

# GRANT VS. LEE

## § ACROSS THE RAPIDAN

- 1.) What about Meade caused Gen. Grant to be disarmed and impressed enough to keep Meade at his post?
- 2.) Why were Grant and Sherman so sure their advance could not be stopped?
- 3.) What was it about Gen. Grant that made soldiers skeptical about his leadership?
- 4.) What did Gen. Lee learn from his failed invasions of the north? What hope did he still hold?
- 5.) What was Gen. Lee's and Jefferson Davis' strategy to win?

## § INTO THE WILDERNESS

- 1.) What was the unexpected weapon that killed many of the wounded during this battle?
- 2.) How did Longstreet get the upper hand on the Federals?

## § THE BLOODY ANGLE

- 1.) What is the "mule shoe" and why is it so deadly?
- 2.) How did the Federals, led by Emory Upton, tackle the mule shoe?
- 3.) Where did the nickname "bloody angle" come from?

## § MOVE AND COUNTER MOVE

- 1.) *Analytical thinking.* What was the health conditions of the armies and commanders at this point like? How do you think that impacted the morale of the troops?

## § MURDER AT COLD HARBOR

- 1.) What was the advantage of being in the “interior” of an enemy’s movement?
- 2.) *Analytical thinking.* Do you agree with Law when he said the skirmish was “murder”, not “war”? Why or why not?
- 3.) *Critical thinking.* What speculations were there about why Grant refused to surrender?

## § OPPORTUNITIES MISSED

- 1.) What was the most incredible feat of military engineering at that time? Why was it necessary?
- 2.) What nearly killed the Union army from inside their own ranks?

## § THE CRATER

- 1.) What was Commander Henry Pleaants’ novel approach to advancing on the south?
- 2.) What finally got the Union officers to care about the tunnel digging?
- 3.) *Applied math.* How long did it take for the fuse to burn?
- 4.) *Critical thinking.* If Rebel soldiers hadn’t fired upon the Union Soldiers in the crater, how would the war have changed?

## § THE BEEFSTEAK RAID

- 1.) What did the “beefsteak raid” do for the Confederate army?

## § STALEMATE

- 1.) How is this part of the war associated with Thanksgiving Day?
- 2.) What did the Confederate subsist on for Thanksgiving?

## § FORT STEADMAN

- 1.) What were things like for people during the winter of 1864-65? (Both soldiers and civilians.)
- 2.) What two points did Lincoln fight for that ultimately led the war to continue?

## § THE FIVE FORKS

- 1.) Why was Pickett unable to hear shots fired, even though he was close to his men?
- 2.) How did they fare without a commander?

## § STORMY SABBATH

- 1.) How badly were the Mississippi Brigade outnumbered?
- 2.) *Analytical thinking.* What do you think Captain Clement Sulivane's job was?

## § BLACK THURSDAY

- 1.) What did the Confederate army find at Amelia Court House?
- 2.) What did Richard Anderson do that split the army?

## § VALOR AND DEVOTION

- 1.) How did Custer nearly kill the truce?
- 2.) What were the terms of the officers' of the south surrender?
- 3.) What did they do for feeding men after the surrender?

# GRANT VS. LEE

## § ACROSS THE RAPIDAN

1.) What about Meade caused Gen. Grant to be disarmed and impressed enough to keep Meade at his post?

Meade's humility and honesty.

2.) Why were Grant and Sherman so sure their advance could not be stopped?

They had supplies and support from the north.

3.) What was it about Gen. Grant that made soldiers skeptical about his leadership?

His appearance was unkempt and slouchy.

4.) What did Gen. Lee learn from his failed invasions of the north? What hope did he still hold?

They could not beat the north, but possibly gain independence in the south.

5.) What was Gen. Lee's and Jefferson Davis' strategy to win?

Make the war so bloody that the north demanded peace and surrender.

## § INTO THE WILDERNESS

1.) What was the unexpected weapon that killed many of the wounded during this battle?

Fire.

2.) How did Longstreet get the upper hand on the Federals?

Snuck through the Union lines through an unfinished railroad cut.

## § THE BLOODY ANGLE

1.) What is the "mule shoe" and why is it so deadly?

The v-shaped trench with lots of defences on the top.

2.) How did the Federals, led by Emory Upton, tackle the mule shoe?

Straight on to the weakest point with everything they had.

3.) Where did the nickname "bloody angle" come from?

A lot of people died in the trench.

## § MOVE AND COUNTER MOVE

1.) *Analytical thinking.* What was the health conditions of the armies and commanders at this point like? How do you think that impacted the morale of the troops?

The troops and commanders were starving, injured, and ill. It lowered morale overall and made them sick of the war.

## § MURDER AT COLD HARBOR

1.) What was the advantage of being in the "interior" of an enemy's movement?

Less walking, more rested.

2.) 2.) *Analytical thinking.* Do you agree with Law when he said the skirmish was “murder”, not “war”? Why or why not?

Answers may vary, make sure the logic is sound either way.

3.) *Critical thinking.* What speculations were there about why Grant refused to surrender?

Signal of defeat, aid to the resistance in the north, and a second nomination for Lincoln might have been stopped.

## § OPPORTUNITIES MISSED

1.) What was the most incredible feat of military engineering at that time? Why was it necessary?  
The 2,100 foot long pontoon bridge that helped Grant and his men cross the James.

2.) What nearly killed the Union army from inside their own ranks?

Poor management driving them to despair.

## § THE CRATER

1.) What was Commander Henry Pleaants’ novel approach to advancing on the south?

Digging a tunnel into the Confederate earthworks.

2.) What finally got the Union officers to care about the tunnel digging?

When the miners finished the tunnel and wanted to blow it up.

3.) *Applied math.* How long did it take for the fuse to burn?

25 minutes.

4.) *Critical thinking.* If Rebel soldiers hadn’t fired upon the Union Soldiers in the crater, how would the war have changed?

Answers may vary, look for sound logic along the lines of “It might not have lasted as long.”

## § THE BEEFSTEAK RAID

1.) What did the “beefsteak raid” do for the Confederate army?

Fed them well and gave them hope.

## § STALEMATE

1.) How is this part of the war associated with Thanksgiving Day?

The railroad was finished all the way to the front lines, giving the soldier’s more supplies. Lincoln declared the last Thursday in November Thanksgiving.

2.) What did the Confederate subsist on for Thanksgiving?

Rancid bacon and uncooked cornmeal.

## § FORT STEADMAN

1.) What were things like for people during the winter of 1864-65? (Both soldiers and civilians.)

Food was scarce, but people were peaceful and talking.

2.) What two points did Lincoln fight for that ultimately led the war to continue?  
Restorations of the Union and abolition of slavery.

## § THE FIVE FORKS

1.) Why was Pickett unable to hear shots fired, even though he was close to his men?  
He was in an acoustic shadow.

2.) How did they fare without a commander?  
They put up a fight, but failed.

## § STORMY SABBATH

1.) How badly were the Mississippi Brigade outnumbered?  
10 to 1.

2.) *Analytical thinking.* What do you think Captain Clement Sulivane's job was?  
Answers may vary, but look for things like blowing up the bridge.

## § BLACK THURSDAY

1.) What did the Confederate army find at Amelia Court House?  
A lack of food or warm welcome.

2.) What did Richard Anderson do that split the army?  
Sent wagons on as a decoy, which other divisions thought they should follow.

## § VALOR AND DEVOTION

1.) How did Custer nearly kill the truce?  
By screaming for unconditional surrender under Sheridan's name.

2.) What were the terms of the officers' of the south surrender?  
A parole where they would not be allowed to have weapons.

3.) What did they do for feeding men after the surrender?  
They shared rations and sent the men home.