

The War Between the States: America's Uncivil War

Chapter 28 – Appomattox/1865/East I

Summary:

With 1865 came the fifth year of war. In the Eastern Theater, the Federals had not only blockaded the Southern coastline, they had captured all but one significant Confederate port. Inland, the great armies of Lee and Grant faced one another across a 35-mile-long line of trenches around the cities of Richmond and Petersburg. After suffering a series of drubbings from Lee's Army of Northern Virginia the previous spring and summer, Grant had decided to change tactics. He moved the gigantic Army of the Potomac (under the titular command of Gettysburg victor George Meade) into position to starve out the Confederate capitol, and Lee's army if they remained to defend it. By the end of 1864, the Federals had surrounded most of the area and their semi-siege was slowly choking the life from the capitol city, and the army defending it, that army being the true objective of all Grant's efforts.

Identification:

1. Matthew Brady

Completion:

1. The Confederacy's last open, non-blockaded port was _____, _____. It fell in the month of _____, 1865.
2. Unlike his earlier speeches, in his _____ Address, President Lincoln cited _____ as the signal cause for the war.
3. In the month of _____, 1865, President Davis named _____ as Commander-in-Chief of all Confederate military forces.
4. As the semi-siege of _____ unfolded, General Lee urged President Davis to allow him to move his army south toward a junction with the army of General _____. Lee intended that this combined force would defeat the army of Federal General _____.

- _____, then turn and defeat that of General _____.
5. Only days before the fall of Petersburg, bright young General _____ led an unsuccessful Confederate charge to seize the initiative away from the Federals by capturing Fort _____.
 6. During the pivotal March, 1865, Battle of _____, Confederate commanding General _____ enjoyed a fish bake away from the field of battle as the Federals' _____ launched a lightning sneak attack that led to the final assaults on the trenches nearly surrounding the town of _____.
 7. By the climactic battles of this final Eastern campaign, Federal soldiers in the area outnumbered Confederates by approximately _____ to _____ thousand.
 8. Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Ulysses S. Grant at the _____ home in the town of _____, on the day of _____. Lee's soldiers possessed only about _____ muskets.

Thought Questions:

1. Discuss General Grant's three-pronged strategy for capturing Petersburg in 1865.
2. Give your assessment of the Lincoln speech covered on pages 497-499.
3. What were some of famed photographer Matthew Brady's prime accomplishments and innovations? Describe some of the challenges and problems he faced during his life.
4. Recount the substance of the exchange of letters between Generals Lee and Grant that led to the conclusion of war in the Eastern Theater.