

The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War Chapter 24 – The Wilderness/1864/East 1

Summary:

Despite the failure of Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia to accomplish its objectives during their Gettysburg Campaign into Federal territory, they remained an unvanquished force in the East at the beginning of 1864 with a historic string of victories stretching back for nearly three years. This was the context into which Abraham Lincoln called Ulysses S. Grant, victor at Vicksburg and Chattanooga, and the most successful general on either side in the Western Theater.

With Grant came many things—confidence and a record of success; fiery cavalry chieftain Philip Sheridan; Lincoln's pledge of both command autonomy and unlimited resources; and Grant's own tenacious pursuit of battle objectives till they were attained. Grant the Federal possessed another advantage too—while their naval blockade gradually choked the supply lifeline of the Confederacy, the North's own vast material reservoir was multiplying as its industry attained unprecedented levels of production.

Thus, the war's most successful military commanders came to grips with one another as the conflict's decisive sequence of events began. As they did, female heroes arose on both sides—nurses who braved heartrending, unhealthy, and sometimes life-threatening situations to make life more bearable for the suffering and dying alike.

Identification:

1. Ulric Dahlgren
2. John Singleton Mosby
3. Mary Boykin Chesnut
4. Phoebe Pember
5. Dorothea Dix
6. Clara Barton

Completion:

1. U.S. Grant's primary objective from the time he took command in the East was the conquest of _____.
2. Lee and Grant clashed against one another for the first time as commanders in the _____ Campaign. Whose army fared better in their initial battles? _____
3. Three of that campaign's most historic battles were _____, _____, and _____.
4. Historians estimate the war might have lasted _____ longer than it otherwise would have because of the deeds of Mosby's Rangers.
5. John Mosby evidently left a profound impression on a young boy he befriended named _____, who became a 20th century American military legend.
6. Losing the city of _____ to the Federals would isolate and eventually starve Richmond, and thus would be a near- mortal blow to the Confederacy. During early summer, 1864, Southern commander _____ led a remarkable defense against Federal forces many times the size of his own, before Lee retreated his whole army into the city.
7. Among the many dedicated nurses during the war were Federals _____ and _____, and Confederate _____.

Thought Questions:

1. Explain the three key facets of U. S. Grant's strategy to overwhelm Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, and conquer Virginia and the Confederate capital of Richmond.
2. Describe Grant's tactical approach during the Wilderness Campaign, including the aspects in which it—and he—differed from previous Federal commanders in the East.
3. Chronicle the events of the Dahlgren Raid, and the philosophical issues it raises

regarding the practices of Just War and Total War.

4. Give a first- person account of what it might have been like to ride out on a guerilla raid with Mosby.
5. Describe the blessings that nurses brought to the suffering soldiers of the war.