

Civil War 150 Years Ago June 1864

Grant pounds away in the East while Sherman maneuvers through Georgia.

June 1 Major Union attack at Cold Harbor, Virginia

June 3 All-out Union assault at Cold Harbor, Virginia. On May 31, Sheridan's cavalry seized the vital crossroads of Old Cold Harbor. Early on June 1, relying heavily on their new repeating carbines and shallow entrenchments, Sheridan's troopers threw back an attack by Confederate infantry. Confederate reinforcements arrived from Richmond and from the Totopotomoy Creek lines. Late on June 1, the Union Sixth and Eighteenth Corps reached Cold Harbor and assaulted the Confederate works with minimal success. By June 2, both armies were on the field, forming on a seven-mile front that extended from Bethesda Church to the Chickahominy River.

At dawn June 3, the Second and Eighteenth Corps, followed later by the Ninth Corps, assaulted along the Bethesda Church-Cold Harbor line and were slaughtered at all points. Grant commented in his memoirs that this was the only attack he wished he had never ordered. The armies confronted each other on these lines until the night of June 12, when Grant again advanced by his left flank, marching to James River. On June 14, the Second Corps was ferried across the river at Wilcox's Landing by transports. On June 15, the rest of the army began crossing on a 2,200-foot long pontoon bridge at Wyanoke. Abandoning the well-defended approaches to Richmond, Grant sought to shift his army quickly south of the river to threaten Petersburg.

June 5 Battle at Piedmont, Virginia

June 6 Engagement at Lake Chicot (Dutch Bayou), Arkansas

June 8 Abraham Lincoln nominated for a second term as U.S. President

June 10 Battle of Brice's Cross Roads (Guntown), Mississippi. At the beginning of June 1864, Maj. Gen. Nathan Bedford Forrest set out with his cavalry corps of about 2,000 men to enter Middle Tennessee and destroy the Nashville & Chattanooga Railroad, which was carrying men and supplies to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman in Georgia. On June 10, 1864, Forrest's smaller Confederate force defeated a much larger Union column under Brig. Gen. Samuel Sturgis at Brice's Cross Roads. This brilliant tactical victory against long odds cemented Forrest's reputation as one of the foremost mounted infantry leaders of the war.

June 11 Skirmish at Pine Mountain, Georgia
Battle of Trevilian Station, Virginia

June 15 First attack on Petersburg, Virginia

June 19 USS Kearsarge sinks CSS Alabama near France

June 21 Christopher Memminger resigns as Confederate Secretary of the Treasury

June 22 Skirmish at Ream's Station, Virginia on Wilson's Raid
Battle of Kolb's Farm (Culp's Farm), Georgia

June 24 Maryland abolishes slavery

June 27 Battle of Kennesaw Mountain, Georgia