

History 225  
Re Notes w/ Chpt. 24  
BCF. "If It Takes All Summer"

Leads in to Grant's Strategy of Raids. Grant, Sherman and Sheridan are now the field commanders of the Union forces. Grant brought East to conduct the final phase of the war against Lee. The two heavy weights now square off against one another in Virginia.

Union army has the advantage but there are flaws in the Union sword. While over 50% (360,000 of the 1861 volunteers reup) some 100,000 Union veterans decide they have had enough. The difference is made up of conscripts, bonus, and substitutes. These are not worthy fighters. Many dissent before they see combat.

Lee's forces while thinned by the 1863 fighting still have good morale and are strengthened in this by their dedication to Marse Robert.

Grant's strategy of raids is compromised by the failure of the three political generals--Banks, Butler, and Sigel.

Discusses the battles of the Wilderness and Spottsylvania (The Bloody Angel). The casualties on both sides were terrible. Fighting going on every day, all day, unlike anything seen in the war before. Grant's strategy was simply to wage a war of attrition. To batter the rebels into submission no matter what the casualties.

MCP makes point that it was not Grant's intention to fight a war of attrition but to force Lee and his army into the open where it could be annihilated by superior Union numbers. It was Lee and his maneuvering that forced this war of attrition on both sides. It was Lee who wanted to run up Union casualties in the hope that it would manufacture a slump in Union morale about the war's costs and force Northerners to elect out of the war by not re-electing Lincoln. Lee was taking a leaf from Clausewitz's dictum--war is politics by other means.

Cold Harbor. Grant storms the Rebel fortifications and meets with disaster, some 7000 casualties in 30 minutes. Grant had underestimated Confederate resolve and readiness of the rebels. These Army of No. Virginia men led by Lee and not western Confederate forces.

[the introduction of the "dog tag" in warfare]

The 7 weeks campaign flags out in front of the rebel trenches at Petersburg. After seven weeks of the most intense combat of the entire war the Army of the Potomac was a different army than when it began this campaign in May of '64; it was worn out; shell shocked; suffering from the Cold Harbor syndrome, it would not attack the Petersburg fortifications because it was certain death.

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During this 7 weeks the Army of the <sup>Potomac</sup> ~~potomashad~~ sustained 65,000 casualties; this amounted to 60% suffered by the Army of the potomac during the previous three years of warfare!!!!

Lee's casualties were 36,000, proportional to the Union loses.

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Looks at Sherman and Johnston's too and fro to the defenses at Atlanta. Sherman's dreadful mistake at Kennesaw mountain.