

# *The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War*

## **Chapter 18 – Shiloh/1862/West/I**

### **Summary:**

Though overlooked then and now by many Americans, including historians, the Western Theater of the War of 1861- 1865 proved as important as the Eastern. While the Confederates piled up a series of electrifying battle victories in Virginia through the first of the war, the Federals- -their ranks featuring many Western and Midwestern farmers and country boys- -fared better in the West than they did in the East, though the fighting was still brutal and costly for both sides. Action in the West centered around the Mississippi River, the nation's key inland waterway which bisected the Confederacy and proved of inestimable strategic value to the war efforts of both sides. For about the first year of the war, the Confederates held the upper hand in battles and other actions along the Mississippi. In the spring of 1862, however, as the South's best Western general fell to a fluke mortal wound, the North's best was on the rise. The Federals gradually gained control of all the crucial Western rivers—the Ohio, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Cumberland- -Confederate supply routes were cut, sections of the South were isolated from one another, and the Southern army was gradually forced south.

Also often overlooked by many American history books are the spectacular feats of Federal and Confederate naval forces. Though the United States held a lopsided advantage in number of ships and the capacity to manufacture more of them, daring Confederate commanders and their crew and ships gave the Federals a run for their money—in every ocean on earth.

### **Identification:**

1. Albert Sidney Johnston
2. Ulysses S. Grant
3. David Farragut
4. Raphael Semmes
5. Benjamin Butler

### Completion:

1. Two key geographic realities hampered the Confederate war effort: its 3,500 miles of \_\_\_\_\_ and its key inland \_\_\_\_\_.
2. U. S. Grant gained the sobriquet \_\_\_\_\_ following his early victory at Fort Donelson, Tennessee.
3. President Davis considered Texan \_\_\_\_\_, who roughed up Federal forces in 1861 and early 1862, the greatest soldier in the war.
4. The bloody Battle of \_\_\_\_\_ in April, 1862, was a tactical draw, but cost the Confederates their best western general, cut them off from Western Tennessee, and increased the threat of the Federals to the central Mississippi River.
5. Among U. S. Grant's major battle victories were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The end of the *C.S.S. Alabama's* epic career came off the shore of the faraway nation of \_\_\_\_\_, when it when it down to the superior- armed and –armored U.S.S. \_\_\_\_\_, commanded by \_\_\_\_\_.

### Thought Questions:

1. Discuss a couple of the exploits of David Farragut that most impressed you.
2. Chronicle in a paragraph or two the wartime exploits of the *C.S.S. Alabama*.
3. Describe what happened during the war when the Federals arrived at Athens, Alabama.