

CIVIL WAR TRAVELER 2009

2009

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CIVIL WAR TRAVELER

2009

Volume 7 • Number 1

1864

The Decisive Year



Conventional wisdom has it that the outcome of the Civil War was settled in July 1863, from either the victory at Gettysburg and Vicksburg early that month or the Southern debacle at Vicksburg, more say, Confederate hopes for recovery — let alone eventual victory — still linger that summer.

But as it really dawned on Abraham Lincoln, hoped so as he steadily presided the Confederacy, General George Meade, to pursue and destroy Robert E. Lee's damaged army after the battle, Lincoln, as usual, would be disappointed. He reached at the unexpected the two armies' final clash, eventually settling into a weary but rapidly hardening line in north-central Virginia. Aside from a few hot-headed flame-ups, the armies stood for months.

The long struggle allowed Lee a chance to rest and rebuild his still-dangerous army. The Confederate commander felt comfortable enough that he'd be dispatched James Longstreet's corps to deal with a more active Federal threat in Tennessee and Georgia.

Things were not so comfortable in Washington. Drawn with the lack of progress on all fronts during the second half of 1863 (other such promising info), Lincoln began to feel the reelection chances slipping away. The toll of North

On to Richmond from Major's Healy's men lives and treasure was considerable. After more than two years of bloody war, the light at the end of the tunnel seemed to be no closer.

For the first time, Confederates, this was the situation they had been fighting for all along, knowing that a decisive military victory over the powerful North was a pipe dream, these Southerners obtained an advantageous political settlement would last. Lincoln sensed the time was

now or never for decisive action — a notion brought to the long list of his military commanders so far.

Lincoln turned to U.S. Grant, formerly successful out West.

The spine-chilling general came to Washington in March 1864 and was given command of all Union armies in the field. Grant planned to use them all. He plans for the spring campaign would put pressure on each front at the same time. If the Confederates were busy everywhere, they would be unable to reinforce endangered points and the crushing superiority of Federal numbers and maneuvers finally would be brought to bear. Grant planned a three-pronged campaign in Virginia while dispatching Gen. William T. Sherman toward Atlanta in the West.

The three Union Virginia campaigns were launched in May. One, under Gen. Franz Sigel, marched south in the Shenandoah Valley toward the strategic crossroads at Gauley Bridge, under Gen. Ben Bragg, landed at Bermuda Hundred between the James and Appomattox rivers between Richmond and Petersburg. The third, and main, thrust was aimed south in Central Virginia toward Richmond.

The southern capital was not really

Full Page
59x75 picas

\$3,100

9-7/8 " x 12-1/2"

1/2 Page
H - 59 x 37 picas

V - 29 x 75 picas

\$2,200

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9-7/8 " x 6-1/8"

1/4 Page
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V - 29 x 37 picas

\$1,600

4-3/4" x 6-1/8"

9-7/8 " x 3"

1/8 Page
H - 29 x 18 picas

V - 14 x 37 picas

\$900

4-3/4" x 3"

2-1/3" x 6-1/8"

THE ANNUAL EDITION OF THE CIVIL WAR TRAVELER

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Editions:

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National Park Service visitor centers, Civil War sites, selected Maryland Welcome Centers, and local and regional visitor centers in Virginia, Maryland, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Pennsylvania. Complete list available.

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Mechanical information

The tabloid publications are printed on newsprint with an 85-line screen; designers should allow for 25–30 percent dotgain. The image area is 9-7/8 inches wide by 12.5 inches deep, including folios. For best results, use measurements in picas: 59 picas wide by 75 picas deep. The format is four columns, each 14 picas wide, with a 1-pica margin between columns. Bleeds beyond the image area are not available.

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