

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR



**THE PERFECT BATTLE**—Chancellorsville, known as "the perfect battle," was fought May 1-4, 1863, in the tangled second growth of the wilderness. In the four days of fighting, Gen. Robert E. Lee, with 60,000 men, defeated Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker and his army of 134,000. Lee's tactics were so well conceived and executed that they are still studied today. At first Lee was flanked and his army put in the jaws of a giant pincer. Lee and Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson took the initiative—Lee in front with a thin grey line of only 17,000 men, and Jackson in a flanking movement. It was at Chancellorsville, while organizing his men for a night attack, that Jackson was hit by fire from his own lines. His injuries appeared not to be serious but in less than two weeks he would be dead. Lee fought and won a perfect battle near Chancellorsville, a plantation house near the crossing of three roads. But the loss of Jackson would make the victory a hollow one. The Army of Northern Virginia would never fight as well again. Here, from the Library of Congress collection, is a drawing of the battle. (UPI)

South Wins 'Perfect Battle'

By MERTON T. AKERS  
UPI Correspondent

The "perfect battle"—Chancellorsville—was fought May 1-4, 1863, in the tangled second growth of oaks and pines in northern Virginia known as the Wilderness.

In four days of fighting, Gen. Robert E. Lee with 60,000 Confederate troops defeated the 134,000-man Union Army of the Potomac under Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker in a series of tactics so well conceived and executed that they still are studied by military men 100 years later.

Tactically it was Lee's finest hour—Hooker's worst.

The fighting—really three battles—occurred in an area about 15 miles wide and 7 miles deep. Nearly 200,000 men maneuvered and fought almost elbow to elbow in the constricted region from Fredericksburg, Va., on the east, to the Wilderness Tavern, deep in the woods on the west. The Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers bounded the fighting area on the north. A road running from Todd's Tavern in the Wilderness in an easterly direction marked the southern perimeter.

**First Campaign**  
This was Hooker's first campaign as commander of the Army of the Potomac. He had succeeded Maj. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside in January at a time when the army had hit its lowest morale point because of the disastrous battle of Fredericksburg.

By the end of April Hooker had restored the morale and beefed up the army with new units until it was in top fighting trim.

Hooker's battle plans have been pronounced excellent by military men.

Lee's army was dispersed south of Fredericksburg. Provisions and forage were so scarce that two divisions under Lt. Gen. James Longstreet had been sent to southern Virginia to gather supplies. This dispersal left Lee with a scant 60,000 men to hold the approaches to Richmond, Va., the capital.

Hooker planned to attack Lee's army on each flank. On April 27, 1863 at 5:30 a.m. Hooker, leading three corps himself, set off on a long round-about march to the west to attack Lee's left flank.

Two more corps under Maj. Gen. John Sedgwick moved into position at Fredericksburg to make a diversion against Lee's right flank. Two other corps were held in reserve to be used on either flank.

By April 29 Hooker's right wing was across the Rappahannock and Rapidan Rivers, well beyond Lee's left flank, and began to swing east toward Fredericksburg. Sedgwick at the same time began to cross the Rappahannock below Fredericksburg.

**Caught in Pincer**  
The Army of Northern Virginia appeared to be caught between the two arms of a giant pincer.

Hooker was elated by the results so far and went out on a limb.

On April 30 in General Order No. 47 he said, "... operations of the last three days have determined that our enemy must either ingloriously fly, or come out in front behind his defenses and give

us battle on our own grounds, where certain destruction awaits him..."

But Lee had not been heard from.

He learned of Hooker's flanking movement on the night of April 29. He sent one division under Maj. Gen. Richard H. Anderson to meet it. Anderson dug in east of Chancellorsville across the roads running east towards Fredericksburg. Chancellorsville was a plantation house where three roads crossed.

By the time Anderson was dug in he found he faced three Union corps and part of a fourth. Anderson's orders were to fight so he stayed.

**Attack Held Off**  
Hooker arrived at Chancellorsville on April 30 but held off his attack that day. Here he lost valuable hours which he never would retrieve.

The military rule books call for a general in Lee's position, outflanked and outnumbered, to retreat to a new defense position. But Lee seldom went by the books.

Leaving only a reinforced division to hold Sedgwick's forces at Fredericksburg, he sent the rest of his army west toward Anderson's position. Lt. Gen. Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson led these troops on arriving at Anderson's dug in position. Jackson stopped the entrenching and put the troops on the offensive.

Suddenly Hooker found himself on the defensive against half as many men. He hesitated and straightened his troops back to ordered his lines. His generals protested but the orders stood. Hooker's confidence seemed shaken.

**Advanced Slowly**  
Jackson's troops advanced slowly and that night both sides entrenched in the woods. Lee and Jackson had achieved the initiative. But if they were to win they must keep Hooker's big army off balance.

So in the first hours of May 1 over a dying campfire Lee and Jackson made the daring decision to divide the Confederate army in the face of superior numbers and do some flanking themselves.

Confederate cavalry ranging the right flank of the Federal army discovered that it was "in the air" and unguarded.

Lee kept 17,000 men in front of Hooker's forces and sent Jackson with 26,000 troops on a swinging flanking march to strike the unprotected right wing.

All day on May 2 Jackson's "foot cavalry" marched west and north. All day Lee waited with his thin grey line. If Hooker attacked Lee before Jackson could strike the right wing, Lee's 17,000 could not stop him.

**Fierce Fighting**  
Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard held the Union right flank with his XI corps. Some of his troops detected Jackson's flying column but they could not convince Howard that the movement was dangerous.

Hooker warned Howard to watch his right, too.

Hooker didn't attack Lee but Jackson fell on Howard's corps at 5:15 p.m.

In the two remaining hours of daylight the Confederates rolled back the Union right. The fighting was fierce, the confusion great and the losses

heavy. The XI corps was routed and fell back upon the main body.

Jackson was not satisfied with his initial success. He rode out in front of his men after dark to organize a night attack and finish the job.

As he rode between the lines his own troops fired on him and he was wounded in the right hand and left arm—not seriously, it appeared at first. Shortly, Maj. Gen. A. P. Hill, the next ranking officer, also was wounded. Gen. J. E. B. Stuart took over the command and attacked the next morning.

Hooker standing on the porch at Chancellorsville was knocked unconscious by a shell. He rallied but appeared to be in a daze all day.

About noon on the day Jackson attacked the right wing, Sedgwick broke through the thin Confederate line at Fredericksburg weakened further by withdrawals because of misunderstood orders, and marched toward the main body at Chancellorsville.

**Strong Position**

Lee turned the withdrawing troops around and, with a total row of 20,000 men, attacked Sedgwick on three sides, driving him back across the Rappahannock on May 4.

Hooker meanwhile pulled his army, much of which had not seen action, into a strong defense position.

When Lee turned back to Hooker, he also retreated across the Rappahannock.

Lee's "perfect battle" was just that but it was a Pyrrhic victory.

For Stonewall Jackson would die in eight days—from pneumonia—and without Stonewall the Army of Northern Virginia never would fight as well again.

Hooker lost 17,278 in killed, wounded and missing; Lee 12,821.

Eisenhower Head For Gettysburg

San Bernardino, Calif. —(UPI)—Former President Dwight D. Eisenhower was en route to his Gettysburg, Pa., farm today after a nearly four-month winter vacation on the southern California desert.

Eisenhower ended his stay with informal comments at trainside that touched on French President Charles de Gaulle, the 1964 presidential race, and the difference between writing war and personal memoirs.

More than 500 persons were at the station as General and Mrs. Eisenhower boarded a private car.

Science Shrinks Piles New Way Without Surgery

Stops Itch—Relieves Pain

New York, N. Y. (Special)—For the first time science has found a new healing substance with the astonishing ability to shrink hemorrhoids, stop itching, and relieve pain—without surgery.

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Alabama Negroes Turn to Bus Lines

Birmingham, Ala. —(UPI)—Negro leaders planned to broaden the scope of their month-old campaign against racial barriers in this Southern industrial center today and indicated the next target would be the city bus system.

A spokesman for the Negro leadership here said a delegation would meet with officials of the Birmingham Transit company today to demand that the company hire Negroes as drivers.

The spokesman indicated the threat of a boycott hung over the financially shaky company, which resumed service Saturday after a strike by employees, if the demands are not met.

Small groups of Negroes attended Sunday to attend morning worship services at Birmingham's white churches for the third week in a row, but the effort met with limited success.

Activity Increases In House, Senate

Washington —(UPI)—Congressional activity increases this week as the House acts on a series of bills and the Senate faces a major test on Republican efforts to cut spending.

The House is scheduled to act on bills giving employers a minor tax break, keep public health, education and federal labor activities rolling and to pump an additional \$2 billion into lending authority of the Export-Import bank.

The Senate will take up the House-approved proposal to pump another \$450 million into anti-recession public works projects. The proposal is part of a \$1.4 billion supplemental money bill and it is here that the Senate will face its big test on spending cuts.

Senate Republicans have a series of amendments aimed at cutting the funds and Sen. Leverett Saltonstall (R-Mass.) will seek to reduce it to \$250 million.

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