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This photograph of dead Confederates in the “Bloody Lane” at Antietam was taken in September, 1862 by Alexander Gardner (1821-1882). It is titled “Ditch on Right Wing, Where a Large Number of Rebels Were Killed at the Battle of Antietam.” This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

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# The American Civil War's Eastern Theater (Part 1)



This image shows the charge of the Union's Iron Brigade near the Dunker Church. This event took place during the Battle of Antietam on the morning of September 17, 1862. This painting was created by Thure de Thulstrup (1848-1930) for L. Prang & Co. circa December 19, 1887. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

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In the summer of 1861, hundreds of people on horseback or in carriages filled the roads leading to Manassas, Virginia, from Washington, D.C.



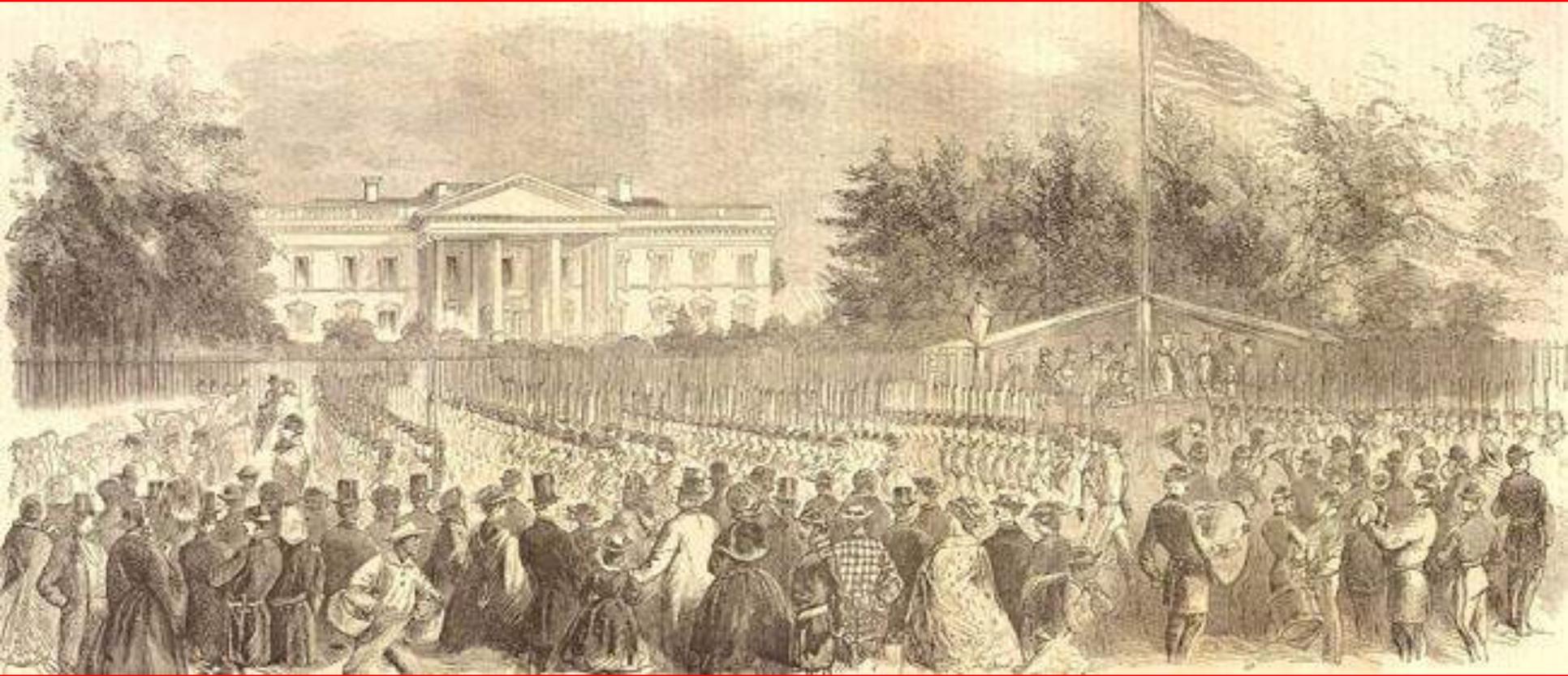
They made the 25- mile journey to see Union (United States) and Confederate troops in the first land battle of the Civil War. This image is not of the picnickers on the way to Manassas in 1861. It is of New York City's Central Park in 1869. This image is titled "Fashionable 'Turn-Outs' in Central Park." It was created for Currier & Ives. This image is courtesy of oldprintshop.com.

The civilians carried picnic baskets and champagne.



A feeling of anticipation and excitement filled the air. Many people brought binoculars to view the action more closely. They were sure the battle would not last long. This image was also not taken at Manassas, Virginia in 1861. It was taken on July 4, 1862 at Mr. James Hunter's property at Hestonville, Pennsylvania. Hestonville is now a neighborhood of Philadelphia. This image was taken by Coleman Sellers (1827-). This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The civilians had no doubt that the Northern army would easily overpower the Rebels, or Confederate army.



This image shows President Abraham Lincoln reviewing New York soldiers on Pennsylvania Avenue, with the White House in the background, on July 4, 1861. Two weeks later was the Battle of First Manassas or First Bull Run. This image is titled "Review of the New York Troops at Washington by General Sandford in Presence of the President and Cabinet July 4, 1861. This image appeared in the July 27, 1861 edition of *Harper's Weekly*. This image is courtesy of sonofthesouth.net.

# Manassas, Virginia was the first major land battle in the east.



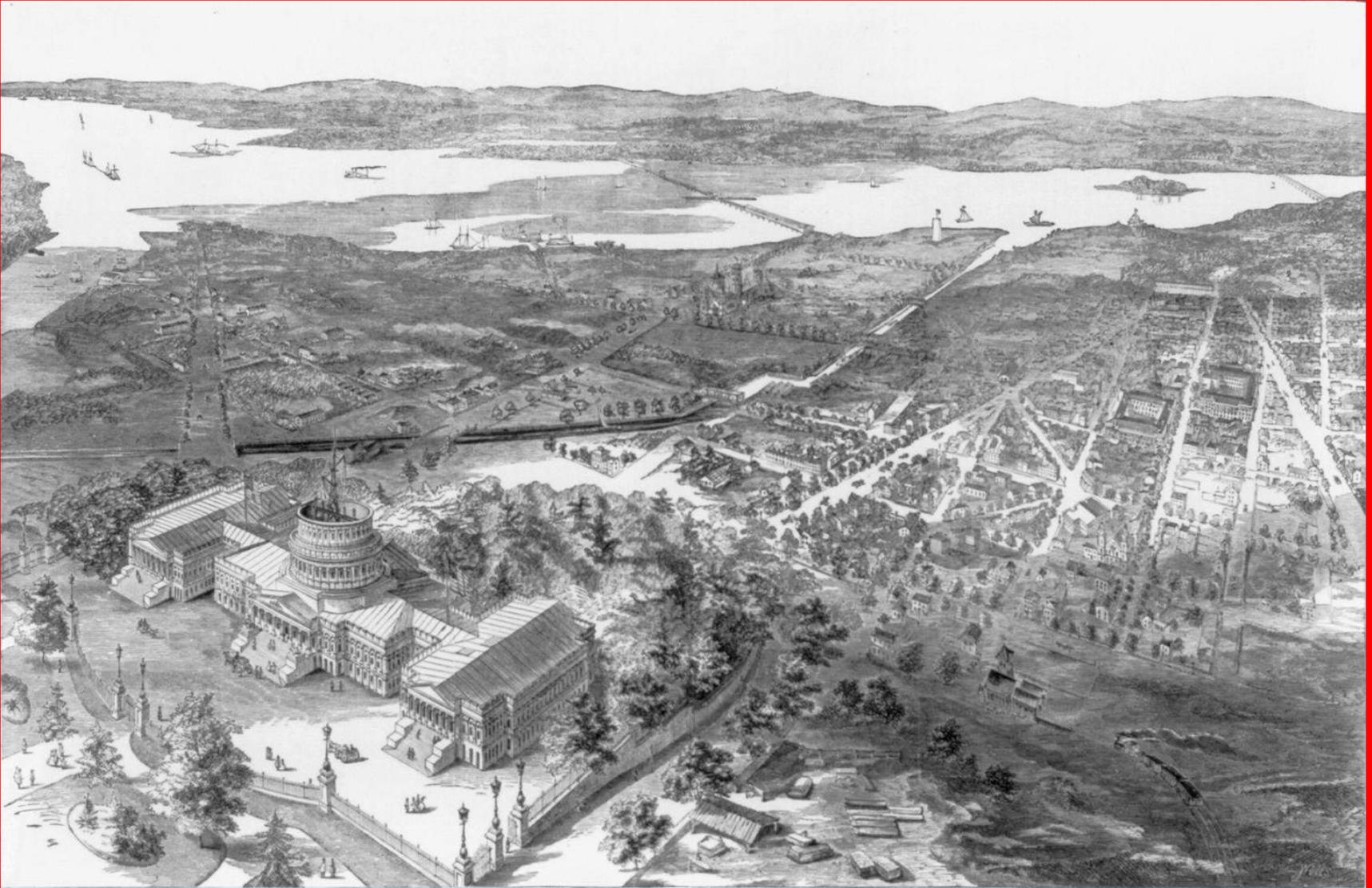
Confederate troops under the command of General Pierre Goustave Toutant Beauregard had camped along a Virginia stream named Bull Run. This image shows United States Cavalry at Bull Run's Sudley Ford in March, 1862. This image was taken by George N. Barnard (1819-1902). This image is courtesy of The Library of Congress.

Both President Lincoln and General Scott agreed that the Confederate army had moved much too close to Washington, D.C.



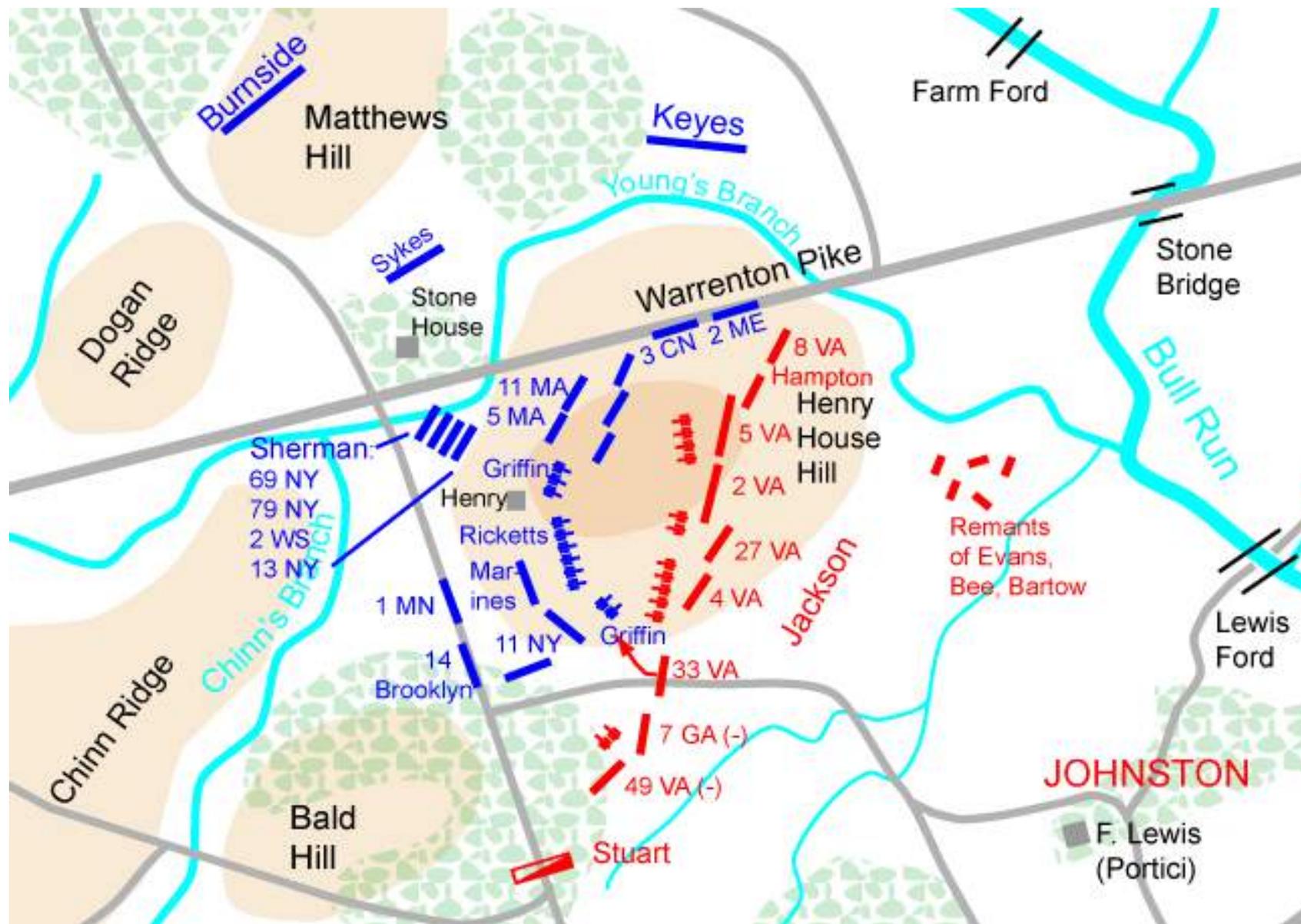
President Lincoln and General Scott wanted to drive the enemy farther from the nation's capital. This image is courtesy of [thomaslegion.net](http://thomaslegion.net).

Union leaders also believed that if the Northern army could destroy the Confederate army, the war might end at once.



Hopes were high for the Yankees, or Union army, as the battle approached. This image is titled "Balloon View of Washington, D.C., May 1861. It was created for the July 27, 1861 edition of *Harper's Weekly*. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

On July 21, 1861, Union General Irvin McDowell moved 31,000 Union troops across Bull Run.



At first Union troops pushed the 35,000 Confederates back. The Union forces pretended they were going to attack from the east, but most of their soldiers came from the north and pushed the Confederates from Matthews Hill back to Henry House Hill. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

When Union soldiers ran up against General Thomas Jackson and his group of Virginians, the battle turned.



General Jackson stood coolly at the head of his brigade amid a shower of Union bullets. Inspired by their general, the Southern troops held their ground at a place called Henry Hill. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

One Confederate general stated that Jackson stood “like a stone wall.”



From that day on the general was known as Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. This image was taken by Robert Housch on July 21, 2011, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of First Manassas.

Union troops fought well at first, but the Confederates did not give up.



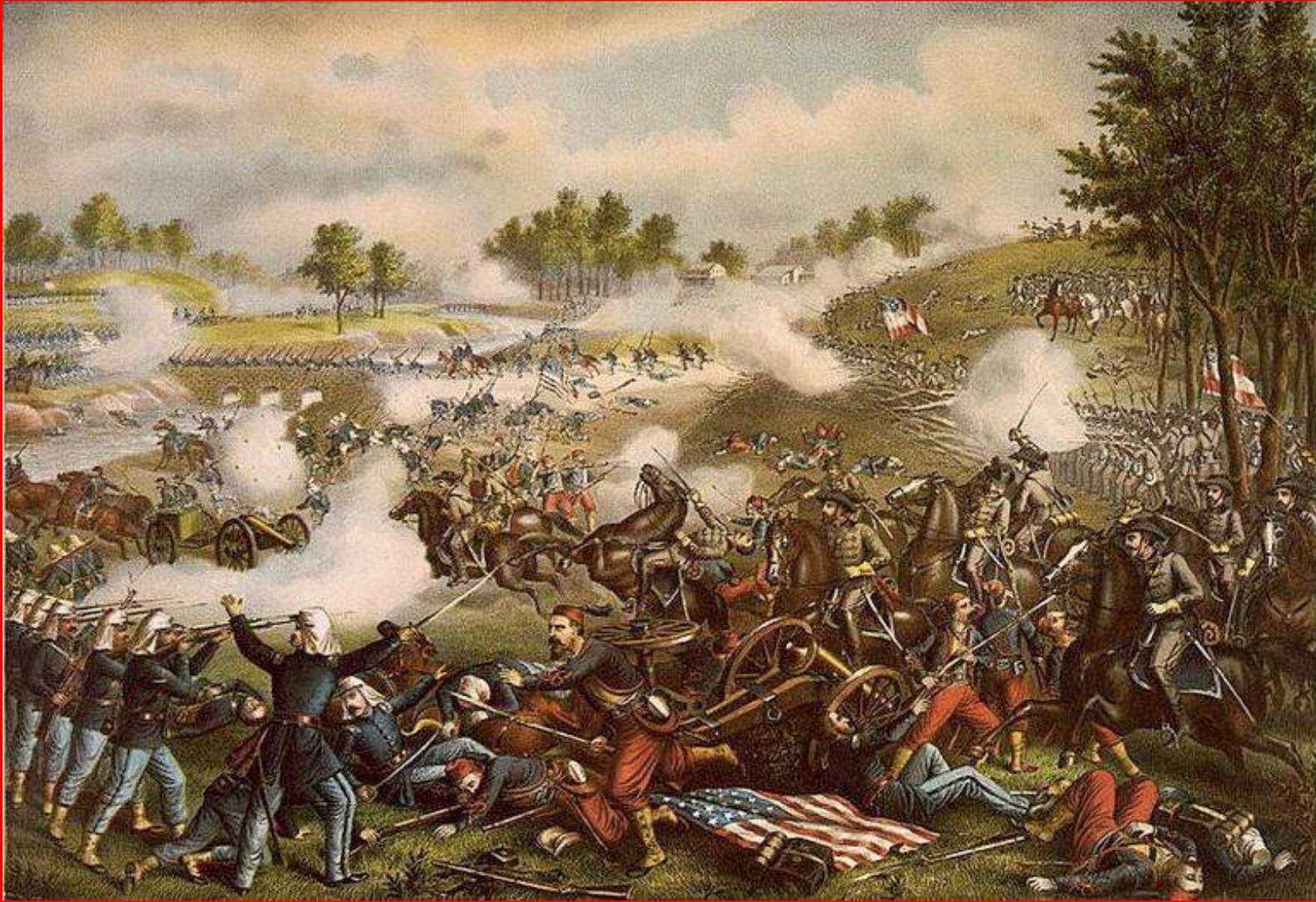
Using the railroad and the telegraph, Confederate officers quickly supplied reinforcements. Union forces, tired from the long, hot battle, began to retreat. This image is titled "The Capture of Rickett's Battery." It was created in 1964 by Sydney E. King. This image is courtesy of The National Park Service.

Although the Union retreat started slowly and orderly, the hundreds of onlookers from Washington soon got in the way.



When masses of grimy, bloody men headed their way, the picnickers panicked and rushed to the road. Together, panic stricken soldiers and civilians started running and some stopped only when they reached the safety of the neighborhoods of Washington. This image shows the retreat from Bull Run. This image is courtesy of [civilwar.org](http://civilwar.org).

The Confederates proved as disorganized by victory as the Union forces were by defeat.



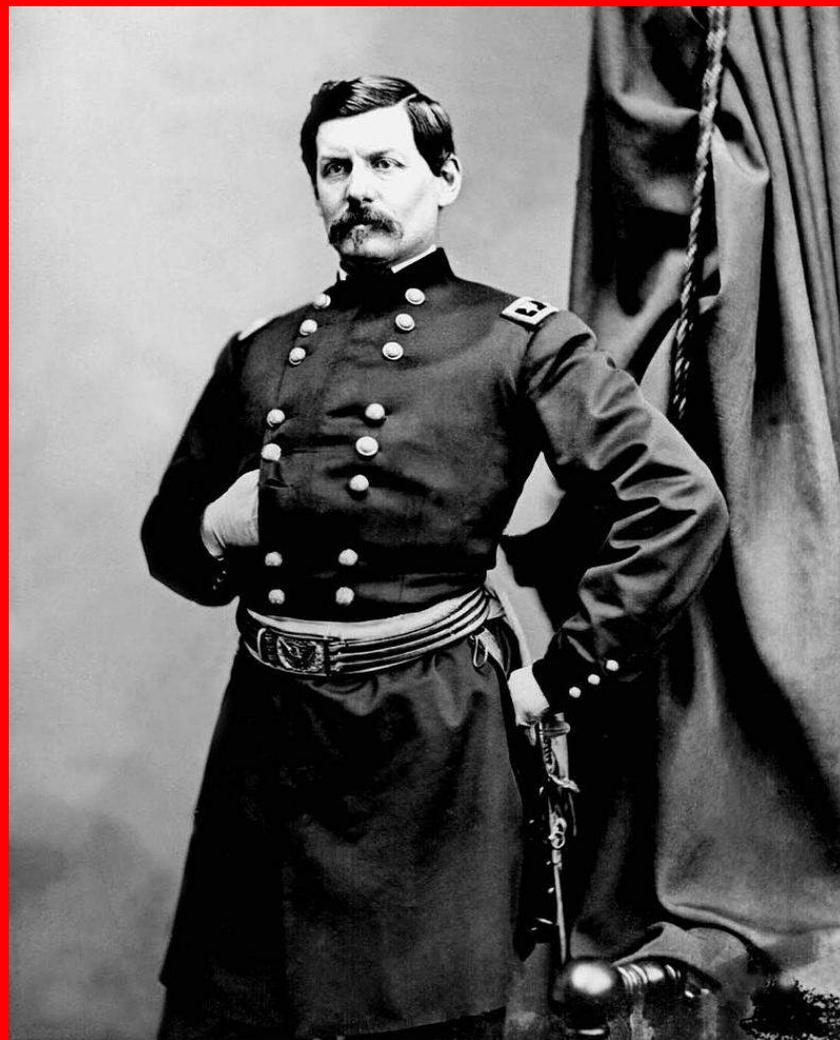
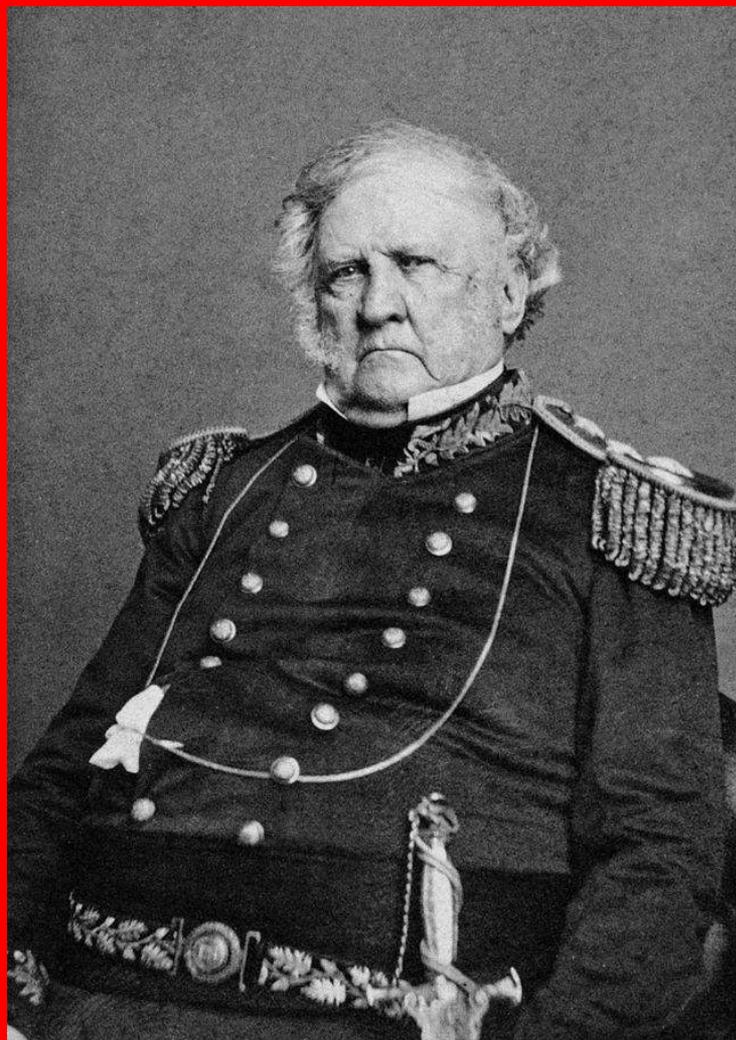
Short on supplies and transportation, the Confederates did not pursue the fleeing Union soldiers. This image is titled First Battle of Bull Run. It was created for Kurz & Allison circa 1889. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The battle demonstrated that both armies needed training.



The battle also suggested that the war would be long and bloody. There were approximately 5000 casualties at First Manassas (3000 Union, 2000 Confederate). This photograph shows an unidentified man looking at graves on the Manassas battlefield that are only marked by pieces of wood. This photograph is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Bull Run struck a severe blow to Union morale and to Lincoln's confidence in his officers.



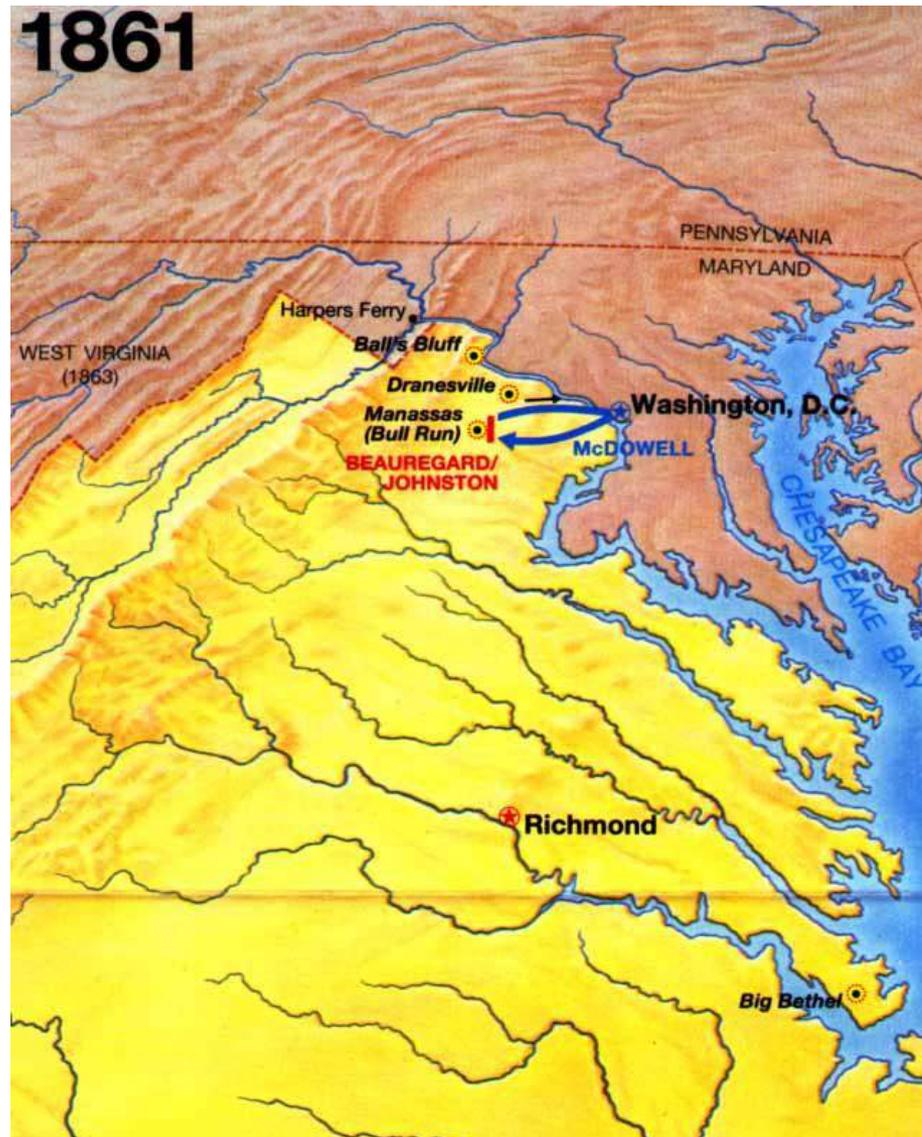
General Winfield Scott (left) was urged to retire, and Lincoln promoted General George B. McClellan (right) to build up the Union's armies. The image on the left was taken at West Point New York on June 10, 1862 by Charles D. Fredericks & Company. The image on the right was taken by Mathew Brady in 1861. These images are courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

## McClellan immediately began training and organizing his soldiers.



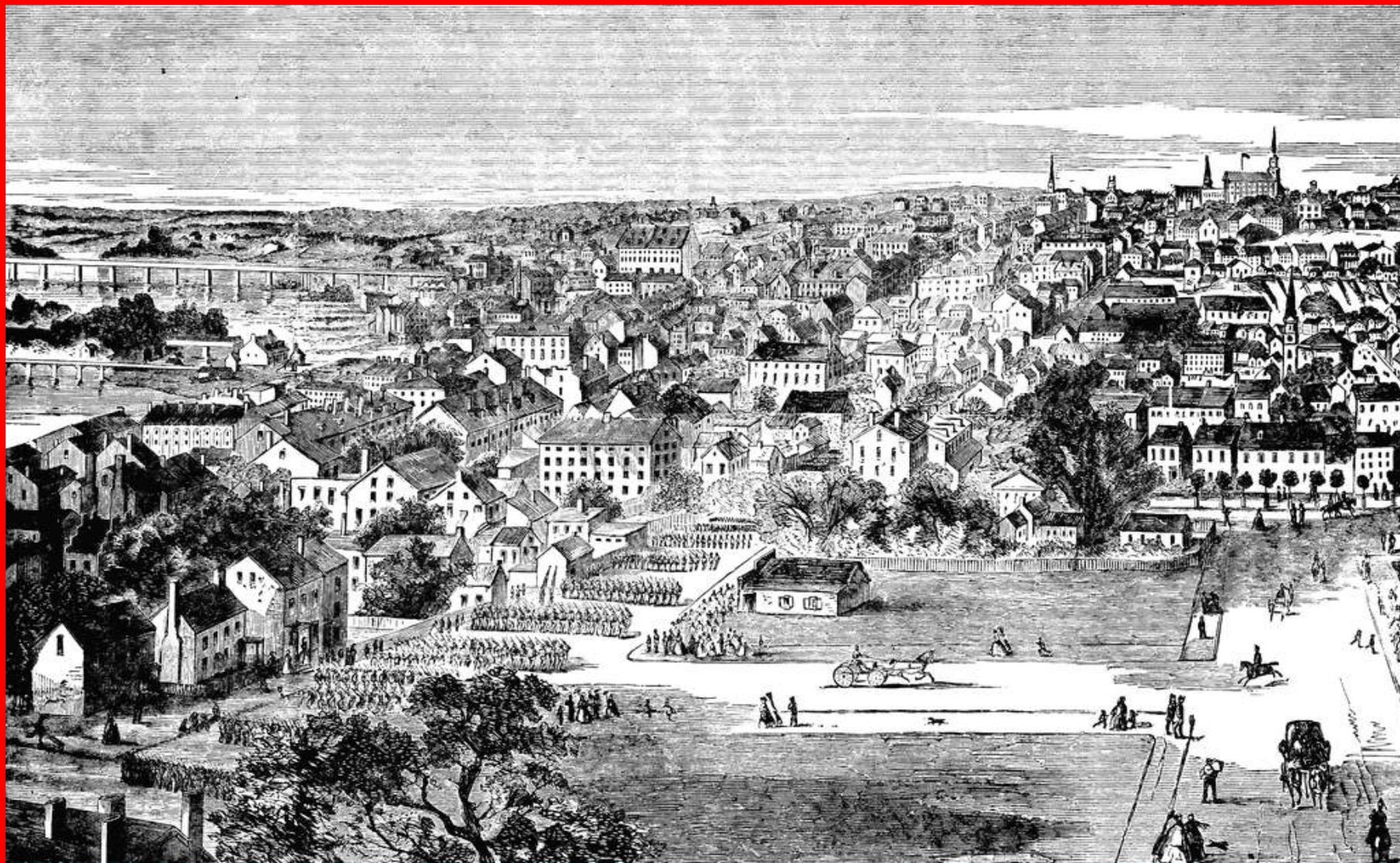
Although McClellan was a superb trainer of men, he often appeared reluctant to commit troops to battle. This image is titled "The Great Review at Bailey's Cross Roads, Virginia, on November 20, 1861." A note to the image states, "Sketched by Our Special Artist From the Top of a Barn." This image was created for the December 7, 1861 edition of *Harper's Weekly*. This image is courtesy of sonofthesouth.net.

Only 100 miles separated the Confederate capital of Richmond from the United States capital at Washington, D.C.



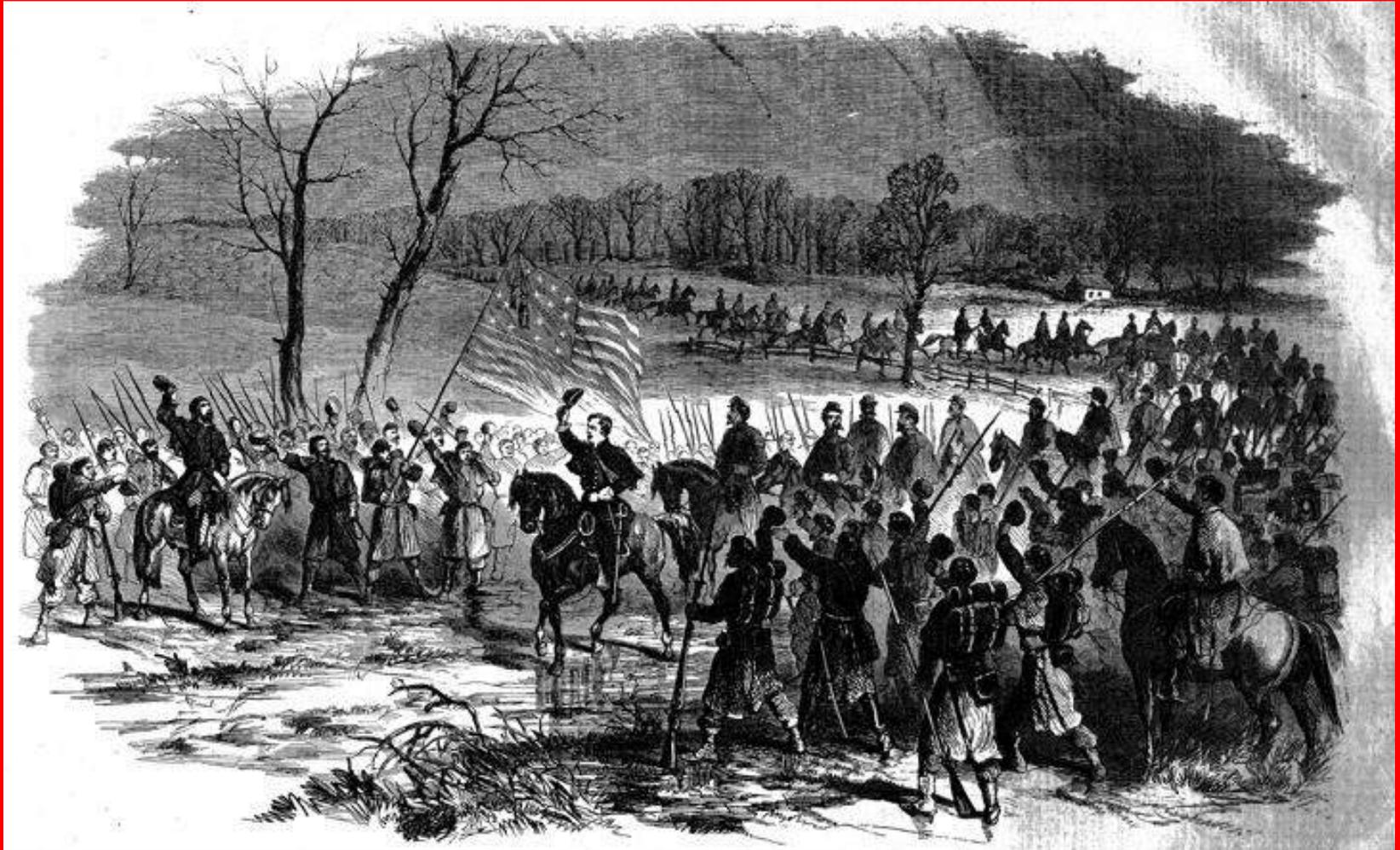
At the beginning of the war, the Confederate capital was located in Montgomery, Alabama. After Virginia seceded, the Confederate capital was moved to Richmond. This image is courtesy of [thomaslegion.net](http://thomaslegion.net).

Union leaders determined if they could capture Richmond and take over the Confederate government, they could quickly end the fighting.



This image is titled "A sketch of Richmond, Virginia from 1861 during the Civil War." This image was created for Charles Carleton Coffin's *Drum-Beat of the Nation*. It was published by Harper & Brothers in New York City in 1915. This image is courtesy of the University of South Florida.

After spending the winter of 1861-1862 training his forces, General McClellan finally attempted to capture Richmond.



Instead of heading overland toward Richmond, he chose a more complicated and cautious route that he thought would avoid most of the Confederate forces. This image is titled "The War in Virginia—Arrival of General McClellan, 5<sup>th</sup> of April, 1862, to take Personal Command of the Union Army in its Advance on Yorktown—Enthusiastic Reception by the Troops." This image was created by E.S. Hall for the May 3, 1862 edition of *Leslie's Illustrated News*. This image is courtesy of the New York State Library.

McClellan sent 100,000 troops by boat to a peninsula between the York and the James Rivers in Virginia.



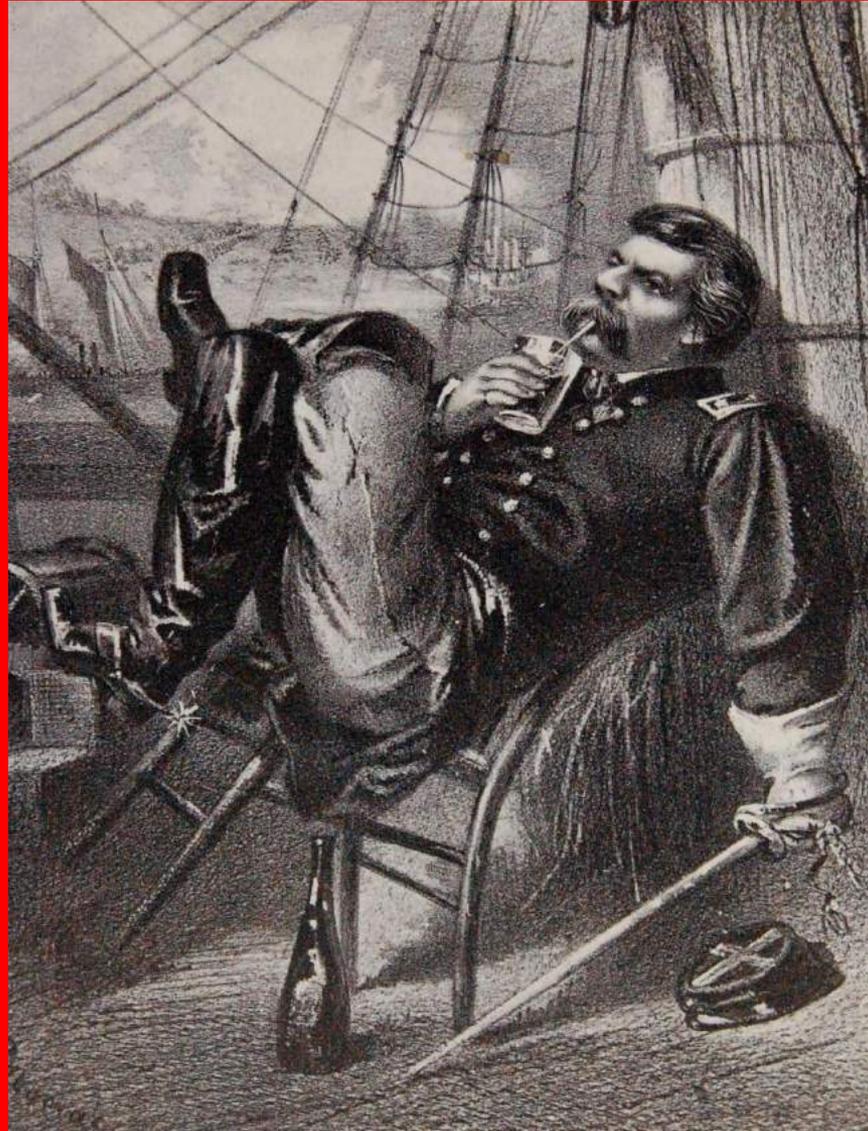
McClellan planned to move into Richmond from the southeast. After winning several small battles, McClellan's troops marched to within 6 miles of Richmond. This image is courtesy of pbs.org.

In the Battles of the “Seven Days” in June of 1862, Southern armies overwhelmed McClellan’s troops.



The South's Army of Northern Virginia, led by Robert E. Lee, encountered McClellan's forces. Lee began a series of counterattacks and forced McClellan to retreat down the peninsula. This image is courtesy of pbs.org.

Although McClellan, only 25 miles from Richmond, occupied a good position to continue the campaign, time and time again he found reason to delay.



Instead of replacing McClellan, Lincoln ordered him to northern Virginia to unite with forces under General John Pope near Manassas. This image is titled "Headquarters at Harrison's Landing..." See evidence before Committee on Conduct of the War." This image is courtesy of [historicist.files.wordpress.com](http://historicist.files.wordpress.com).

President Lincoln hoped to begin a new offensive against Richmond on a direct overland route from Washington.



Richmond, Virginia is approximately 100 miles from Washington, D.C. This image is courtesy of thomaslegion.net.

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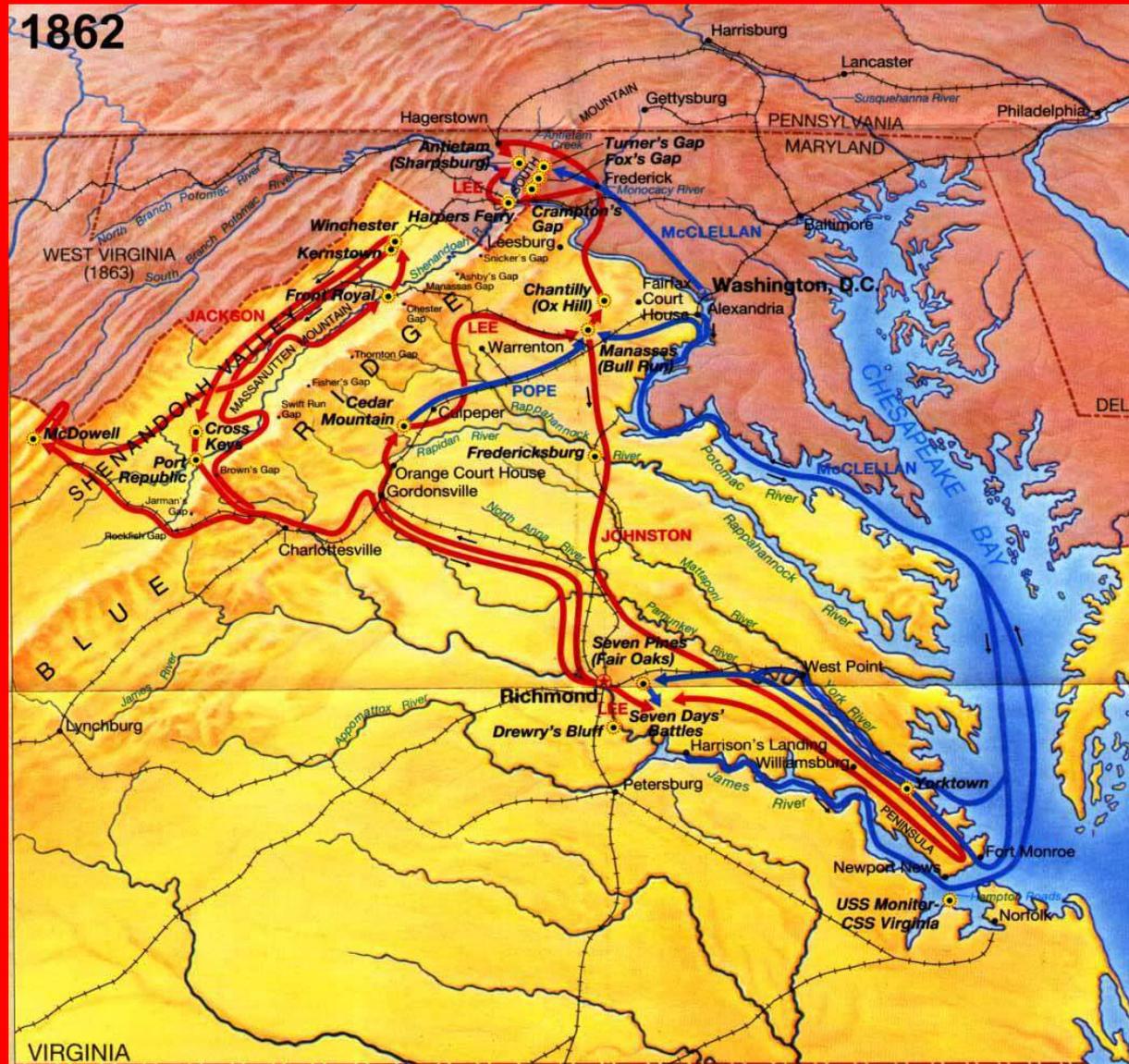
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Lee's troops moved quickly to the north, wanting to reach Pope's army before McClellan could join forces with him.



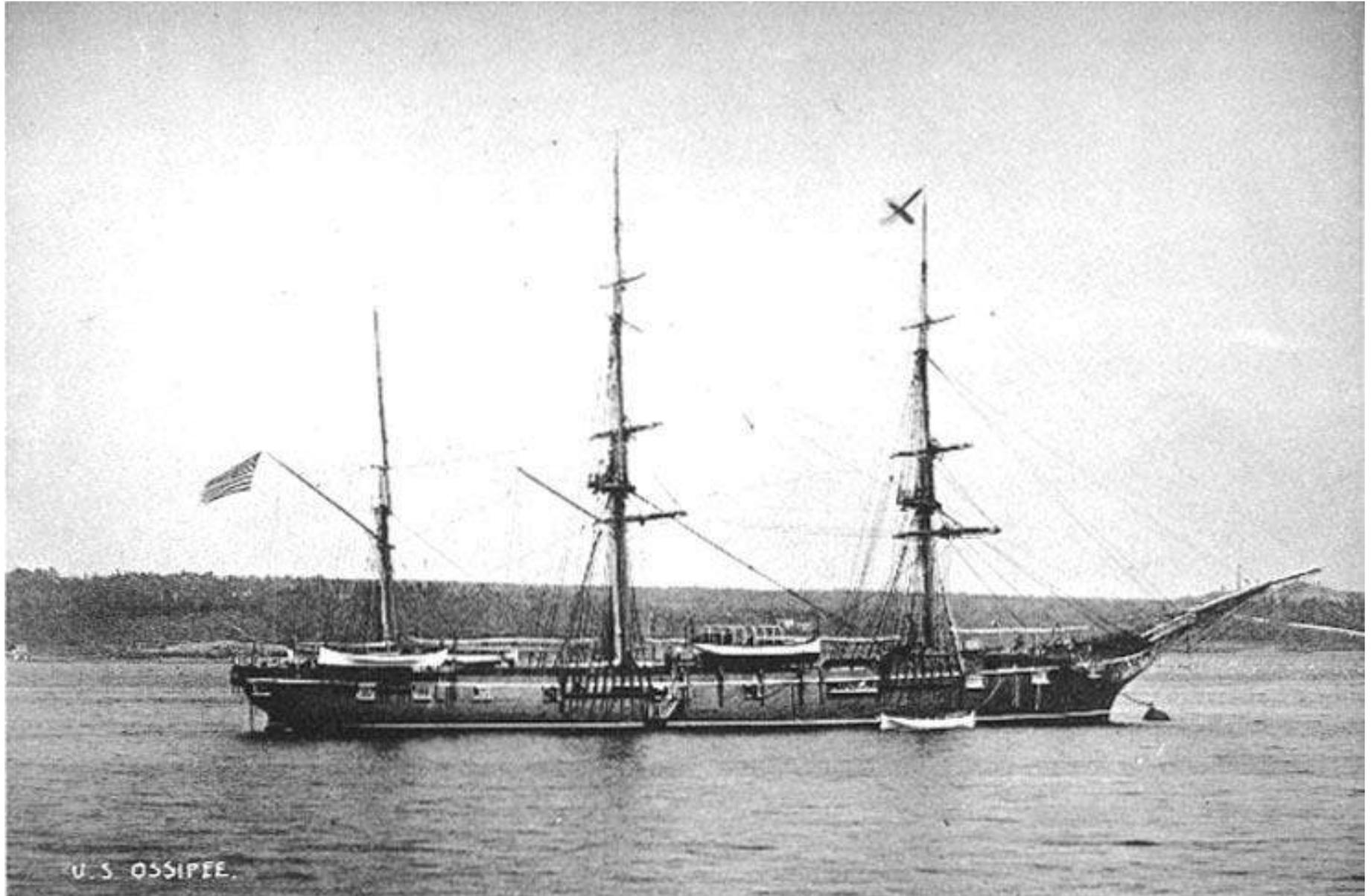
On August 29, 1862, Pope's soldiers attacked the approaching Confederates near Manassas. This image is courtesy of thomaslegion.net.

General Lee's Confederate forces overcame the Union army in the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas).



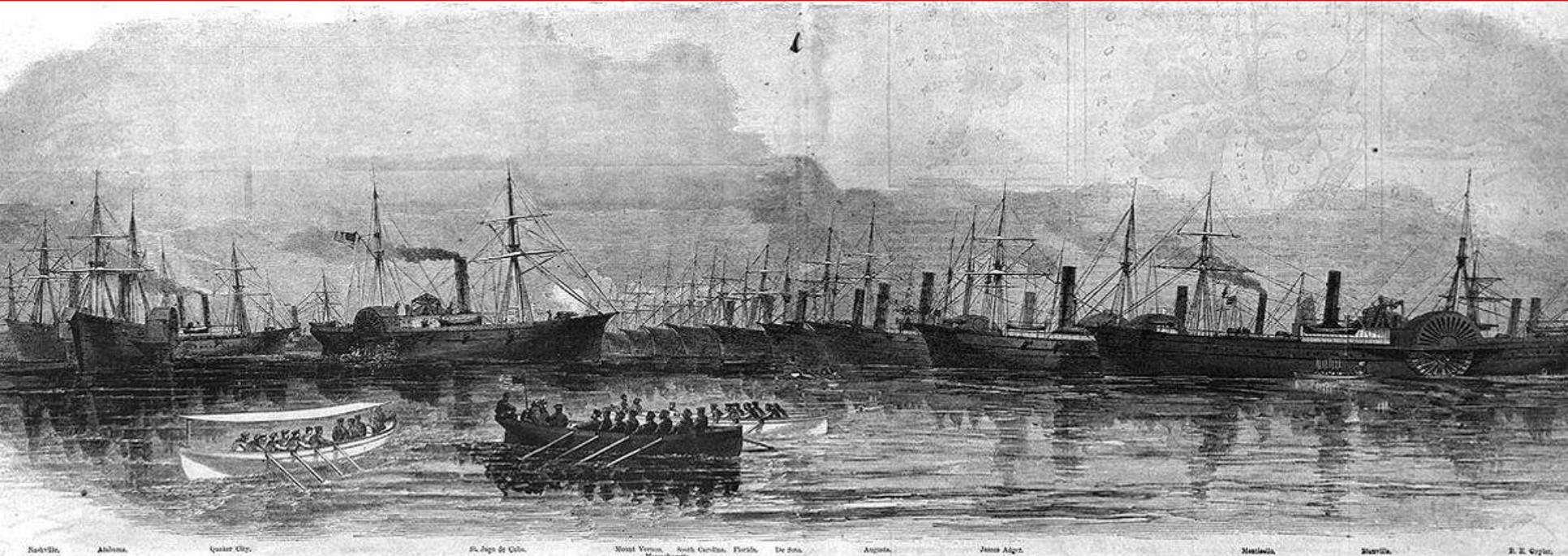
The Union soldiers once again retreated to the defenses of Washington, D.C. This image is titled "Battle at the Deep Cut." It was created by Sydney King. This image is courtesy of the National Park Service.

Although Union armies in the east continued to lose battles on land, the Union navy controlled the seas.



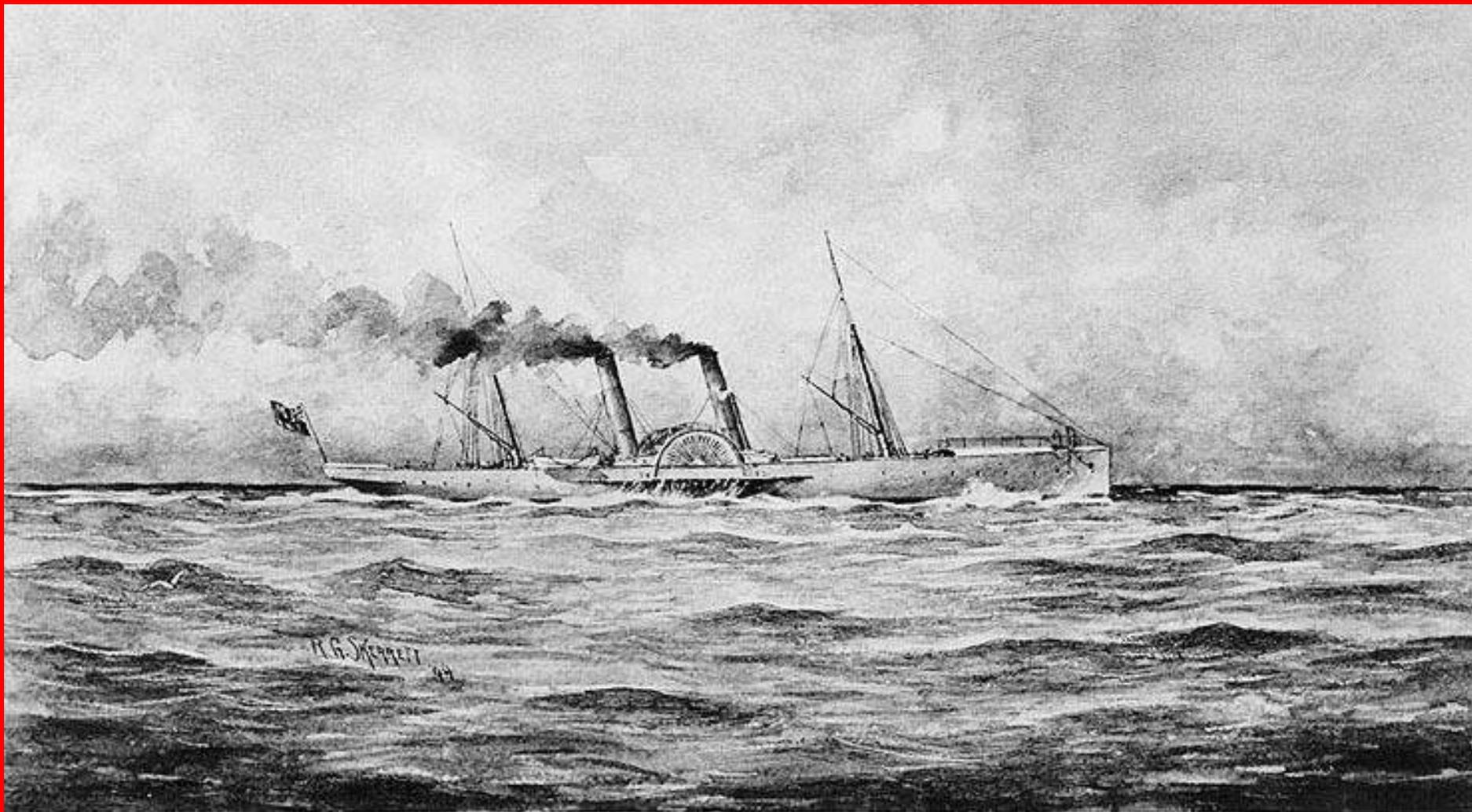
This image shows the *USS Ossipee* in 1861. This image is courtesy of the U.S. Navy Historical Center.

To blockade the Southern coast, the Union navy seized, or commandeered, tugboats, ferries, whalers, and fishing schooners.



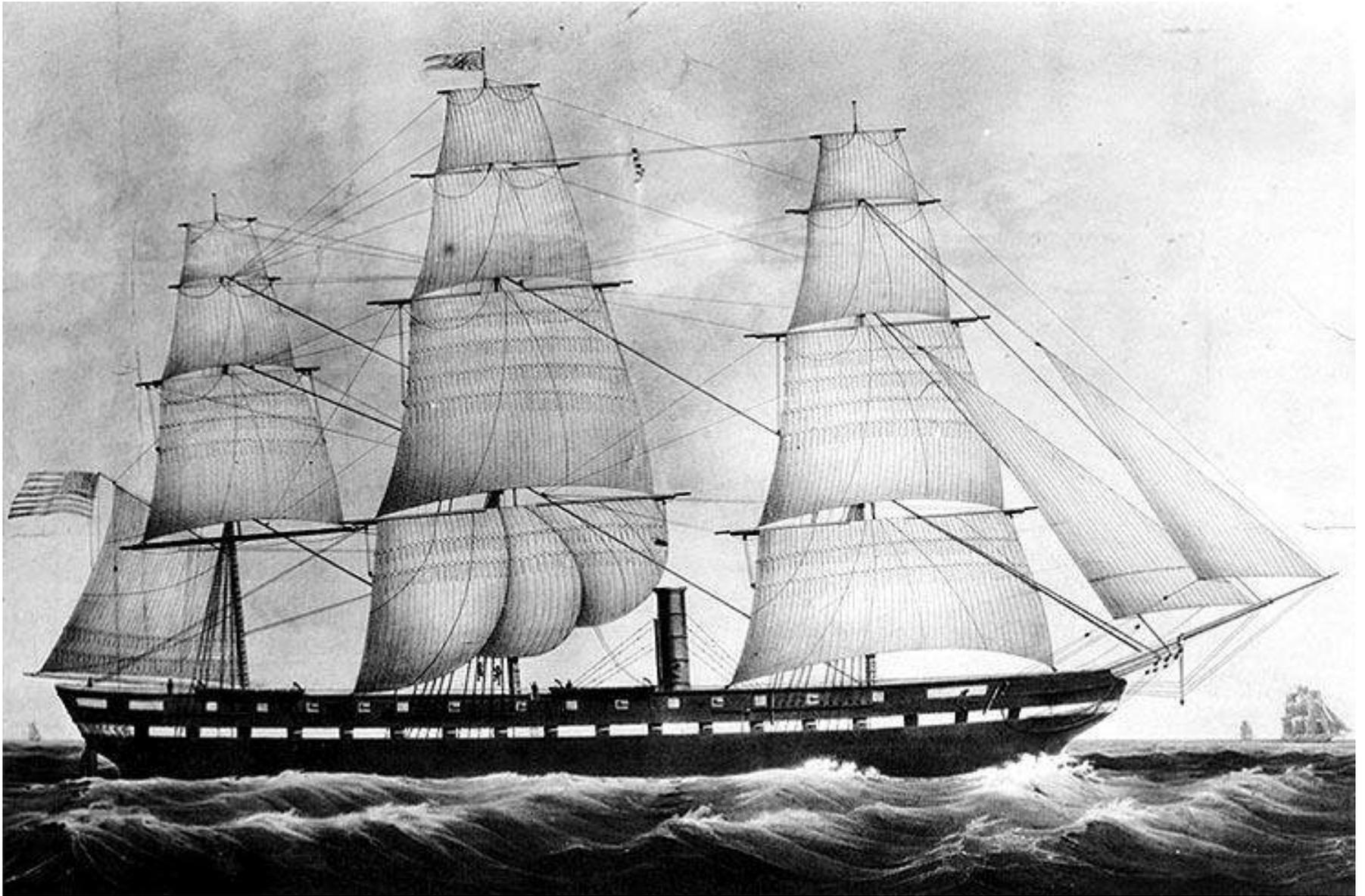
**The blockade stopped much of the South's trade with other countries.** This image is titled "Merchant Steamers Converted into Gun-Boats." This image was created for an 1861 edition of *Harper's Weekly*. This image is courtesy of [history.navy.mil](http://history.navy.mil).

Southern blockade-runners-- fast ships that outran the federal ships—often slipped through the blockade.



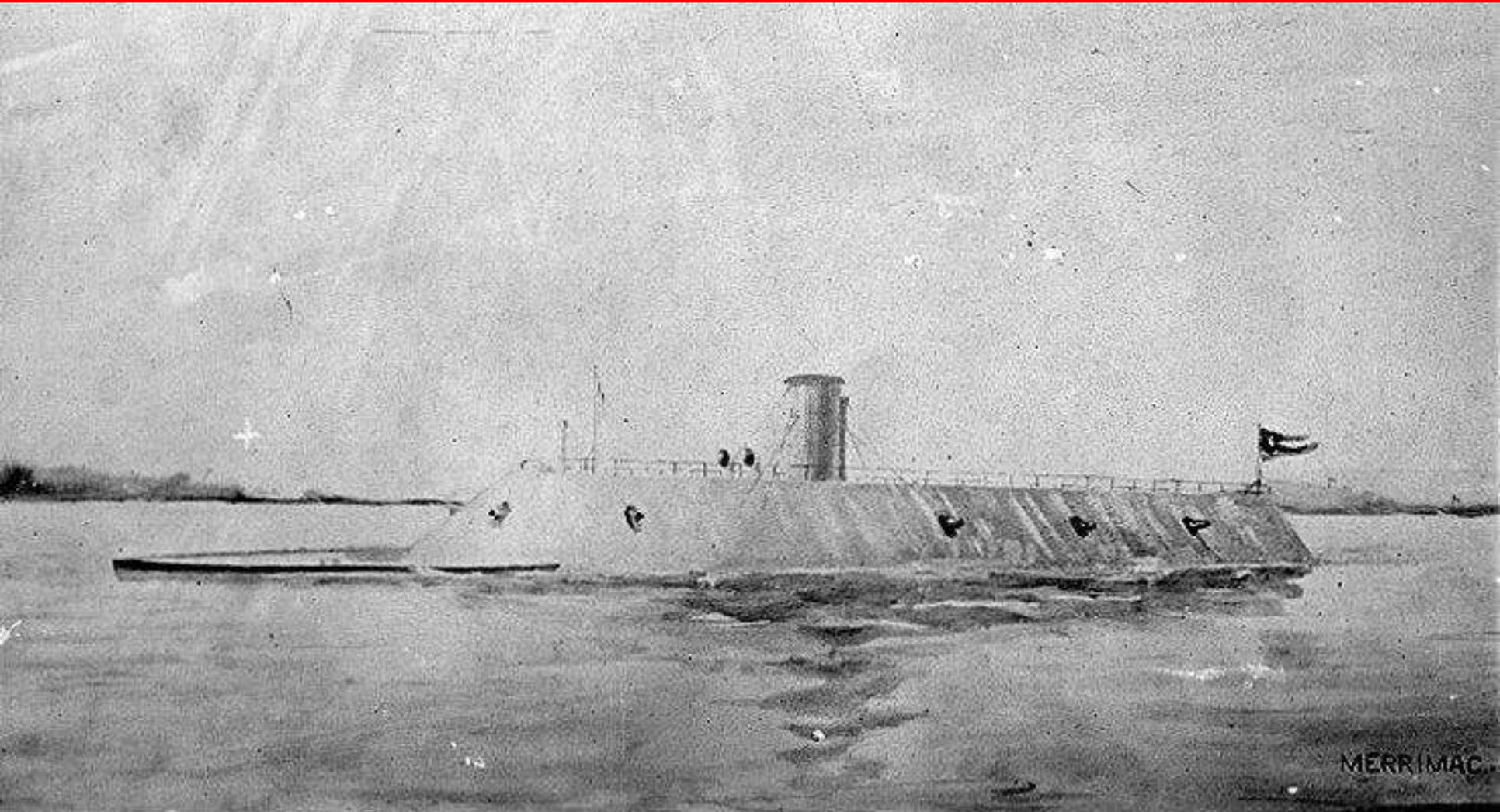
Blockade runners could not supply all the goods the South needed, however. This image shows a blockade runner, the SS *Banshee* in 1863. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The small Confederate navy planned to break the blockade.



The most daring attempt came when they captured a Union warship named the *Merrimack*. They took the sails off, fitted the ship with thick iron armor, and renamed it the *Virginia*. This image was created by G.G. Pook. The served in the United States Navy from 1856-1861. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons. *USS Merrimack*

Called an ironclad, this new iron-plated ship staged the South's greatest challenge to the North.



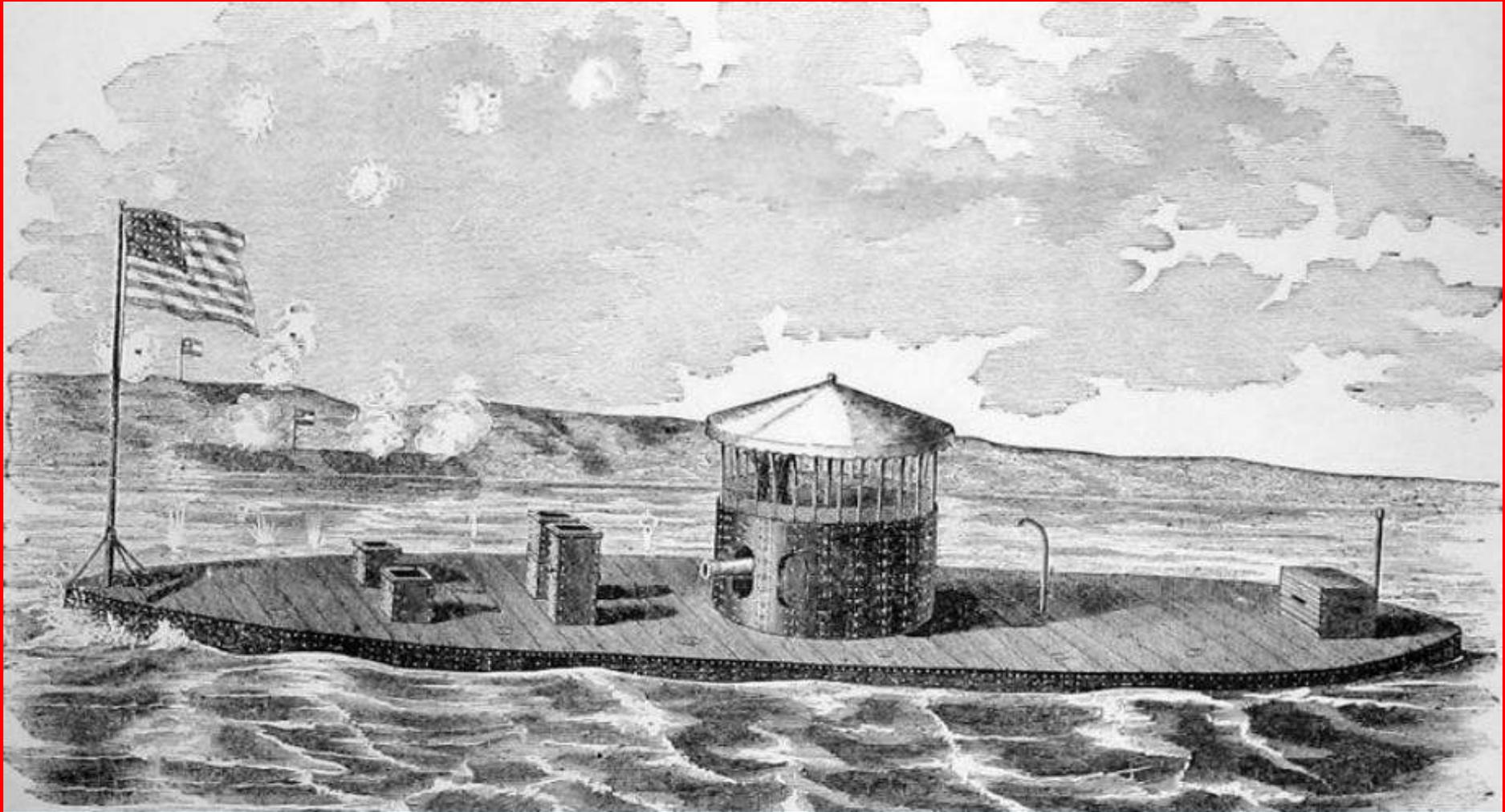
This image shows the *CSS Virginia* after the sails were removed, and the iron plating was placed on her hull. Notice how the smoke stack for the engine is still in the same position where it was located when it was the *USS Merrimack*. This image is courtesy of the U.S. Navy Historical Center.

On March 8, 1862, the *Virginia* (Merrimack) attacked Northern wooden warships at Hampton Roads in Virginia.



The Northern cannons hit the *Virginia* time after time but could not sink her. The *Virginia*, on the other hand, destroyed two Northern vessels and drove three others ashore. This image is titled "The Sinking of the *Cumberland* by the Ironclad *Merrimack*, off Newport News VA March 8<sup>th</sup> 1862." This lithograph was created by Currier & Ives in 1862. This image is courtesy of the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command.

That evening a Northern ironclad called the *Monitor* reached Hampton Roads.



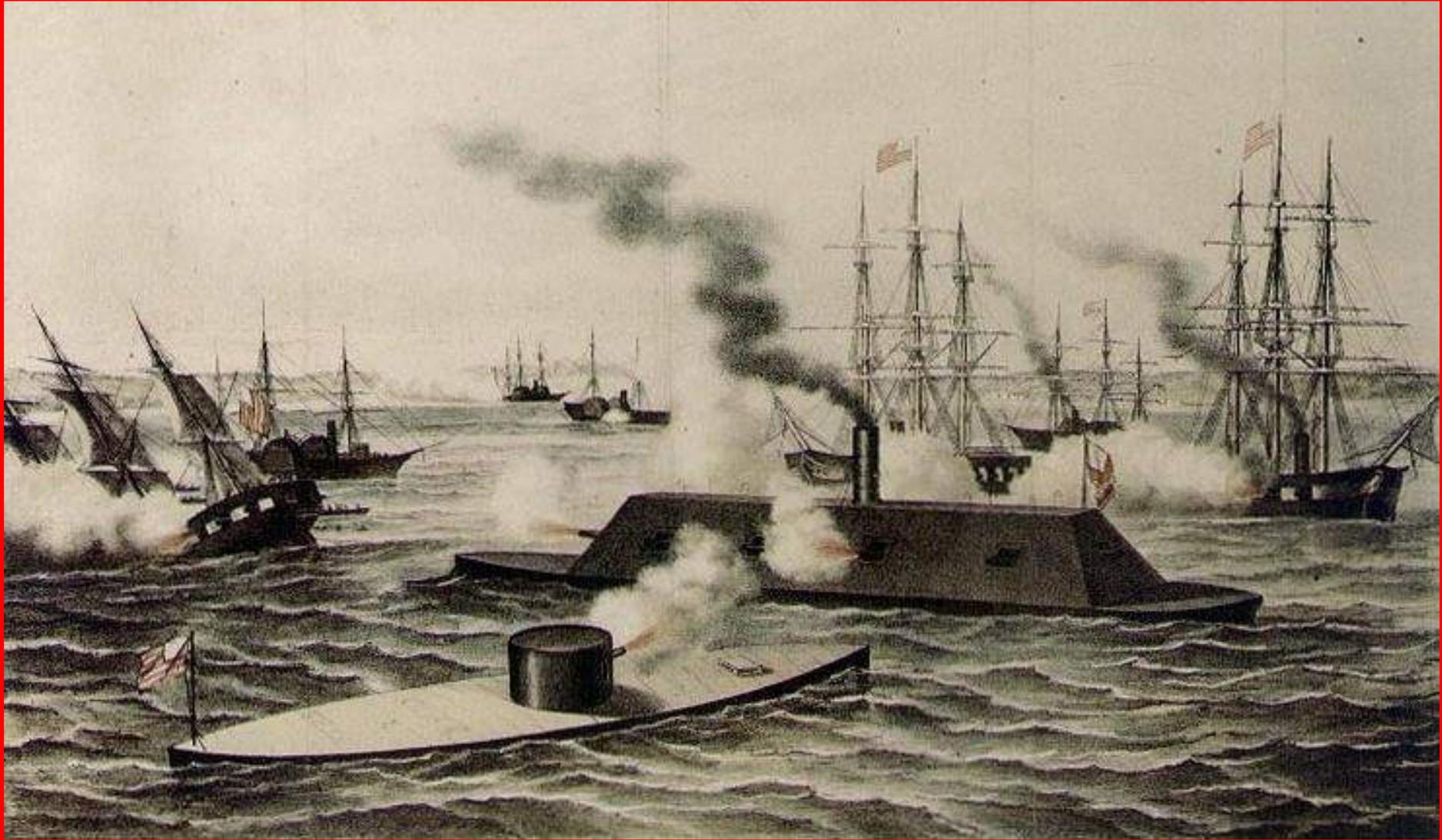
When the *Virginia* appeared the next day, the *Monitor* came to meet her. This image is courtesy of [archivethebrigade.files.wordpress.com](http://archivethebrigade.files.wordpress.com).

For the first time in naval history, ironclad fought ironclad.



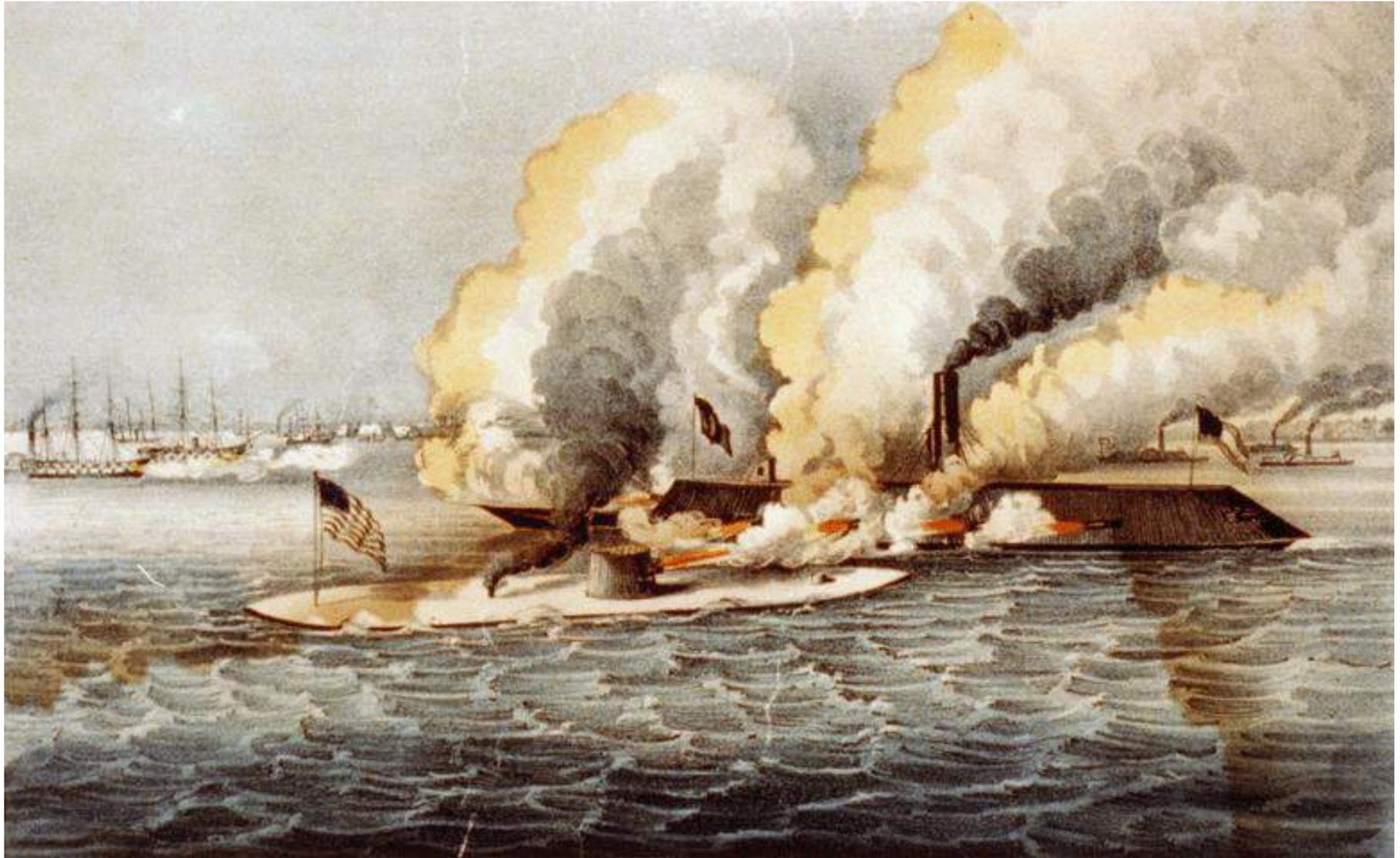
The *Monitor* was easier to handle than the *Virginia*, and its guns were mounted on a revolving turret. The two ships pounded each other for four hours. This image is titled "The Monitor and Merrimac: the First Fight Between Ironclads." This chromolithograph was produced by Louis Prang & Co. in 1886. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

Neither side suffered much damage, but the *Monitor* stopped the *Virginia* from threatening the Union navy again.



This image is titled "The First Battle Between Iron Ships of War." This image was created by Henry Bill in 1862. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The battle between the *Virginia* and the *Monitor* (*Monitor* vs. *Merrimack*) marked a turning point in naval history.



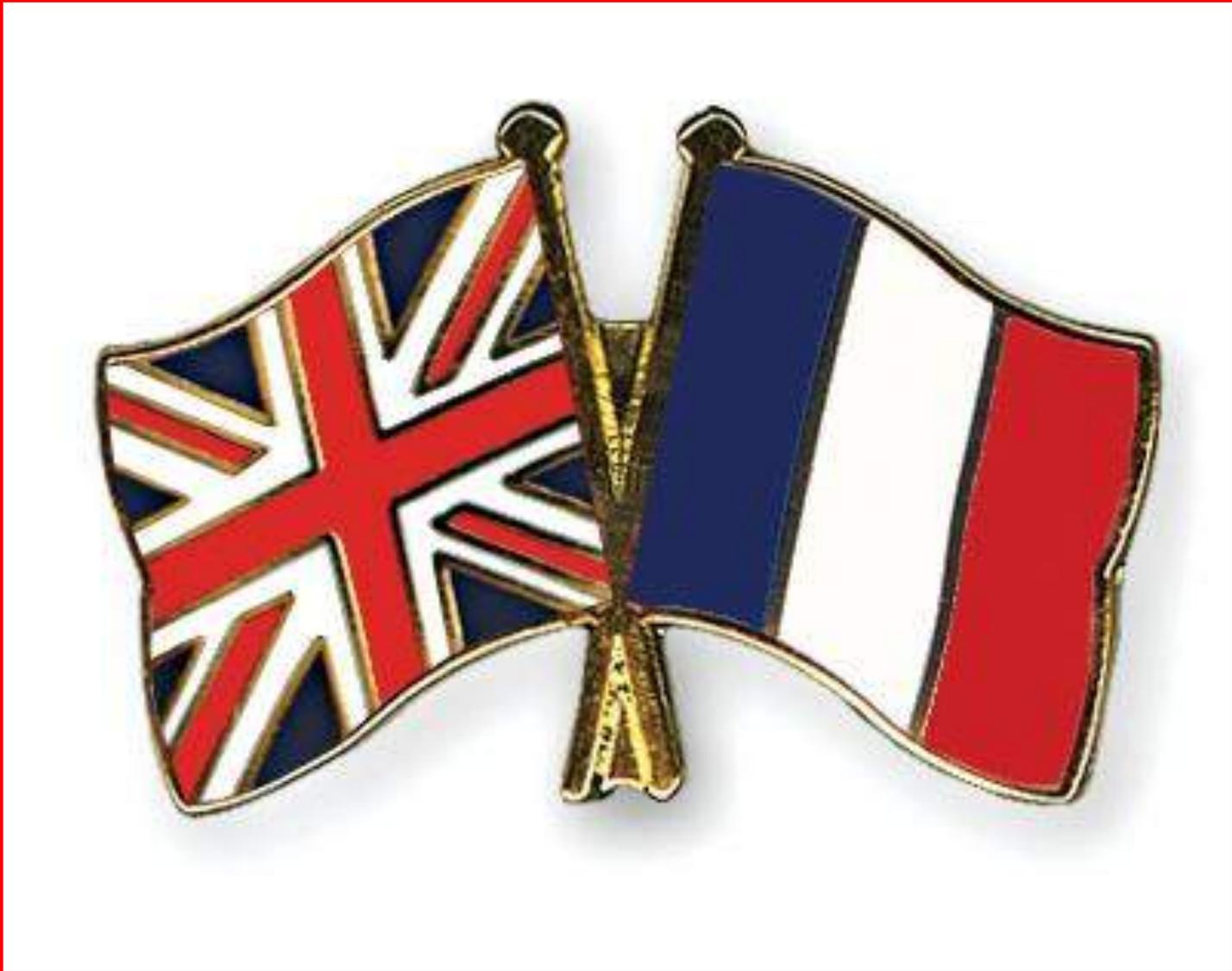
From then on ironclads replaced older wooden warships in sea battles. This image is titled "Terrific Combat Between the *Monitor* 2 guns & *Merrimack* 11 guns in Hampton Roads March 9<sup>th</sup>., 1862." This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

General Lee's victory at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) encouraged him to invade the North and destroy northern morale.



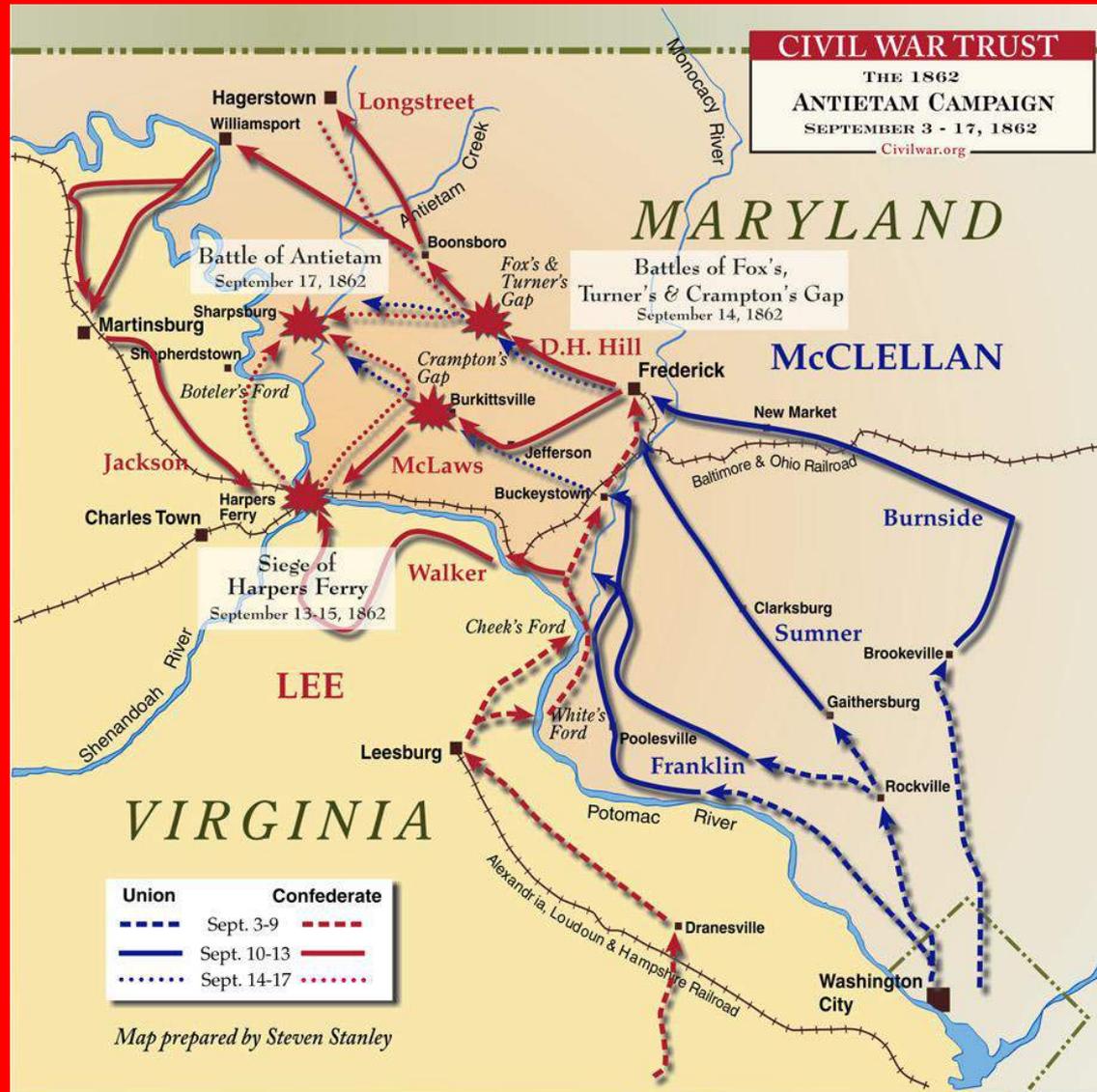
General Lee's goal was to reach Pennsylvania, but he ended up fighting the Union army in Maryland. This image is courtesy of [histsociety.blogspot.com](http://histsociety.blogspot.com).

The Confederates believed that a victory on Northern soil might help the South win British and French support.



British and French leaders favored the South over the North because Southern plantations supplied British and French textile mills with cotton. The Europeans, however, wanted to be certain that the South could win before sending money and materials to the Confederacy. This image is courtesy of [assaynews.co.uk](http://assaynews.co.uk).

In September 1862, Lee and his force of 45,000 soldiers slipped into Maryland and disappeared into the mountains.



Lee split his army, sending Stonewall Jackson to seize the arsenal at Harpers Ferry. This image is courtesy of [civilwar.org](http://civilwar.org).

Unluckily for Lee, one of his officers lost the orders describing his army's movements.



Union soldiers found the orders wrapped around three cigars at an abandoned campsite and brought them to McClellan. This image is courtesy of [joeryancivilwar.com](http://joeryancivilwar.com).

McClellan now knew that Lee had divided his army.



Even with this knowledge, McClellan did not immediately attack. When Lee learned about the lost orders, he prepared to fight. This image shows Major General George Brinton McClellan and his staff in March, 1862. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

McClellan attacked Lee's army on September 17, 1862, along Antietam Creek near Sharpsburg, Maryland.



In the bloodiest single day of fighting during the war, McClellan's army repeatedly attacked Lee's forces, producing enormous casualties (killed, wounded, missing, captured) on both sides. This image shows Burnside Bridge over Antietam Creek. This image was taken on September 17, 2012 the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Antietam. This image was taken by Robert Housch.

Approximately 23,000 soldiers were killed, wounded, missing, or captured.



Neither side attacked the other on September 18<sup>th</sup>, and that night the Confederates escaped back to Virginia. The Dunker Church is in the background. This image is titled "Completely Silenced! Dead Confederate Artillery Men, as They lay Around their Battery After the battle of Antietam." This image was taken by Alexander Gardner in September, 1862. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

McClellan felt that his Union army suffered too much damage to pursue the retreating Rebels.



Lee, on the other hand, had missed his chance for a victory in the North. This image is titled "View in the Field, the west Side of the Hagerstown Road, After the Battle of Antietam." This image was taken by Alexander Gardner (1821-1882) in September, 1862. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

The battle ended in a draw, but Lee's army retreated.



Because Lee and his army retreated, the North claimed Antietam as a victory for the Union. President Lincoln visited General McClellan near Sharpsburg, Maryland a couple of weeks after the battle. This image was taken on October 3, 1862 by Alexander Gardner (1821-1882). This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

President Lincoln would use the “victory” at Antietam to issue a document that began to free the slaves— the Emancipation Proclamation.



This image is titled “Abraham Lincoln and His Emancipation Proclamation.” It was created by Strobridge & Co. Lithographers circa 1888 in Cincinnati, Ohio. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

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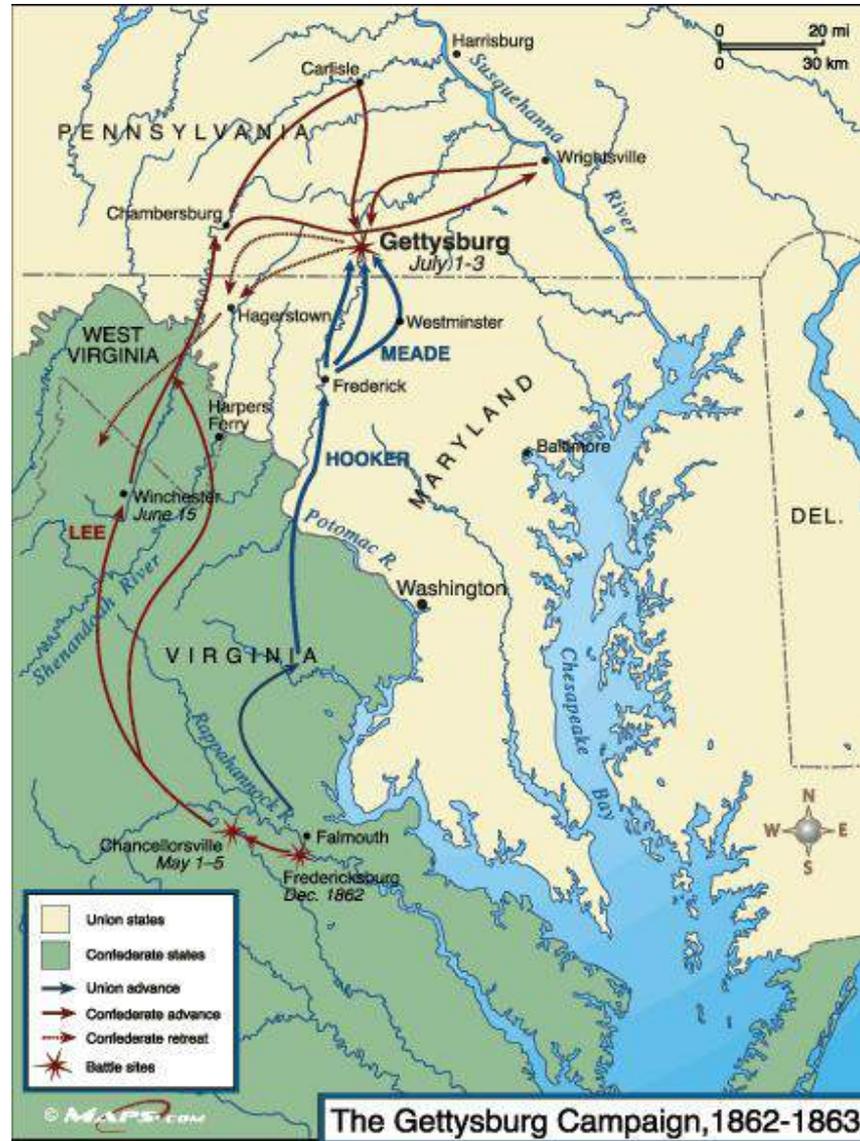
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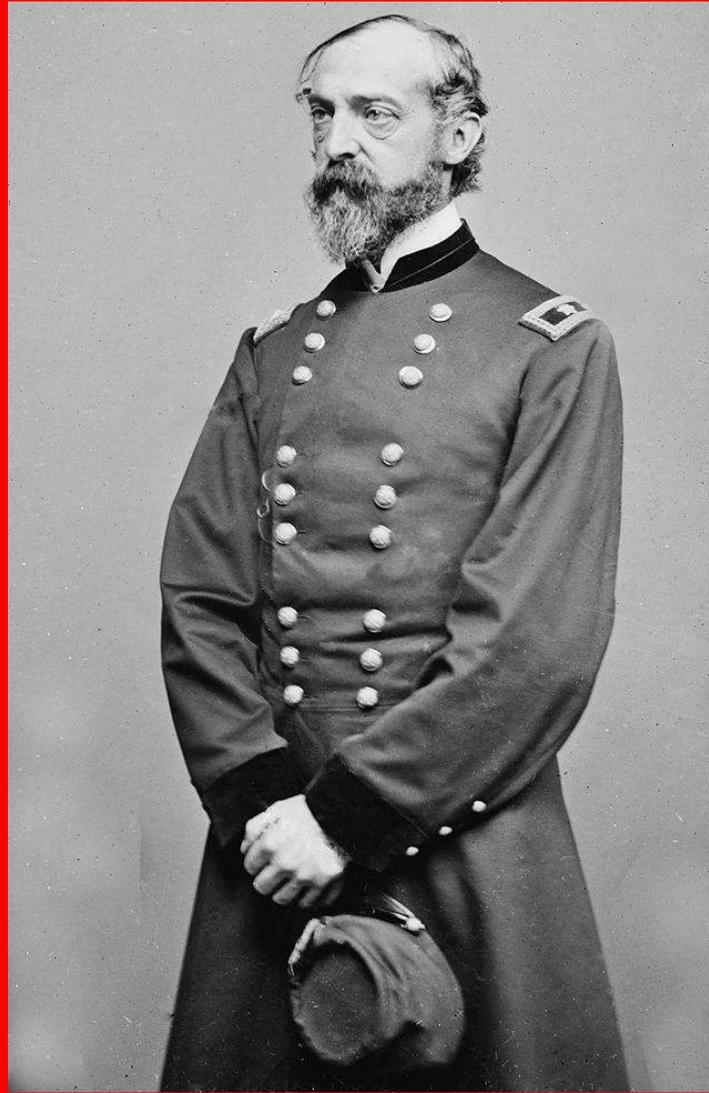
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# The Battle of Gettysburg



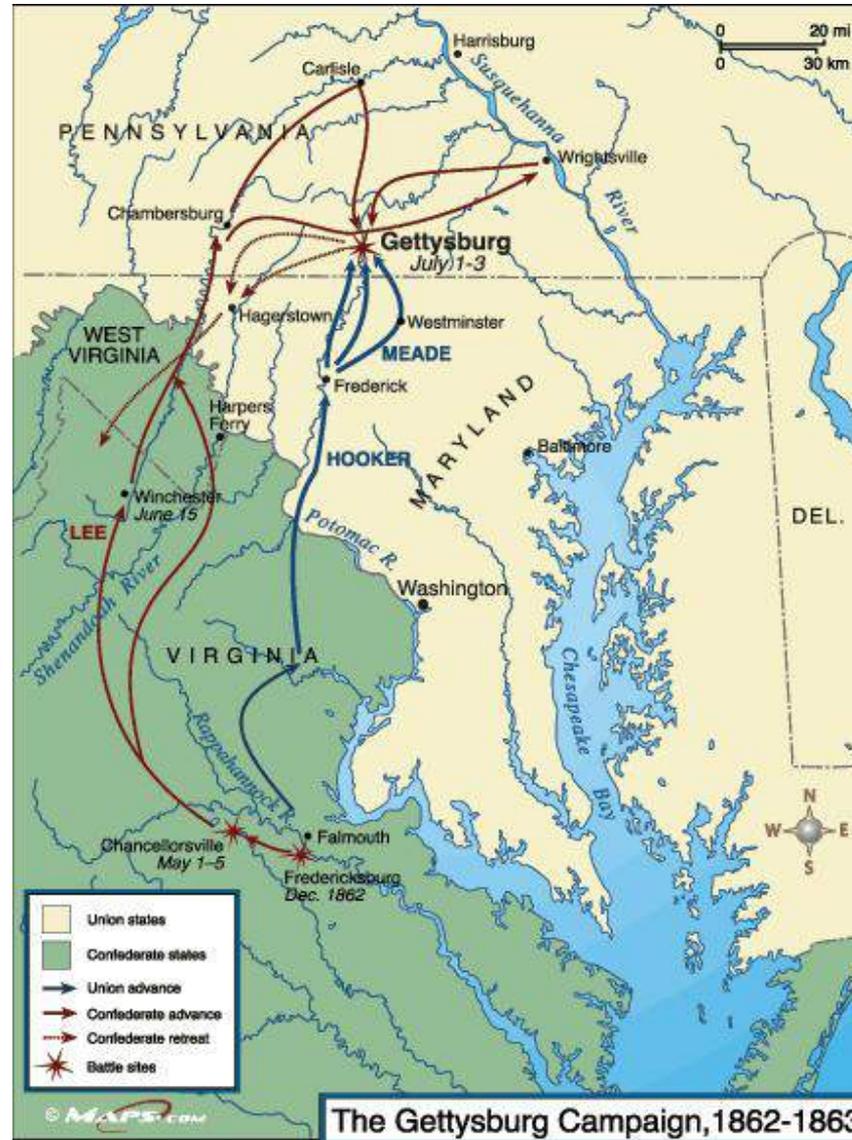
Encouraged by almost destroying Hooker's army of 134,000 at Chancellorsville and wanting to end the war as soon as possible, Lee decided to invade the North once again. On June 3, 1863, his army left Fredericksburg and moved towards Pennsylvania. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Just before the battle broke out, Lincoln replaced Hooker with Pennsylvanian General George G. Meade.

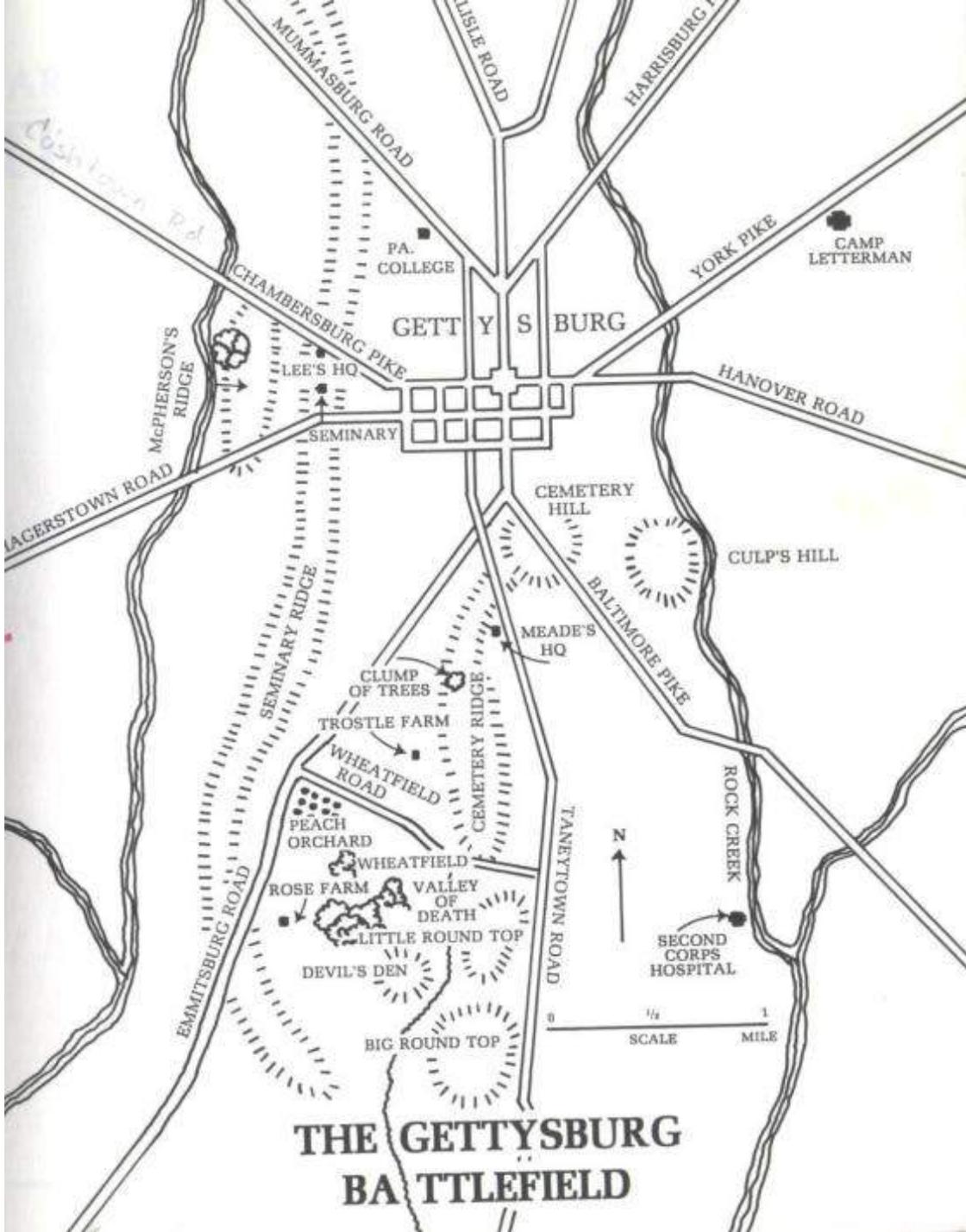


Meade swiftly moved his army into Pennsylvania to chase after Lee. This image of United States Major General George Gordon Meade (1815-1872) was taken by Mathew Brady (1822-1896) circa 1863. This image is courtesy of the Library of Congress.

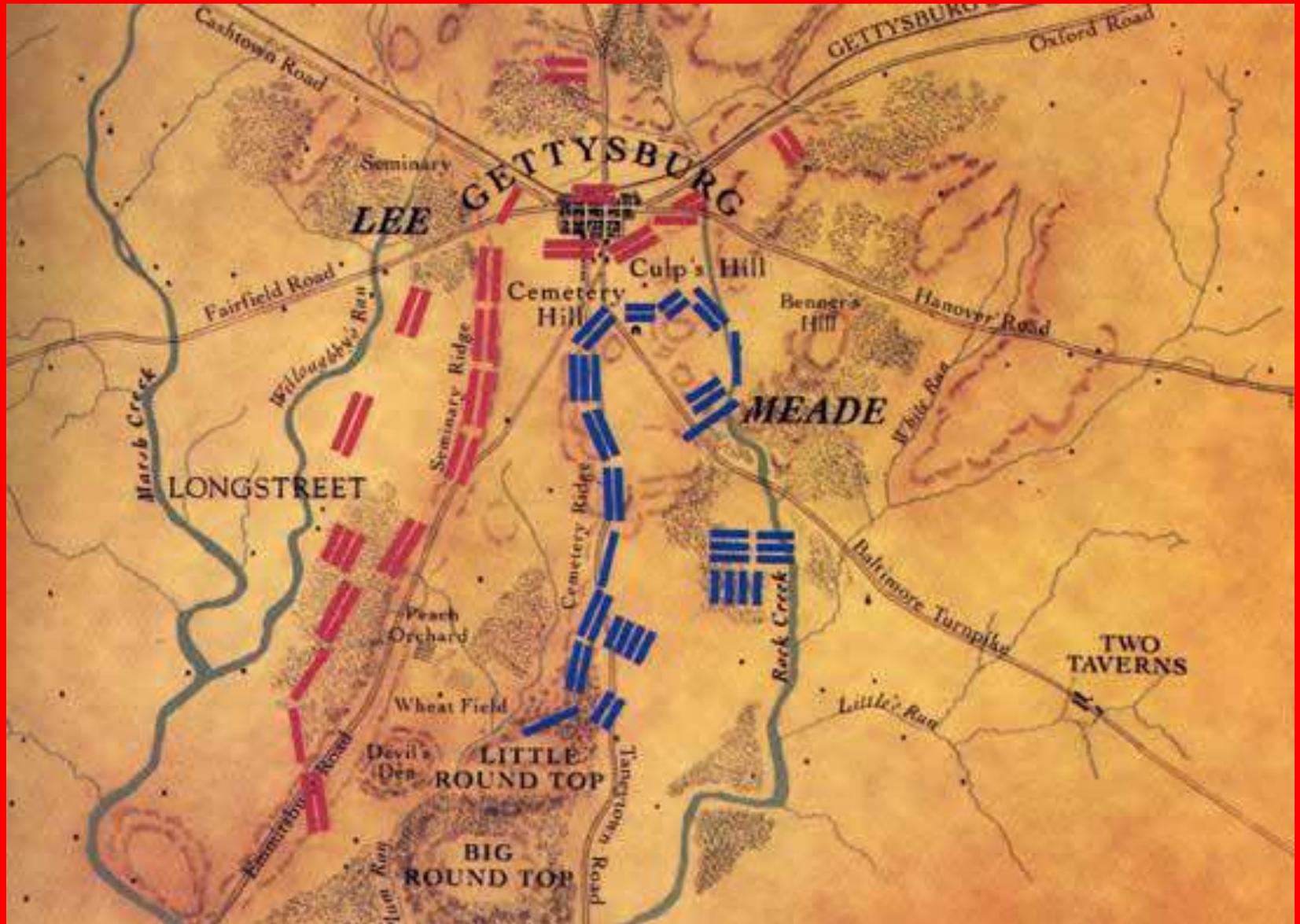
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The Union Army's line ran about 3 miles along Cemetery Ridge, with Culp's Hill and Cemetery Hill at one end, and hills called Round Top and Little Round Top at the other.



The Union line at Gettysburg, shown in blue, is now commonly called the "fishhook line" because of its shape. This image is courtesy of pbs.org.