

# **OVERVIEW AND MAJOR BATTLES OF THE CIVIL WAR: Ed Seufert**

**QUESTION: Did America have a CIVIL WAR?**

**Merriam-Webster:**

**A war between opposing groups of citizens within the same country or nation.**

**It's an armed conflict where factions within a single country fight over control, policies, or independence, contrasting with a foreign war.**

## **Examples of Civil Wars:**

Then English had a Civil War from **1642-1651** between the **Parliamentarians** (Roundheads) and the **Royalists** (Cavaliers)

Then Russians had a Civil War from **1917-1923** between the **Reds** (Bolsheviks) and the **Whites** (Anti-Bosheviks)

Then Spanish had a Civil War from **1936-1939** between the **Republicans** (Left-Wing groups) and the **Nationalists** (Fascists)

**Or Did America have a WAR between two  
Sovereign nations?**

**I would propose that America had a war between  
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and  
THE CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.**

**Maybe a more accurate description would be:**

**THE WAR FOR SOUTHERN INDEPENDENCE  
OR**

**THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES**

**I think the UNION had a Civil War!**

# **Lecture 1 (Jan 12, 2026):**

- **Introduction**
- **Fort Sumter (April 12-14, 1861)**
- **First Bull Run (July 21, 1861)**
- **ANACONDA Strategy (1861-65)**
- **Western Rivers Strategy**
- **Fort Henry (Feb 8, 1862)**
- **Fort Donelson (Feb 11-16, 1862)**
- **Capture of Nashville (Feb 25, 1862)**
- **Battle of Hampton Roads (March 8-9, 1862)**  
**(Monitor vs Virginia)**



## **Lecture 2 (Jan 26, 2026):**

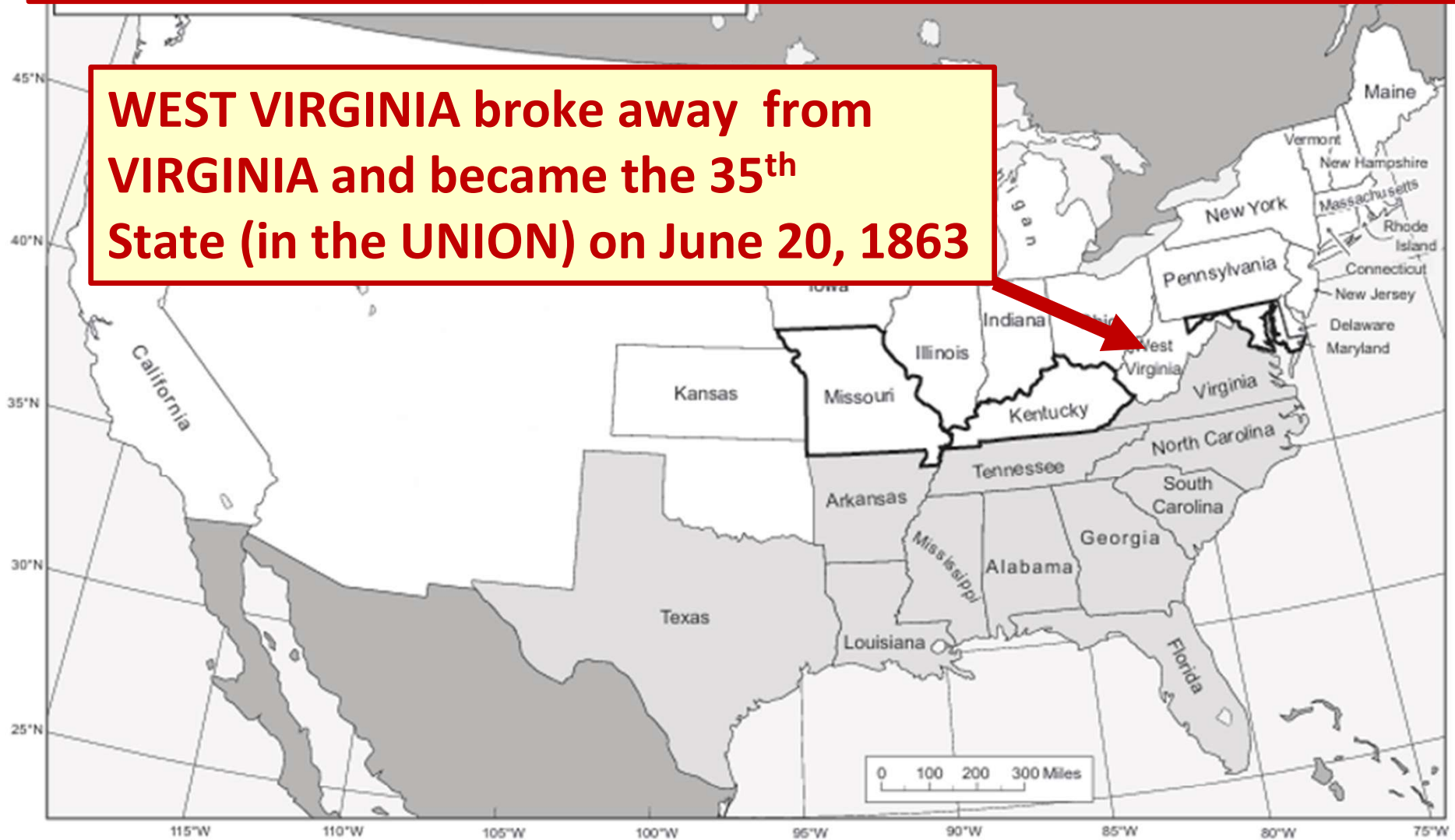
- **Shiloh (April 6-7, 1862)**
- **Antietam (Sept 17, 1862)**

## **Lecture 3 (Feb 10):**

- **Fredericksburg (Dec 11-15, 1862)**
- **Chancellorsville (April 30-May 6, 1863)**

# THE UNION; CONFEDERATE, & BORDER STATES

**WEST VIRGINIA broke away from VIRGINIA and became the 35<sup>th</sup> State (in the UNION) on June 20, 1863**



# THE UNION; CONFEDERATE, & BORDER STATES

SECESSION	
SC	Dec. 20, 1860
MS	Jan. 9, 1861
FL	Jan. 10, 1861
AL	Jan. 11, 1861
GA	Jan. 19, 1861
LA	Jan. 26, 1861
TX	Feb. 1, 1861
VA	April 17, 1861
AR	May 6, 1861
TN	May 6, 1861
NC	May 20, 1861



## MAP KEY

- Union free state
- Union slave state
- Confederate state
- Territory
- Separated from Virginia, 1861; admitted to Union, 1863
- ★ Capital city
- Fort

0 300 600 Miles  
0 300 600 Kilometers

Albers Equal-Area Projection





# Battle of Fort Sumter

April 12–13, 1861; Charleston Harbor, SC

- **First battle of the Civil War**
- **Confederate attack on U.S. fort**
- **Union surrender after bombardment**

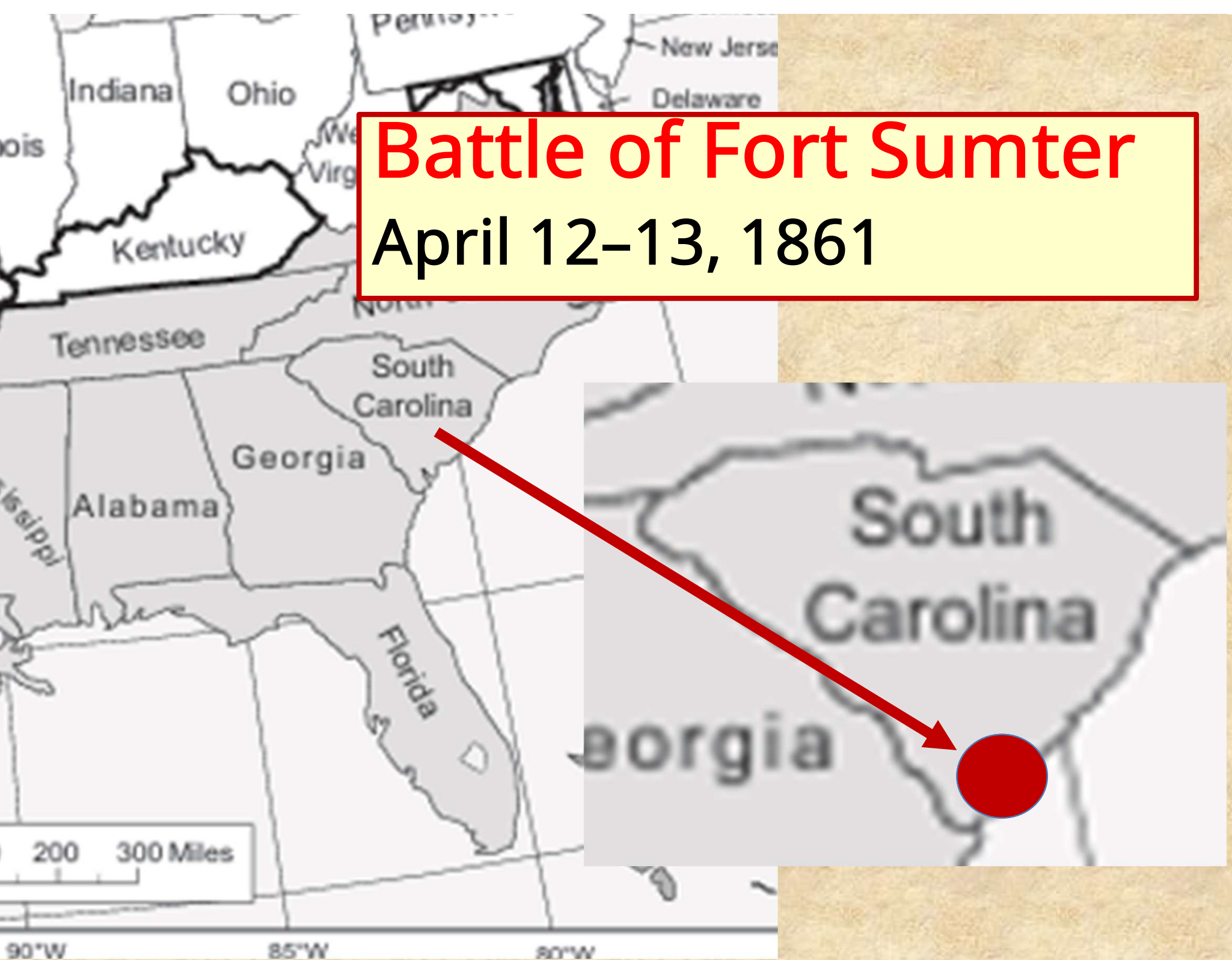
## Key Takeaway:

*The Civil War began when Confederate forces fired on Fort Sumter.*

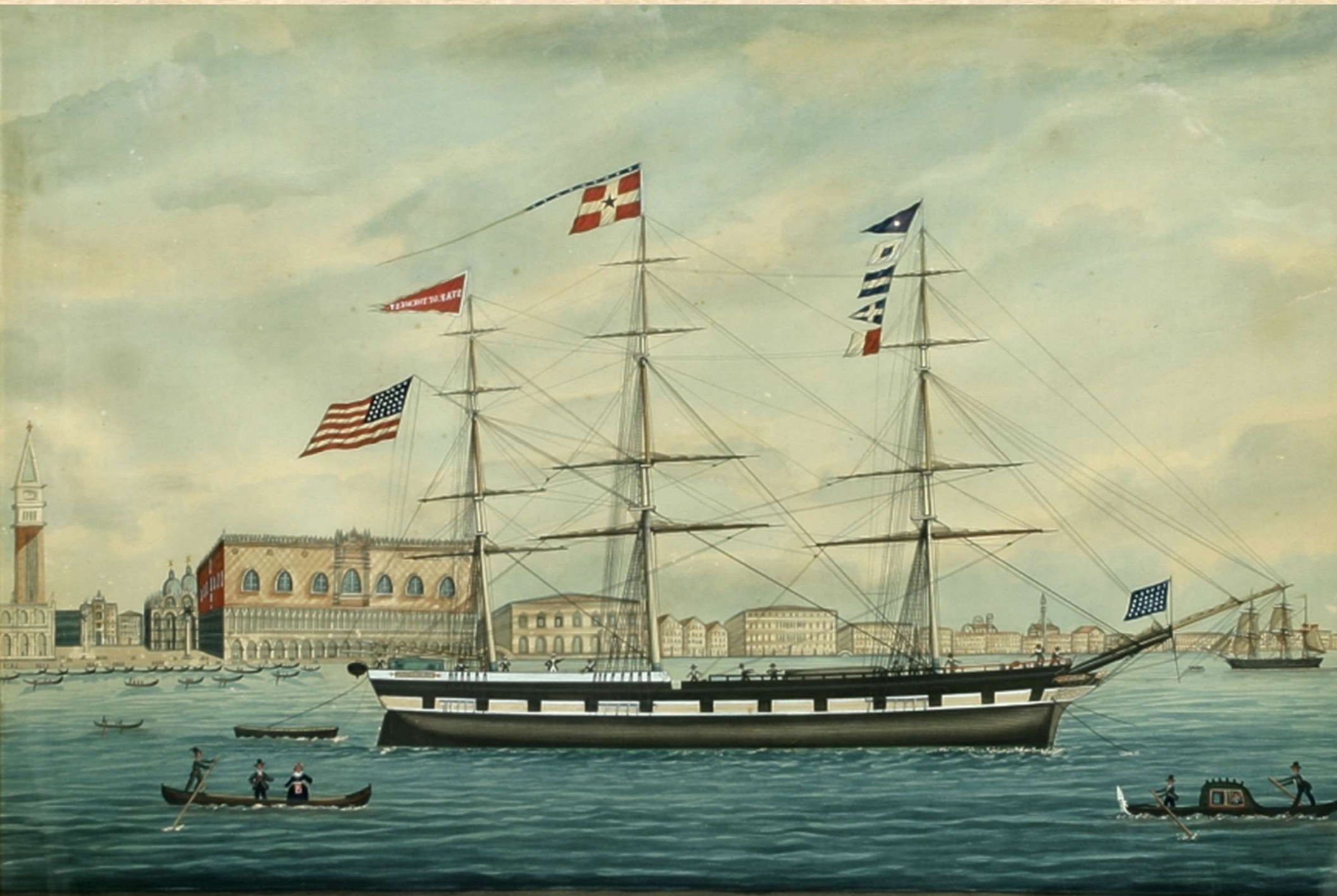


# Battle of Fort Sumter

April 12–13, 1861



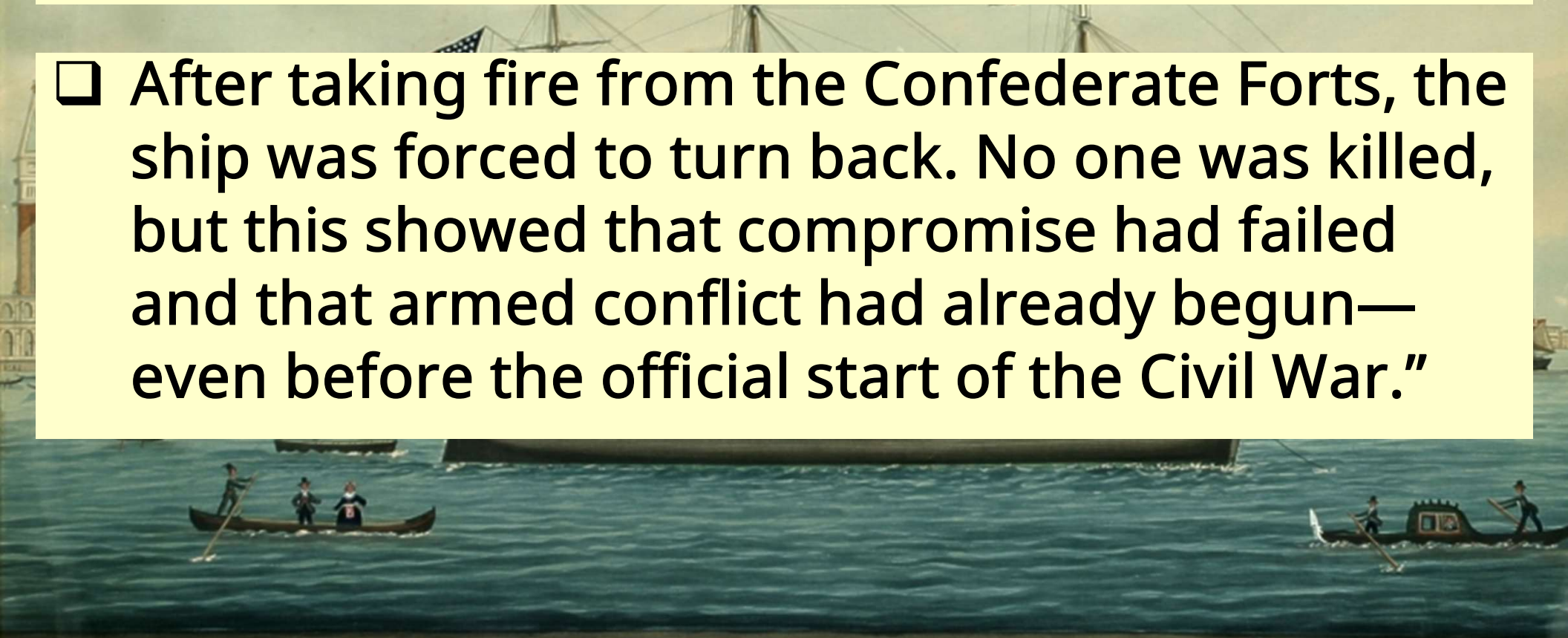
# **"STAR OF THE WEST"** Union Supply Ship for Fort Sumter



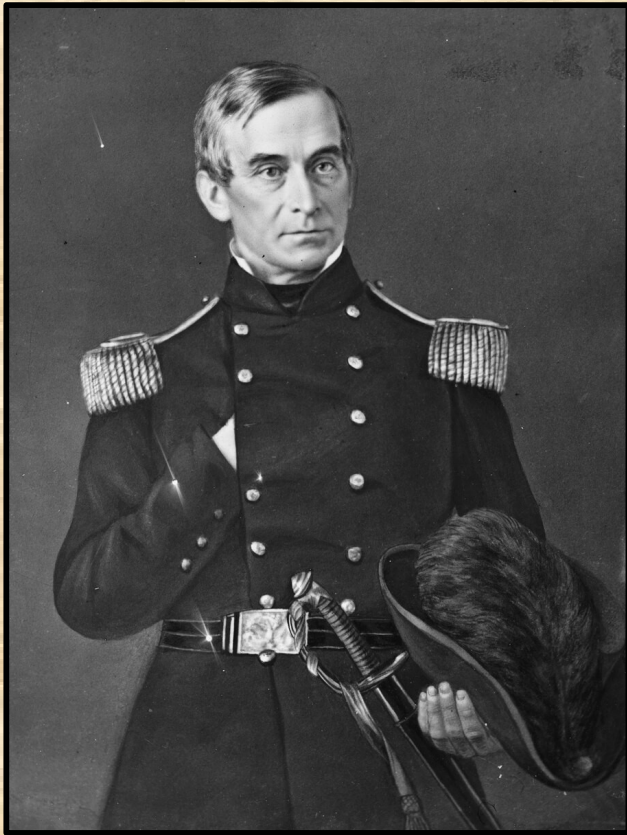


## **"STAR OF THE WEST"** Union Supply Ship for Fort Sumter

- ❑ Before Fort Sumter was fired on in April, the United States tried to quietly resupply the fort. On January 9, 1861, a civilian ship called the Star of the West sailed into Charleston Harbor carrying food and soldiers.
- ❑ After taking fire from the Confederate Forts, the ship was forced to turn back. No one was killed, but this showed that compromise had failed and that armed conflict had already begun—even before the official start of the Civil War."



# Commanders at the Battle of Fort Sumter

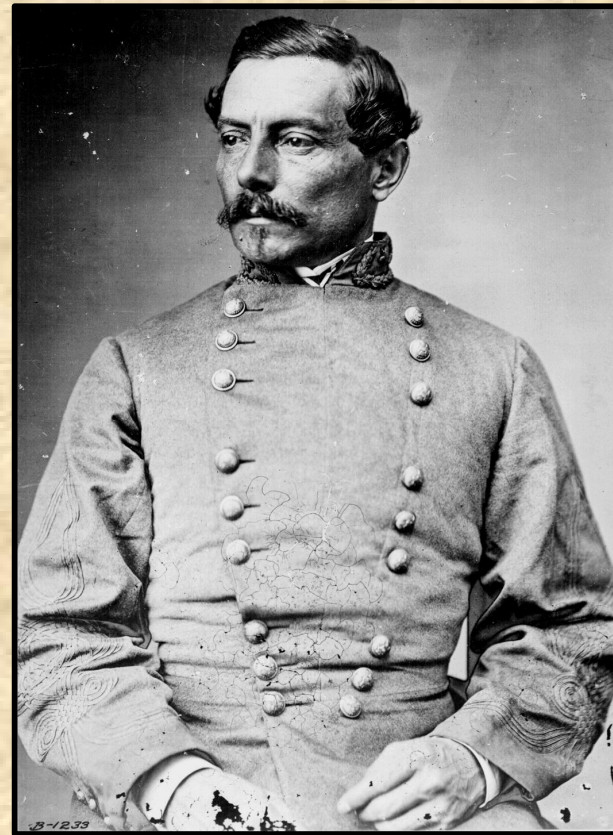


## Union Commander:

**Major Robert Anderson**

**Role:** Defended Fort Sumter

Surrendered to avoid loss of life



## Confederate Commander:

**Brigadier General**

P.G.T. Beauregard

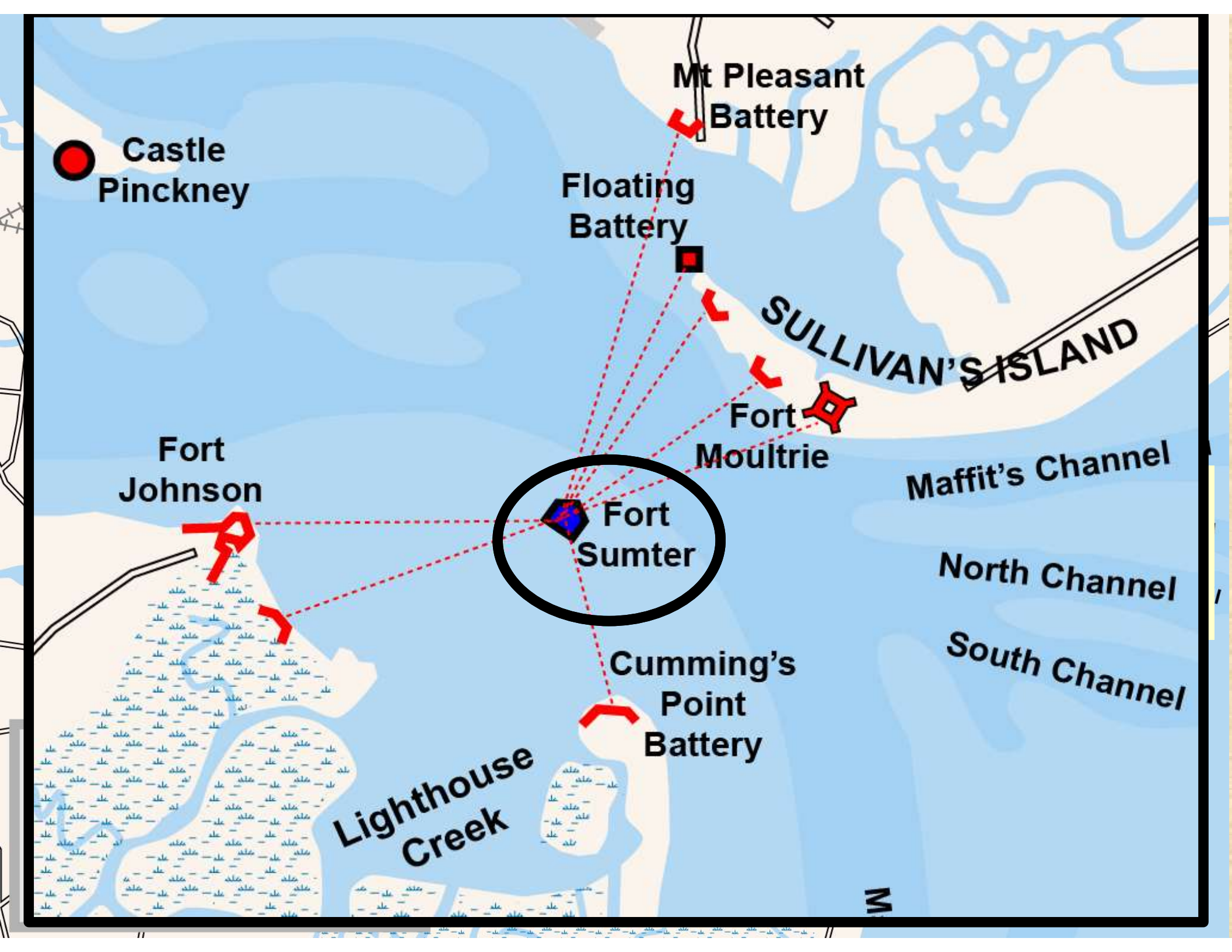
**Role:** Ordered bombardment to force Federal Surrender of Fort Sumter



**Charleston Harbor, early morning of April 12, 1861**  
**Major Anderson wrote this letter back to General  
Beauregard:**

**“General: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication informing me that you will open the fire of your batteries on Fort Sumter in one hour from this time. I am not aware that any war exists between the Government of the United States and the Confederate States, and I shall not feel myself bound to reply to your communication by any other act than that of preparing to defend the fort. I shall await the first shot, and if fired upon, shall defend myself to the last extremity.”**

**— Robert Anderson**



● Castle  
Pinckney

Mt Pleasant  
Battery

Floating  
Battery

SULLIVAN'S ISLAND

Fort  
Moultrie

Maffit's Channel

North Channel

South Channel

Fort  
Johnson

Fort  
Sumter

Cumming's  
Point  
Battery

Lighthouse  
Creek

N

# THE IRONY

- ❑ Robert Anderson was a U.S. Army officer and Instructor of Soldiers.
- ❑ P.G.T. Beauregard studied under Anderson at West Point Military Academy.
- ❑ Years later, **Beauregard** ordered the bombardment of **Anderson's** fort at Fort Sumter.





# **Impact of the Battle of Fort Sumter**

- ☐ Turned a political crisis into open war
- ☐ Ended hopes for a peaceful compromise
- ☐ Prompted President Lincoln to call for Volunteers
- ☐ Forced Americans to choose sides

## **Key Takeaway:**

- ❖ With the firing on Fort Sumter, the nation crossed a point of no return.
- ❖ Both sides believed the war would be short.



**The First Battle of Bull Run**

**would prove them wrong!**



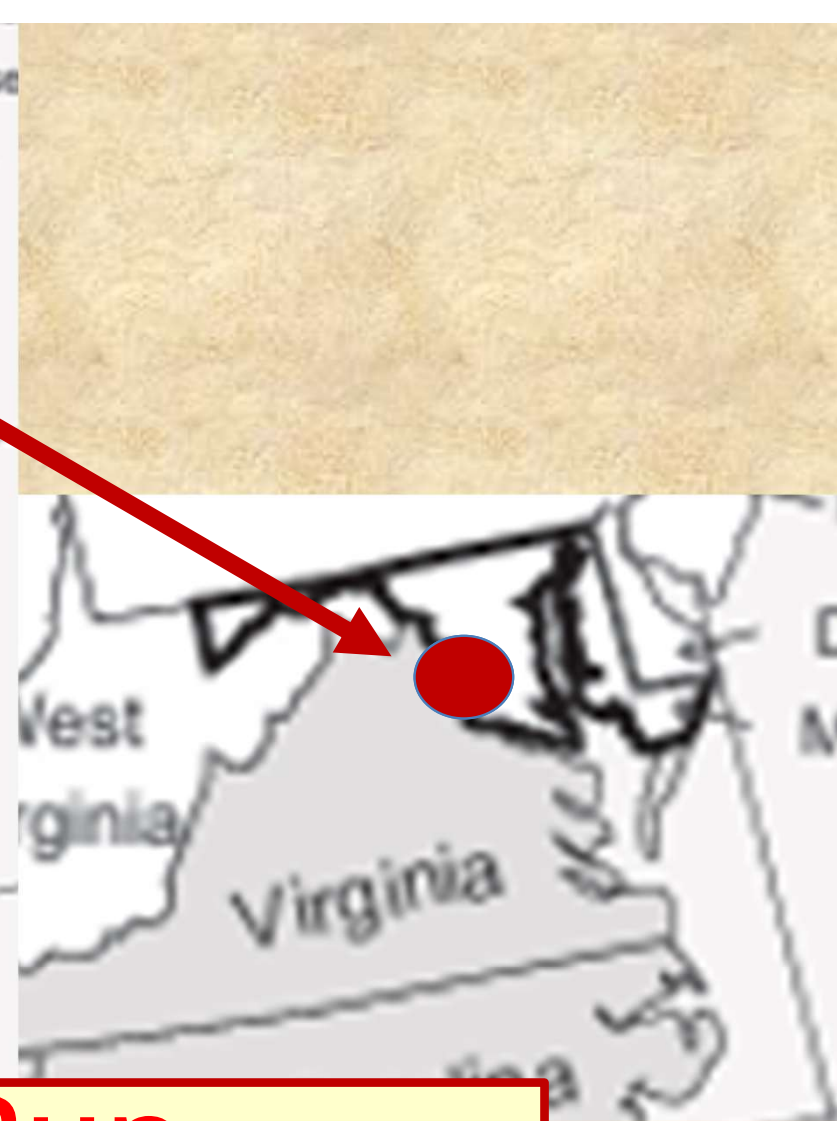
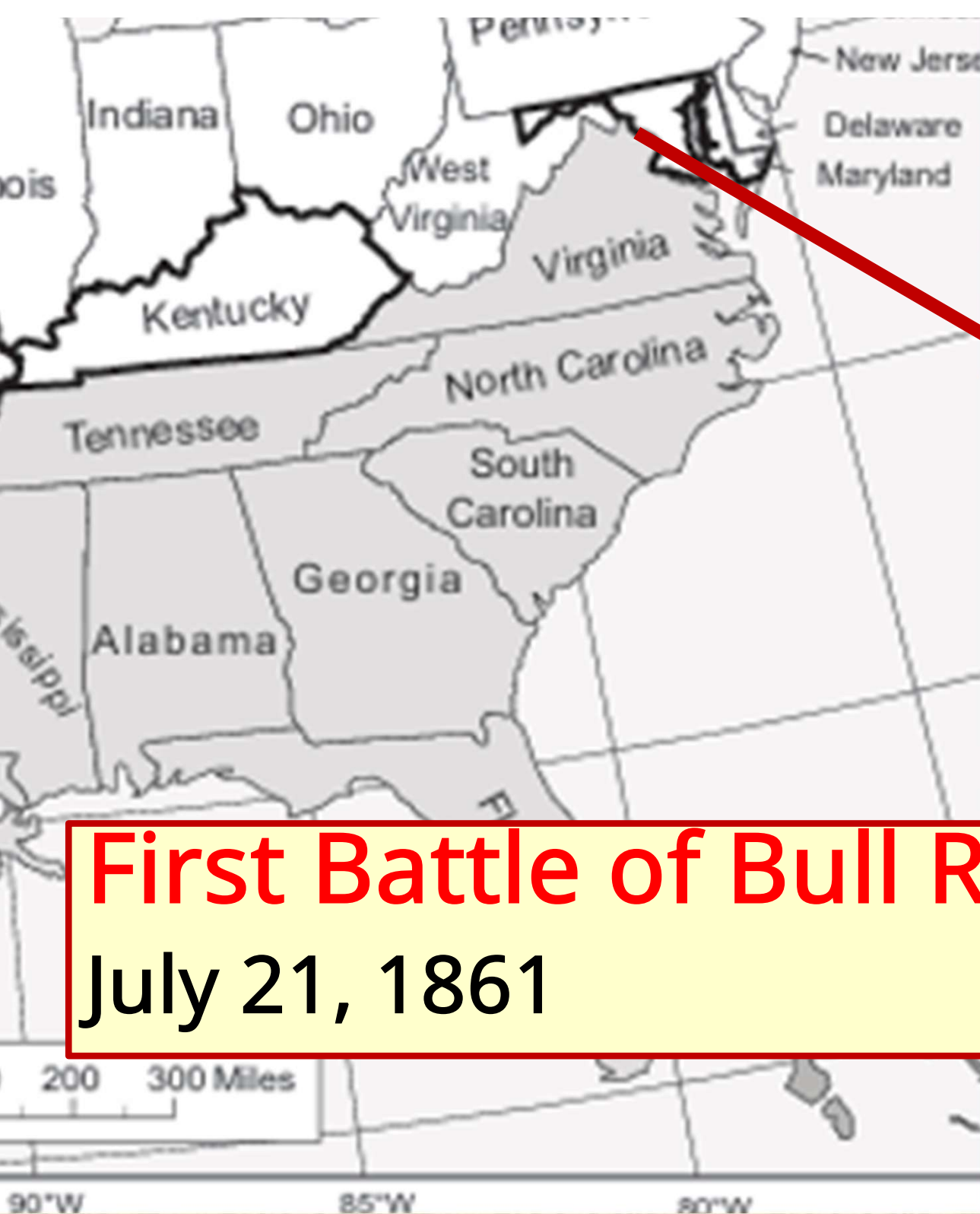
# First Battle of Bull Run

July 21, 1861; Near Manassas, Virginia

- ❑ First major land battle of the Civil War
- ❑ Fought near Washington, D.C.
- ❑ Large numbers of untrained volunteers
- ❑ Both sides expected a quick victory

## Key Takeaway:

*Bull Run revealed that the Civil War would be long, difficult, and costly.*



# First Battle of Bull Run

July 21, 1861

# Commanders at the First Battle of Bull Run



## **Significance:**

- Commanded the Union's first field army of the war
- Led mostly inexperienced volunteer troops
- Operated under intense political pressure to act quickly
- His defeat revealed the Union was unprepared for large-scale war

**UNION: Irvin McDowell**

## **Why he matters:**

***McDowell's failure demonstrated that enthusiasm could not replace training and organization.***



# Commanders at the First Battle of Bull Run



## **Significance:**

- One of the Confederacy's first prominent battlefield commanders (Commanded troops at Ft. Sumter)
- Organized defensive positions around Manassas.
- Helped coordinate Confederate forces at a critical early stage

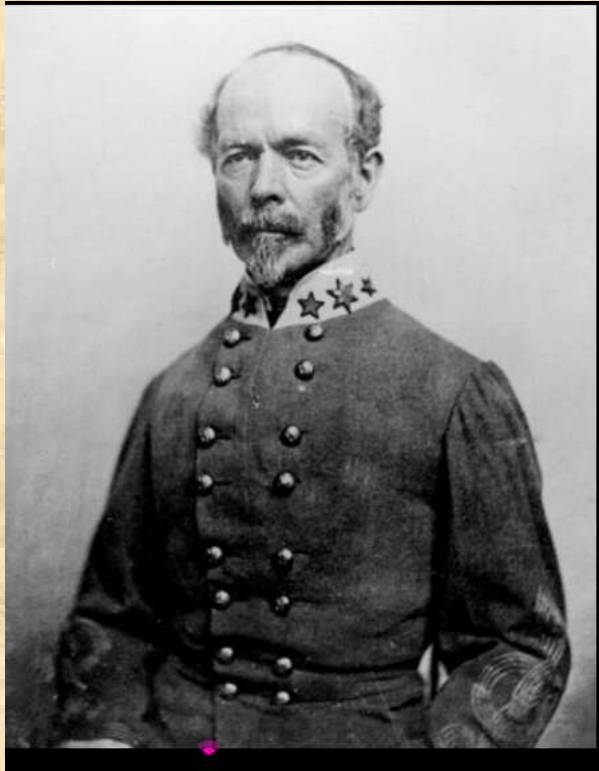
## **Confederate:**

**P. G. T. Beauregard**

## **Why he matters:**

***Beauregard's success boosted Confederate confidence and legitimacy.***

# Commanders at the First Battle of Bull Run



## **Significance:**

- Reinforced Beauregard with troops from the Shenandoah Valley
- Used railroads to move soldiers quickly—an innovation in warfare
- His arrival helped turn the tide of the battle

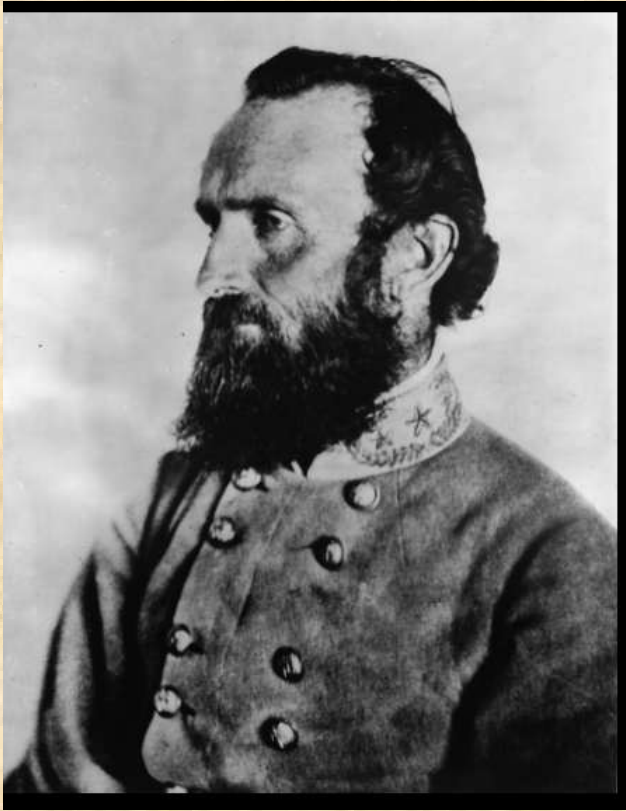
## **Confederate:**

**Joseph E. Johnston**

## **Why he matters:**

***Johnston showed how modern transportation could decide battles.***

# Commanders at the First Battle of Bull Run



## **Significance:**

- Held firm under heavy pressure at a decisive moment.
- Earned the nickname “Stonewall” for his steadfast defense.
- Became a symbol of Confederate resolve

**Confederate:** Thomas J. Jackson

## **Why he matters:**

***Jackson's stand prevented a Confederate collapse and changed the course of the battle.***



During a critical moment on **July 21, 1861**, as Confederate lines wavered, **Barnard E. Bee** pointed toward Jackson's brigade and reportedly said:

***"There is Jackson standing like a stone wall. Rally behind the Virginians!"***

Hence his famous Nickname:

**STONEWALL JACKSON**






A map of the Manassas Gap Railroad and surrounding areas in Virginia and Maryland. The map shows the Shenandoah Valley, Blue Ridge Mountains, and Potomac River. Key locations include Winchester (12,000), Patterson (18,000), McDowell (35,000), Washington, Manassas Gap, Front Royal, Manassas Junction, Beauregard (20,000), Holmes (3,000), and Fredericksburg. The Manassas Gap RR is highlighted in red, and the Manassas Junction is circled in red. The Potomac River is shown in blue. The map also shows the Shenandoah River, Bull Run Mountains, and Rappahannock River. The Manassas Gap RR runs from Winchester to Manassas Junction, and then to Fredericksburg. The Manassas Junction is a key location in the battle.

**MANASSAS GAP RR**

**MANASSAS JUNCTION**

**OVERVIEW OF THE BATTLE**

- 
- Union army moves south; Led by Irvin McDowell
  - Troops mostly untrained volunteers

**MANASSAS JUNCTION**

**Key Point:**

- *Confidence was high — experience was low.*

**OVERVIEW OF THE BATTLE**





# Spectators at Manassas Watch Marching Troops



- Civilians nearby watched, expecting a clear and quick outcome





**Picnic at the Battlefield of Bull Run**



## The Battle Begins — Morning of July 21, 1861

- The fighting began early in the morning, not as a surprise attack
- Both armies believed this would be a decisive, one-day battle
- Union troops advanced confidently toward Confederate positions
- Many soldiers were new volunteers with little combat experience





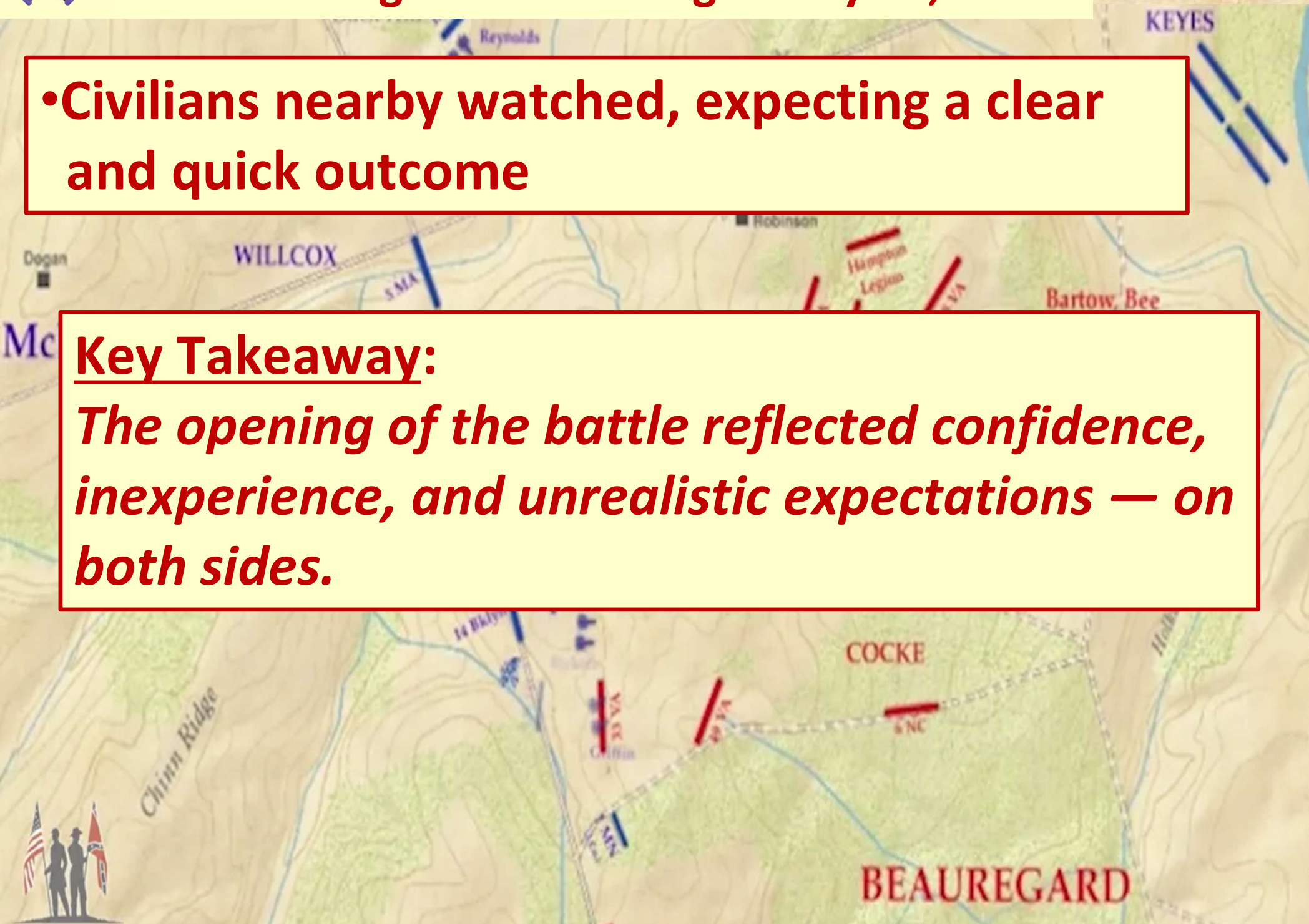


## The Battle Begins — Morning of July 21, 1861

- Civilians nearby watched, expecting a clear and quick outcome

### Key Takeaway:

*The opening of the battle reflected confidence, inexperience, and unrealistic expectations — on both sides.*







**Midday Turning Point; Late Morning to Midday**

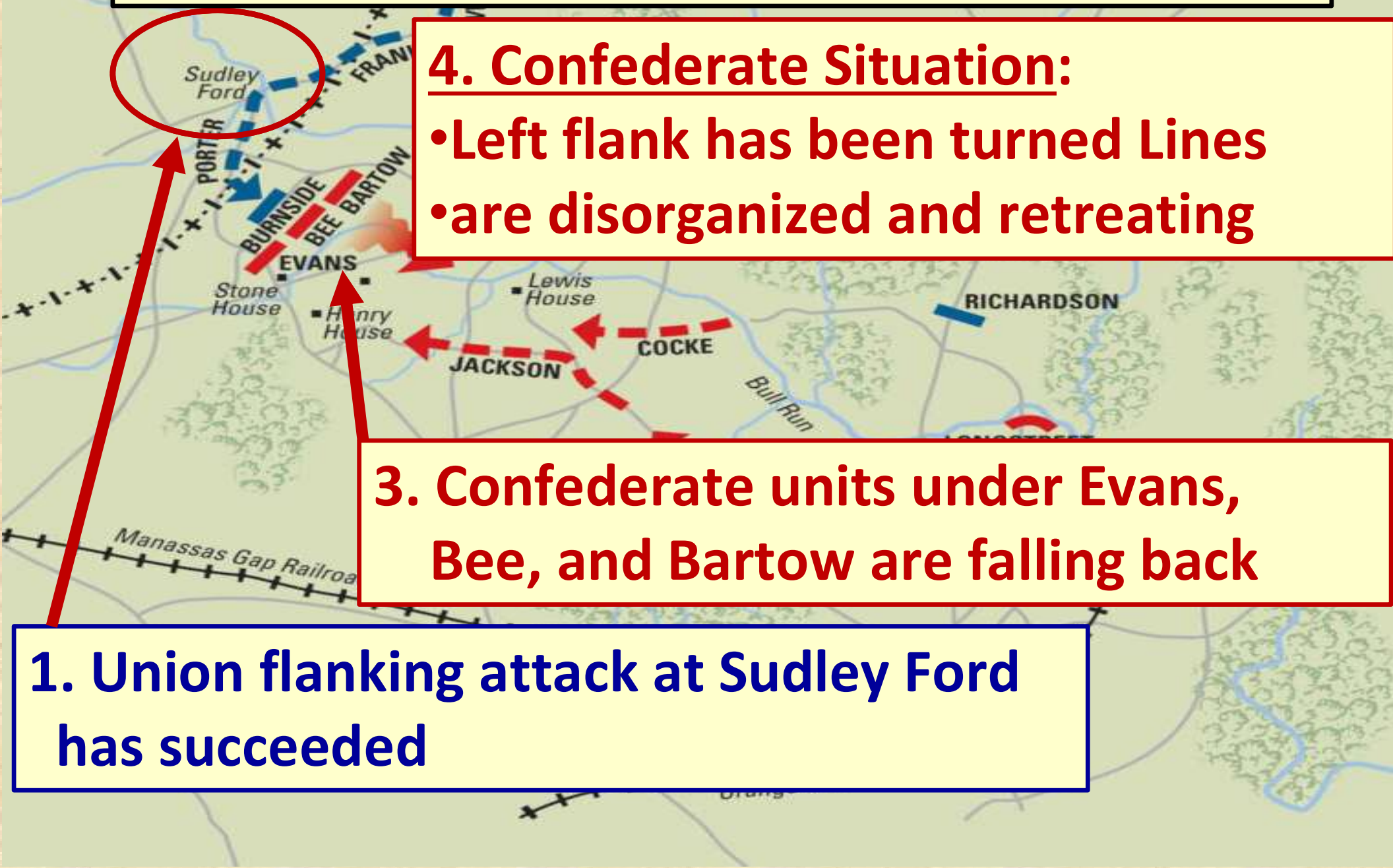
**2. Union forces believe victory is close!**

**4. Confederate Situation:**

- Left flank has been turned Lines
- are disorganized and retreating

**3. Confederate units under Evans, Bee, and Bartow are falling back**

**1. Union flanking attack at Sudley Ford has succeeded**

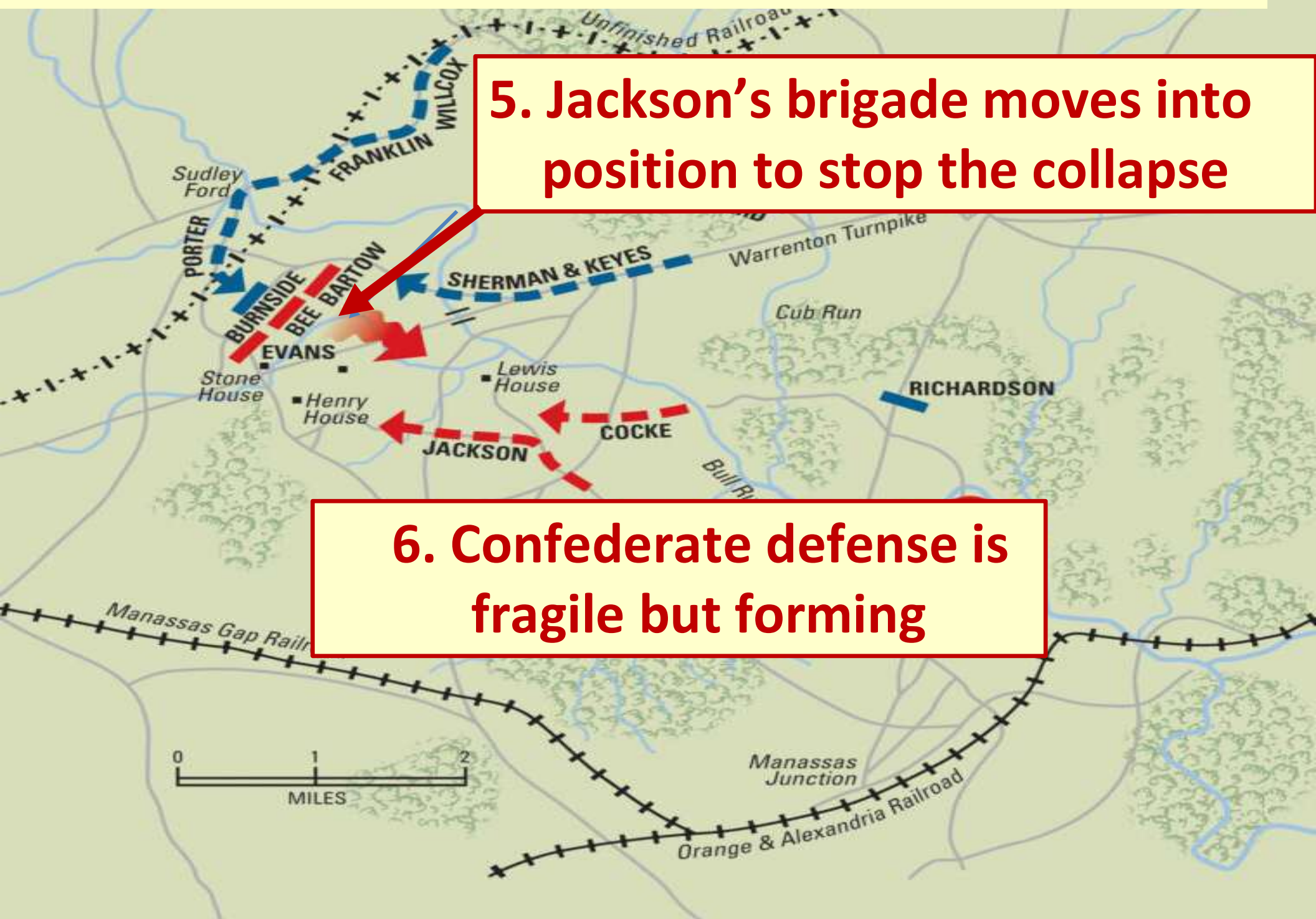




## Midday Turning Point; Late Morning to Midday

5. Jackson's brigade moves into position to stop the collapse

6. Confederate defense is fragile but forming







## Late Afternoon Collapse; Mid- to Late Afternoon

### 7. Union Situation:

Attacks become uncoordinated and piecemeal

8. Units are mixed together and hard to control;  
Artillery positions are overrun or abandoned



9. Morale collapses as resistance stiffens  
and then advances





## Late Afternoon Collapse; Mid- to Late Afternoon

### 10. Confederate Situation:

Jackson's line remains firm at the center



### 11. Confederate Situation:

- Fresh troops press forward on both flanks
- Confederate forces shift from defense to offense

### 12. Momentum clearly belongs to the Confederacy



## WASHINGTON

## 13. Union resistance collapsed late in the afternoon





# ✖ The Union Retreat from Bull Run; Late afternoon into early evening

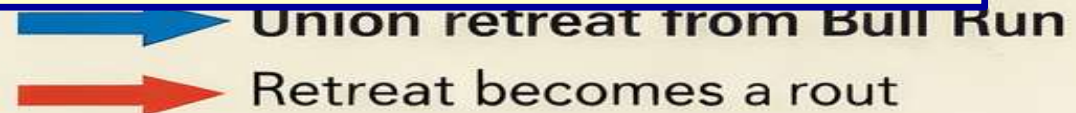
15. Withdrawal along the Warrenton Turnpike became chaotic



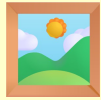
16. Soldiers, officers, supply wagons, and **CIVILIANS** crowded the roads



17. Panic spread rapidly toward Centreville and Washington







# **“The Rout at Bull Run”**

## **— Union Soldiers and Civilians Fleeing**





# The Missed Confederate Opportunity: *What Was Possible?*

- The road to Washington, D.C. lay open
- Union defenses around the capital were weak
- A rapid pursuit *might* have threatened the city

Many observers later asked:

*Why didn't the Confederates march on Washington?*

# Why the Confederates Did NOT Pursue

- Confederate troops were as exhausted as the Union troops.
- Commanders lacked accurate information about Union strength
- Units were badly disorganized after hours of fighting
- Victory had come suddenly — and the Confederate army was not prepared to exploit it.



# Why the Confederates Did NOT Pursue



## Key Takeaway

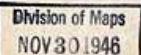
**Bull Run ended with a Union rout, but Confederate exhaustion and disorganization prevented a decisive pursuit—allowing the Union to survive and the war to continue.**

# **The Anaconda Strategy: Strangling the Confederacy**

- After the shock of BULL RUN, Union leaders realized this war would not be over quick.
- **Winfield Scott**, General-in-Chief of the U.S. Army, proposed a long-term plan to starve and strangle the Confederacy
- Named after the **anaconda snake**, which kills by slow constriction, not quick strikes
- Designed to avoid massive bloodshed and end the war through economic pressure



Entered according to act of Congress in the year 1861 by J. B. Elliott of Cincinnati in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Southern District of Ohio





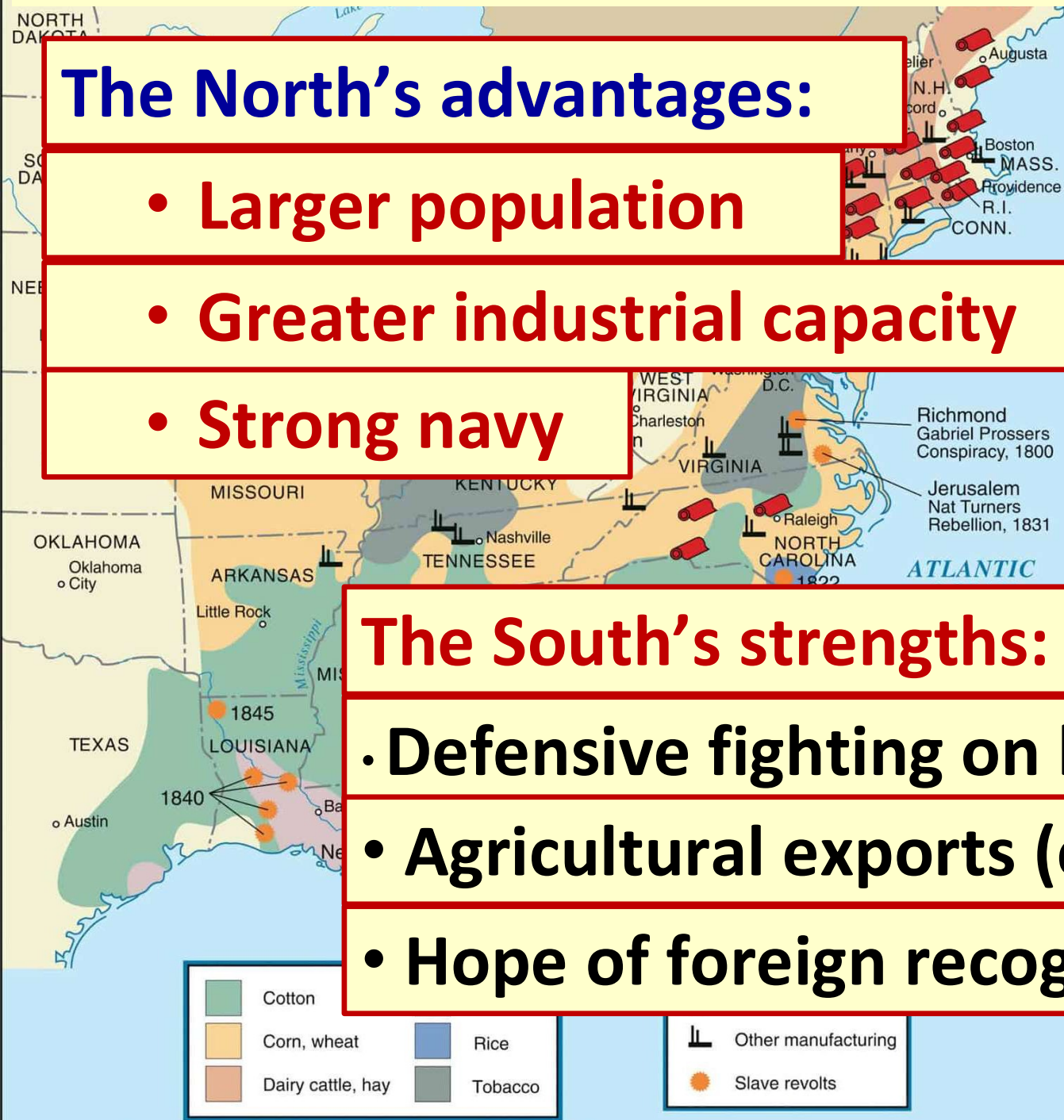
# INDUSTRY & AGRICULTURE IN THE NORTH & SOUTH

## The North's advantages:

- **Larger population**
- **Greater industrial capacity**
- **Strong navy**

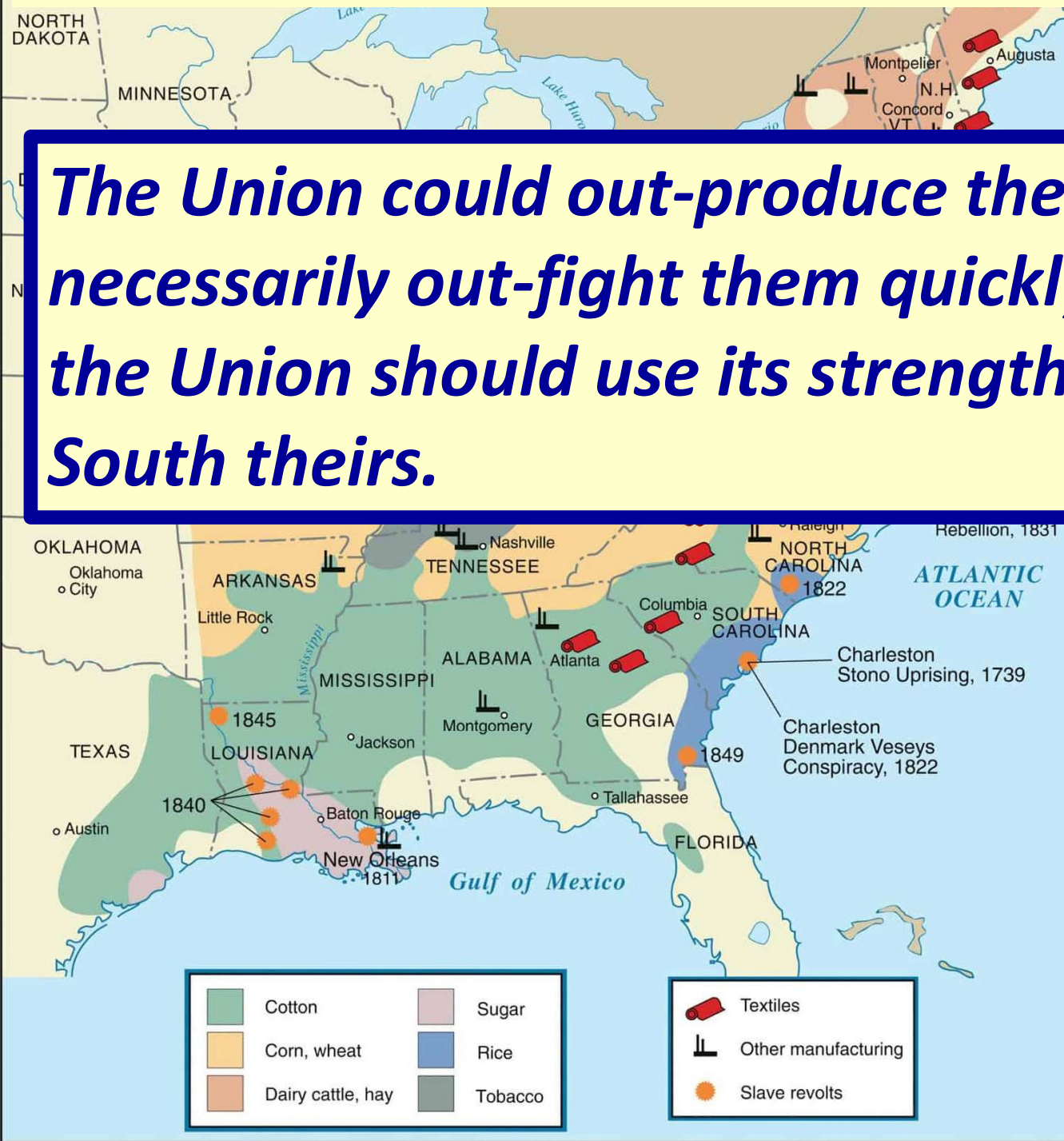
## The South's strengths:

- **Defensive fighting on home territory**
- **Agricultural exports (especially cotton)**
- **Hope of foreign recognition**



# INDUSTRY & AGRICULTURE IN THE NORTH & SOUTH

*The Union could out-produce the South—but not necessarily out-fight them quickly. Scott believed the Union should use its strengths and deny the South theirs.*



# The Two Main Components of the Anaconda Plan

## Component 1: Naval Blockade

- Block Southern ports from Virginia to Texas
- Prevent export of cotton
- Stop import of weapons, supplies, and medicine

## Component 2: Control of the Mississippi River

- Split the Confederacy in two
- Isolate Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana
- Cut off vital food and manpower



**“Like a snake tightening its grip, the plan aimed to slowly cut off the Confederacy’s ability to breathe—economically and militarily.”**



**“The strategy did not win the war overnight—but it steadily weakened the Confederacy until collapse became inevitable.”**



# THE WESTERN RIVER STRATEGY:

Turn Rivers into Invasion Highways

This is the western complement to the *Anaconda Strategy*.

Instead of a slow **coastal blockade**,  
the Union uses **geography** as a weapon.

Rivers are not **obstacles** —  
They are **high-speed supply lines**.

**Control the rivers** and you **outflank** entire  
Confederate defensive lines **without massive battles**.

# THE WESTERN RIVER STRATEGY:

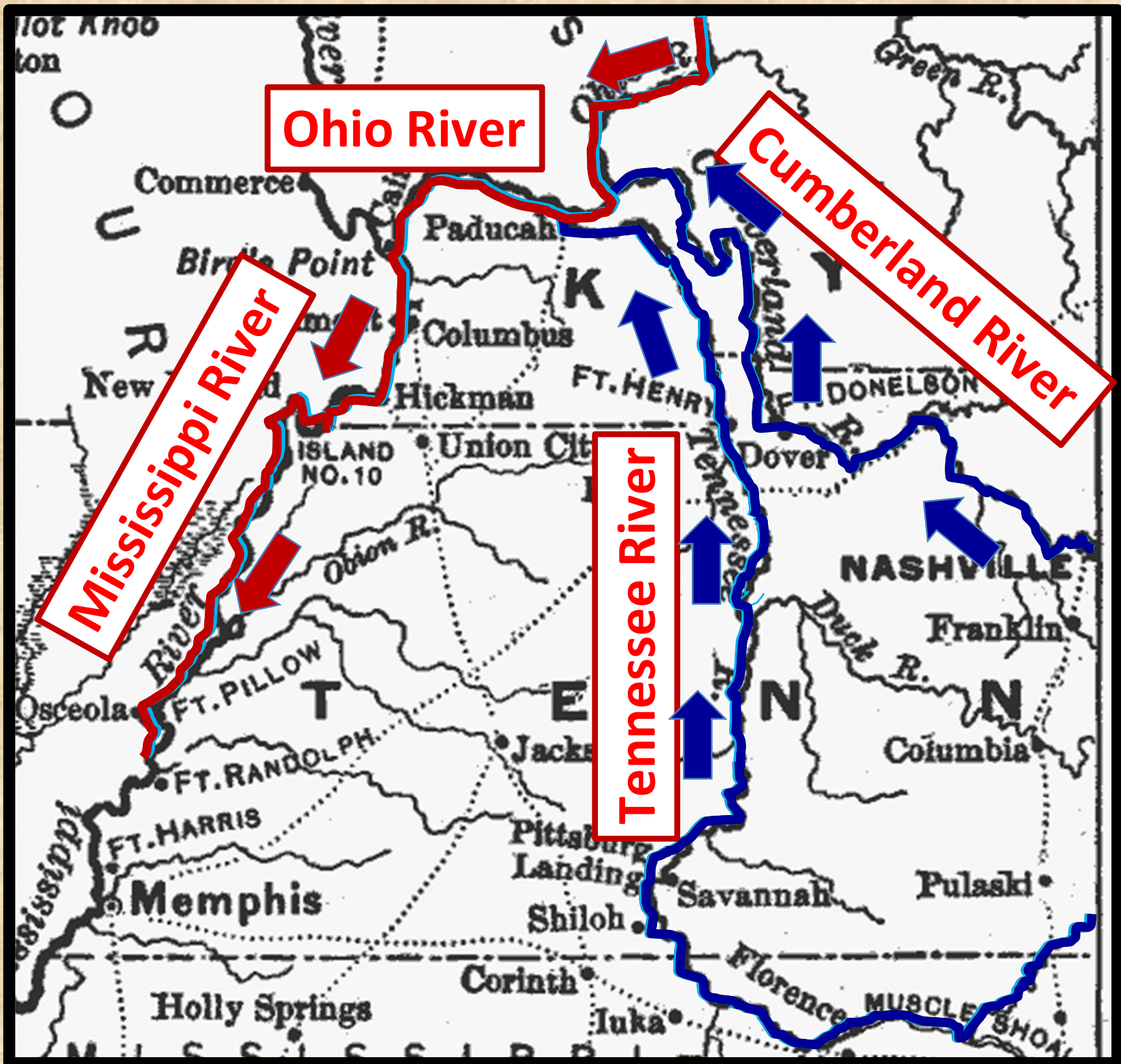
Takeaway:

***Whoever controls the rivers controls  
the Western Theater***



# THE WESTERN RIVER STRATEGY:





Ohio River

Cumberland River

Mississippi River

Tennessee River

# THE WESTERN RIVER STRATEGY:

Union gunboats steam **upstream (southward)** to engage forts.

If damaged they **float north** into friendly territory.

Confederate forts are **fixed in place** —  
They can't withdraw.

Confederate field armies struggle to respond  
because **rivers move faster than marching columns.**

## Takeaway:

*Union gunboats can attack, disengage, repair,  
and return — Confederate forts get one chance.*



# THE WESTERN RIVER STRATEGY:

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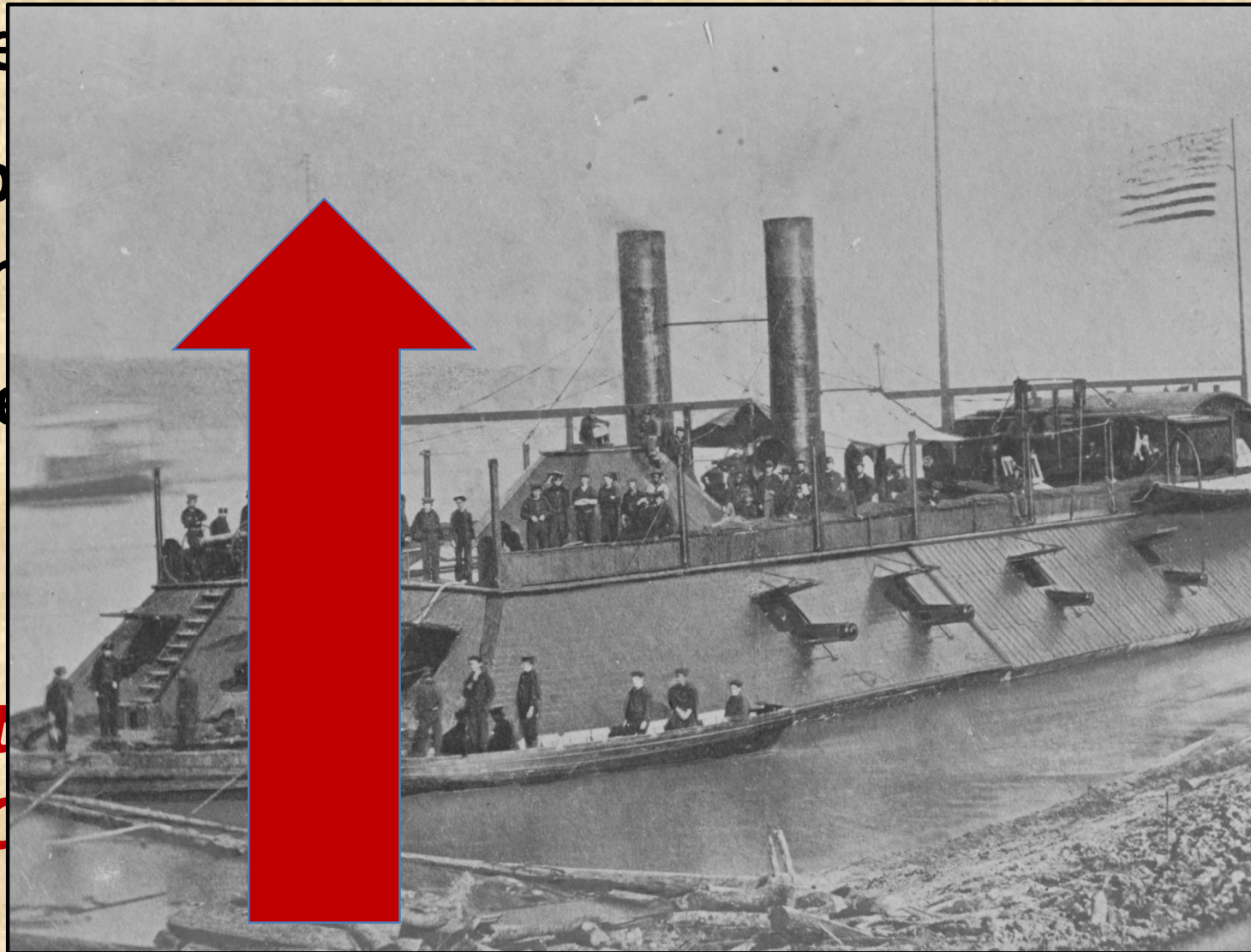
They can't with

Confederate fie

because **rivers**

Takeaway:

*Union gunboats  
and return — C*



**The Western River Strategy**

**Applied**



# The Attack on Fort Henry - Tennessee River

**Admiral Andrew Foote attacks Ft Henry close in with his Gunboats!**

**Normal Course of Tennessee River**

**Heavy Rains caused the river to Flood**

**Ft. Henry is flooded**

**Ft Henry**

**Lloyd Tilghman Confederate commander of Ft. Henry**

While Brig. Gen. Grant advances troops from the north to Fort Henry, Admiral Foote moves his fleet approx. 1,700 yards of Fort Henry and opens fire.



After over an hour bombardment, Brig. Gen. Tilghman surrenders Fort Henry. Approx. 2,800 troops evacuate to Fort Donelson.





## **The Attack on Fort Henry - Tennessee River**

February 6, 1862

Union ironclads moved down the Tennessee River, closed to **point-blank range** and pounded the fort

The fort was **flooded by heavy rains**; only a few cannon were still usable.

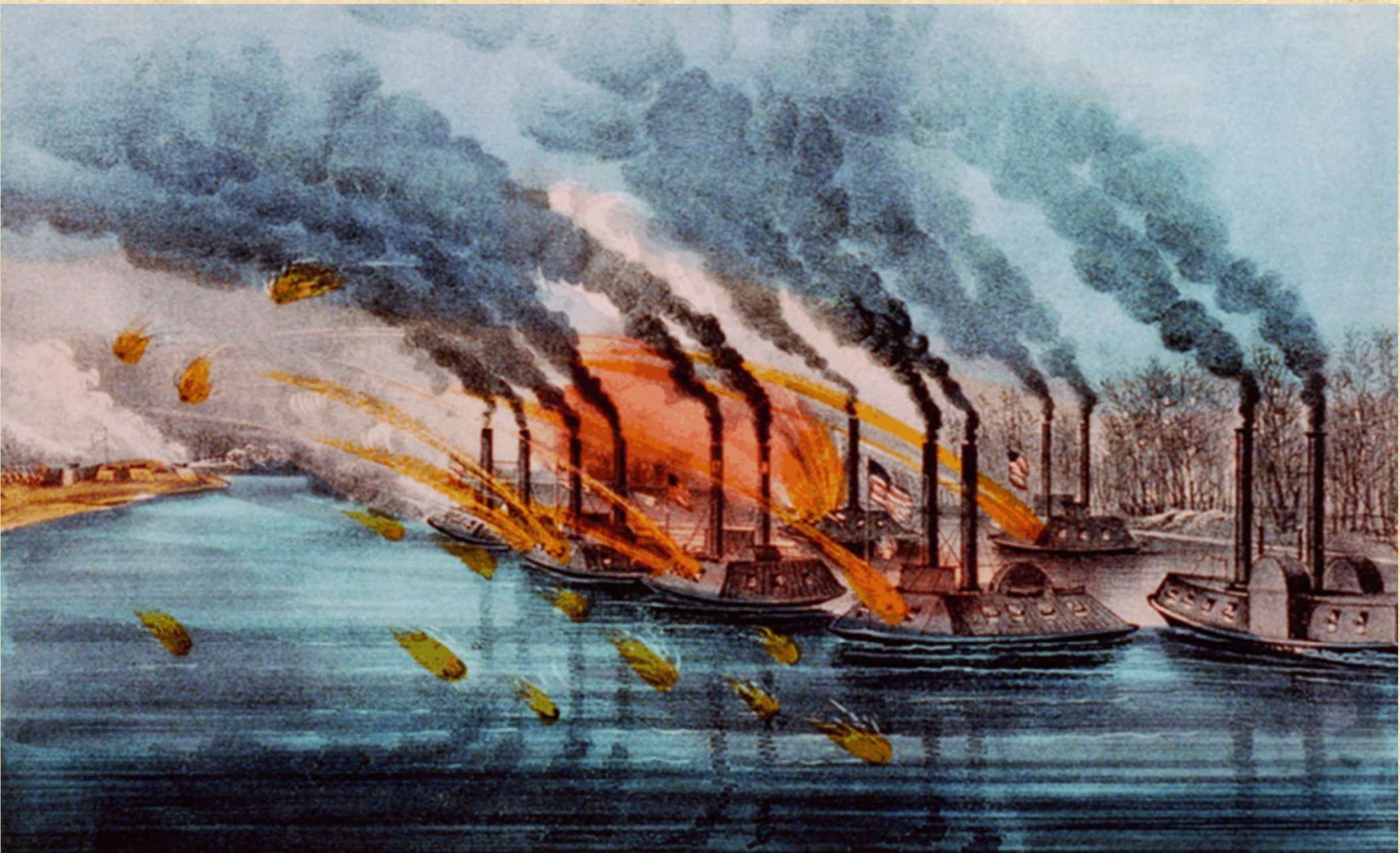
Most Confederate troops were sent away toward Fort Donelson.

Commander Tilghman stayed behind with a skeleton garrison to **delay the Union**.

The fort **surrendered** before **Ulysses S Grant's** infantry could fully deploy.



# Fort Henry Surrenders before the Army Arrives





**Tennessee River**

**Cumberland River**

**Ft Henry**

**Only 12 Miles separate the two forts**

**Ft Donelson**

Landed from 4:30 A.M., 4 Feb., to night of 5 Feb. Left 11:00 A.M., 6 Feb.

Landed night of 5 Feb. Left 11:00 A.M., 6 Feb.

Most of L. Wallace landed here night of 13 Feb.

Attack by 6 gunboats under Foote repulsed 14 Feb. by shore batteries.

FORT HEIMAN  
KENTUCKY  
TENNESSEE

Surrendered 6 Feb.

Grant camped at Ft Henry  
night 6 Feb. to night 11 Feb.

Grant's advance elements  
moved to this line night of  
11 Feb.

14 Feb.

12 Feb.

C.F. Smith

FLOYD  
DOVER  
Pillow

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HENRY-DONELSON VICINITY, 1861

HENRY AND DONELSON  
CAMPAIGN

Union Advance on Forts Henry and  
Donelson and Situation 14 February  
1862

SCALE OF MILES

DOVER and VICINITY, 1861  
CAPTURE OF FORT DONELSON  
Situation on the Night of 15-16  
February 1862

SCALE OF MILES



**Tennessee River**

**Cumberland River**

**Ft Henry**

**Confederate troops  
Escape from Ft. Henry  
To Ft. Donelson**

**Ft Donelson**

Landed from 4:30 A.M.,  
4 Feb., to night of 5 Feb.  
Left 11:00 A.M., 6 Feb.

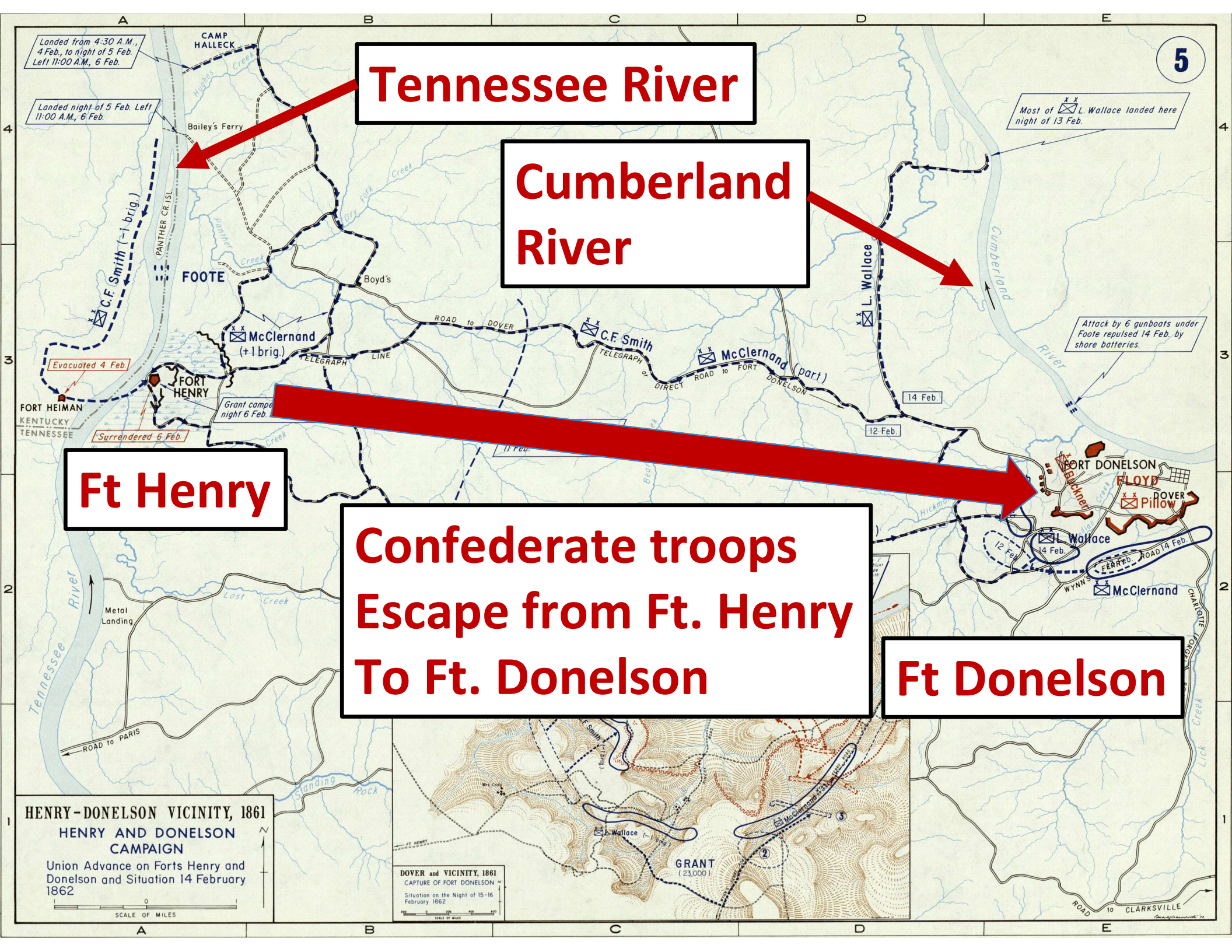
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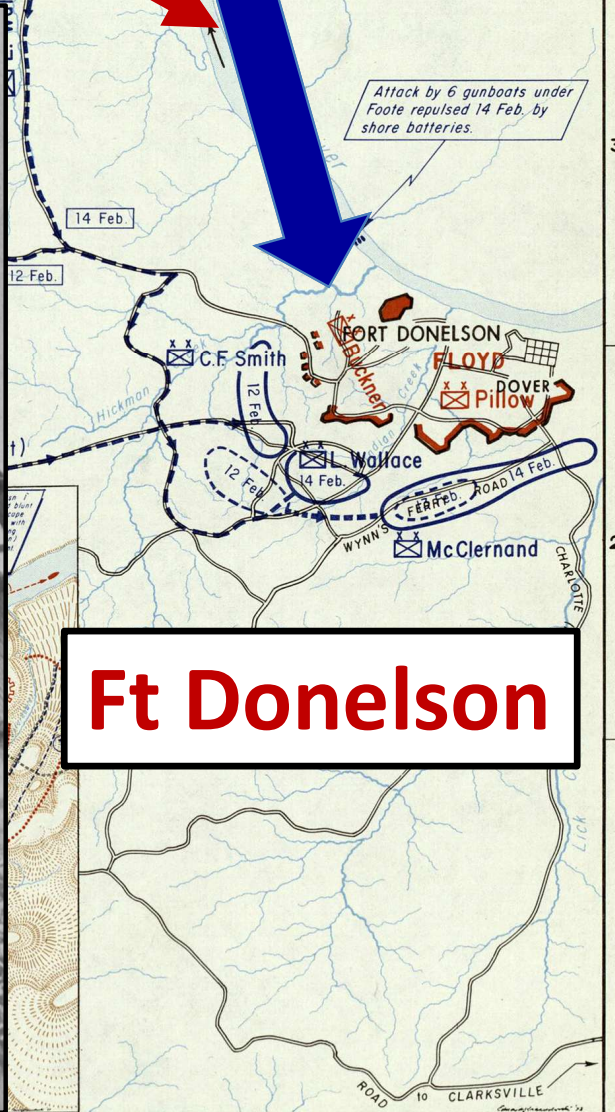
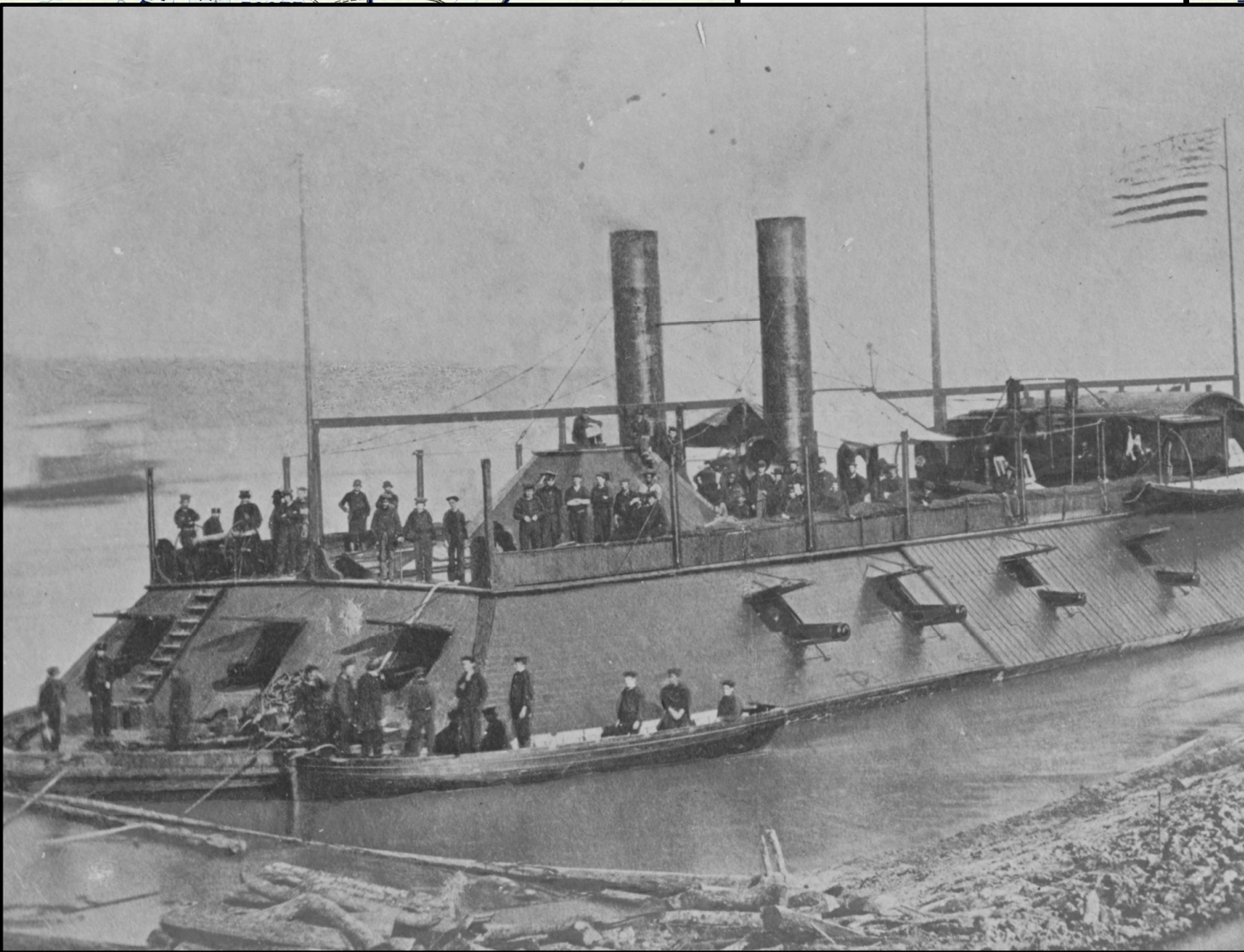
**HENRY-DONELSON VICINITY, 1861**  
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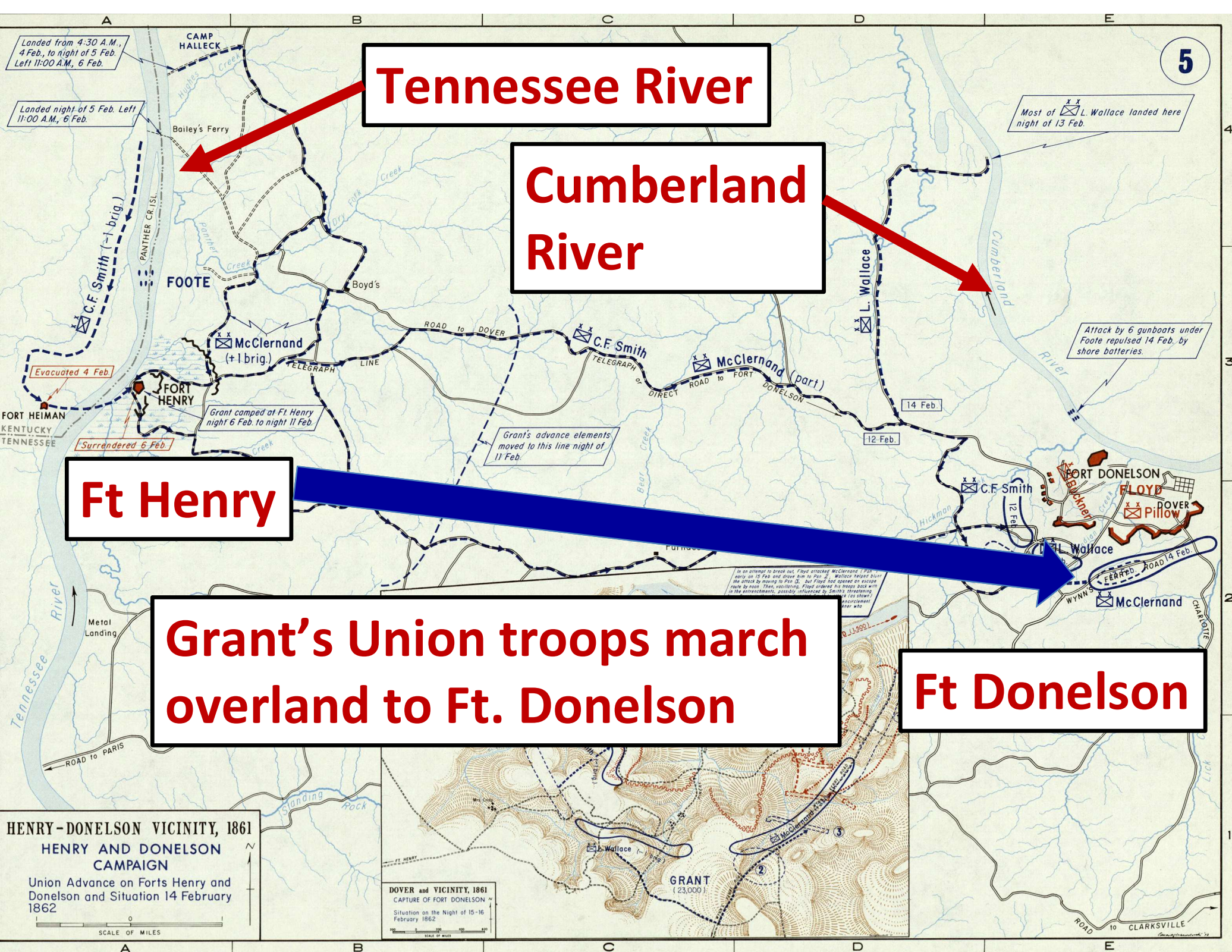


# Admiral Foote's Gunboats come down the Cumberland River to attack Ft Donelson



**Ft Donelson**









# The Attack on Fort Donelson – Cumberland River

Feb 11-16, 1862

**Fort Donelson** sat on **high bluffs**, unlike flood-prone **Fort Henry**.







# **The Attack on Fort Donelson – Cumberland River**

## **Feb 11-16, 1862**

**Confederates decided this fort **must be held**.**  
**If Donelson fell, **Nashville could not be defended**.**

**Grant surrounded the fort rather than rushing it.**

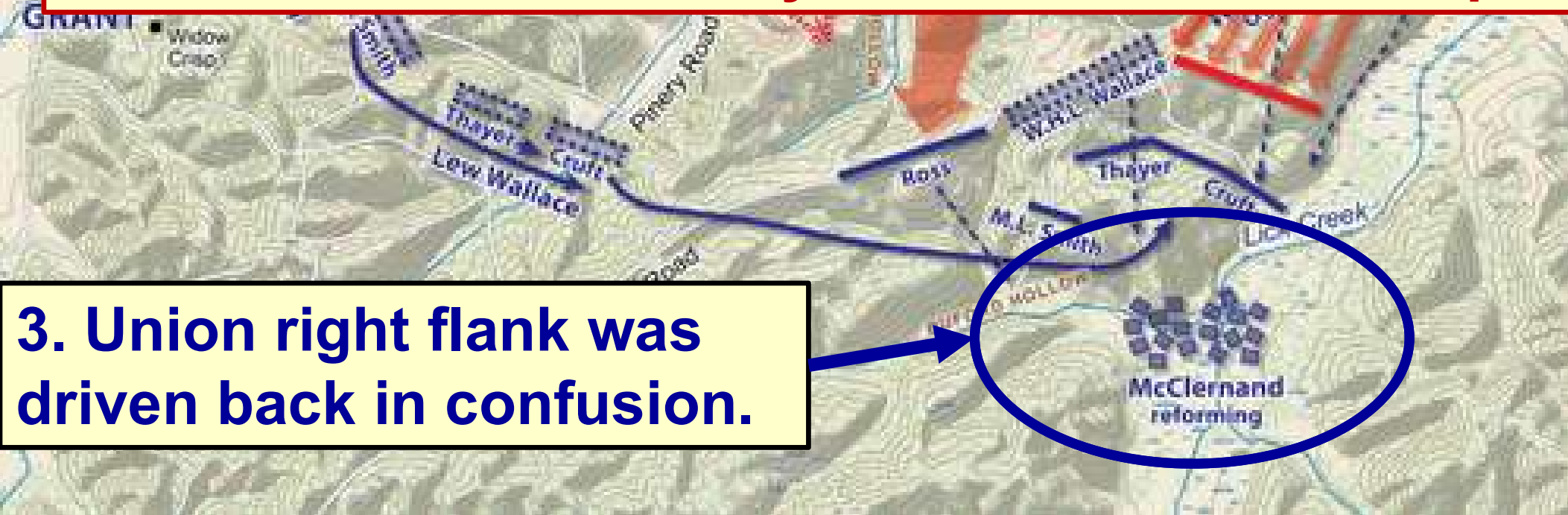
### **Takeaway:**

***Fort Donelson was the Confederacy's last chance to stop the river invasion.***

**1. Confederate forces launched a massive dawn attack**



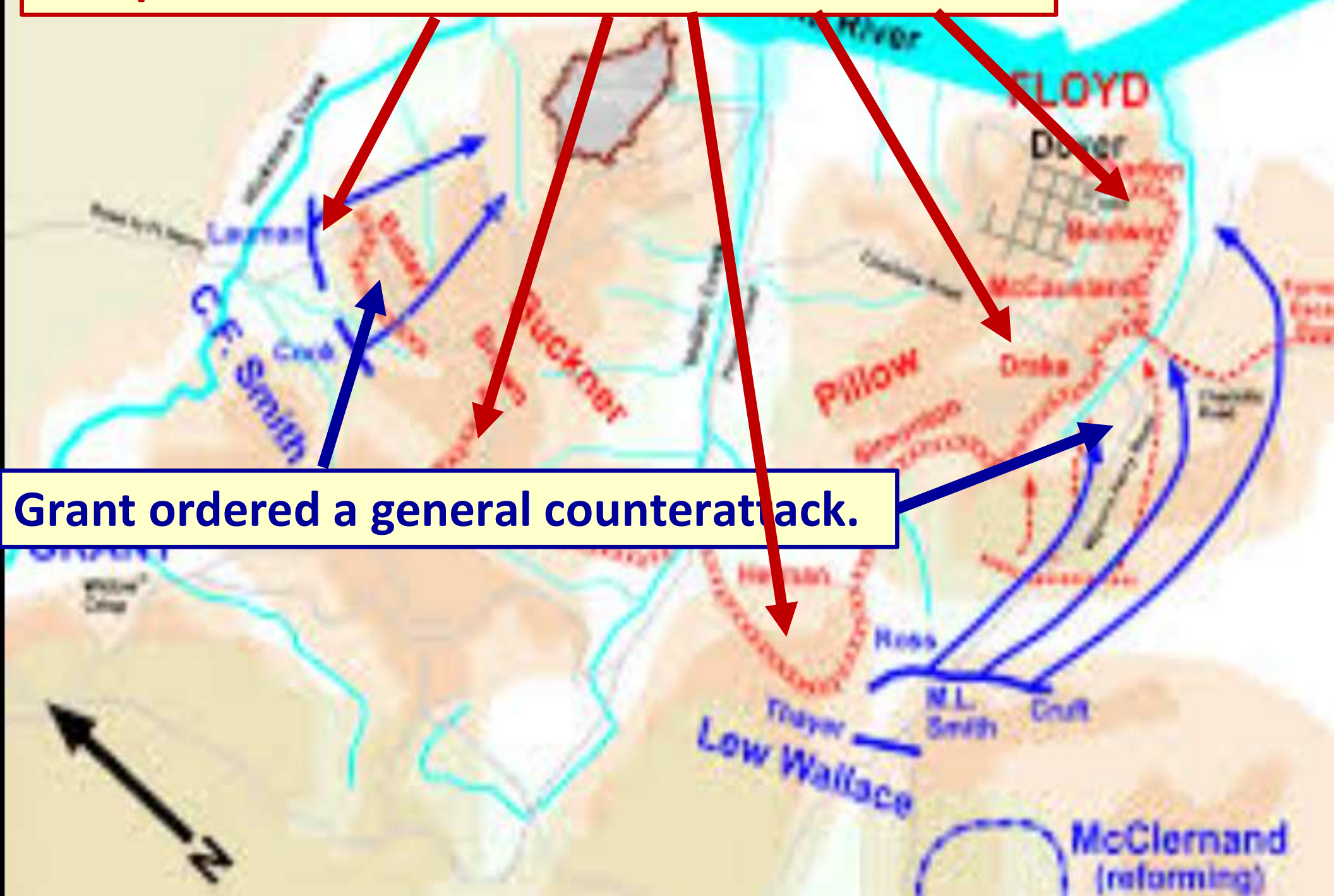
**2. The road to Nashville was temporarily open.  
This was the Confederacy's best chance to escape.**



**3. Union right flank was  
driven back in confusion.**



**Confederate commanders halted the advance.  
Troops were ordered back into the trenches.**



**Grant ordered a general counterattack.**

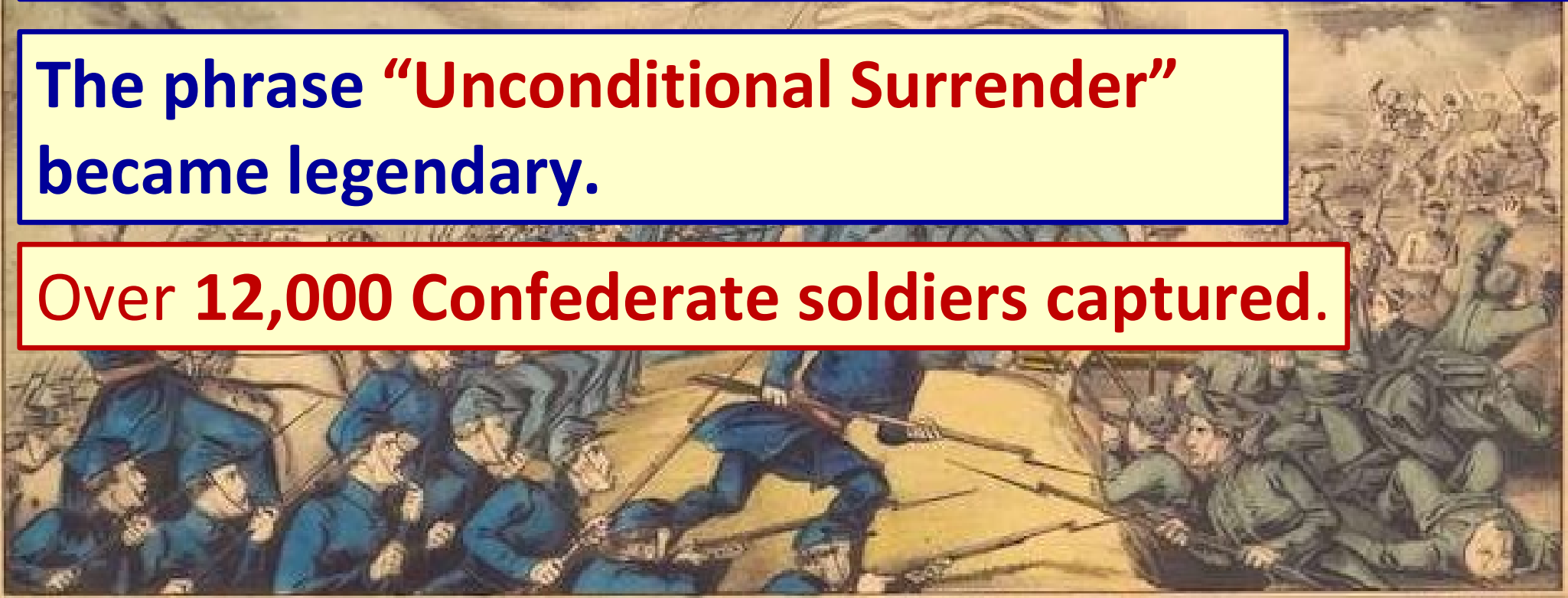
# “Unconditional Surrender”

## Confederate General Buckner asked for terms.

**Grant replied with no conditions except surrender.**

The phrase “Unconditional Surrender” became legendary.

**Over 12,000 Confederate soldiers captured.**



THE STORMING OF FORT DONELSON, TENN. FEBY 15TH 1862.



# **Capture of Nashville** (Feb 25, 1862)

**After Fort Donelson's surrender:**

**Confederate forces abandoned Nashville**

**Union troops entered the city unopposed**

**Nashville became the first Confederate state**

**Provided a permanent logistics base  
for future campaigns**

**Takeaway:**

***Nashville fell not because it was attacked  
— but because the rivers made it indefensible***

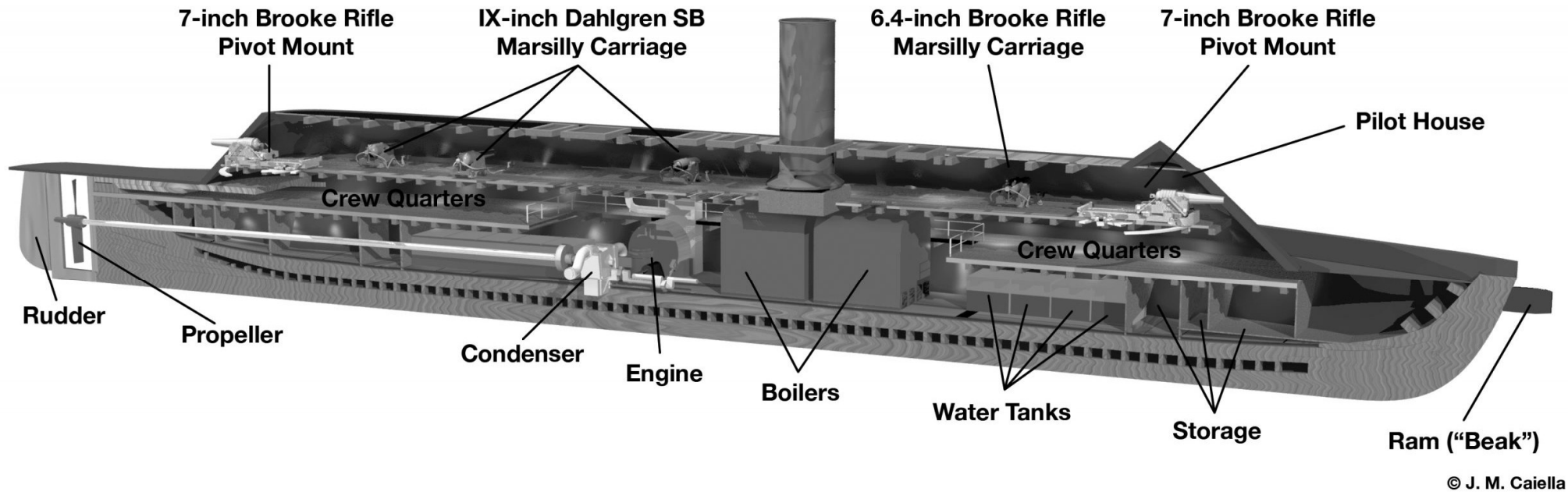


## **Battle of Hampton Roads (March 8-9, 1862)** **(USS Monitor vs CSS Virginia)**

1. The ship is often incorrectly called the **“Merrimack”**
2. The Union steam frigate **USS Merrimack** was scuttled at Norfolk in 1861
3. **Confederates** raised the hull. They rebuilt it as an ironclad and renamed it **CSS Virginia**.  
**Designed to destroy blockading wooden ships.**
4. Northerners continued calling it **“Merrimack”** out of habit.
5. Historically and officially, the battle is:  
**USS Monitor vs CSS Virginia**



# CSS Virginia Cross-Section



Steam-powered

Armed with **heavy naval guns**

Sloped iron armor plates **deflected** enemy fire;

Wooden warship **cannonballs bounced off**

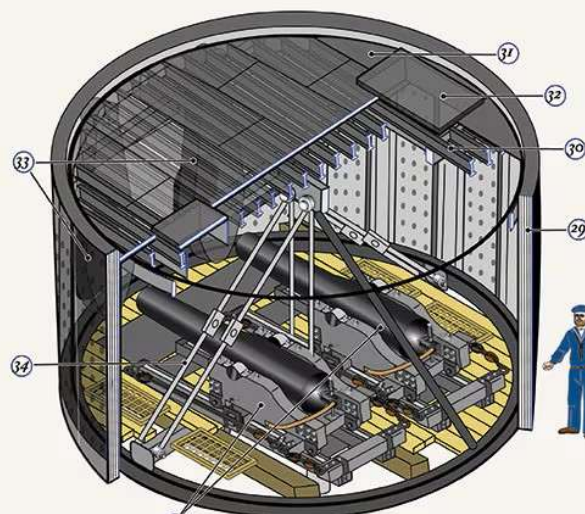
Most **devastating weapon** was the iron ram mounted on the bow



# U.S.S. MONITOR

Union Ironclad

1862

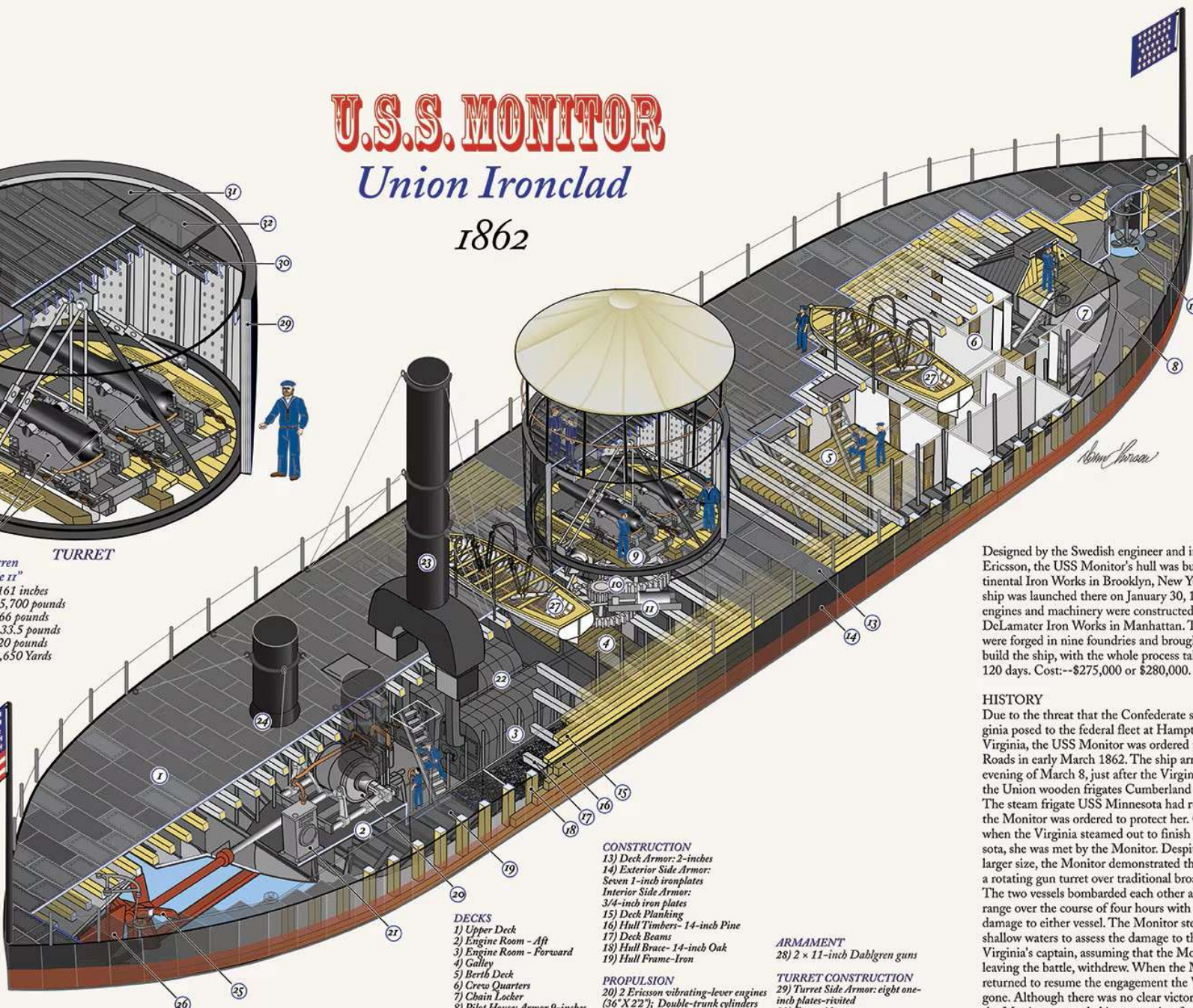


**TURRET**  
XI Dahlgren Smoothbore 11"

Length Overall: 161 inches  
Weight of Gun: 15,700 pounds  
Weight of Shot: 166 pounds  
Weight of Shell: 133.5 pounds  
Service Charge: 20 pounds  
Range (yards): 3,650 Yards

## Specifications

TONNAGE: 987 long tons (1,003 tons)  
LENGTH: 172-feet  
BEAM: 41-feet 6-inches  
DRAFT: 10-feet 6-inches  
ARMOR: Iron plates  
GUN BATTERY: (November 1862)  
• 2 x 11-inch (280 mm) Dahlgren guns  
SPEED: 9.2-knots  
PROPULSION: Vibrating-lever steam engine with screw propeller



**CONSTRUCTION**  
13) Deck Armor: 2-inches  
14) Exterior Side Armor: Seven 1-inch iron plates  
Interior Side Armor: 3/4-inch iron plates  
15) Deck Planking  
16) Hull Timbers- 14-inch Pine  
17) Deck Beams  
18) Hull Brace- 14-inch Oak  
19) Hull Frame-Iron

**DECKS**  
1) Upper Deck  
2) Engine Room - Aft  
3) Engine Room - Forward  
4) Galley  
5) Berth Deck  
6) Crew Quarters  
7) Chain Locker  
8) Pilot House: Armor 9-inches

**TURRET**  
9) Turret  
10) Turret Rotation Gear  
11) "Steam Donkey" Turret Engine

12) Anchor/Anchor Well

**PROPULSION**  
20) 2 Ericsson vibrating-lever engines (36" X 22"); Double-trunk cylinders with two-in-one casting, plus two large return box boilers. Indicated horsepower 320  
21) Condenser  
22) Boilers  
23) Removable Smoke Stack  
24) Removable Ventilation Stack  
25) 4-Blade Propeller  
26) Rudder  
27) Lifeboats (Cutters)

**ARMAMENT**  
28) 2 x 11-inch Dahlgren guns

**TURRET CONSTRUCTION**  
29) Turret Side Armor: eight one-inch plates-riveted  
30) Frame/Armor  
31) Top Armor  
32) Access Hatch  
33) Gunport Shutters  
34) Brace and Turnbuckle

Designed by the Swedish engineer and inventor John Ericsson, the USS Monitor's hull was built at the Continental Iron Works in Brooklyn, New York, and the ship was launched there on January 30, 1862. The steam engines and machinery were constructed at the DeLamater Iron Works in Manhattan. The ship's parts were forged in nine foundries and brought together to build the ship, with the whole process taking less than 120 days. Cost: --\$275,000 or \$280,000.

## HISTORY

Due to the threat that the Confederate ship CSS Virginia posed to the federal fleet at Hampton Roads, Virginia, the USS Monitor was ordered to Hampton Roads in early March 1862. The ship arrived on the evening of March 8, just after the Virginia had attacked the Union wooden frigates Cumberland and Congress. The steam frigate USS Minnesota had run aground and the Monitor was ordered to protect her. On March 9th when the Virginia steamed out to finish off the Minnesota, she was met by the Monitor. Despite the Virginia's larger size, the Monitor demonstrated the advantages of a rotating gun turret over traditional broadside guns. The two vessels bombarded each other at point-blank range over the course of four hours with no substantial damage to either vessel. The Monitor steamed off to shallow waters to assess the damage to the ship. The Virginia's captain, assuming that the Monitor was leaving the battle, withdrew. When the Monitor returned to resume the engagement the Virginia was gone. Although there was no clear victor in the battle, the Monitor succeeded in preventing further destruction to the Union blockade.

Swamped by high waves while under tow by Rhode Island, she The Monitor sank on December 31, 1862 off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. 16 of the 62 crewmen were lost in the storm.



# **USS Monitor** Designed by John Ericsson

**Steam-powered**

**Iron armor protected both hull and turret**

**Extremely low freeboard**

**— most of the ship sat just above water**

**Armed with two large smoothbore guns**

**Presented a minimal target to enemy gunners;**

**Enemy shots often glanced off or passed overhead**

**One Turret could rotate independently of ship movement; Allowed guns to aim in any direction**

**NICKNAME: *“Cheese Box on a Raft”***

# Comparison of the Ironclads:

## CSS Virginia

**Armored casemate**

**Built from existing hull**

**Ram as primary weapon**

**Sloped armor deflects fire**

**Limited firing angles**

**Slow, hard to maneuver**

## USS Monitor

**Rotating armored turret**

**Purpose-built ironclad**

**Turret guns as primary weapon**

**Low profile minimizes target**

**360-degree fire capability**

**More agile in confined waters**

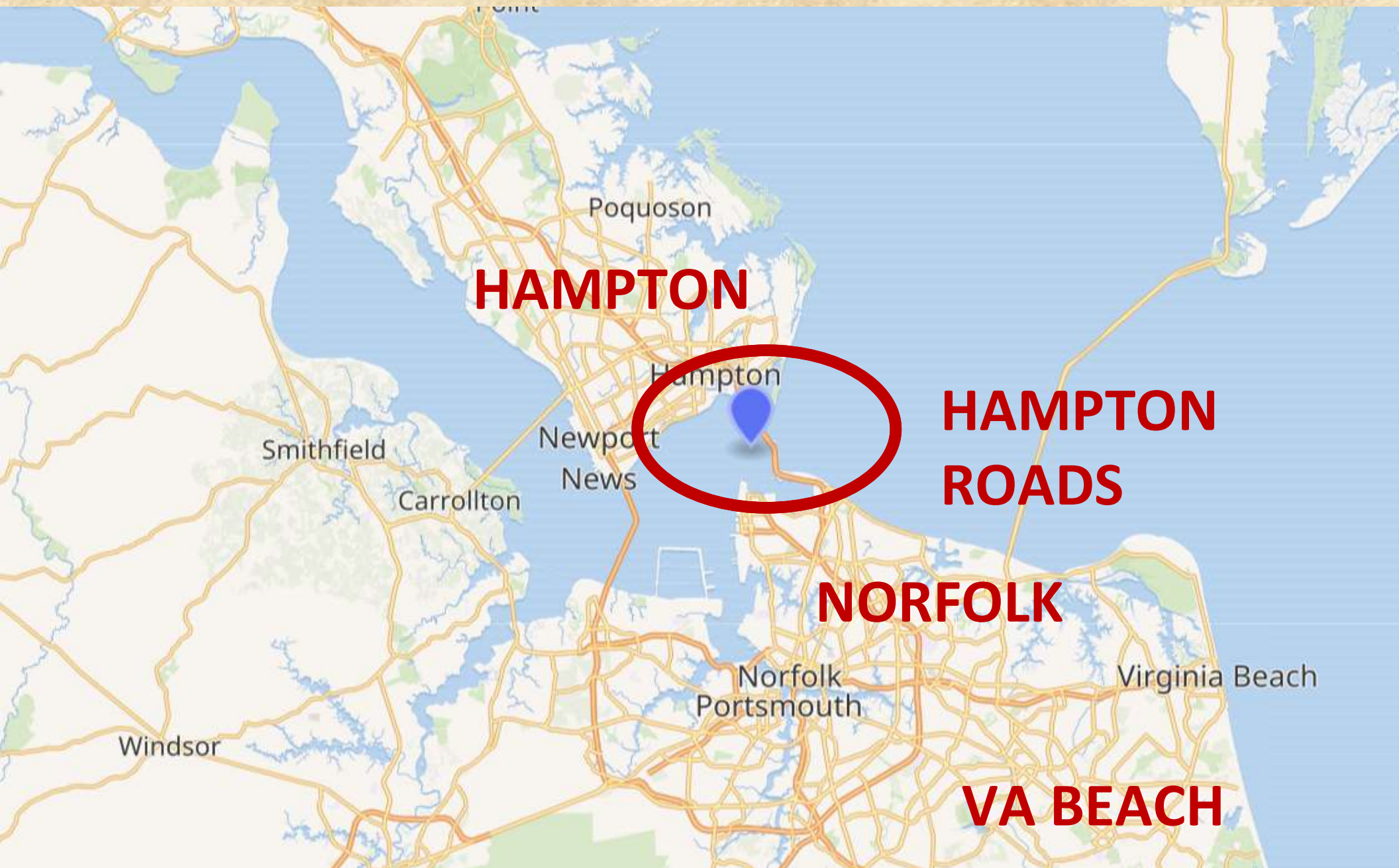
***VIRGINIA represented the last evolution of old ideas*** ***Monitor represented the first example of the future***





# Battle of Hampton Roads

March 8-9, 1862



**HAMPTON**

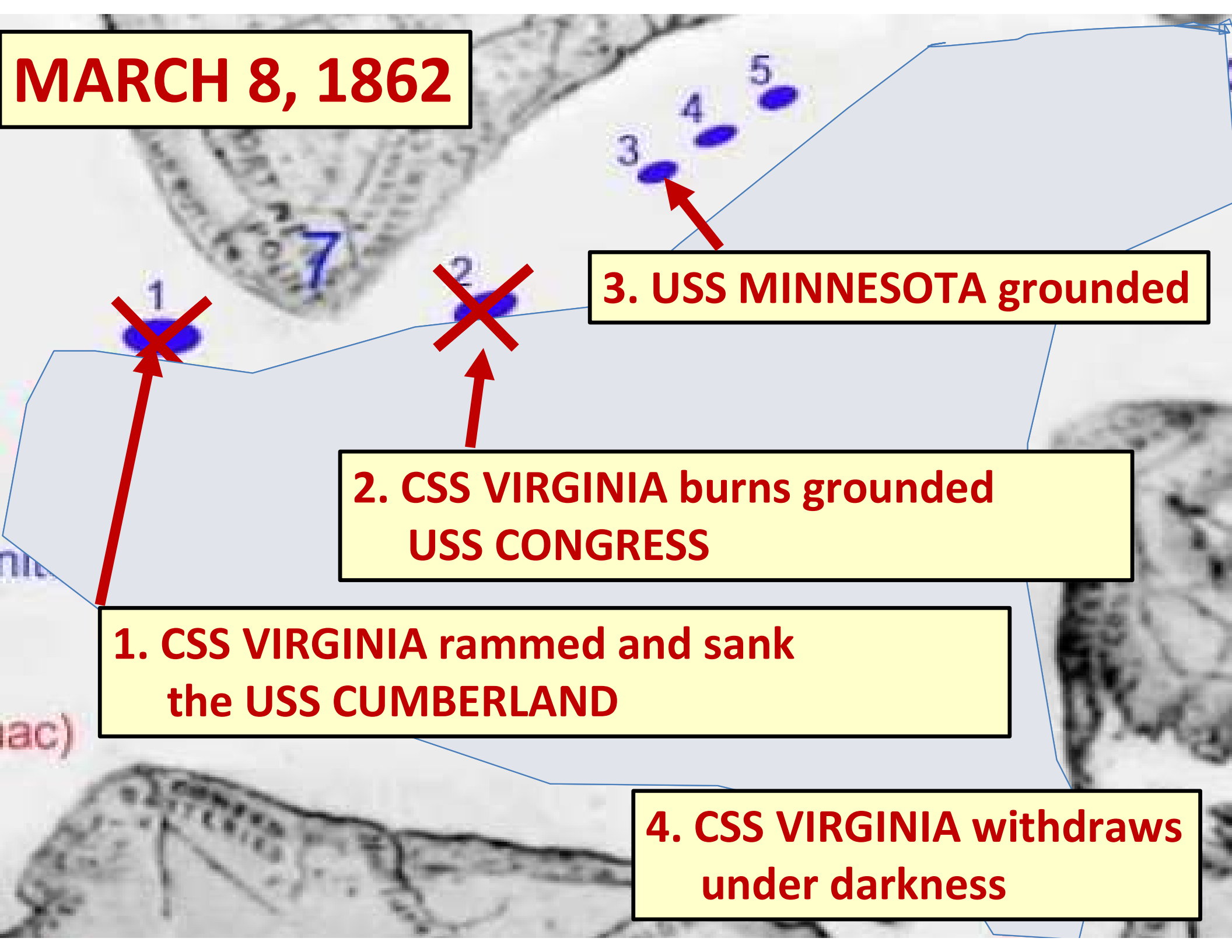
**HAMPTON  
ROADS**

**NORFOLK**

**VA BEACH**



**MARCH 8, 1862**



**3. USS MINNESOTA grounded**

**2. CSS VIRGINIA burns grounded  
USS CONGRESS**

**1. CSS VIRGINIA rammed and sank  
the USS CUMBERLAND**

**4. CSS VIRGINIA withdraws  
under darkness**

**MARCH 9, 1862**

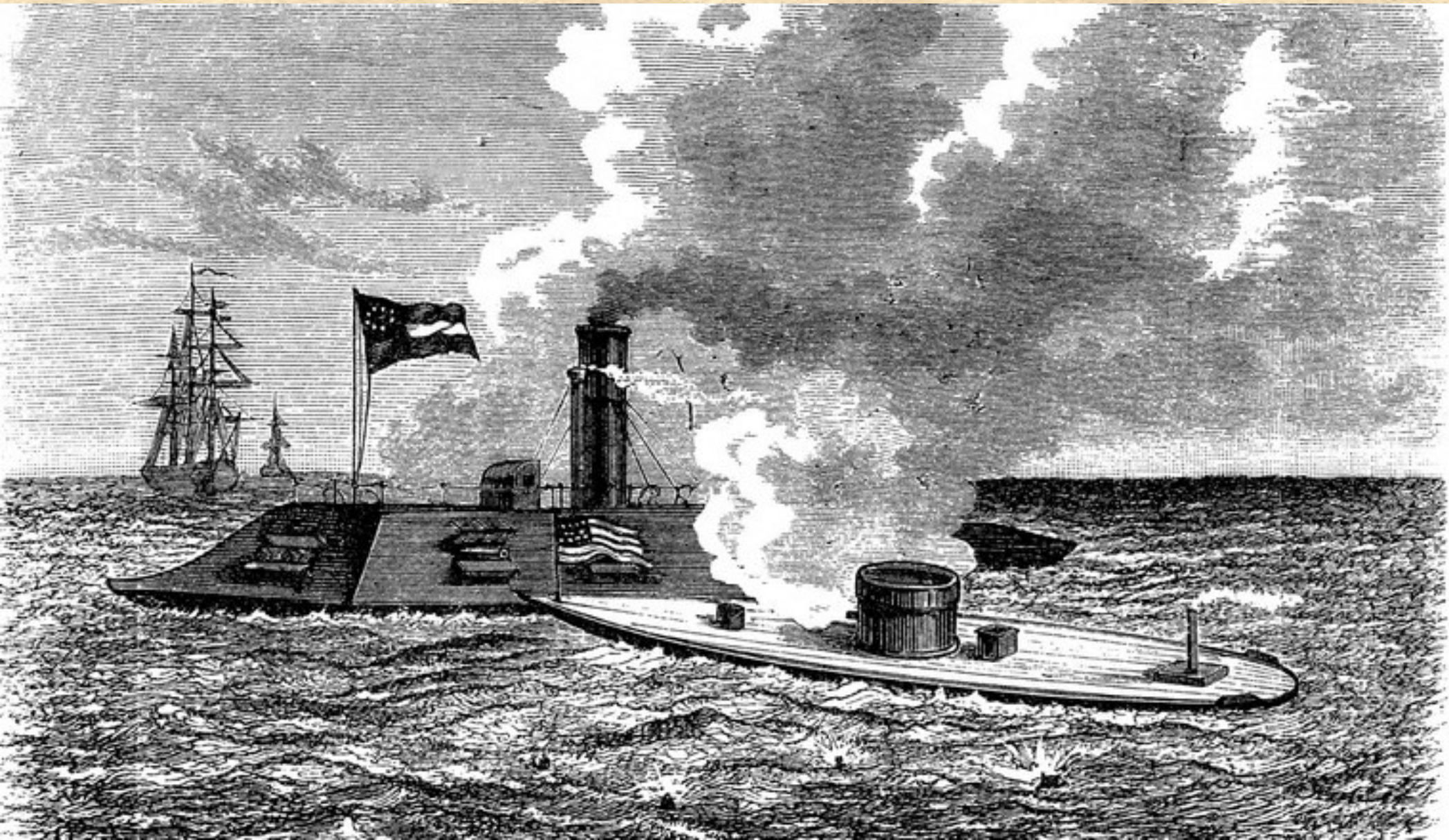
**5. USS MINNESOTA grounded**

**6. CSS VIRGINIA returns to finish off the USS MINNESOTA**

**6. CSS VIRGINIA encounters USS MONITOR and they fight to a DRAW!**



# USS Monitor vs CSS Virginia





# USS Monitor vs CSS Virginia





# Significance of the Battle

First combat between **ironclad warships**

Confirmed **iron armor** could defeat  
**heavy naval guns**

Accelerated global shift to **iron and steel warships**

Preserved the **Union blockade** of the Confederacy

## Key Takeaways:

*No naval battle in history became outdated faster than Hampton Roads.*

*In two days at Hampton Roads, naval warfare changed forever.”*

# **The Fate of the Two Ironclads**

## **CSS Virginia**

**Unable to break the Union blockade**

**Trapped by Union naval dominance**

**Scuttled and burned by her own crew in May 1862**

**Destroyed to prevent capture after Confederate evacuation of Norfolk**

## **USS Monitor**

**Became the prototype for future warships**

**Sank later in 1862 during a storm off Cape Hatteras**

**Wreck rediscovered in the 20th century;  
remains preserved**



## **Lecture 2 (Jan 26):**

- **Shiloh** (April 6-7, 1862)
- **Antietam** (Sept 17, 1862)