late December 1862, William Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland was contesting Middle Tennessee against Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee, and for three days the two armies savaged each other as Bragg threw his army at Rosecrans in a series of desperate assaults. Bragg's army was unable to dislodge the Union army, and he eventually withdrew his army after learning that Rosecrans was on the verge of receiving reinforcements. Though the battle was stalemated, the fact that the Union army was left in possession of the field allowed Rosecrans to declare victory and embarrassed Bragg. Though Stones River is mostly overlooked as a Civil War battle today, it had a decisive impact on the war. The two armies had both suffered nearly 33% casualties, an astounding number in 1862 that also ensured Rosecrans would not start another offensive campaign in Tennessee until the following June. Lee's heavily outnumbered army won the most stunning victory of the war at Chancellorsville, but it cost them Stonewall Jackson. Moreover, the reorganization of the armies and the battle itself played an influential role in the way the Pennsylvania Campaign and the Battle of Gettysburg unfolded later that summer. After the South had lost the war, the importance of Gettysburg as one of the "high tide" marks of the Confederacy became apparent to everyone, making the battle all the more important in the years after it had been fought. While former Confederate generals cast about for scapegoats, with various officers pointing fingers at Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, and James Stuart, historians and avid Civil War fans became obsessed with studying and analyzing all the command decisions and army movements during the entire campaign. Despite the saturation of coverage, Americans refuse to grow tired of visiting the battlefield and reliving the biggest battle fought in North America. At the start of 1863, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had been frustrating the Union in the Eastern theater for several months, but the situation in the West was completely different. The Confederates had lost control of several important states throughout 1862, and after New Orleans was taken by the Union, the North controlled almost all of the Mississippi River, which Confederate general James Longstreet called "the lungs of the Confederacy". By taking control of that vital river, the North would virtually cut the Confederacy in two, putting the South in a dire situation. The only domino left to fall was the stronghold of Vicksburg, and both sides knew it. The Union Army of the Tennessee, led by Ulysses S. Grant, would spend months trying to encircle the army and eventually force John Pemberton's Confederate army to surrender. Grant eventually succeeded on July 4, 1863, but since it came a day after the climactic finish of the Battle of Gettysburg, Vicksburg was (and still is) frequently overlooked as one of the turning points of the Civil War. In fact, had the Confederate's military leadership listened to Longstreet, who advocated detaching soldiers from Lee's army to head west and help the Confederates deal with Grant or Rosecrans in that theater, the Battle of Gettysburg might never have happened.

biggest battles of the civil war: [The 5 Biggest Civil War Battles](#) Charles River Editors,, 2025-05-02 Of all the Civil War battles fought, and of all the victories achieved by Robert E. Lee at the command of the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, the Battle of Chancellorsville is considered the most tactically complex and ultimately the most brilliant Confederate victory of the war. In early May 1863, the Army of the Potomac was at the height of its power as it bore down on Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia near Fredericksburg, where the Confederates had defeated them the previous December. The Union behemoth had spent most of the winter season being reorganized and drilled by "Fighting Joe" Hooker, an aggressive commander who had fought hard at places like Antietam. With an army nearing 130,000 men, Hooker's Army of the Potomac was twice the size of the Army of Northern Virginia. With that advantage, Hooker proposed a daring and aggressive two pronged attack that aimed to keep Lee's army occupied in front of Fredericksburg while marching around its left. Meanwhile a cavalry raid well in the rear was intended to cut Lee's lines of supplies and possibly retreat. Hooker's plan initially worked perfectly, with the division of his army surprising Lee. At the end of May 1, Lee was outnumbered 2-1 and now had to worry about threats on two fronts. Incredibly, Lee once again decided to divide his forces in the face of the enemy, sending Stonewall Jackson to turn the Union army's right flank while the rest of the army

maintained positions near Fredericksburg. The Battle of Chancellorsville is one of the most famous of the Civil War, and the most famous part of the battle was Stonewall Jackson's daring march across the Army of the Potomac's flank, surprising the XI Corps with an attack on May 2, 1863. Having ignored warnings of Jackson's march, the XI Corps was quickly routed. The surprise was a costly success, however, as Jackson was mortally wounded after being mistakenly fired upon by his own men. The names of history's most famous battles still ring in our ears today, their influence immediately understood by all. Marathon lent its name to the world's most famous race, but it also preserved Western civilization during the First Persian War. Saratoga, won by one of the colonists' most renowned war heroes before he became his nation's most vile traitor. Hastings ensured the Normans' success in England and changed the course of British history. Waterloo, which marked the reshaping of the European continent and Napoleon's doom, has now become part of the English lexicon. In Charles River Editors' *Greatest Battles in History* series, readers can get caught up to speed on history's greatest battles in the time it takes to finish a commute, while learning interesting facts long forgotten or never known. Without question, the most famous battle of the American Civil War took place outside of the small town of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, which happened to be a transportation hub, serving as the center of a wheel with several roads leading out to other Pennsylvanian towns. From July 1-3, Robert E. Lee's Confederate Army of Northern Virginia tried everything in its power to decisively defeat George Meade's Union Army of the Potomac, unleashing ferocious assaults that inflicted nearly 50,000 casualties in all. Day 1 of the battle would have been one of the 25 biggest battles of the Civil War itself, and it ended with a tactical Confederate victory. But over the next two days, Lee would try and fail to dislodge the Union army with attacks on both of its flanks during the second day and Pickett's Charge on the third and final day. Meade's stout defense held, barely, repulsing each attempted assault, handing the Union a desperately needed victory that ended up being one of the Civil War's turning points.

biggest battles of the civil war: *The Greatest Civil War Battles* Charles River Editors,, 2025-05-02 "I know Mr. Davis thinks he can do a great many things other men would hesitate to attempt. For instance, he tried to do what God failed to do. He tried to make a soldier of Braxton Bragg." - General Joseph E. Johnston Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War and its biggest battles, particularly Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh, all of which involved Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant. But the second biggest battle of the entire war mostly gets overlooked among casual readers, despite the fact it represented the last great chance for the Confederates to salvage the Western theater. In mid-September, the Union Army of the Cumberland under General William Rosecrans had taken Chattanooga, but rather than be pushed out of the action, Army of Tennessee commander Braxton Bragg decided to stop with his 60,000 men and prepare a counterattack south of Chattanooga at a creek named Chickamauga. To bolster his fire-power, Confederate President Jefferson Davis sent 12,000 additional troops under the command of Lieutenant General James Longstreet, whose corps had just recently fought at Gettysburg in July. On the morning of September 19, 1863, Bragg's men assaulted the Union line, which was established in a wooded area thick with underbrush along the river. That day and the morning of the next, Bragg continue to pummel Union forces, with the battle devolving from an organized succession of coordinated assaults into what one Union soldier described as "a mad, irregular battle, very much resembling guerrilla warfare on a vast scale in which one army was bushwhacking the other, and wherein all the science and the art of war went for nothing." Late that second morning, Rosecrans was misinformed that a gap was forming in his front line, so he responded by moving several units forward to shore it up. What Rosecrans didn't realize, however, was that in doing so he accidentally created a quarter-mile gap in the Union center, directly in the path of Longstreet's men. Described by one of Rosecrans' own men as "an angry flood," Longstreet's attack was successful in driving one-third of the Union Army off the field, with Rosecrans himself running all the way to Chattanooga, where he was later found weeping and seeking solace from a staff priest. As the Confederate assault continued, George H. Thomas led the Union left wing against heavy Confederate attack even after nearly half of the Union army abandoned their defenses and retreated from the battlefield, racing

toward Chattanooga. Thomas rallied the remaining parts of the army and formed a defensive stand on Horseshoe Ridge, with more units spontaneously rallying to the new defensive line. Thomas and his men managed to hold until nightfall, when they made an orderly retreat to Chattanooga while the Confederates occupied the surrounding heights, ultimately besieging the city. Dubbed "The Rock of Chickamauga", Thomas's heroics ensured that Rosecrans' army was able to successfully retreat back to Chattanooga. In the aftermath of the Battle of Chickamauga, several Confederate generals blamed the number of men lost during what would be the bloodiest battle of the Western Theater on Bragg's incompetence, also criticizing him for refusing to pursue the escaping Union army. General Longstreet later stated to Jefferson Davis, "Nothing but the hand of God can help as long as we have our present commander." The Greatest Civil War Battles: The Battle of Chickamauga comprehensively covers the campaign and the events that led up to the battle, the fighting itself, and the aftermath of the battle. Accounts of the battle by important participants are also included, along with maps of the battle and pictures of important people, places, and events. You will learn about the Battle of Chickamauga like you never have before, in no time at all.

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biggest battles of the civil war: The Biggest Civil War Battles of 1863 Charles River Editors, 2014-02-05 *Includes pictures. *Includes accounts of the battles by important generals who fought them. *Includes bibliographies for further reading. The Civil War was the deadliest conflict in American history, and had the two sides realized it would take 4 years and inflict over a million casualties, it might not have been fought. Since it did, however, historians and history buffs alike have been studying and analyzing the biggest battles ever since. Naturally, Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War, marveling at the size of the battles, the leadership of the generals,

and the courage of the soldiers. Since the war's start over 150 years ago, the battles have been subjected to endless debate among historians and the generals themselves. Of the 4 years, 1863 marked the year in which the Union truly turned the tide of the war. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had given the Confederacy hopes by turning away McClellan's Peninsula Campaign and winning decisive battles at Second Bull Run and Fredericksburg. In May 1863, he did it again at Chancellorsville, thwarting the Army of the Potomac and setting the stage for his invasion of Pennsylvania. After the South had lost the war, the importance of Gettysburg as one of the high tide marks of the Confederacy became apparent to everyone, making the battle all the more important in the years after it had been fought. While former Confederate generals cast about for scapegoats, with various officers pointing fingers at Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, and James Stuart, historians and avid Civil War fans became obsessed with studying and analyzing all the command decisions and army movements during the entire campaign. At the start of 1863, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had been frustrating the Union in the Eastern theater for several months, but the situation in the West was completely different. The Confederates had lost control of several important states throughout 1862, and after New Orleans was taken by the Union, the North controlled almost all of the Mississippi River, which Confederate general James Longstreet called the lungs of the Confederacy. By taking control of that vital river, the North would virtually cut the Confederacy in two, putting the South in a dire situation. The only domino left to fall was the stronghold of Vicksburg, and both sides knew it. Ulysses S. Grant's successful siege of Vicksburg ended the day after the Battle of Gettysburg, giving the Union two vital turning points in the war. At Chickamauga, the Union averted disaster when George H. Thomas prevented the destruction of the Army of the Cumberland, which would have certainly blunted the momentum Grant and Meade had secured in previous months at Vicksburg and Gettysburg. In fact, it might have completely changed the balance of power in the theater. After the Confederates squandered a golden opportunity to destroy a Union army in the field at Chickamauga, they lay siege to Chattanooga, only to have Grant and Sherman bring men, keep a line of supply open, and then lift the siege with the stunning battles of Lookout Mountain and Missionary Ridge. After the campaign, one Confederate soldier fatefully predicted, This...is the death-knell of the Confederacy. The Biggest Civil War Battles of 1863 comprehensively covers the major campaigns of 1863, the battles, and the aftermath of the battles. Accounts of the battles by important participants are also included, along with maps of the battle and pictures of important people, places, and events. You will learn about the the biggest battles of 1863 like you never have before.

biggest battles of the civil war: The Greatest Civil War Battles Charles River Charles River Editors, 2018-02-14 *Includes pictures of the battle's important generals. *Includes several maps of the battle. *Includes accounts of the fighting written by important generals like Bragg, Rosecrans, Longstreet, George H. Thomas, D.H. Hill, and more. *Includes a Bibliography for further reading. I know Mr. Davis thinks he can do a great many things other men would hesitate to attempt. For instance, he tried to do what God failed to do. He tried to make a soldier of Braxton Bragg. - General Joseph E. Johnston Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War and its biggest battles, particularly Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh, all of which involved Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant. But the second biggest battle of the entire war mostly gets overlooked among casual readers, despite the fact it represented the last great chance for the Confederates to salvage the Western theater. In mid-September, the Union Army of the Cumberland under General William Rosecrans had taken Chattanooga, but rather than be pushed out of the action, Army of Tennessee commander Braxton Bragg decided to stop with his 60,000 men and prepare a counterattack south of Chattanooga at a creek named Chickamauga. To bolster his fire-power, Confederate President Jefferson Davis sent 12,000 additional troops under the command of Lieutenant General James Longstreet, whose corps had just recently fought at Gettysburg in July. On the morning of September 19, 1863, Bragg's men assaulted the Union line, which was established in a wooded area thick with underbrush along the river. That day and the morning of the next, Bragg continue to pummel Union forces, with the battle devolving from an organized succession of uncoordinated

assaults into what one Union soldier described as a mad, irregular battle. Late that second morning, Rosecrans was misinformed that a gap was forming in his front line, so he responded by moving several units forward to shore it up. What Rosecrans didn't realize, however, was that in doing so he accidentally created a quarter-mile gap in the Union line, directly in the path of Longstreet's men. Described by one of Rosecrans' own men as an angry flood, Longstreet's attack was successful in driving one-third of the Union Army off the field, with Rosecrans himself running all the way to Chattanooga, where he was later found weeping and seeking solace from a staff priest. As the Confederate assault continued, George H. Thomas led the Union left wing against heavy Confederate attack even after nearly half of the Union army abandoned their defenses and retreated from the battlefield, racing toward Chattanooga. Thomas rallied the remaining parts of the army and formed a defensive stand on Horseshoe Ridge, with more units spontaneously rallying to the new defensive line. Thomas and his men managed to hold until nightfall, when they made an orderly retreat to Chattanooga. Dubbed The Rock of Chickamauga, Thomas's heroics ensured that Rosecrans' army was able to successfully retreat back to Chattanooga. In the aftermath of the Battle of Chickamauga, several Confederate generals blamed the number of men lost during what would be the bloodiest battle of the Western Theater on Bragg's incompetence, also criticizing him for refusing to pursue the escaping Union army. General Longstreet later stated to Jefferson Davis, Nothing but the hand of God can help as long as we have our present commander. The Greatest Civil War Battles: The Battle of Chickamauga comprehensively covers the campaign and the events that led up to the battle, the fighting itself, and the aftermath of the battle. Accounts of the battle by important participants are also included, along with maps of the battle and pictures of important people, places, and events. You will learn about the Battle of Chickamauga like you never have before, in no time at all.

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Charles River Charles River Editors, 2013-08-23 *Includes pictures of the battle's important generals. *Includes several maps of the battle. *Includes accounts of the fighting written by important generals like Bragg, Rosecrans, Longstreet, George H. Thomas, D.H. Hill, and more. *Includes a Bibliography for further reading. I know Mr. Davis thinks he can do a great many things other men would hesitate to attempt. For instance, he tried to do what God failed to do. He tried to make a soldier of Braxton Bragg. - General Joseph E. Johnston Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War and its biggest battles, particularly Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh, all of which involved Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant. But the second biggest battle of the entire war mostly gets overlooked among casual readers, despite the fact it represented the last great chance for the Confederates to salvage the Western theater. In mid-September, the Union Army of the Cumberland under General William Rosecrans had taken Chattanooga, but rather than be pushed out of the action, Army of Tennessee commander Braxton Bragg decided to stop with his 60,000 men and prepare a counterattack south of Chattanooga at a creek named Chickamauga. To bolster his fire-power, Confederate President Jefferson Davis sent 12,000 additional troops under the command of Lieutenant General James Longstreet, whose corps had just recently fought at Gettysburg in July. On the morning of September 19, 1863, Bragg's men assaulted the Union line, which was established in a wooded area thick with underbrush along the river. That day and the morning of the next, Bragg continue to pummel Union forces, with the battle devolving from an organized succession of uncoordinated assaults into what one Union soldier described as a mad, irregular battle. Late that second morning, Rosecrans was misinformed that a gap was forming in his front line, so he responded by moving several units forward to shore it up. What Rosecrans didn't realize, however, was that in doing so he accidentally created a quarter-mile gap in the Union line, directly in the path of Longstreet's men. Described by one of Rosecrans' own men as an angry flood, Longstreet's attack was successful in driving one-third of the Union Army off the field, with Rosecrans himself running all the way to Chattanooga, where he was later found weeping and seeking solace from a staff priest. As the Confederate assault continued, George H. Thomas led the Union left wing against heavy Confederate attack even after nearly half of the Union army

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biggest battles of the civil war: The Biggest Battles of the Civil War Molly Kolpin, 2015-12-21 In the Civil War, battles raged in more than 20 states. The war between North and South remains the bloodiest in U.S. history. The casualties of the Battle of Gettysburg numbered more than 50,000 alone, and the day the Battle of Antietam was fought September 17, 1862 is recorded as the deadliest single day in U.S. military history. Find out what happened in the wars largest battles to cause the devastation that still scars the nation today.

biggest battles of the civil war: The Biggest Civil War Battles of 1863: Stones River, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Vicksburg, Chickamauga, and the Chattanooga Campaign Charles River Charles River Editors, 2018-02-27 *Includes pictures. *Includes accounts of the battles by important generals who fought them. *Includes bibliographies for further reading. The Civil War was the deadliest conflict in American history, and had the two sides realized it would take 4 years and inflict over a million casualties, it might not have been fought. Since it did, however, historians and history buffs alike have been studying and analyzing the biggest battles ever since. Naturally, Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War, marveling at the size of the battles, the leadership of the generals, and the courage of the soldiers. Since the war's start over 150 years ago, the battles have been subjected to endless debate among historians and the generals themselves. Of the 4 years, 1863 marked the year in which the Union truly turned the tide of the war. Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had given the Confederacy hopes by turning away McClellan's Peninsula Campaign and winning decisive battles at Second Bull Run and Fredericksburg. In May 1863, he did it again at Chancellorsville, thwarting the Army of the Potomac and setting the stage for his invasion of Pennsylvania. After the South had lost the war, the importance of Gettysburg as one of the high tide marks of the Confederacy became apparent to everyone, making the battle all the more important in the years after it had been fought. While former Confederate generals cast about for scapegoats, with various officers pointing fingers at Robert E. Lee, James Longstreet, and James Stuart, historians and avid Civil War fans became obsessed with studying and analyzing all the command decisions and army movements during the entire campaign. At the start of 1863, Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia had been frustrating the Union in the Eastern theater for several months, but the situation in the West was completely different. The Confederates had lost control of several important states throughout 1862, and after New Orleans was taken by the Union, the North controlled almost all of the Mississippi River, which Confederate general James Longstreet called the lungs of the Confederacy. By taking control of that vital river, the North would virtually cut the Confederacy in two, putting the South in a dire situation. The only domino left to fall was the stronghold of Vicksburg, and both sides knew it. Ulysses S. Grant's successful siege of Vicksburg ended the day after the Battle of Gettysburg, giving the Union two vital turning points in the war. At Chickamauga, the Union averted disaster when George H. Thomas prevented the destruction of the Army of the Cumberland, which would have certainly blunted the momentum Grant and Meade had secured in previous months at Vicksburg and Gettysburg. In fact, it might have completely changed

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biggest battles of the civil war: Battles of the Civil War Curt Johnson, Mark G. McLaughlin, 1995 The accounts of twelve Civil War battles, preceded by a concise background to the war, explaining causes and summarizing weapons, equipment, organization and tactical aims of both armies, as well as profiles of the leading generals.

biggest battles of the civil war: The American Civil War Peter J. Parish, 1975

biggest battles of the civil war: The Greatest Civil War Battles: the Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro) Charles River Charles River Editors, 2013-08-25 *Includes pictures of the battle's important generals. *Includes several maps of the battle. *Includes accounts of the battle written by important generals. *Includes a Bibliography for the battle. In all, fifty-eight pieces of artillery played upon the enemy. Not less than one hundred shots per minute were fired. As the mass of men swarmed down the slope they were mowed down by the score. Confederates were pinioned to the earth by falling branches. - G. C. Kniffin, aide to General Crittenden Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War and its biggest battles, particularly Gettysburg, Antietam, and Shiloh, all of which involved Robert E. Lee or Ulysses S. Grant. But one of the 6 biggest battles of the war, and the one that took the heaviest toll by % on both armies was fought at the end of 1862 in Tennessee, and it involved neither of those generals. In late December 1862, William Rosecrans's Union Army of the Cumberland was contesting Middle Tennessee against Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee, and for three days the two armies savaged each other as Bragg threw his army at Rosecrans in a series of desperate assaults. Bragg's army was unable to dislodge the Union army, and he eventually withdrew his army after learning that Rosecrans was on the verge of receiving reinforcements. Though the battle was stalemated, the fact that the Union army was left in possession of the field allowed Rosecrans to declare victory and embarrassed Bragg. Though Stones River is mostly overlooked as a Civil War battle today, it had a decisive impact on the war. The two armies had both suffered nearly 33% casualties, an astounding number in 1862 that also ensured Rosecrans would not start another offensive campaign in Tennessee until the following June. The Union victory also ensured control of Nashville, Middle Tennessee, and Kentucky for the rest of the war, prompting Lincoln to tell Rosecrans, You gave us a hard-earned victory, which had there been a defeat instead, the nation could scarcely have lived over. The battle and its results also set into motion a chain of events that would lead to Rosecrans and Bragg facing off at the crucial battle of Chickamauga in September 1863, a battle that is often viewed as the last gasp for the Confederates' hopes in the West. The Greatest Civil War Battles: The Battle of Stones River (Murfreesboro) comprehensively covers the campaign and the events that led up to the battle, the fighting itself, and the aftermath of the battle. Accounts of the battle by important participants are also included, along with maps of the battle and pictures of important people, places, and events. You will learn about the Battle of Stones River like you never have before, in no time at all.

biggest battles of the civil war: The Greatest Civil War Battles Charles River Charles River Editors, 2018-02-14 *Includes pictures of the battle's important generals and locations. *Includes several maps of the battle. *Includes accounts of the fighting written by important generals like Grant, Sherman, Beauregard, and more. *Explains the circumstances of Albert Sidney Johnston's death. *Includes a Bibliography for further reading. The turning point of our fate. - Jefferson Davis on the death of Albert Sidney Johnston at Shiloh Probably no single battle of the war gave rise to such wild and damaging reports. - William Tecumseh Sherman After Union General Ulysses S. Grant

captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in early 1862, Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston, widely considered the Confederacy's best general, concentrated his forces in northern Georgia and prepared for a major offensive that culminated with the biggest battle of the war to that point, the Battle of Shiloh. On the morning of April 6, Johnston directed an all out attack on Grant's army around Shiloh Church, and though Grant's men had been encamped there, they had failed to create defensive fortifications or earthworks. They were also badly caught by surprise. With nearly 45,000 Confederates attacking, Johnston's army began to steadily push Grant's men back toward the river. As fate would have it, the Confederates may have been undone by friendly fire at Shiloh. Johnston advanced out ahead of his men on horseback while directing a charge near a peach orchard when he was hit in the lower leg by a bullet that historians now widely believe was fired by his own men. Nobody thought the wound was serious, including Johnston, who continued to aggressively lead his men and even sent his personal physician to treat wounded Union soldiers taken captive. But the bullet had clipped an artery, and shortly after being wounded Johnston began to feel faint in the saddle. With blood filling up his boot, Johnston unwittingly bled to death. The delay caused by his death, and the transfer of command to subordinate P.G.T. Beauregard, bought the Union defenders critical time on April 6, and the following day Grant's reinforced army struck back and pushed the Confederate army off the field. The Battle of Shiloh lasted two days, but the battle over the battle had just begun. Grant's army had just won the biggest battle in the history of North America, with nearly 24,000 combined casualties among the Union and Confederate forces. Usually the winner of a major battle is hailed as a hero, but Grant was hardly a winner at Shiloh. The Battle of Shiloh took place before costlier battles at places like Antietam and Gettysburg, so the extent of the casualties at Shiloh shocked the nation. Moreover, at Shiloh the casualties were viewed as needless; Grant was pilloried for allowing the Confederates to take his forces by surprise, as well as the failure to build defensive earthworks and fortifications, which nearly resulted in a rout of his army. As a result of the Battle of Shiloh, Grant was demoted to second-in-command of all armies in his department, an utterly powerless position. And when word of what many considered a colossal blunder reached Washington, several congressmen insisted that Lincoln replace Grant in the field. Lincoln famously defended Grant, telling critics, I can't spare this man. He fights. The Greatest Civil War Battles: The Battle of Shiloh explains the campaign and events that led up to the decisive battle, what went right and wrong on both sides, and the aftermath of the battle. Accounts of the battle by important leaders like Sherman, Grant, and Braxton Bragg are included, along with analysis of the generals and fighting. Along with maps of the battle and pictures of important people, places, and events in his life, you will learn about the Battle of Shiloh like you never have before, in no time at all.

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Longstreet executed brilliantly on nearly the same field during the Second Battle of Bull Run in August 1862. McDowell's plan called for parts of his army to pin down Beauregard's Confederate soldiers in front while marching another wing of his army around the flank and into the enemy's rear, rolling up the line. McDowell assumed the Confederates would be forced to abandon Manassas Junction and fall back to the next defensible line, the Rappahannock River. In July 1861, however, this proved far too difficult for his inexperienced troops to carry out effectively. As the first major land battle of the Civil War, the First Battle of Bull Run made history in several ways. McDowell's army met Fort Sumter hero P.G.T. Beauregard's Confederate army near the railroad junction at Manassas on July 21, 1861, just 25 miles away from Washington D.C. Many civilians from Washington came to watch what they expected to be a rout of Confederate forces, and for awhile it appeared as though that might be the case. However, Confederate reinforcements under General Joseph E. Johnston's Army, including a brigade led by Thomas Jonathan Jackson, arrived by train on the eve of the battle, evening up the numbers between Union and Confederate. Shoring up the Confederates' left flank, Jackson's brigade helped reverse the Union's momentum and ultimately turn the tide, along with Confederates that arrived by train during the middle of the battle itself. As the battle's momentum switched, the inexperienced Union troops were routed and retreated in disorder back toward Washington in an unorganized mass. With over 350 killed on each side, it was the deadliest battle in American history to date, and both the Confederacy and the Union were quickly served notice that the war would be much more costly than either side had believed. The Greatest Civil War Battles: The Battle of First Bull Run (First Manassas) comprehensively covers the campaign and the events that led up to the battle, the fighting itself, and the aftermath of the battle. Accounts of the battle by important participants are also included, along with maps of the battle and pictures of important people, places, and events. You will learn about the First Battle of Bull Run like you never have before, in no time at all.

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