

## The U.S. Army in the Civil War

### 1860

December 20 South Carolina seceded from the Union, the first state to do so.

### 1861

February 9 The Confederate States of America was formed.

March 4 Abraham Lincoln was sworn in as 16<sup>th</sup> President of the United States.

April 12-13 Confederate troops under Brig. Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard bombarded Fort Sumter, S.C., forcing the Union garrison to capitulate.

April 19 President Abraham Lincoln announced the blockade of all Southern ports.

July 21 Battle of First Bull Run, Va. (or First Manassas). Confederate troops under Brig. Gen. Beauregard and Brig. Gen. Joseph E. Johnston stopped the Union invasion of Virginia under the command of Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell.

July 26 Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan assumed command of the Union Army of the Potomac.

August 10 Confederate troops routed the heavily outnumbered Union forces under Col. Franz Sigel at the Battle of Wilson's Creek, Mo.

November 1 President Lincoln appointed McClellan as general-in-chief of all Union forces.

November 6 Jefferson Davis was elected president of the Confederate States of America.

## 1862

- February 6            Union forces under Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant defeated Confederates in the Battle of Fort Henry, Tenn.
- February 12-16      Siege and surrender of Fort Donelson, Tenn. to Union forces under Grant.
- February 28 –  
April 8              The Union Army of the Mississippi under Brig. Gen. John Pope besieged and conquered Island No. 10, opening the Mississippi to the Union.
- March 7-8            As a result of the Battle of Pea Ridge, Ark., Confederate forces were driven from Missouri.
- March 8-9            In an attempt to break the Union naval blockade, the ironclad CSS *Virginia* engaged the USS *Monitor*. Although the battle ended inconclusively, the Confederacy was unable to dislodge the Union blockade. The battle therefore amounted to a Union strategic victory.
- March 17             McClellan began the Peninsula Campaign toward Richmond, Va. with over 120,000 men.
- April 6-7             Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee defeated Confederates at the Battle of Shiloh, Tenn.
- May 1                 Union troops under Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Butler occupied New Orleans.
- May 31 –  
June 1                In the Battle of Seven Pines outside of Richmond, Va., Confederate forces under Johnston stopped the Army of the Potomac's march towards Richmond.
- July 11                President Lincoln appointed Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck as general-in-chief of all Union forces.
- August 28-30        The Second Battle of Bull Run, Va. (or Second Manassas) ended in a Union defeat.
- September 5         Gen. Robert E. Lee with 45,000 men of the Army of Northern Virginia crossed the Potomac into Maryland.

- September 17      At Antietam near Sharpsburg, Md., Union troops under McClellan fought Lee's invading Army to a standstill. Antietam remains the single bloodiest day in American military history.
- September 22      President Lincoln issued a Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation.
- October 8            Confederate forces under Gen. Braxton Bragg defeated Union troops under Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell at Perryville, Ky.
- October 28          Union forces under Maj. Gen. William Rosecrans defeated Confederate troops at the Battle of Stones River, Tenn.
- November 7         President Lincoln replaced McClellan with Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside as commander of the Army of the Potomac.
- December 13        At the Battle of Fredericksburg, Va., Union forces were soundly defeated, suffering over 12,000 casualties in repeated frontal assaults on fortified Confederate positions.

**1863**

- January 1            President Lincoln issued the final Emancipation Proclamation, announcing the freedom of all slaves in Confederate territory.
- January 26          President Lincoln replaced Burnside with Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker as commander of the Army of the Potomac.
- January 29          Grant assumed command of the Army of the West, with orders to capture Vicksburg, Miss.
- March 3             Congress enacted conscription for males between the age of 20-45, but exempting those paying \$300 or providing a substitute.
- April 30 –  
May 6                At the Battle of Chancellorsville in Spotsylvania County, Va., Confederate forces under Gen. Lee decisively defeated Union forces twice their size under Maj. Gen. Hooker.
- May 18 –  
June 4                Grant's Army of the Tennessee besieged and captured Vicksburg, Miss., cementing Union control of the Mississippi

river.

- June 3                    Marching into Pennsylvania, Gen. Lee began his second invasion of the North with 75,000 Confederate troops.
- June 28                    President Lincoln replaced Maj. Gen. Hooker with Maj. Gen. George Meade as commander of the Army of the Potomac.
- July 1-3                    In the Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., Union troops stopped the Confederate drive north. It was the bloodiest battle of the war, with Confederate casualties at 28,000 and Union losses at 23,000.
- July 18                    African American troops of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment under Col. Robert G. Shaw vainly attacked Fort Wagner, S.C., suffering over 50% casualties, including Shaw.
- August 21                    Confederate guerilla leader William C. Quantrill and 450 bushwackers raided the town of Lawrence, Kan., killing nearly 200 boys and men.
- September 19-20            Confederate forces defeated Union troops at the Battle of Chickamauga, Ga., ending the Union offensive southwards.
- November 19                Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.
- November 23-25            Grant's victory over Bragg at the Battle of Chattanooga, Tenn., drove the Confederates out of Tennessee.

## **1864**

- March 9                    President Lincoln appointed Lt. Gen. Grant commander of all Union armies. Sherman took over from Grant in the West.
- May 5-7                    The Wilderness, Spotsylvania County, Va. In the first battle of Lt. Gen. Grant's Overland Campaign into Virginia, both sides suffered heavy casualties.
- May 8-21                    Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, Va. In the second battle of Grant's Overland Campaign, the Union lost over 18,000 men, and Lee over 10,000.

- May 31 – June 12      Thousands of Union soldiers were killed in repeated frontal assaults on fixed Confederate positions at Cold Harbor, Va.
- June 9              Union forces under Grant began the 9-months siege of Petersburg, Va., including a series of engagements in trench warfare.
- July 30             Union troops detonated a mine underneath Confederate defenses during the siege of Petersburg, Va., but failed to exploit the element of surprise created by the explosion. Instead, Union troops became trapped in the crater, and suffered nearly 4,000 casualties.
- September 2      Atlanta, Ga., fell to the Union forces of Lt. Gen. William T. Sherman.
- October 19        Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan's Union forces defeated Confederate troops at the Battle of Cedar Creek in the Shenandoah Valley, Va.
- November 8        President Lincoln was re-elected.
- November 30      Union Maj. Gen. John Schofield's forces defeated Confederates under Lt. Gen. John B. Hood at the Battle of Franklin, Tenn.
- December 15-16   Union Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas defeated the Confederates under Lt. Gen. Hood at Nashville, Tenn.
- December 21      Union forces under Maj. Gen. Sherman captured Savannah, Ga., ending their march to the sea through Georgia.

**1865**

- March 1            The Union victory at the Battle of Five Forks, Va. forced Gen. Lee to abandon Richmond and Petersburg.
- April 3             Union forces captured Petersburg, Va.
- April 3             Richmond, Va. surrendered to Union forces.

- April 9                    Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, Va.
- April 13                  Union troops occupied Raleigh, N.C.
- April 14                  John Wilkes Booth, a Confederate sympathizer, shot President Lincoln at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C.
- April 26                  Johnston surrendered to Sherman at Bennett Place near present-day Durham, N.C. With a total of over 89,000 soldiers, it was the largest surrender of the war.
- May 10                    Union forces captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis at Irwinville, Ga.
- May 23-24                Marking the end of the Civil War, nearly 150,000 Union soldiers participated in the Grand Review of the Army in Washington, D.C.