

The Civil War 150 Years Ago

- Feb 3** President Lincoln refuses an offer from the King of Siam to send war elephants
- Feb 6** Surrender of Fort Henry, Tennessee
- Feb 8** Battle of Roanoke Island, North Carolina
- Feb 10** Federal forces destroyed the Confederate "Mosquito" fleet at Elizabeth City, NC
- Feb 14** Union ironclad gunboats attack Fort Donelson, Tennessee
- Feb 15** All-out Confederate attack at Fort Donelson, Tennessee
- Feb 16** Ft. Donelson unconditionally surrenders to Ulysses S. Grant
- Feb 21** Battle of Val Verde, New Mexico Territory
- Feb 22** Jefferson Davis inaugurated as President of the Confederate States of America
- Feb 23** Federal troops occupy Fayetteville, Arkansas
- Feb 25** Federal troops occupy Nashville, Tennessee

The Battle of Fort Donelson

February 11-16, 1862

After capturing Fort Henry on February 6, 1862, Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant advanced cross-country to invest Fort Donelson. On February 16, 1862, after the failure of their all-out attack aimed at breaking through Grant's investment lines, the fort's 12,000-man garrison surrendered unconditionally. This was a major victory for Brig. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and a catastrophe for the South. It ensured that Kentucky would stay in the Union and opened up Tennessee for a Northern advance along the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. Grant received a promotion to major general for his victory and attained stature in the Western Theater, earning the nom de guerre "Unconditional Surrender."