

Civil War December 1862

Highlight: On November 14, Burnside, now in command of the Army of the Potomac, sent a corps to occupy the vicinity of Falmouth near Fredericksburg. The rest of the army soon followed. Lee reacted by entrenching his army on the heights behind the town. On December 11, Union engineers laid five pontoon bridges across the Rappahannock under fire. On the 12th, the Federal army crossed over, and on December 13, Burnside mounted a series of futile frontal assaults on Prospect Hill and Marye's Heights that resulted in staggering casualties. Meade's division, on the Union left flank, briefly penetrated Jackson's line but was driven back by a counterattack. Union generals C. Feger Jackson and George Bayard, and Confederate generals Thomas R.R. Cobb and Maxey Gregg were killed. On December 15, Burnside called off the offensive and recrossed the river, ending the campaign.

Dec 2 Skirmish at Leed's Ferry on Virginia's Rappahannock River

Dec 4 Fighting at Cane Hill, Arkansas

Dec 5 Engagement at Coffeeville, Mississippi

Dec 7 Engagement at Hartsville, Tennessee
Battle of Prairie Grove, Arkansas

Dec 11 Federals occupy Fredericksburg, Virginia

Dec 12 USS Cairo sunk on the Yazoo River, Mississippi

Dec 13 Battle of Fredericksburg, Virginia

Dec 18 Skirmish at Lexington, Tennessee

Dec 20 Confederate cavalry led by General Earl Van Dorn raids Holly Springs, Mississippi

Dec 22 Confederate cavalry crosses Cumberland River to begin Christmas Raid Kentucky

Dec 27 Skirmish at Dumfries, Virginia

Dec 29 Battle of Chickasaw Bayou, Mississippi

Dec 31 Battle of Stones River near Murfreesboro Tennessee
Confederate Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest's clash at Parker's Cross Roads, TN