

Civil War October, 1863

Overview: despite the CSA defeat at Gettysburg, Lee remained on the offensive. In September he sent Longstreet's Corps by rail to help defeat the Union at Chickamauga. In October he went on the offensive in the Bristoe Station Campaign that fizzled because of A.P. Hill's blundering.

Oct 5 Torpedo attack on USS New Ironsides outside Charleston Harbor, South Carolina

Oct 9 Bristoe Station Campaign begins in Virginia: The Union army was led by Maj. Gen. George G. Meade, the Confederates by General Robert E. Lee. Lee had stolen a march, passing around Cedar Mountain, the site of a battle in 1862. This forced Meade to retreat toward Centreville. By withdrawing, Meade prevented Lee from falling on an exposed flank of the Army of the Potomac. Maj. Gen. Gouverneur K. Warren, commanding II Corps in Maj. Gen. Winfield S. Hancock's absence, was following V Corps on this retreat. On October 13, the II Corps had an encounter with Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart's cavalry near Auburn, Virginia, the First Battle of Auburn, nicknamed "Coffee Hill." (Confederate shells interrupted Federals who were boiling coffee.) Warren had to push Stuart aside and, at the same time, retreat before the advance of the Confederate corps of Lt. Gen. Richard S. Ewell. On October 14, as Warren moved toward Bristoe Station, Stuart's cavalry harassed the rear guard at the Second Battle of Auburn.

Oct 14 Battle of Bristoe Station, Virginia Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill, leading the Confederate Third Corps, was advancing on Ewell's left. He reached Bristoe Station on October 14. Hill tried to harass the rearguard of V Corps just across Broad Run, but he missed the presence of II Corps just coming up from Auburn. Seeing Heth's advance, Warren rapidly deployed his forces behind an embankment of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad near Bristoe Station. The result was a powerful ambush as Hill's corps moved to attack the Federal rear guard across Broad Run.

Oct 16 U.S. Grant named to command Union Military Division of the Mississippi

Oct 17 Lincoln calls for 300,000 additional volunteers to join the army

Oct 19 Cavalry engagement known as the Buckland Races, Virginia. Confederate cavalry ambush and rout Union cavalry.

Oct 20 Skirmish at Warm Springs, North Carolina

Oct 26 Fight at King's House near Waynesville, Missouri

Oct 28 Engagement at Wauhatchie, Tennessee

Oct 29 Fighting at Warsaw and Ozark, Missouri