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< [Previous \(Chapter 28 Extra Credit\)](#)[\(Chapter 25\) Next](#) >**Chapter 24** by **Joe Escobar** - Saturday, February 23, 2013, 2:03 PM

To submit your question, click the Reply link to THIS post.

Sum of ratings: -

[Edit](#) | [Delete](#) | [Reply](#)**QUESTION -- Army of the Potomac**

by Stephanie Sheets - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 11:30 PM

The Army of the Potomac fought tooth-and-nail all summer under Grant. The four weeks in May and June of 1864 were especially difficult, with the unceasing warfare. Grant remained on the offensive for a total of seven weeks. It has been said that when the Union Army of the Potomac fought at Petersburg, it lacked “the vigor and force” of its attack at The Wilderness. What events between The Wilderness and Petersburg could account for this significant change?



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Answer -- Army of the Potomac

by Adam Coutts - Saturday, March 9, 2013, 12:02 AM

For forty days, Grant hammered and maneuvered. Lee fended off Grant's force, which was double his own. These series of battle between the Battle of Wilderness and the Siege of Petersburg, was called the "Overland Campaign". The Overland Campaign cost the Union 60,000 Union casualties and perhaps around 35,000 Confederate soldiers. Overall strategically, it was a Union success, ending in June with Lee's army back against Petersburg and Richmond, unable to maneuver.

Following the bloody but inconclusive Battle of the Wilderness, Grant's army disengaged from Confederate General Robert E. Lee's army and moved southeast, attempting to lure Lee into battle under more favorable conditions. Elements of Lee's army beat the Union army to the critical crossroads of Spotsylvania Court House and began entrenching. Fighting occurred on and off for about two weeks, as Grant tried various schemes to break the Confederate line, in the end, the battle was tactically inconclusive but with almost 32,000 casualties on both sides, it was the costliest battle of the campaign.

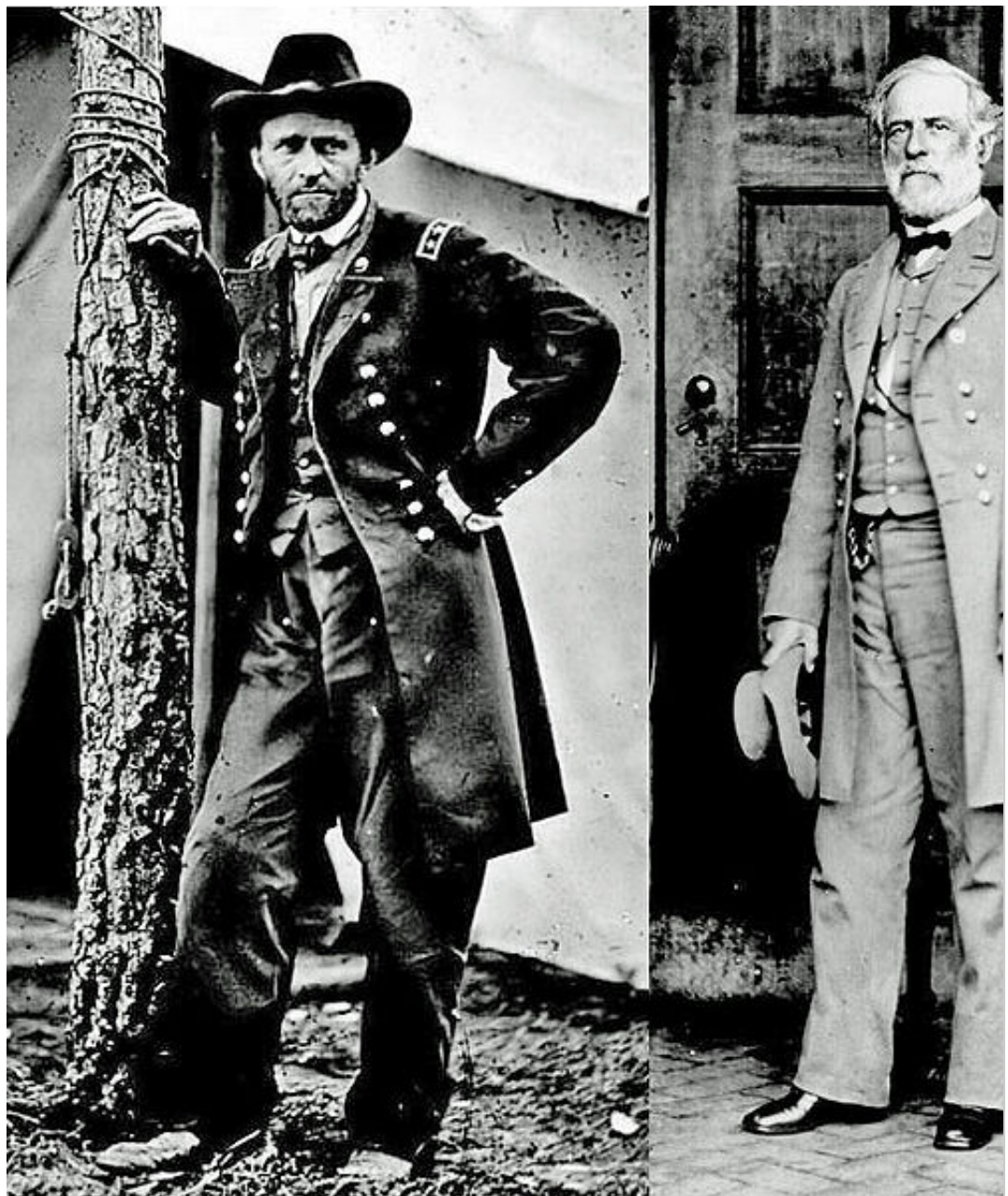
After disengaging from the stalemate from the previous battle, Grant moved his army to the southeast hoping to lure Lee into battle on open ground. He lost the race to Lee's next defensive position south of the North Anna River, but Lee was unsure of Grant's intention and initially prepared no significant defensive works. Two days of skirmishing in which the armies stared at each

other from their earthworks, the inconclusive battle ended when Grant ordered another wide movement to the southeast, in the direction of the crossroads at Cold Harbor.

On May 28 of 1864, Grant continued his attempts to maneuver around Lee's right flank and lure him into a general battle in the open; Lee saw an opportunity to attack the advancing soldiers. The Battle of Totopotomoy Creek lasted only two days and the battle is considered another inconclusive battle of the whole of the Overland Campaign.

May 31 to June 12 of 1864, the Battle of Cold Harbor was one of the final battles of the Overland Campaign and is remembered as one of the bloodiest, most lopsided battles. The battle of Cold Harbor was the final victory won by Lee's army during the war, and its most decisive in terms of casualties. The Union army, in attempting the futile assault, lost 10,000 to 13,000 men over twelve days. Although the cost was horrible, Grant's larger army finished the campaign with lower relative casualties than Lee's.

After Lee learned that Grant had crossed the James, his worst fear was about to be realized—that he would be forced into a siege of the capital city, Petersburg. The Overland Campaign was necessary for the Union to win the war despite the number of tactical defeats that Grant suffered; the campaign was a strategic success for the Union. By engaging Lee's forces and not permitting them to escape, Grant forced Lee into an untenable position, but this time at a high cost.



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Question- reenlistment-Chapter 24

by Robyn Stevens - Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 9:07 PM

What problems did the union and confederate armies face in the latter part of 1863 when most soldiers enlistments were up? What were some of the incentives (positives) that the governments would offer to soldiers to have them re-enlist? What were some of the negatives of reenlistment? Give examples of one or the other.



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ANSWER

by Alexander Kristy - Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 2:46 PM

The Confederates abolished their conscription law and also required all soldiers to remain in the army, even if their three-year enlistment was about to expire. They also changed their draft age laws for a soldier, minimum being 17 and maximum being 50. The North did not require their soldiers to remain enlisted, they saw the three-year enlistment as a contract and would not force the men to remain. They gave them incentives to re-enlist. "Three-year veterans who re-enlisted would receive a special chevron to wear on their sleeves, a thirty-day furlough, a \$400 federal bounty plus local and state bounties, and the spread-eagle praise of politicians back home." (pg. 720, McPherson). To retain a units pride and identity they need three-quarters of the men to re-enlist, which put a lot of peer pressure on any holdouts to re-enlist. 136,000 veterans re-enlisted while 100,000 chose not to. It affected the morale of re-enlisted men because the ones being dis-charged were replaced by conscripts, substitutes, and bounty men. "Veteran officers and men regarded most of these new recruits with contempt." (pg. 720, McPherson).

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Chapter 24 Question: The Paradox of Union Victories

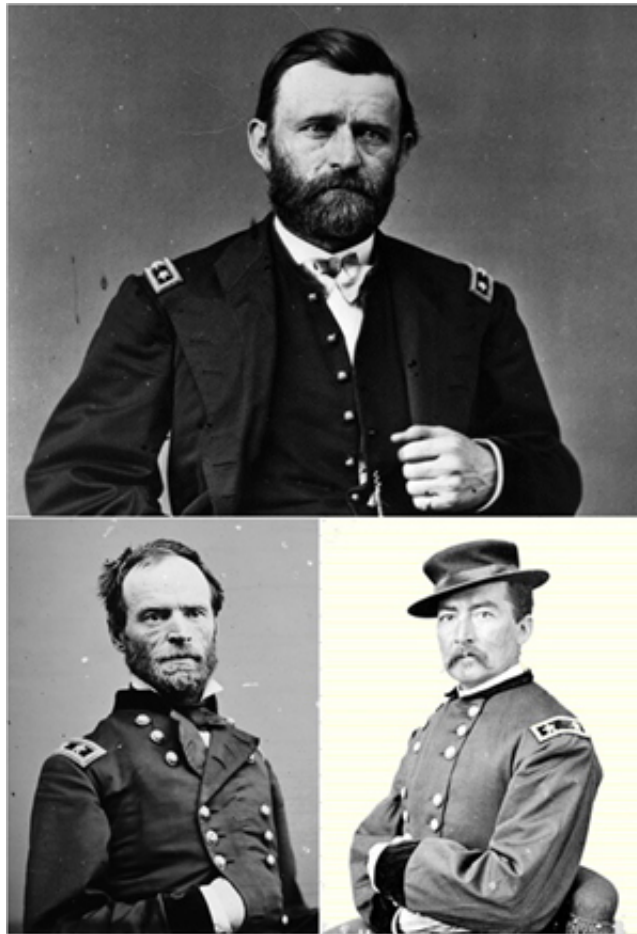
by Mark Gorski - Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 1:30 PM

In the spring of 1864 the Union Congress revived the rank of Lieutenant General. Lincoln then promoted General Grant to this rank with the title of General in Chief. Grant came east to make his headquarters with the Army of the Potomac. General Sherman was given Grant's previous position of Commander of the Western Armies and General Sheridan also came east and took command of the Union Cavalry forces. With the three best Generals in top command the days of the Confederacy appeared numbered.

Paradoxically, Union victories in late 1863 actually created Military weakness.

Weaknesses that obscured that appearance.

How were these weaknesses created and what effect did this have on the Union's combat capacity?



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Re: Chapter 24 Question: The Paradox of Union Victories



by Mark Gorski - Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 1:34 PM

This is my current wallpaper image on my computer. Has been since before this class started. We all recognize Grant. Who is that riding beside him?



Sum of ratings: -

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Sherman and Johnston

by Alexander Kristy - Thursday, February 28, 2013, 4:01 PM

Ulysses S. Grant and Robert E. Lee engaged in crippling each others army, but General William Tecumseh Sherman and General Joseph Eggleston Johnston engaged in more maneuvering than combat. Why was this? Which one of these men resorted to maneuvers that resembled the same tactics that George McClellan had used earlier in the war. What were the differences in terrain and personalities that led to these differences in style? What was the unfortunate outcome for one of these leaders?



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ANSWER - Sherman and Johnston

by Ryan Lundberg - Friday, March 8, 2013, 4:51 PM

The type of fighting between Johnston and Sherman was a result of their personalities, and the topography of northern Georgia where they fought. First, the terrain in Georgia favored the defensive because of its steep and rugged mountains interlaced by swift rivers. Sherman did not want to enter this “terrible door of death,” and instead attacked indirectly, and did not prefer “slam-bang combat.” Instead of attacking, Johnston, by temperament, seemed to prefer the defensive. Like McClellan, his friend before the war, he seemed reluctant to commit troops to an all out combat. He also often overestimated the enemy forces which he fought, and fell back to defensive tactics. And although he was prodded by Jefferson Davis to fight, he preferred to wait in his defenses until Sherman came so close that he could not miss. Sherman on the other hand, took offensive action, however indirect. Eventually however, Sherman made a major error at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, losing 3,000 men, the largest number of casualties for any engagement up to that point in Georgia.

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Question- When Will It End? P S

by Jacob Pusey - Thursday, February 28, 2013, 11:45 PM

Lincoln gave a speech to the Sanitary Commission where he acknowledged that this “terrible war” had “carried mourning to almost every home, until it can almost be said that ‘the heavens are hung in black.’” What was his reply when asked when the war would end? According to *Battle Cry of Freedom*, what was Grant's opinion regarding when the war would end?



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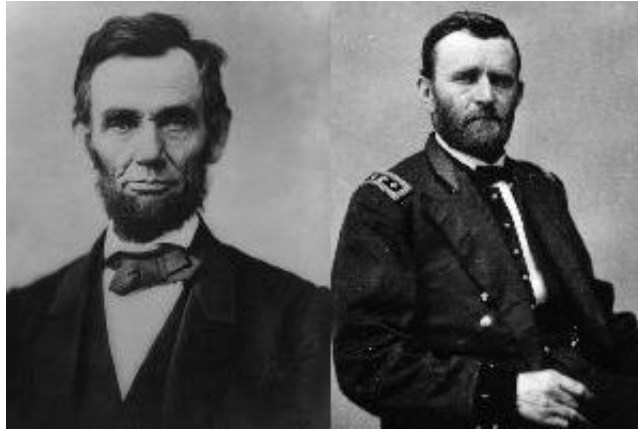


Answer- Question- When Will It End?

by Robyn Stevens - Monday, March 4, 2013, 10:41 PM

Lincoln's answer to the question when will the war end was "We excepted this war for the worthy object...of restoring the national authority over the whole national domain...and the war will end when the object is attained. Under God, I hope it never will until the end of time.

General Grant said "I say we are going through on this line if it takes all summer." "I am going on this line if it takes three years more".



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Thoughts of the End

by Courtney Merrell - Saturday, March 2, 2013, 4:42 PM

In Georgia as well as in Virginia, the rebels seemed to be holding out for time. They believed that the killing and the war in general would end and peace would be restored with the presidential election coming in November of '64. Why did the confederates believe this? What specifically did they think the repercussions of this election be?



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Answer – Thoughts of the End

by Mark Gorski - Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 12:50 PM

Lee and the Southern government believed that the north was losing its resolve, its will to fight. They believed that northern sentiment was rapidly turning against the war and that Lincoln was losing the support of the people and would lose the election.

Lee knew that any significant victory by the Union army might restore much of Lincoln's support. Therefore they resolved that if they could just hold out and keep the Union Army at bay until after the election, the new President, George McClellan, would sue for peace at any cost.

Based on northern sentiment and the performance of previous Union commanders Lee as well as Davis believed they could hold out.

To be sure Grant and Sherman stumbled at first but the southern leaders failed to take the Determination, Tenacity and skill of Grant and Sherman into account and it cost them dearly in the end.

Northern sentiment turned solidly for Lincoln after the Union victories at Petersburg and Atlanta.

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QUESTION - Battle of the Wilderness

by Ian MacDonald - Saturday, March 2, 2013, 10:59 PM

Both the book and Ken Burns series portray the Battle of the Wilderness in May of

1864 as being the most “terrible” battle of the war. In what ways does this battle show how brutal the Civil War really was? What were some of the things that happened during the battle to make it seem like the most terrible? Use specific examples from the book to support your answer.



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ANSWER - Battle of the Wilderness

by Stephanie Sheets - Thursday, March 7, 2013, 7:09 PM

One of the ways The Wilderness demonstrates the brutality of the war is in its planning. Lee's initial attack at The Wilderness was premature and lacked the backup from Longstreet it would have had if prepared on a smoother timeline.

Many battles of the war were rushed into, unprepared, simply because commanders were so anxious to seek revenge or wrath on their opponents.

The Wilderness was a terrible battle because it was absolute chaos. Visibility was practically zero due to the dense foliage and heavy smoke. Troops were lost and stumbling, completely oblivious to direction or target. Many were killed by friendly fire simply because soldiers couldn't see where and at what they were shooting. The most horrifying factor of The Wilderness is detailed in our text: "muzzle flashes and exploding shells set the underbrush on fire to threaten wounded men with a fiery death." Burns' Civil War series describes the horror of the dead and wounded burning, their smoke adding to the thick, disorienting effect of the wilderness.

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QUESTION: Sword and Shield

by Julie Skinner - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 11:14 AM

In chapter 24 of "Battle Cry of Freedom", McPherson mentions "flaws in the Union sword and hidden strengths in the Confederate shield." What does he mean by this? In what condition do each of the Union and Confederate armies find themselves in the summer of 1864?



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ANSWER

by Micah Young - Monday, March 4, 2013, 11:30 PM

During spring 1864, Southern forces numbered fewer than half of those in the North. The South had recently passed legislation that would draft men into the army who were, until then, able to avoid compulsory military participation, but Confederate recruitment could not nearly match the strength of Northern armies. Still, there were several factors that limited Northern effectiveness, and others that improved Southern chances despite their smaller numbers. In reference to these factors McPherson states "there were flaws in the Union sword and hidden strengths in the Confederate shield" (pg. 719).

During the spring and summer of '64 the Union faced subtractions from it's main fighting armies in order to guard supplies and conquered territories, and the expiration of its three year enlistment contracts. Because Union armies faced the more difficult task of fighting in foreign territory, they had to employ strategies that the South did not. They had to use troops as occupation forces to police conquered territory and they had to station troops along supply lines to protect them against Confederate cavalry and guerilla raids. McPherson writes that during Sherman's Atlanta campaign he had nearly as many men guarding his supply and communication lines as he did on the front lines. Although nearly 140,000 Union soldiers re-enlisted after the expiration of their three year contract, 100,000 veterans did not. Since their enlistment was nearly expired, many Northern soldiers did averted risks during the spring and summer of '64. Also, the fighting value of the men who replaced these departing soldiers, and filled the gaps left by the killed and injured, was of lower quality.

Meanwhile, the Southern army had maintained its veteran fighting force for the most part, many of whom had voluntarily re-enlisted. And, a second strength their shield was that despite the hardships faced by the military the soldiers' morale remained high. They believed as stated by Lee on the eve of the '64 campaign ""if victorious, we have everything to hope for in the future. If defeated, nothing will be left for us to live for" (pg. 719).

These factors initially helped the South as the Union's spring offensive began. However, though Southern spirits were high, their military strength and domestic stability was faltering and they knew they could not win a prolonged war against the North. Their main hope was political; they needed the North to elect a Peace Democrat who would negotiate peace with the Confederacy and in order to accomplish this they planned to inflict devastating losses and defeat on Union armies until Northern sentiments turned against the war.

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Question: Trench Warfare



by Brendan MacDonald - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 1:56 PM

During the battle of Spotsylvania, the Union encountered a stronger; more elaborate network of trenches constructed by the Confederates than they had at Vicksburg. Trench warfare was a method of defense that had become standard in this war. Explain how trenches changed the way the war was fought.



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ANSWER



by Ashley Clark - Thursday, March 7, 2013, 11:32 AM

Pre-17th century, war was a rather organized affair, sending divisions of uniformed men charging at one another from opposite ends of the battlefield. Trench warfare changed this war conduct by putting them more out-of-sight and giving them a perspective advantage. By being out of the main line of sight in the battle and having their bodies shielded by a wall of earth, they had a higher defense than the other soldiers and were less likely to be targeted. By having a bit more time and the advantage of being hidden, they were able to fire more often and dispatch more soldiers than they normally would.

The Battle of Spotsylvania showed both sides utilizing trench warfare, though it may not have been to their advantage. Lee's troops had spent the two weeks since the Battle of the Wilderness constructing their labyrinth of trenches that stretched along a six-mile span, from the Potomac River to just beyond the Spotsylvania Courthouse. The Union army, under Grant's command, had their own network of trenches less than five hundred yards away. Having escaped from the charge-and-fire conduct of war, the only result of this battle was that both sides faced significant losses. In the weeks following the Battle of the Wilderness, Grant had lost 18% of his army; Lee, 23%. The casualties spurred Grant to withdraw and move onward with his campaign, abandoning the front and leaving behind no established victory for either side.



Sum of ratings:3 (1)

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Mood Swings



by Jennifer King - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 4:25 PM

In May of 1864 the northern mood had turned "despondent and bad." What were

some of the reasons for this? How did this affect the price of gold?



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ANSWER - Mood Swings

by Ian MacDonald - Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 4:49 PM

Following the Battle of the Wilderness at the beginning of May of 1864, Lee moved his army to Spotsylvania. The public's expectations heightened when Grant declared that he planned to fight Lee's forces at Spotsylvania if it took all summer. Through newspaper headlines and articles that claimed that the war was almost over, people began to grow too sanguine. By May 17, it was clear that Grant had not yet broken Lee's forces at Spotsylvania. This caused the northern morale to take a bad turn. Since gold was an inverse barometer of the public opinion, the price rose from \$171 to \$191 in a matter of two weeks. Casualty reports also began to come in which didn't do anything to help the northern mood.

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QUESTION- chp. 24 Johnston/duck hunting/fighting tactics

by Whitney Stevens - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 5:18 PM

Johnston always waited till his enemy was close enough to fight verse charging after

them. His unwillingness to fight until the circumstances were perfect may have sourced from his character. What story about duck hunting is told about Johnston to represent this correlation?



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Question - Ch. 24

by Adam Coutts - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 5:21 PM

This person stated during a rousing speech, "The progress of our arms, upon which all else chiefly depends..." Who was speaking this and for what reason was this speech given?



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Answer- Lincoln 1864

by Jessica Cadenasso - Friday, March 8, 2013, 10:34 AM

Lincoln said that in his speech in 1864. He said this because the fate of his re-election, emancipation and the state of the union relayed on the army's progress with the confederacy. AT this time he made Grant in to the new General in Chief last held by George Washington. With Grant, Sherman and Sheridan, the best three generals in command, confederate days seemed numbered.



Sum of ratings:2 (1)

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QUESTION - Guerillas In Virginia

by Ryan Lundberg - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 5:53 PM

Lionized by some and hated by others, guerrilla fighters like John Singleton Mosby had a definite impact in West Virginia. What specific effects did guerrilla fighters have, both against the enemy, and for their fellow southerners?



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ANSWER - Guerillas In Virginia

by Brendan MacDonald - Friday, March 8, 2013, 2:45 PM

Even though guerilla warfare did not play as major of a role in Virginia as it did in certain other Confederate states during the Civil War, it definitely shaped the nature of the conflict. Guerillas took up arms as a natural response to Union invasion in Virginia; especially when the number of Confederate troops ran thin or were too distant to oppose the enemy. "Neighborhood Wars" would often be the result of intimidating perceived enemies within small, rural communities; where residents would fight each other for local control. A couple of noteworthy leaders were John D. Imboden, and John Singleton Mosby. At times however, the conflicts violence which included terrorist tactics against civilians would get

out of control and alarm Confederate authorities. These authorities who had once encouraged guerilla tactics eventually began tightening up control over them.

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Question-- Rivaling Advancements of the Military P S

by Ashley Clark - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 6:57 PM

"Upon the progress of our arms all else chiefly depends." --Lincoln

By 1864, many were tired of the long and drawn-out conflict. Many wondered if it would ever end. Despite waning faith in Lincoln and many casualties for the Union, there were still many soldiers willing to fight and many supplies ready to be given. It was evident that the progress of their arms was doing well.

However, the Confederate side began to suffer. It seemed that the enthusiastic support for the war had begun to wane, and soldiers with a true will to fight seemed to disappear altogether. Despite having a more universal support for the causes of the war, the draft lacked in numbers.

What are some of the differences in the Union and Confederate draft policies, and how did they contribute to the drastic difference in manpower?



**ANSWER-- Rivaling Advancements of the Military**

by Whitney Stevens - Sunday, March 10, 2013, 7:06 PM

For the Confederacy, the first draft “the Conscription Act”, calling for all healthy white men between 18 and 35 for a 3 year liability to service. In September 1862, the age limit was raised to 45 and then in February 1864 it was raised to 50. Men who filled particular occupations were exempt from the draft, some of these occupations were teachers, druggists, miners, railroad workers and other important occupations for the home front. However, men who owned 20 or more slaves were also exempted from the draft, men also had the option of paying someone else to substitute for them. This lead to south calling the war, “a rich man’s war & a poor man’s fight”.

The draft for the Union and the confederacy shared similarities in regards to age, years of liability of service and exempting important home front occupations. In the Union, men could also pay for someone to substitute for them or pay \$300 to the state to avoid the draft. Men who volunteered before getting drafted would receive an extra amount of money upfront. Men with imperfect vision in the right eye, lack of front teeth and molars and loss of more than one finger of the right hand or more than two fingers on the left hand also exempted them. The drafting of the men, was left up to the states and was done by a lottery.

However, a large difference between the drafts and the people allowed to volunteer was the addition of black soldiers in the North. The north had an extensive amount of black soldiers enroll to fight, which increased the man power and numbers of the Union. Also, the Union had a larger population to draft from. The confederacy had more men who were familiar with shooting due to the popularity with “gun sports/hunting” in the south, which occasionally helped make up for their lack of numbers.



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Question-Rebel Morale



by Chance Cornish - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 7:17 PM

Question-Rebel Morale

Even after the struggles of the summer of 1863, the rebel morale was still high. In the book, McPherson said “many of these lean, tough veterans had re-enlisted even before congress on February 17th required them to do so.” He goes on to say they fought for their devotion to Marse Robert. What are some of the other reasons McPherson suggests as to why these “hard fought veterans” would be so eager to re-enlist?



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ANSWER

by Jacob Pusey - Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 5:25 PM

Robert E. Lee aka Marse Robert said “if victorious, we have everything to hope for in the future. If defeated, nothing will be left for us to live for.” This was particularly meaningful to Lee's men where many of them were going into their fourth year in the Army of Northern Virginia. They had devoted their lives to the Southern cause and did not really have much to return to if the Confederacy failed. They also felt obligated to remain with their “band of brothers”. These men had fought side by side and watched countless others die. By not reenlisting they probably would have felt that they were dishonoring those who perished. Personal pride and honor were also extremely important during this time. It could easily have been seen as cowardice for any able bodied southerner to not fight. Dying in battle was considered heroic and these men felt that courage in battle was almost more important than their own survival.

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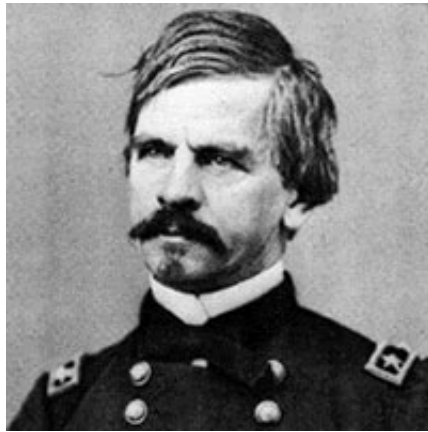


Grant's Coordinated Offensive: spring of '64

by Micah Young - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 8:26 PM

Now in control of all the Union armies, Grant “intended to crush rebel armies and end the war before November.” Part of his reasoning for this was to end the war before the election in case the nation's war weariness led to Lincoln's demise and to concessions with the South. His goal was to make coordinated advances on multiple

fronts in order to keep any of the Confederate armies from reinforcing another. In order to accomplish this he gave orders to Sherman in the west and to three other generals who were on the periphery of the main theaters. The several generals were to take pressure off of Grant's campaign about which he Grant used the metaphor: "Those not skinning can hold a led." What was Grant's opinion about the way in which Northern armies' past operations weren't coordinate with each other? Who were the generals mentioned as a part of his coordinated advance and what instructions did Grant give to each of them? What were the results of each campaign and did they assist the progress of Grant and Meade's campaign against Lee?





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Re: ANSWER-Grant's Coordinated Offensive: spring of '64

by Meleah Drews - Sunday, March 10, 2013, 1:22 PM

Grant believed that previous armies had acted independently of each other and believed that more could be accomplished with a coordinated effort along various fronts. Grant worked out a system by which to engage the Confederates on several fronts thus preventing them from reinforcing each other.

General Meade was to focus on General Lee. "Wherever Lee goes, there will you go also (p722). General Sherman on the other hand was to focus on disrupting Johnston's army, wreaking havoc on the armies resources. Meade and Sherman's forces outnumbered the troops of Lee and Johnston by two to one.

On the fringes there were three smaller armies each led by a political general. These three men were considered the "leg-holders". The first was General Nathaniel Banks. He was to plan a campaign to capture Mobile, and then move northward preventing forces from reinforcing Johnston. Banks was not successful in this mission in part due to conflicting orders from the administration which diverted Banks to drive up the Red River in Louisiana in order to seize cotton and expand Union political control. Banks was engaged by Confederate commander Richard Taylor south of Shreveport. He was driven

back to his supports, and although he held his position through an attack on the second day, Banks was unnerved and decided to retreat, removing his army from the area via gunboats and wing dams.

General Butler was to move up the James River and target the railroad between Petersburg and Richmond, threatening the Confederate capital from the south. Although Butler's 30,000 troops outnumbered the 5,000 troops stationed at each of Petersburg and Richmond, but Butler delayed in his attack and lost the element of surprise. Butler approached cautiously and by the time he engaged, the two armies were fairly equal in numbers. Butlers army was driven back between the James and Appomattox rivers and sealed off by the rebel forces.

General Franz Sigel was the third leg holder. He was stationed in West Virginia and the Shanandoah Valley and was assigned to push up the Valley and pin down the defenders, cutting communication from Lee's army to that area. Sigel failed also. On his way up the valley with his 6,500 men, he was attacked by Breckinridge and his 5,000 rebel forces at New Market. Sigel retreated in fear and defeat.

Reference:

Battle Cry of Freedom (pages 722-724)

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Hold a leg

by Meleah Drews - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 8:45 PM

In the summer of 1864, Grant created a strategic plan for coordinated advances against Confederate armies. A delighted Lincoln said "Those not skinning can hold a leg". Who were the "leg-holders", what were their objectives, and were they successful?

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ANSWER

by Julie Skinner - Thursday, March 7, 2013, 1:08 PM

The leg-holders were Benjamin Butler, Franz Siegel and Nathaniel Banks. Banks was to capture Mobile and then push northward to prevent rebel forces in Alabama from reinforcing Johnston. Butler was to head up the James and cut off the railroad between Petersburg and Richmond threatening the confederate capital from the south. Siegel would move up the valley and pin down rebel defenders, cutting off Lee's communications with that area.

All three leg-holders were unsuccessful. Banks failed because he was diverted by the administration from the attack on Mobile to drive up the Red River in Louisiana and seize cotton in order to expand union political control. His army, after a loss to Taylor, didn't get back to their original mission until the end of May, too late to try for Mobile. Butler might have been successful if he had moved quicker. He outnumbered his enemy, but he moved too cautiously, allowing Beauregard to get his troops into position, obtain reinforcements and even the odds. Breckenridge attacked Siegel before he really got started, causing him to do what he did best, retreat.

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Re: Chapter 24

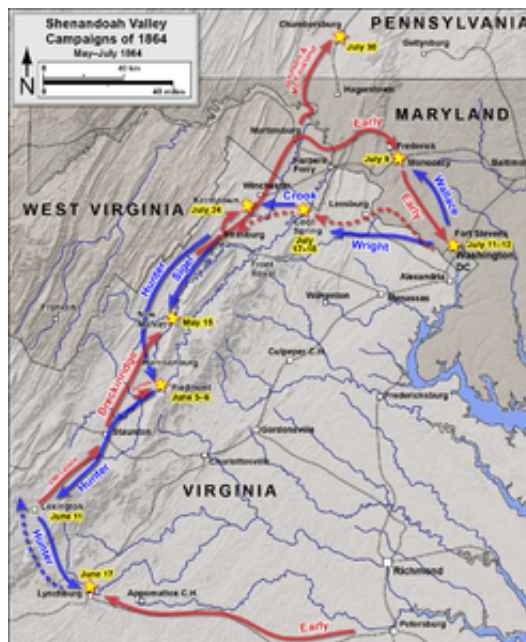


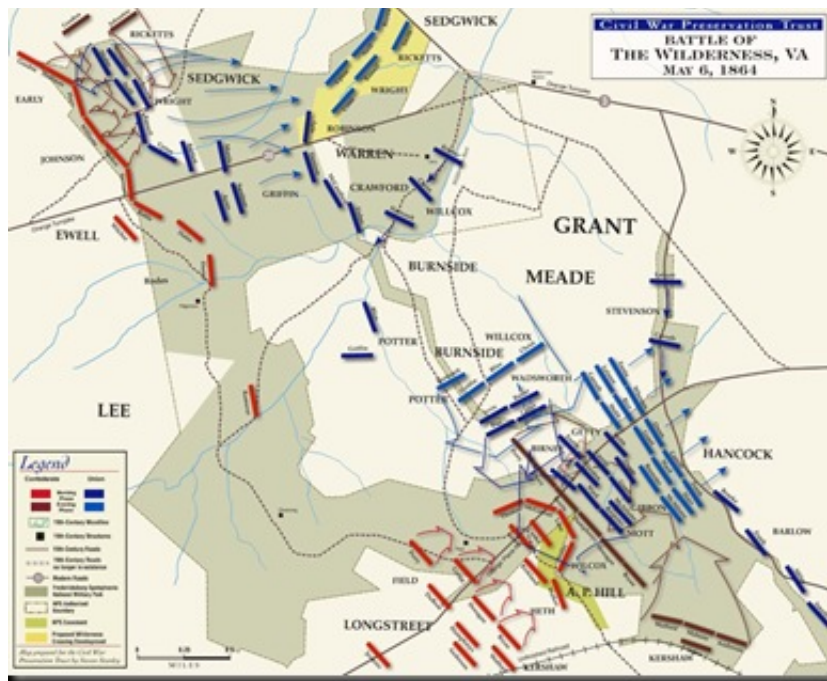
by Jessica Cadenasso - Sunday, March 3, 2013, 10:06 PM

Grant

was unnerved after hearing what Longstreet said "If we can break up the enemy's arrangements early, and throw him back, he will not be able to recover his position or his morale until The Presidential election is over, and then we shall have a new President to treat with."

He chose to not just protect Virginia but instead various northern armies, what plan did he have and was it successful?





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ANSWER: Chapter 24

by Courtney Merrell - Friday, March 8, 2013, 10:41 PM

Grant did not confine his attention solely to Virginia, he worked out plans for coordinated advances on several fronts to prevent any one of the Confederate armies from reinforcing another. He believed that this tactic would protect lands already accrued by the Union which was the first segment of the plan. Grant devised a very intricate multi-part plan. The second segment was to destroy Lee and Johnston. Grant had his two right men in on it, receiving orders were Mead, his objective was Lee's army, and there was Sherman, who was given orders to move against Johnston, to "break it up". Grant issued additional orders to increase the odds. This included Benjamin Butler's Army of the James on the Peninsula, Franz Sigel's scattered forces in West Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley, and Nathaniel Bank's Army of the Gulf in Louisiana. Lincoln declared to these outside enforcers, "those who are not skinning can hold a leg". Which essentially meant that if you are not physically impacting the defeat of Lee, you had better contribute by keeping other reinforcements for Lee occupied.

But with several of the early attacks by Bank's, Sigel and Butler failing, this led Grant prepared to cross the river and turn Lee's right. He had hoped to bring the rebels out of their trenches for a showdown battle. The fighting began in the Wilderness. With the confederates knowing the land layout better, this led them to be more successful. With many days of fighting, important generals on both sides killed, and many men who lost their lives, Grant declared the Wilderness a defeat for the Union. Stating that he, more than anyone regretted the assault.

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