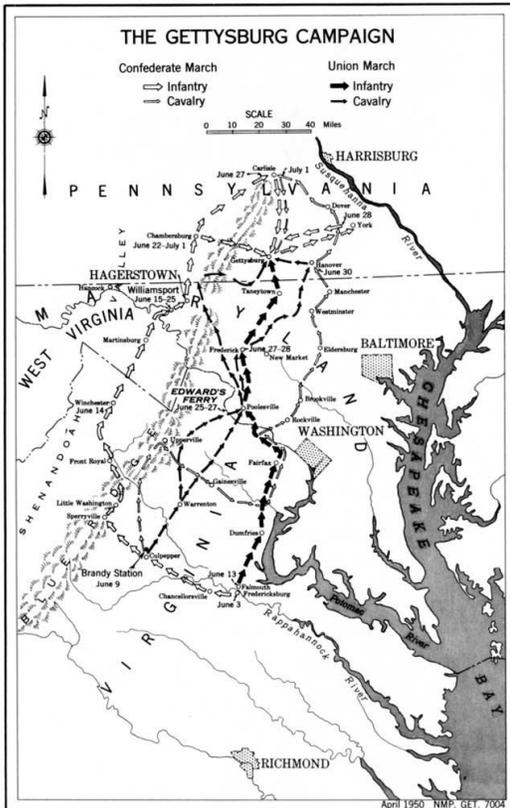


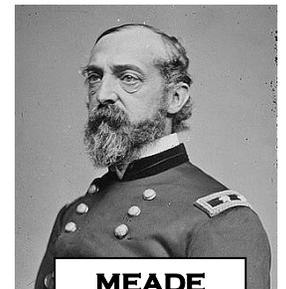
ON THE ROAD TO GETTYSBURG



It is the summer of 1863, and you are a Union soldier in the Army of the Potomac. You have been fighting in the war for over two years, and you find yourself lucky to be alive. You are still loyal to the cause of the Union, but you have been a bit discouraged by the defeats your army has experienced in the last nine months. Now, as you march through the hills of Southern Pennsylvania, you wonder what will come next as you follow the second Confederate invasion of the north. The first time led to the travesty at Antietam, where the boys in blue found the rebel battle plans and a horrible battle ensued – the bloodiest day of the war. While you basked in the success of the battle, you hope that you will continue to survive this awful war.

You are under the leadership of a new general – again. General Hooker was completely out mastered at the most recent battle of Chancellorsville, at which a smaller Confederate army split their troops and routed your boys in blue, inflicting many casualties. If there was any good news from the loss, you have found out that the great Stonewall Jackson was accidentally shot by one of his own troops and has passed away. Still, your side has yet to find someone who can match the leadership of Robert E. Lee. If only he had accepted the offer to lead the troops in blue at the start of the war!

Hooker also allowed the Confederate troops to slip north of the Potomac River on this second invasion of the North, and President Lincoln became convinced that Hooker was not his man to lead the Army of the Potomac. He replaced Hooker with General George Meade, someone that you are not very familiar with. It doesn't really matter to you, though, since you have been fighting for long enough to rely on your own commanding officer and the brotherhood of your comrades.

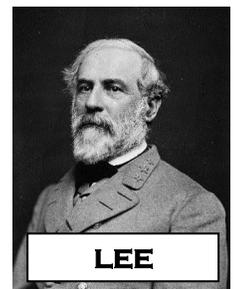


MEADE

The situation in the North is a bit mixed. The Union army has been very successful in the west, and Ulysses S. Grant's forces are laying siege to the Mississippi River town of Vicksburg – the last Confederate holdout in the west. However, the poor performance of the Union army in the east is leading many Americans to voice their opposition to the war. A group of politicians called Peace Democrats (also referred to as "Copperheads") is pushing for a negotiated end to the war. Robert E. Lee knows this very well and is using this to his advantage as he leads his troops north to Pennsylvania.

Why did Lee move his troops to the North? That would be a good test question ...

Lee developed the plan to invade Pennsylvania for many different reasons. He wants to bring the war to the North and relieve his home state of Virginia, which has experienced all too much of the fighting over the past two years. Lee is also hoping to fuel more anti-war sentiment in the Union. In addition, Lee has not given up hope that a major victory in the north would lead to foreign support from the British. At the minimum, Lee is hoping to force the Union to send more troops from the west to the east and take some of the pressure off the Confederate army in the west.

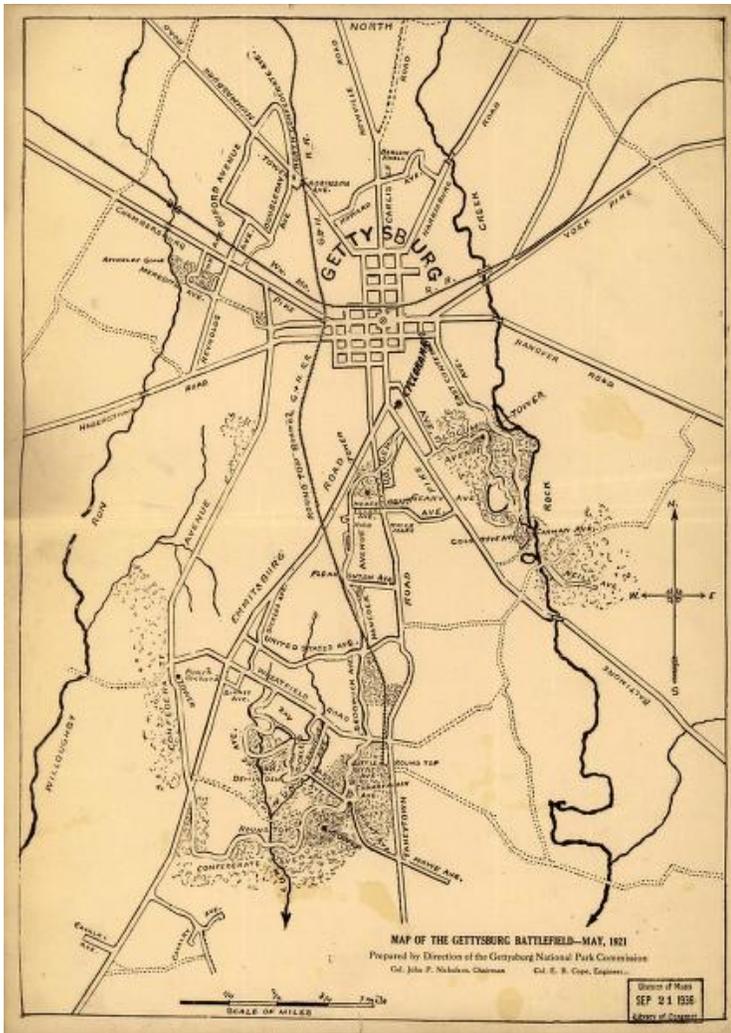


LEE

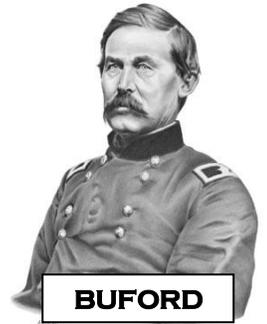
Lee has also chosen to come to Pennsylvania to find provisions and supplies for the Confederate army. The Northern press has described the rebel troops as vandals, ignoring Lee's not to pillage or plunder private property along the way. Lee has instructed all soldiers to behave as southern gentlemen, in comparison to the "Yankee vandals who have ravaged the south" – but you never did that (although some of your fellow soldiers did). There are also reports of some Confederate soldiers capturing northern black citizens and sending them to south to be sold into slavery. You are well aware that the cause of the war has changed since the Emancipation Proclamation, and the goal of the Union is no longer just to restore the United States – it now involves ending slavery.

The Union army is shadowing the moves of the Confederacy as they travel to the North. You have excellent information about the location and movement of Lee's troops. You also know that Jeb Stuart's cavalry, the eyes of the rebel army, are detached from Lee and raiding around the Union army. While the movement may be spectacular and adventurous, it may also be pointless and costly for the Confederates.

Having marched into the North, your army is starting to gain morale as you push to defend the people and land of Pennsylvania. Civilians along the way are cheering you as friends, even though you have been pretty unsuccessful in battle. Your spirits are higher than ever for the 90,000 men in blue.



Two brigades of the Union cavalry have been dispatched to a small town, known for its seminary. The commander of the brigades, General John Buford, feels that this town is of incredible strategic importance because of the twelve roads that lead to it and its defensible ridges and hills. Buford expects the rebels to come to this crossroads, so he has set up his brigades on the high ground at the northwest corner of the town. He has also sent word to General John Reynolds, commander of the closest infantry corps, that if there were to be battle, this small town of Gettysburg was the place to fight it.



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