

## Seven Days Battle

The Seven Days Battle lasted from June 25 to July 1, 1862. It featured six different battles along the Virginia Peninsula east of Richmond. The Union Army was led by Major General George B. McClellan. There was over 100,000 men that were steadily driven away from Richmond and back to the James River. The Confederates led by a new field commander—Gen. Robert E. Lee. Lee's Army fought McClellan's army at Gaines' Mill, Savage's Station, Frayser's Farm, and Malvern Hill. McClellan wanted to capture the capital of the Confederacy and try to end the war. If he succeeded, the nation might be reunited, but without the abolition of slavery. The Union started by attacking in Oak Grove, but McClellan, the general of the Union, quickly lost the lead when Lee began a series of attacks at Beaver Dam Creek on June 26. The Confederates also attacked at Gaines's Mill on June 27, Garnett's and Golding's Farm on June 27 and 28, and the attack on the Union rear guard at Savage's Station on June 29. McClellan's Army of the Potomac retreated toward the safety of Harrison's Landing on the James River. Lee's final opportunity to intercept the Union Army was at the Battle of Glendale on June 30, but he poorly executed the orders and the delay of Stonewall Jackson's troops allowed his enemy to escape to a strong defensive position. Stonewall Jackson's real name was Thomas, but he earned the nickname Stonewall in the First Battle of Bull Run. At the Battle of Malvern Hill on July 1, Lee launched futile frontal assaults but suffered many casualties because of strong infantry and artillery defenses. The Union won four of the five major battles in the Seven Days. Only at Gaines's Mill, they left the field before they were ready. There were 20,000 casualties on the Army of Northern Virginia, while the Union had almost 10,000 killed and wounded. Another 6,000 Federals were missing, most of which were captured, but some were killed or wounded. But the Confederates won the day strategically.

## Second Battle of Bull Run

The Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Battle of Manassas) was fought from August 28 to the 30, 1862. It was a larger scale and had more casualties than the First Battle of Bull Run. The rebels had left Manassas Junction and taken positions in the woods and hills a few miles from the site of the war's first major engagement, the First Battle of Bull Run. Knowing McClellan's army was on its way to join John Pope, the Confederate General Robert E. Lee decided to strike Pope's army. The Federals would have an overwhelming numerical advantage. The Second Battle of Bull Run seemed to be the deciding battle in the Civil War that waged between Union and Confederate armies in northern Virginia in 1862. Confederate General Robert E. Lee decided to start it off. Lee sent half of his Army to hit the Federal supply base at Manassas. Stonewall Jackson led the rebels as they seized supplies and burned the depot, then established hidden positions in the woods. There was a big fight between Jackson's men and one of Pope's divisions at dusk on August 28, so Pope prepared his army overnight to attack the Confederates. Believing that Jackson was preparing to retreat in order to join the rest of the rebel army, Pope did not wait to assemble his large force. He also sent divisions in smaller assaults on the Confederates on the morning of August 29. A wave of despair rolled over the North because of the news of the battle and the outcome, and the morale of the army sank to new depths. Despite heavy Confederate casualties, the Battle of Second Bull Run was a victory for the rebels. Lee had managed a strategic offense against the enemy force that was twice the size of his own army.

## Battle of Antietam

The Battle of Antietam, also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, happened on September 17, 1862, at Antietam Creek, Maryland. It put Confederate General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia against the Union's Army of the Potomac. It was the culmination of Lee's attempt to invade the north. On September 13, two Union soldiers, Private Barton W. Mitchell and Sergeant John M. Bloss, found a copy of Special Order 191 with detailed Confederate troop movements. They had found it wrapped around three cigars. When McClellan learned about the valuable find, he exclaimed "Here is a paper with which, if I cannot whip Bobby Lee, I will be willing to go home." He immediately moved his army in hopes of hindering Lee's battle plans. The Battle of Antietam began in the morning of September 17. All of Lee's troops were worn-out and hungry, and many had fallen ill. They just watched as McClellan's army assembled along the creek's east side. The Union forces outnumbered Confederates by two to one, but McClellan believed Lee's forces were much larger. The troops from both sides faced-off across a 30-acre cornfield that was owned by David Miller. Union troops fired first and the carnage began. Confederate troops ferociously fought, trying to prevent being overrun, which turned the cornfield into a massive killing field. Only eight hours into the battle, there were over 15,000 casualties. The fighting was so gory Sunken Road earned a new name: Bloody Lane. After just twelve hours of intense and often close-range fighting with muskets and cannons, there were around 23,000 casualties, including an estimated 3,650 dead. The next day, as Lee began moving his ravaged troops back to Virginia, McClellan, did nothing. Even though he had the advantage, he allowed Lee to retreat without resistance.

## Battle of Shiloh

The Battle of Shiloh (also known as the Battle of Pittsburg Landing) was a battle in the Western Theater of the American Civil War, which was fought April 6-7, 1862. It took place in southwestern Tennessee. The Confederates had acknowledged the importance of the Union forts by abandoning their strong position at Columbus, Kentucky, and by evacuating Nashville. Grant's aim was to attack the Memphis and Charleston Railroad, and he encamped his troops on the Tennessee at Pittsburg Landing. General A.S. Johnston, commanding Confederate forces in the West, and General P.G.T. Beauregard were trying to recover some of their recent losses. Since Union troops were planning an offensive, they had not fortified their camps. But to their surprise, General Johnston seized the initiative and attacked Grant before reinforcements could arrive. Criticism of Sidney Johnston grew and grew after the losses in Tennessee. Newspapers charged him with incompetence, drunkenness, and even treason. The congressmen of Tennessee petitioned for his removal from command. "If Sidney Johnston is not a general," said the president, "we had better give up the war, for we have no general." Johnston refused to reply to his critics. "The test of merit, in my profession... is success," he wrote privately. "It is a hard rule, but I think it right. ... What the people want is a battle and a victory." The battle began when the Confederates launched a surprise attack on Union forces under General Ulysses S. Grant in southwestern Tennessee. However, the Confederates were unable to hold their positions and were forced back, resulting in a Union victory. Both sides suffered heavy losses. There were more than 23,000 total casualties, and the level of violence shocked both the North and South. The battle of Shiloh was the battle that the Kentucky native Daniel W. Adams got wounded most seriously. It was where he lost an eye. The Battle of Shiloh was a crucial success for the Union Army, led by Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Tennessee. It allowed Grant to begin a massive operation in the Mississippi Valley later that year. This culminated in the brutal Vicksburg Campaign, which targeted the "fortress city" of Vicksburg, Mississippi—the last Confederate-controlled area along the Mississippi River.