

# Fredericksburg/Chancellorsville Staff Ride Guide

Ted Ballard

The campaigns of Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, Virginia, feature several rarities and firsts of the Civil War, including river assault, urban warfare, night combat, and trench fighting.

Both campaigns offer case studies in the application of the principles of war and unit cohesion. A staff ride to either battlefield, therefore, provides valuable object lessons from the past for present-day Army leadership.

The area in and around Fredericksburg was the setting for four major battles of the Civil War. In addition to Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville, the Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields are included in the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park. The information which follows is intended to assist interested individuals in designing and leading a Chancellorsville or Fredericksburg staff ride. A future issue of *Army History* will contain information concerning the Wilderness and Spotsylvania battlefields.

A publication to assist in organizing the project is *The Staff Ride*, by William G. Robertson, published by the U.S. Army Center of Military History, Washington. This booklet provides guidance for organizing a staff ride, lists various functions (e.g., site selection, study phases) associated with staff riding, and establishes flexible standards for a successful exercise. Copies are available to Army account holders from the U.S. Army Publications Center, 2800 Eastern Boulevard, Baltimore MD 21220-2896. The order number is CMH publication 70-21.

Another helpful publication is *The U.S. Army War College Guide to the Battles of Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg*, by Jay Luvaas and Harold W. Nelson. The paperback should be available through commercial bookstores at a cost of \$8.95 each.

A variety of publications concerning the battlefield are available for purchase at visitor centers located in the Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park. The Fredericksburg Battlefield Visitor Center is located at 1013 Lafayette Boulevard, Fredericksburg. The telephone number is (703) 373-6122. The Chancellorsville Visitor Center is located ten miles west of Fredericksburg, on Va. Route 3. The telephone number is (703) 786-2880. Chatham, an eighteenth century home that served as headquarters

for various Union generals, is part of the National Park Service battlefield tour and contains displays and publications. The telephone number is (703) 373-4461. These locations are open seven days a week, 0800 to 1700, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Additional information regarding Fredericksburg/Spotsylvania National Military Park is available from the Superintendent, P.O. Box 679, Fredericksburg, Va. 22404.

Modern 1:24,000 scale topographical maps of the battlefield area are available for sale from the U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colo. 80225 or Reston, Va. 22092. The cost is \$2.50 per map. Chancellorsville, Salem Church, Fredericksburg, and Guinea, Virginia, quadrangles cover the Chancellorsville battle, the Fredericksburg and Guinea quadrangles cover the Battle of Fredericksburg.

Sets of five black and white National Park Service maps showing detailed troop dispositions at either Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville are available from the Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville visitor centers. The cost is \$6.00 per set.

A few published sources of information that might be helpful in developing a Fredericksburg or Chancellorsville staff ride are listed below. Copies of these publications should be available from commercial bookstores or, if out of print, through interlibrary loan:

Bigelow, John, Jr. *The Campaign of Chancellorsville: A Strategic and Tactical Study*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1910.

Commager, Henry Steele, ed. *The Blue and the Gray: The Story of the Civil War as Told by Participants*. Volume I. New York: Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1950. pp. 228-266.

Dowdey, Clifford, ed. *The Wartime Papers of R. E. Lee*. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1961. pp. 324-472.

Griess, Thomas E., ed. *The American Civil War*. New Jersey: Avery Publishing Group, Inc., 1987. pp. 121-143.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Atlas for the American Civil War*. New Jersey: Avery Publishing Group, 1986. Maps 24-32.

Henderson, George Francis Robert. *The Campaign of Fredericksburg, November-December, 1862*. London: Chatham, Gale, and Polden, 1891.

Herbert, Walter H. *Fighting Joe Hooker*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Company, Inc., 1944.

Johnson, Robert U., and Buel, Clarence, editors. *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. Grant Lee Edition, vol. 3, part 1. New York: The Century Company, 1884, 1888. Fredericksburg, pp.70-147, Chancellorsville, pp. 152-243.

Longstreet, James. *From Manassas to Appomattox*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Co., 1896. (Fredericksburg, pp. 297-321).

Stackpole, Edward J. *Chancellorsville, Lee's Greatest Battle*. Harrisburg: Military Service Publishing Company, 1958.

\_\_\_\_\_. *Drama on the Rappahannock: The Fredericksburg Campaign*. Harrisburg: Military Service Publishing Company, 1957.

U.S. War Department. *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1889. Fredericksburg, Series 1, vol. 21 and Chancellorsville, Series 1, vol. 25, parts 1 and 2.

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#### Award Winning Army Museum

The U. S. Army Air Defense Artillery Museum, Fort Bliss, Texas, has received a Texas Historical Commission Museum Award for the exhibit, "Their Finest Hour--The Battle of Britain." This recognition (for outstanding achievement in exhibits during 1990) was announced last summer--one of six such awards the commission awarded to Texas museums. This was the fifth one the Fort Bliss Museum Division has received from the Texas Historical Commission.

The winning exhibit, commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the Battle of Britain, was described in the Fall 1991 issue (No. #20) of *Army History*.

#### Military Review 1991 Writing Contest Winners

The commandant of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College has announced the winners of the 1991 *Military Review* writing contest. The contest theme was "The Army in American Society." The winners:

1st Place (\$500) "Blacks, the Army and America: Opportunity and Ultimate Cost," by Maj. Rainier H. Spencer. Major Spencer is a philosophy instructor at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York.

2d Place (\$200) "Media Access to the Battlefield in the New Age of Information," by Capt. James B. Brown. Captain Brown is a west European foreign area officer, currently attending the Austrian General Staff Course in Vienna, Austria.

3d Place (\$100) "The Future of Women in the Army," by Lt.Col. Robert L. Maginnis. Colonel Maginnis teaches inquiries and investigations at the Inspector General School, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

The winning essays will appear in *Military Review* in the spring and summer of 1992.

#### 1992 Military Review Contest Rules

Entries on the topic "The U.S. Army in Joint, Combined, and Coalition Warfare" will be accepted through 1 July 1992 for this year's contest. The author of the winning manuscript will receive a \$500 cash award. Second and third place winners will receive \$200 and \$100, respectively. The winning manuscript will be published in the fall issue of *Military Review*. All other entries also will be considered for publication.

Possible subjects include, but are not limited to, current and future roles and missions, doctrine, historical perspectives, service relationships, recent operational lessons, and education and training. The unifying theme should be consideration of current and future joint, combined, and coalition warfighting capabilities. Entries will be judged for relevance to current Army needs, research, and scholarship.

Manuscripts must be original, not previously offered elsewhere for publication, between 2,000 and 2,500 words typed double-spaced. A writer's guide is available upon request. Send entries to: *Military Review*, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Funston Hall, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas 66027-6910.