

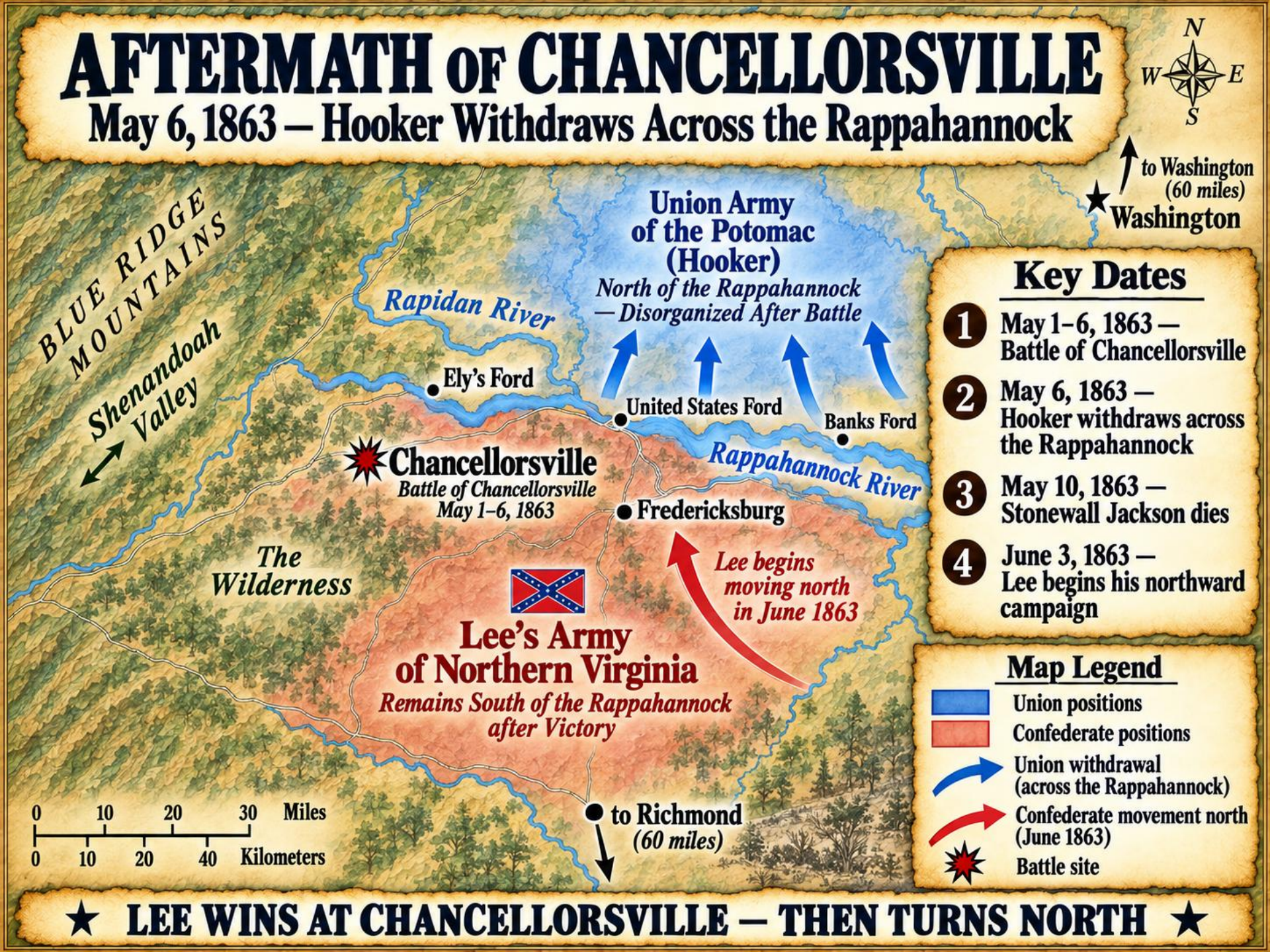
The Battle of Gettysburg

July 1–3, 1863

Lee's Biggest Gamble

Major Battles of the Civil War – Part 2

Ed Seufert


AFTERMATH OF CHANCELLORSVILLE
May 6, 1863 — Hooker Withdraws Across the Rappahannock
N
W
E
S
to Washington
(60 miles)
Washington
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS
Shenandoah Valley
Rapidan River
Union Army of the Potomac (Hooker)
North of the Rappahannock — Disorganized After Battle
Ely's Ford
United States Ford
Banks Ford
Rappahannock River
Chancellorsville
Battle of Chancellorsville
May 1–6, 1863
Fredericksburg
The Wilderness
Lee begins moving north in June 1863
Lee's Army of Northern Virginia
Remains South of the Rappahannock after Victory
to Richmond
(60 miles)
0 10 20 30 Miles
0 10 20 40 Kilometers
Key Dates
1 May 1–6, 1863 — Battle of Chancellorsville
2 May 6, 1863 — Hooker withdraws across the Rappahannock
3 May 10, 1863 — Stonewall Jackson dies
4 June 3, 1863 — Lee begins his northward campaign
Map Legend
Union positions
Confederate positions
Union withdrawal (across the Rappahannock)
Confederate movement north (June 1863)
Battle site
★ LEE WINS AT CHANCELLORSVILLE — THEN TURNS NORTH ★

FROM CHANCELLORSVILLE TO GETTYSBURG

WHY LEE TOOK HIS BIGGEST GAMBLE

- **CHANCELLORSVILLE = Lee's greatest victory**
- **CONFEDERATE confidence at its peak**
- **STONEWALL JACKSON dead — losses severe**
- **VIRGINIA exhausted by war**
- **Move the fighting NORTH**
- **Feed & supply the army from NORTHERN farms**
- **Threaten Northern cities & morale**
- **Seek a decisive victory on NORTHERN soil**

LEE BELIEVED bold offense could change the course of the war

JACKSON IS GONE
LEE REORGANIZES HIS ARMY

- **JACKSON'S** death left a huge command void
- **BEFORE:** TWO corps — Longstreet and Jackson
- **LEE** chose to reorganize before invading the North
- **NEW STRUCTURE:** THREE infantry corps
- **I CORPS** — James Longstreet
- **II CORPS** — Richard S. Ewell
- **III CORPS** — A. P. Hill
- **EWELL & HILL** were new to corps command

GETTYSBURG TESTS LEE'S NEW COMMAND almost **immediately**

Lee's Advance into Pennsylvania, June 1863

★ ★ ★

From Virginia to Gettysburg

"Northward at last."
— R. E. Lee, June 1863

PENNSYLVANIA

N
W E
S

Harrisburg

Carlisle

Ewell's advance toward Harrisburg

Chambersburg

York

★Gettysburg
(June 1863)

Hagerstown

Mason-Dixon Line

WEST VIRGINIA
(Eastern Panhandle)

APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS

Martinsburg

Shepherdstown
(Williamsport)

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Winchester

Potomac River

Shenandoah Valley

★Washington

Culpeper

Chesapeake Bay

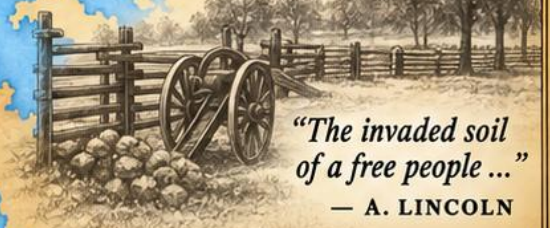
Fredericksburg

VIRGINIA

Richmond

Confederate advance
★ Major engagement
● Other location

0 25 50 75 Miles
0 50 100 Kilometers



"The invaded soil of a free people ..."
— A. Lincoln

THE UNION ARMY MOVES NORTH
HOOKER SHADOWS LEE

- **HOOKER** reacts as Lee marches north
- **ARMY OF THE POTOMAC** leaves Fredericksburg
- **EAST OF BLUE RIDGE** — Lee moves west
- Union Army **SHIELDS** Washington & Baltimore
- **POTOMAC** crossed June 25–26
- **FREDERICK, MARYLAND** becomes Union Concentration Point
- **LEE** is already entering Pennsylvania
- **UNION ARMY** remains close behind

TWO ARMIES MOVE NORTH —
PARALLEL PATHS TOWARD COLLISION

HOOKER OUT — MEADE IN
THREE DAYS BEFORE GETTYSBURG

- **JUNE 28, 1863 — Lee already in Pennsylvania**
- **HOOKER & HALLECK clash over 10,000+ troops**
- **HOOKER asks to be relieved — Lincoln accepts**
- **GEORGE G. MEADE awakened before dawn near Frederick**
- **MEADE takes command of the Army of the Potomac**
- **UNION ARMY already moving north after Lee**
- **MEADE immediately continues the pursuit**
- **GETTYSBURG is only three days away**

A NEW COMMANDER —
NO TIME TO SETTLE IN

The Union Pursuit of Lee, June 1863

★ ★ ★

Army of the Potomac Moves North

"We must move against Lee at once."
— Union high command, June 1863

PENNSYLVANIA

N
W E
S

★Gettysburg

Chambersburg

Emmitsburg

Taneytown

Westminster

Hagerstown

SOUTH MOUNTAIN

MARYLAND

Lee advances north on a parallel line (west of the mountains)

Frederick

Meade assumes command — June 28

★Baltimore

Harpers Ferry

Winchester

Shenandoah Valley

BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS

Potomac River

Chesapeake Bay

Leesburg

★Washington

VIRGINIA

Falmouth / Stafford Heights

Fredericksburg

Union advance

Confederate advance

★ Major city or key point

● Other location

0 25 50 75 Miles

0 50 100 Kilometers



The Army of the Potomac moves north on a parallel course, staying between Lee and Washington.

WHERE IS JEB STUART?
LEE'S CAVALRY IS MISSING

- **STUART rides east Around Union army with 3 brigades**
- **LEE expects Cavalry Intelligence on Federal Movements**
- **UNION columns block Stuart's route back to Lee**
- **ROCKVILLE wagon train slows Stuart's march**
- **HANOVER & CARLISLE pull Stuart farther away**
- **LEE receives little reliable news of Meade**
- **STUART reaches Lee in Gettysburg late JULY 2**
- **GETTYSBURG battle is already in its SECOND DAY**

LEE'S 'EYES AND EARS' —
MISSING WHEN MOST NEEDED

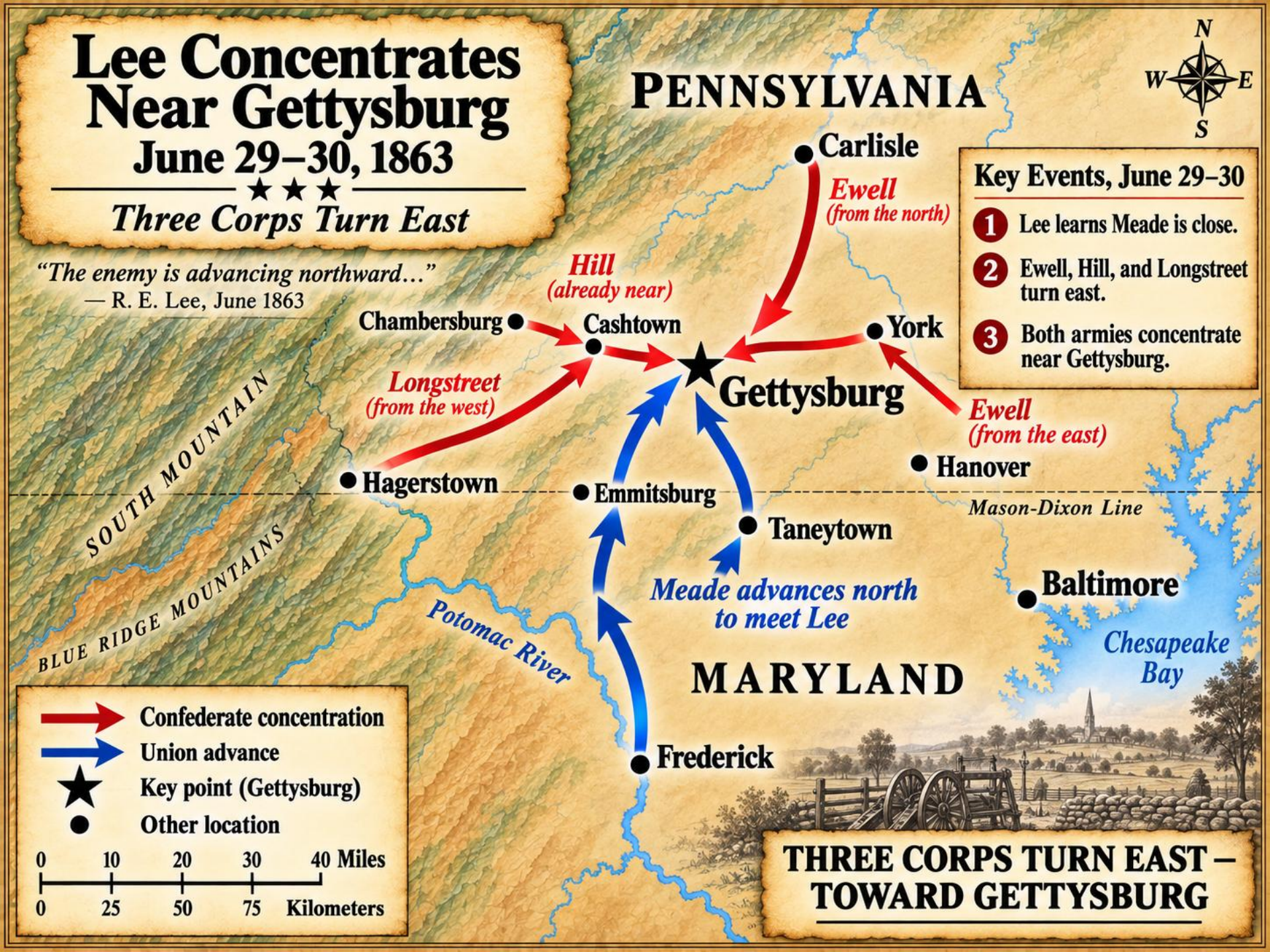

Stuart's Ride Around the Union Army
June 25 – July 2, 1863
Lee's Cavalry Takes the Long Way
"The eyes and ears of the army were gone."
— A Union officer, July 1863
PENNSYLVANIA
MARYLAND
VIRGINIA
Carlisle
July 1
July 2
Rejoins Lee
Hanover
June 30
Chambersburg
Gettysburg
Emmitsburg
Taneytown
Westminster
June 29
Hagerstown
Frederick
Lee moves north
west of the mountains.
SOUTH MOUNTAIN
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS
Shenandoah Valley
Winchester
Harpers Ferry
Meade's army
advances north
on a parallel line.
Baltimore
Rockville
Chesapeake Bay
Potomac River
Leesburg
June 28
Captures large
Union wagon train
June 27
Fairfax
Court House
Washington
Fredericksburg
Salem /
Glasscock's Gap
June 25
Stuart departs
Stuart's ride brought
intelligence delays.
Lee was without his cavalry
screen during the critical
approach to Gettysburg.
Stuart finally reached Lee on July 2 —
after the battle had already begun.
Union advance
(Army of the Potomac)
Lee's advance
(Confederate army)
Stuart's cavalry ride
Major city or key point
Other location
0 25 50 75 Miles
0 50 100 Kilometers
N
W
E
S

LEE CONCENTRATES NEAR GETTYSBURG

THE INVASION TURNS EAST

- **JUNE 28** Lee learns the Union Army is across the Potomac
- **FEDERAL COLUMNS** are advancing N from Frederick
- **LEE** abandons the planned move toward Harrisburg
- **EWELL** recalled — turn back from Carlisle & York
- **HILL** moves to CASHTOWN — 8 miles west
- **LONGSTREET** follows east from Chambersburg
- **LEE** orders his scattered army to CONCENTRATE
- **GENERAL BATTLE** not intended until the army is united

THREE CORPS TURN EAST —
TOWARD GETTYSBURG


Lee Concentrates Near Gettysburg
June 29–30, 1863
★ ★ ★
Three Corps Turn East
"The enemy is advancing northward…"
— R. E. Lee, June 1863
PENNSYLVANIA
N
W
E
S
Carlisle
Ewell
(from the north)
Hill
(already near)
Chambersburg
Cashtown
York
Longstreet
(from the west)
Gettysburg
Ewell
(from the east)
Hanover
Hagerstown
Emmitsburg
Mason-Dixon Line
Taneytown
SOUTH MOUNTAIN
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS
Meade advances north
to meet Lee
Baltimore
Potomac River
Chesapeake
Bay
MARYLAND
Frederick
Key Events, June 29–30
1 Lee learns Meade is close.
2 Ewell, Hill, and Longstreet turn east.
3 Both armies concentrate near Gettysburg.
Confederate concentration
Union advance
Key point (Gettysburg)
Other location
0 10 20 30 40 Miles
0 25 50 75 Kilometers
THREE CORPS TURN EAST –
TOWARD GETTYSBURG


Why Gettysburg?
The Roads Converge
Road Hub of South-Central Pennsylvania
"Neither side planned the battle here — geography brought them together."
PENNSYLVANIA
N
W
E
S
Carlisle
Harrisburg
Harrisburg Pike
Carlisle Road
York
York Road
Chambersburg
Cashtown
Chambersburg Pike
SOUTH MOUNTAIN
BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAINS
Gettysburg
Hanover
Hanover Road
Emmitsburg
Emmitsburg Road
Taneytown
Taneytown Road
Roads from every direction led to Gettysburg.
Mason-Dixon Line
Baltimore Pike
Baltimore
Potomac River
MARYLAND
Key Points
1 Gettysburg was a major road junction.
2 Troops seeking supplies and information moved toward the town.
3 Confederate and Union columns collided there on July 1.
Major road to Gettysburg
Gettysburg (road junction)
Other location
0 10 20 30 40 Miles
0 25 50 75 Kilometers
ALL ROADS LEAD TO GETTYSBURG

JUNE 30 — BUFORD ARRIVES
HE SEES THE GROUND FIRST

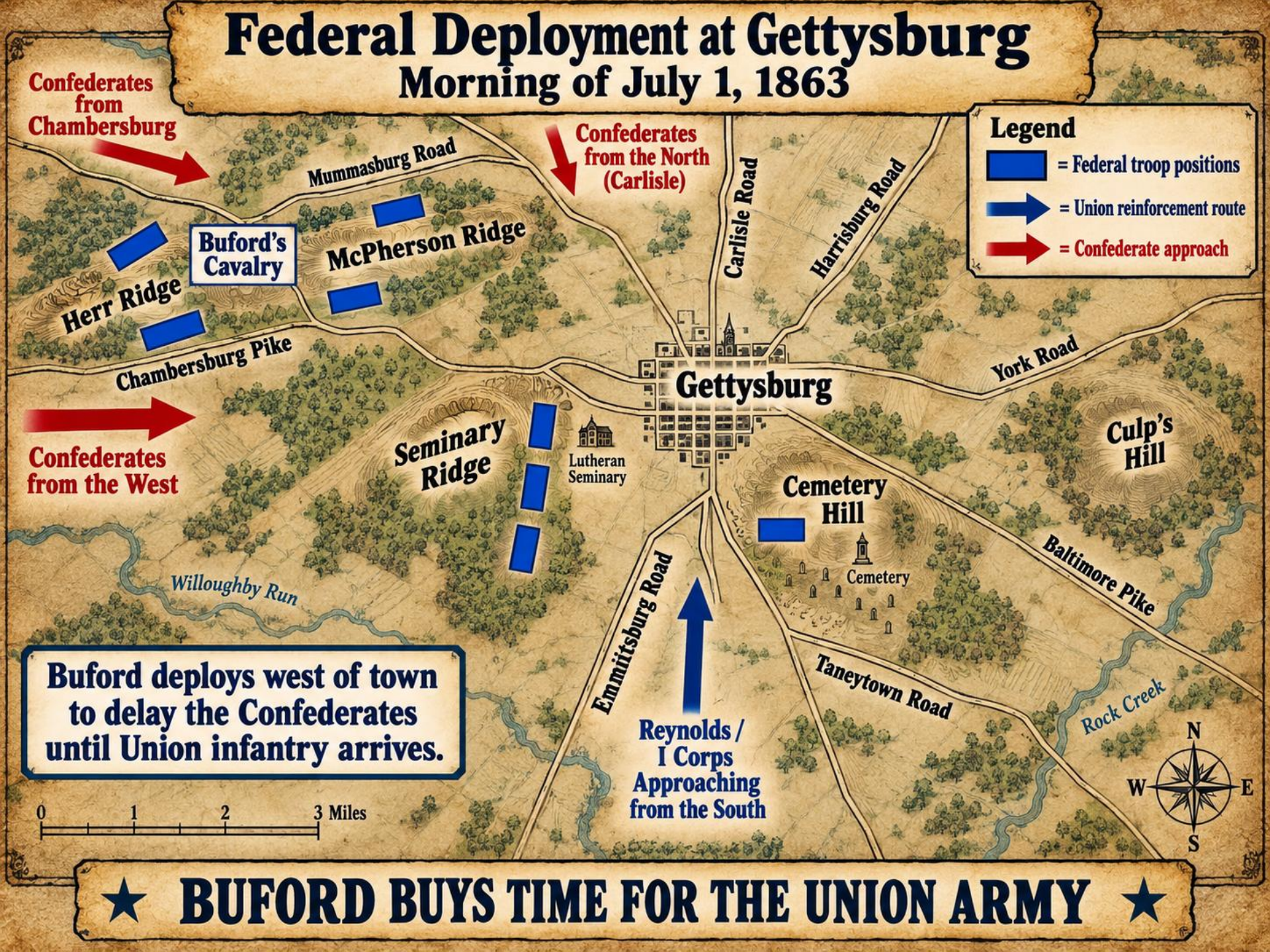
- **JOHN BUFORD** reaches Gettysburg on June 30
- **UNION CAVALRY** arrives ahead of the infantry
- **BUFORD** sees the key high ground
- **CONFEDERATES** are expected from the west
- **CAVALRY** will fight dismounted
- **MISSION:** hold until Reynolds arrives
- **BUFORD** deploys west of town

BUFORD'S JOB: BUY TIME —
UNTIL THE INFANTRY ARRIVES

WHY CONFEDERATES MOVED ON GETTYSBURG
HETH GOES FORWARD FROM CASHTOWN

- **HILL'S CORPS** camped at Cashtown W of Gettysburg
- **GETTYSBURG** was a road hub for supplies & info
- **PETTIGREW** reported Union cavalry in town on 6/30
- **HETH** doubted strong Federal infantry was present
- **JULY 1** — Heth advanced east from Cashtown
- **LEE** did not want a general battle yet
- **HETH'S ADVANCE** collided with Buford's cavalry

A PROBE FOR INFORMATION —
BECOMES THE OPENING OF THE BATTLE

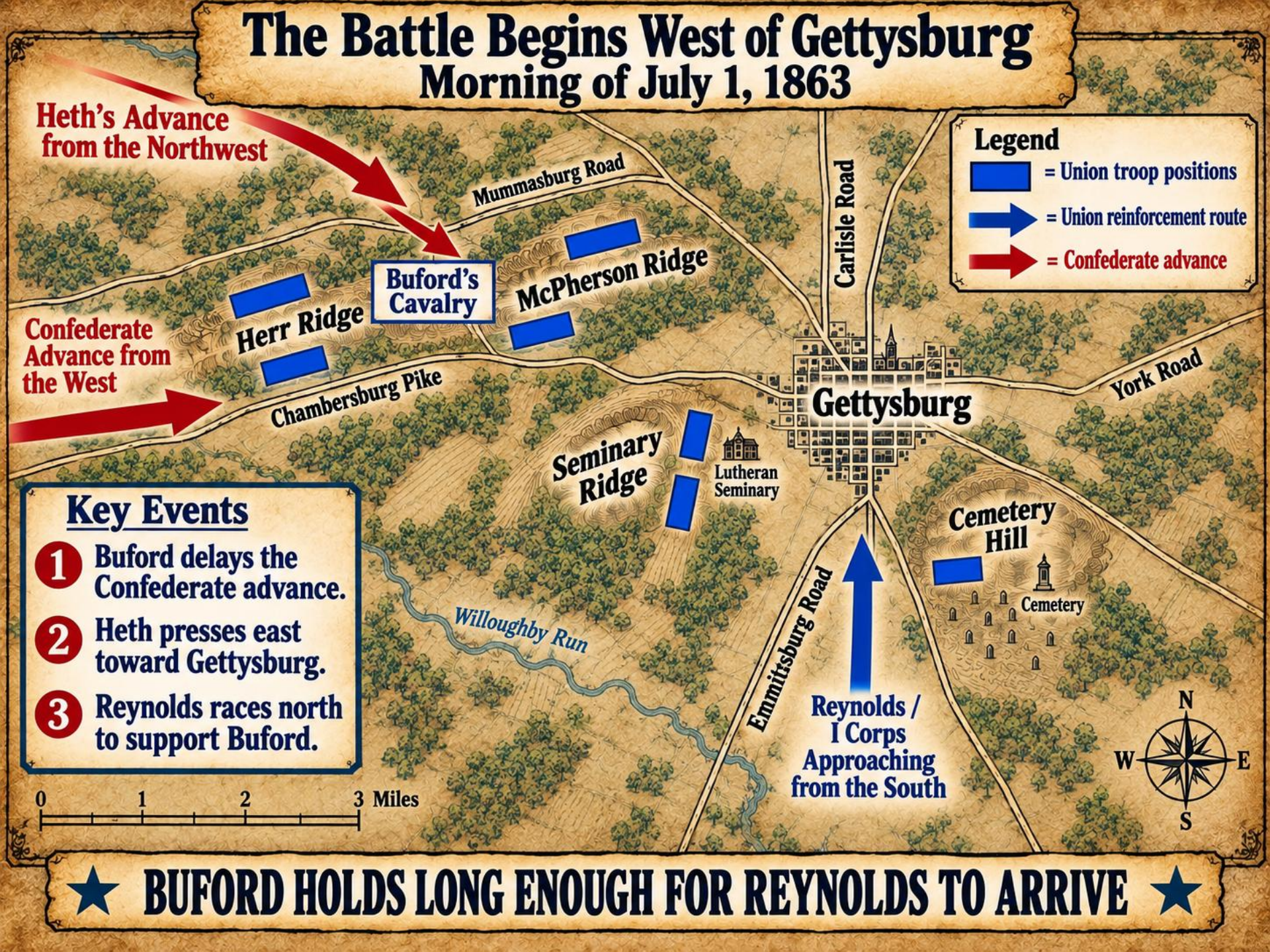

Federal Deployment at Gettysburg
Morning of July 1, 1863
Confederates from Chambersburg
Confederates from the North (Carlisle)
Mummasburg Road
Carlisle Road
Harrisburg Road
Legend
= Federal troop positions
= Union reinforcement route
= Confederate approach
Buford's Cavalry
McPherson Ridge
Herr Ridge
Chambersburg Pike
Gettysburg
York Road
Confederates from the West
Seminary Ridge
Lutheran Seminary
Culp's Hill
Cemetery Hill
Cemetery
Baltimore Pike
Willoughby Run
Emmitsburg Road
Taneytown Road
Rock Creek
Reynolds / I Corps Approaching from the South
Buford deploys west of town to delay the Confederates until Union infantry arrives.
0 1 2 3 Miles
N
W
E
S
★ BUFORD BUYS TIME FOR THE UNION ARMY ★

JULY 1 — THE BATTLE BEGINS

HETH MEETS BUFORD

- **BEFORE DAWN** Buford's pickets watch the west
- **HETH** sends brigades E on the Chambersburg Pike
- **FIRST SHOTS** erupt W of Gettysburg 7:30 AM
- **BUFORD** fights dismounted from ridge to ridge
- **SPENCER CARBINES** help slow the Confederate advance
- **MISSION:** Buy time for Reynolds and I Corps
- **HETH** presses on — expecting only light resistance
- **GETTYSBURG** is now becoming a full-scale battle

BUFORD BUYS THE HOURS —
THAT SAVE THE HIGH GROUND


The Battle Begins West of Gettysburg
Morning of July 1, 1863
Heth's Advance from the Northwest
Mummasburg Road
Carlisle Road
Legend
= Union troop positions
= Union reinforcement route
= Confederate advance
Buford's Cavalry
McPherson Ridge
Herr Ridge
Confederate Advance from the West
Chambersburg Pike
Gettysburg
York Road
Seminary Ridge
Lutheran Seminary
Cemetery Hill
Cemetery
Willoughby Run
Emmittsburg Road
Reynolds / I Corps Approaching from the South
Key Events
1 Buford delays the Confederate advance.
2 Heth presses east toward Gettysburg.
3 Reynolds races north to support Buford.
0 1 2 3 Miles
N
W
E
S
BUFORD HOLDS LONG ENOUGH FOR REYNOLDS TO ARRIVE

REYNOLDS ARRIVES — AND IS KILLED
THE UNION LOSES A KEY COMMANDER

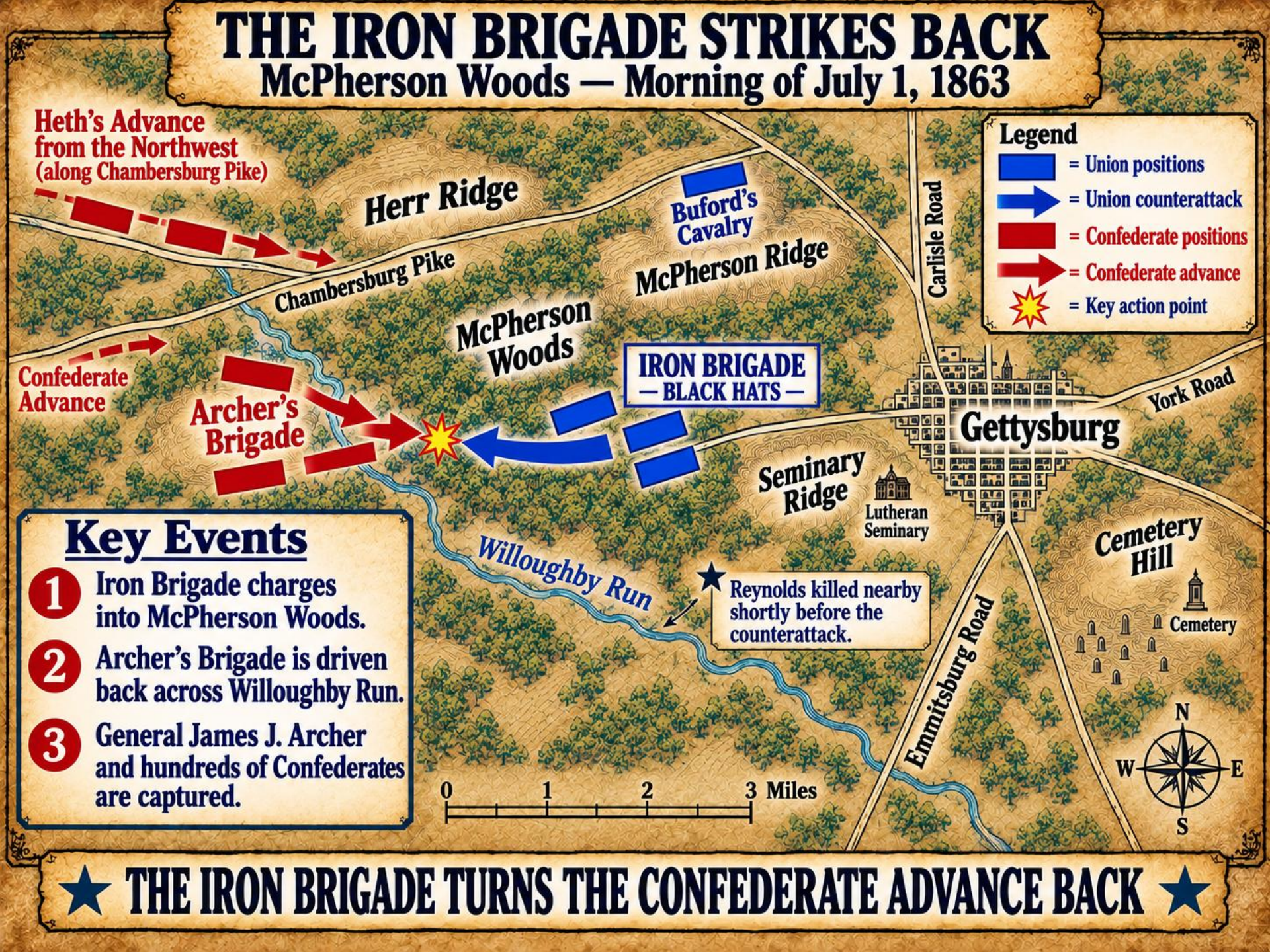
- **REYNOLDS** arrives about 10:00 A.M.
- **I CORPS** moves forward to relieve Buford
- **IRON BRIGADE** enters McPherson Woods
- **REYNOLDS** directs troops into position
- **MOMENTS LATER** he is shot and killed
- **DOUBLEDAY** takes command of I Corps
- **UNION INFANTRY** holds west of Gettysburg

REYNOLDS FALLS —
BUT HIS CORPS HOLDS THE LINE

THE DEATH OF GENERAL JOHN F. REYNOLDS

McPherson Woods — July 1, 1863

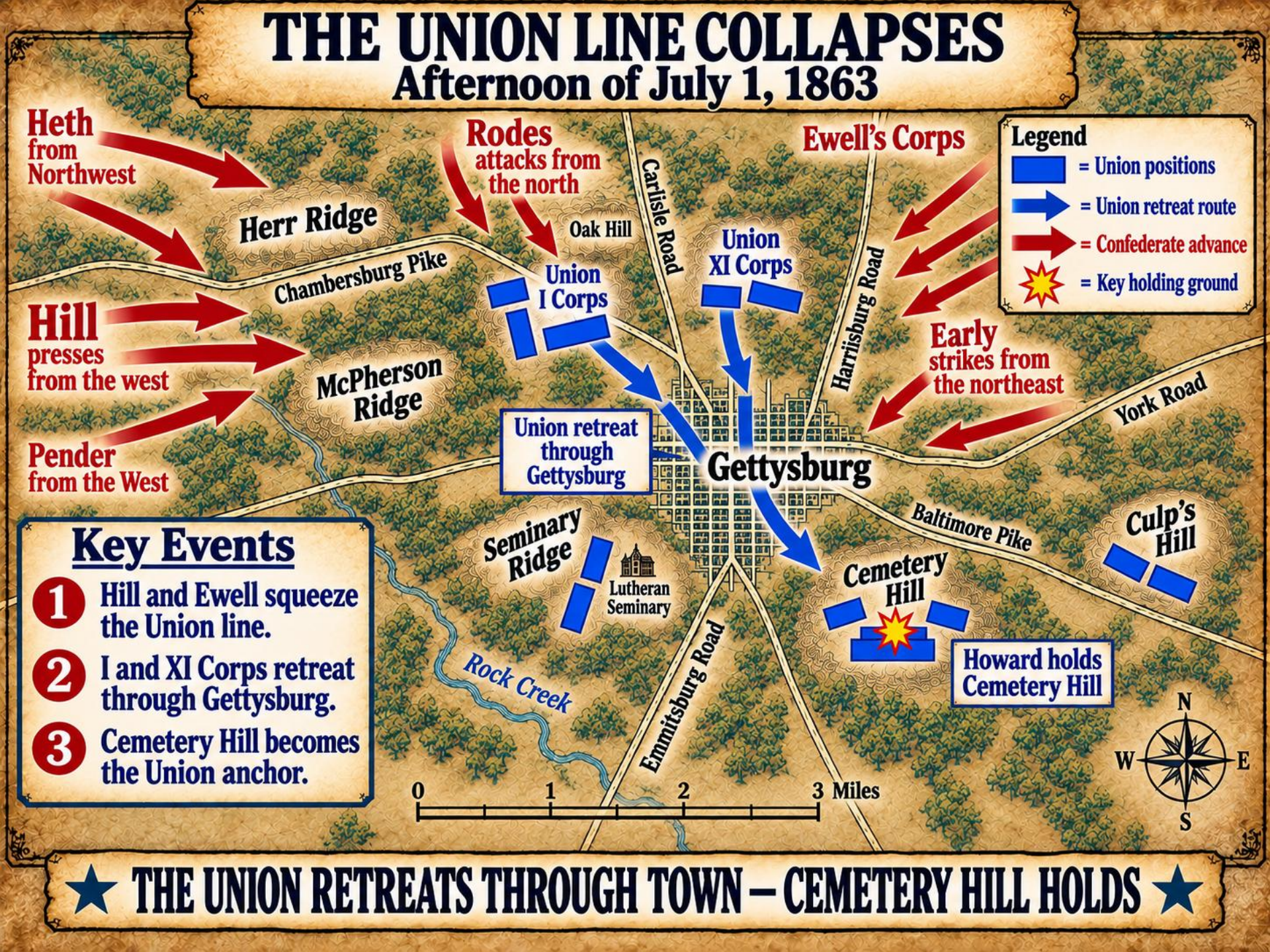



THE IRON BRIGADE STRIKES BACK
McPherson Woods — Morning of July 1, 1863
Heth's Advance from the Northwest (along Chambersburg Pike)
Herr Ridge
Buford's Cavalry
McPherson Ridge
Chambersburg Pike
Carlisle Road
McPherson Woods
Confederate Advance
Archer's Brigade
IRON BRIGADE — BLACK HATS —
York Road
Gettysburg
Seminary Ridge
Lutheran Seminary
Cemetery Hill
Willoughby Run
Reynolds killed nearby shortly before the counterattack.
Emmitsburg Road
Cemetery
Legend
= Union positions
= Union counterattack
= Confederate positions
= Confederate advance
= Key action point
Key Events
1 Iron Brigade charges into McPherson Woods.
2 Archer's Brigade is driven back across Willoughby Run.
3 General James J. Archer and hundreds of Confederates are captured.
0 1 2 3 Miles
N
W
E
S
THE IRON BRIGADE TURNS THE CONFEDERATE ADVANCE BACK

EWELL ARRIVES FROM THE NORTH
THE UNION FLANK IS TURNED

- **EWELL'S II CORPS** arrives from north & northeast
- **RODES** strikes from Oak Hill
- **EARLY** advances down the Harrisburg Road
- **XI CORPS** is driven back toward Gettysburg
- **HILL** keeps pressing from the west
- **FEDERAL LINE** is squeezed from TWO directions
- **RETREAT** begins through the streets of Gettysburg

THE BATTLE TURNS —
UNION FORCED BACK TOWARD CEMETERY HILL


THE UNION LINE COLLAPSES
Afternoon of July 1, 1863
Heth from Northwest
Rodes attacks from the north
Ewell's Corps
Herr Ridge
Oak Hill
Carlisle Road
Union XI Corps
Chambersburg Pike
Union I Corps
Harrisburg Road
Legend
= Union positions
= Union retreat route
= Confederate advance
= Key holding ground
Hill presses from the west
McPherson Ridge
Early strikes from the northeast
York Road
Pender from the West
Union retreat through Gettysburg
Gettysburg
Baltimore Pike
Culp's Hill
Seminary Ridge
Lutheran Seminary
Cemetery Hill
Howard holds Cemetery Hill
Rock Creek
Emmitsburg Road
Key Events
1 Hill and Ewell squeeze the Union line.
2 I and XI Corps retreat through Gettysburg.
3 Cemetery Hill becomes the Union anchor.
0 1 2 3 Miles
N
W
E
S
THE UNION RETREATS THROUGH TOWN – CEMETERY HILL HOLDS

HOWARD HOLDS CEMETERY HILL
THE RETREAT FINDS AN ANCHOR

- **REYNOLDS dead — Howard takes field command**
- **HOWARD identifies Cemetery Hill as fallback**
- **STEINWEHR holds a reserve on the hill**
- **I & XI CORPS retreat through Gettysburg**
- **SURVIVORS reform on Cemetery Hill**
- **ARTILLERY covers the town and approaches**
- **CEMETERY HILL anchors the Union defense**

THE RETREAT STOPS HERE —
THE UNION HOLDS THE HEIGHTS

LEE'S ORDER TO EWELL
"IF PRACTICABLE…"

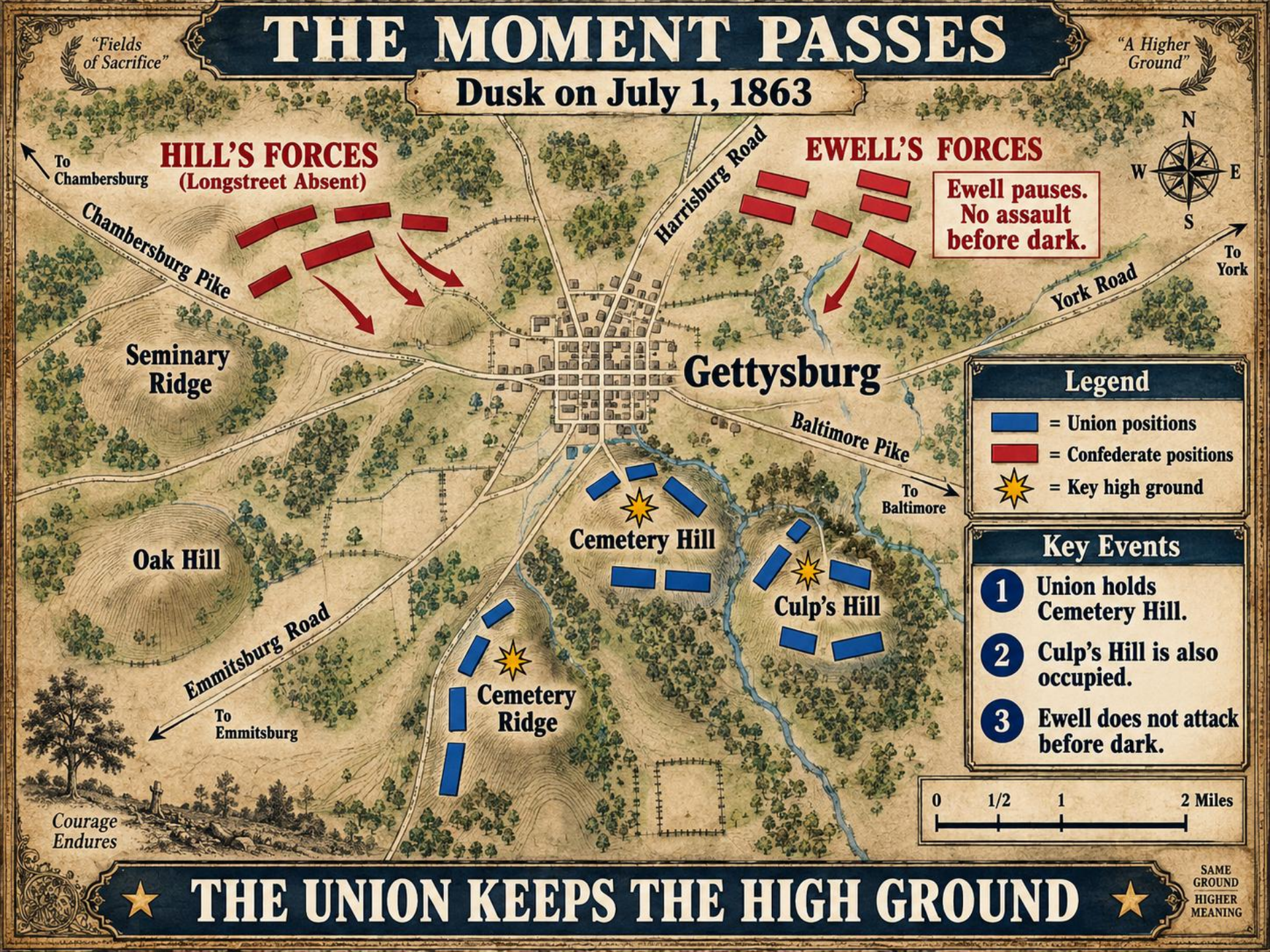
- **LATE JULY 1 — Union troops reach Cemetery Hill**
- **LEE sees a chance to seize the heights**
- **EWELL is told to take the hill "if practicable"**
- **BUT avoid a general battle until more troops arrive**
- **EWELL must decide whether an attack can succeed**
- **JOHNSON'S DIVISION is not yet on the field**
- **UNION FORCES rapidly reinforce Cemetery Hill**
- **EWELL decides not to assault that evening**

LEE GIVES DISCRETION —
EWELL MUST MAKE THE DECISION

EWELL'S DILEMMA
ATTACK — OR WAIT?

- **EWELL'S MEN** have marched and fought hard all day
- **UNITS** are mixed and disorganized after the advance
- **CEMETERY HILL** is filling rapidly with Union troops
- **JOHNSON'S DIVISION** is still coming onto the field
- **ENEMY STRENGTH** south of town is uncertain
- **LEE'S ORDER** gives Ewell discretion — "if practicable"
- **SUPPORT** from Hill is not immediately available
- **EWELL** decides to wait rather than assault

THE QUESTION HISTORIANS STILL ASK:
WOULD STONEWALL JACKSON HAVE ATTACKED?

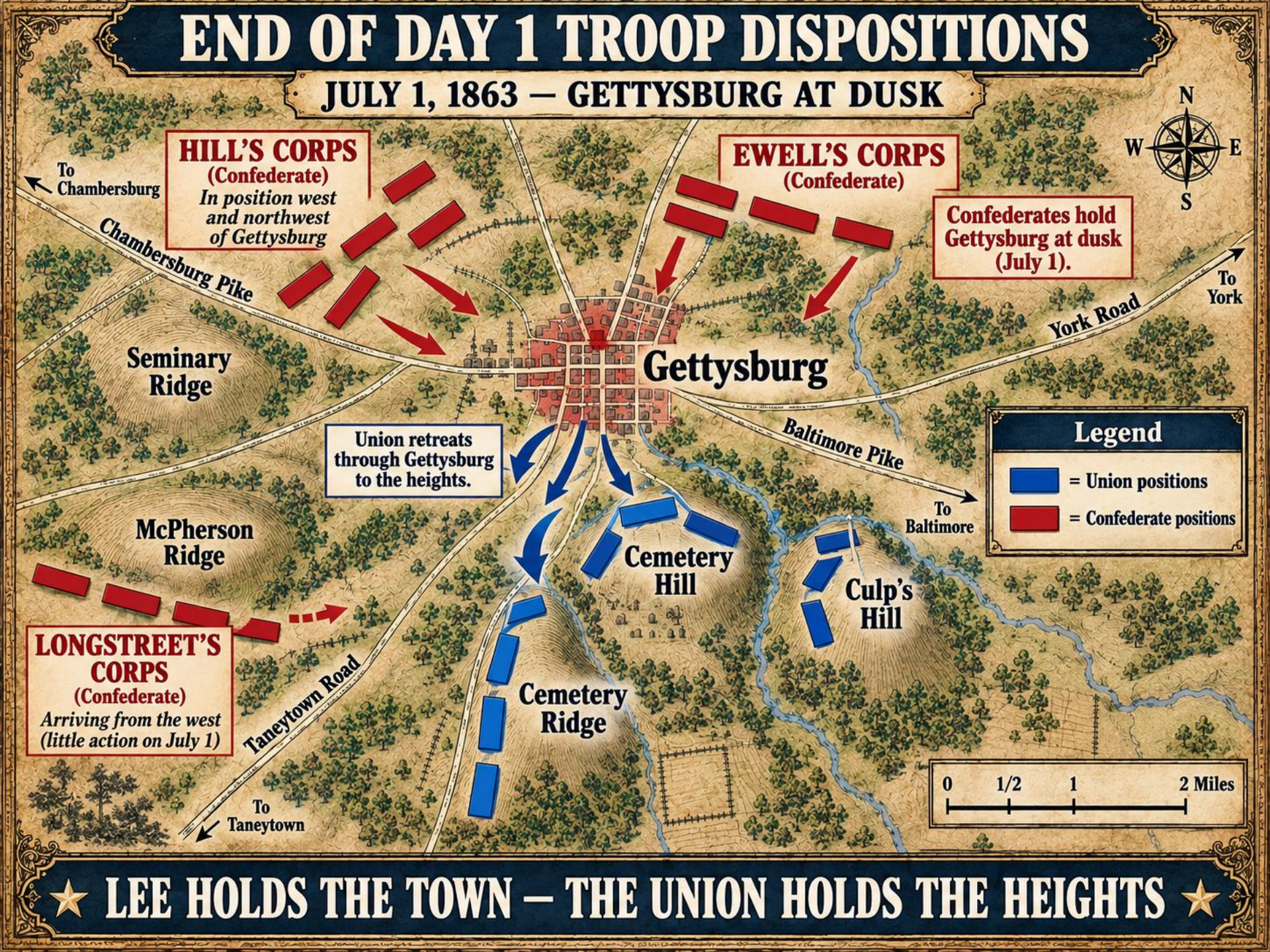

THE MOMENT PASSES
"Fields of Sacrifice"
"A Higher Ground"
Dusk on July 1, 1863
HILL'S FORCES
(Longstreet Absent)
EWELL'S FORCES
Ewell pauses. No assault before dark.
To Chambersburg
Chambersburg Pike
Harrisburg Road
York Road
To York
N
W
E
S
Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg
Baltimore Pike
To Baltimore
Cemetery Hill
Culp's Hill
Oak Hill
Emmitsburg Road
To Emmitsburg
Cemetery Ridge
Courage Endures
Legend
= Union positions
= Confederate positions
= Key high ground
Key Events
1 Union holds Cemetery Hill.
2 Culp's Hill is also occupied.
3 Ewell does not attack before dark.
0 1/2 1 2 Miles
THE UNION KEEPS THE HIGH GROUND
SAME GROUND HIGHER MEANING

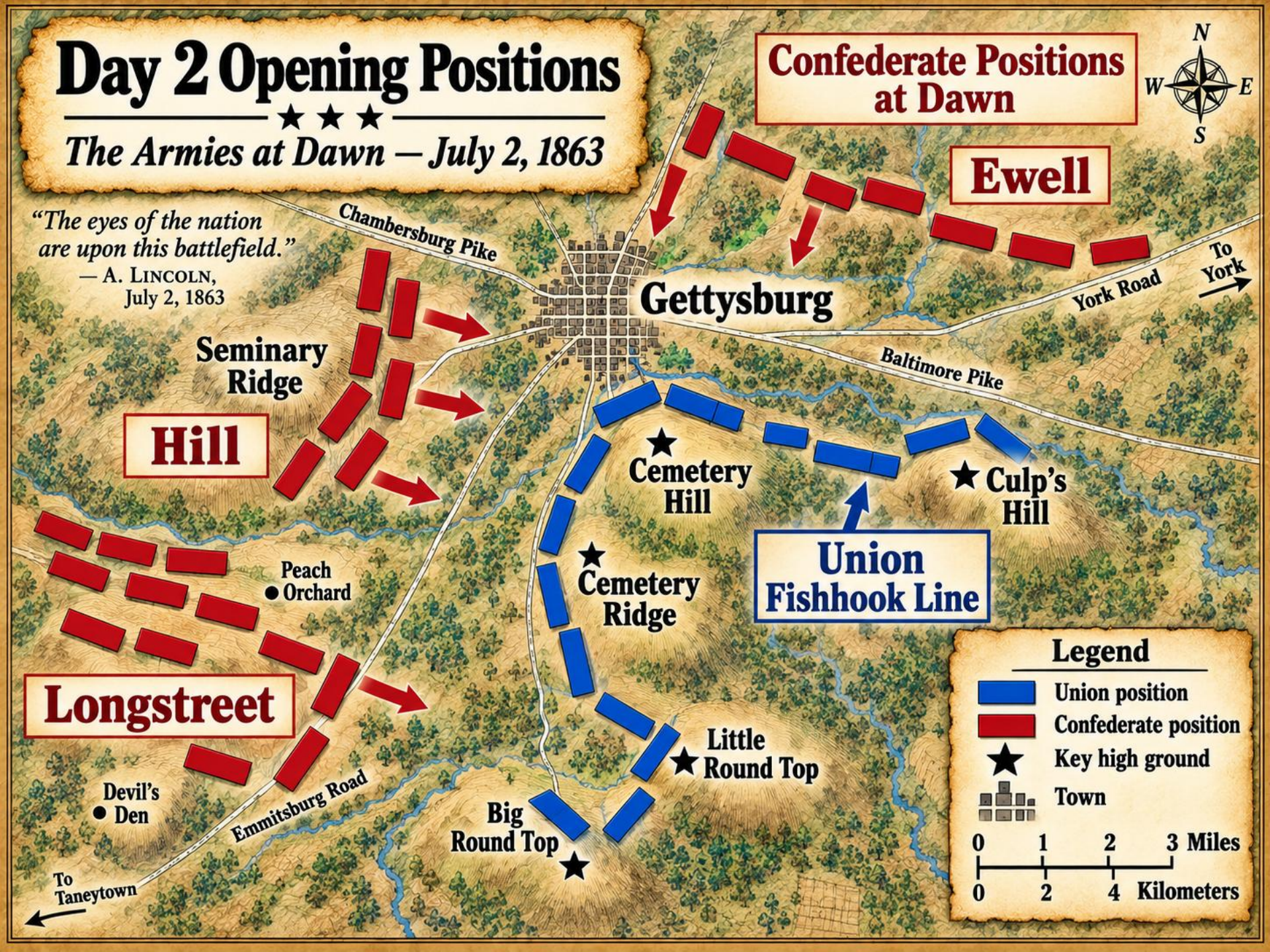
DAY 1 — THE RESULT

CONFEDERATE VICTORY — UNION HIGH GROUND HOLDS

- **CONFEDERATES drive I & XI Corps from N & S**
- **GETTYSBURG falls as Union troops retreat thru town**
- **UNION LOSSES are heavy — many men are captured**
- **CEMETERY HILL becomes the center of the new line**
- **CULP'S HILL & Cemetery Ridge remain in Union hands**
- **EWELL does not attack the heights before dark**
- **REINFORCEMENTS pour in for both armies overnight**
- **LEE holds the town — MEADE holds stronger ground**

LEE WINS THE DAY —
MEADE HOLDS THE POSITION

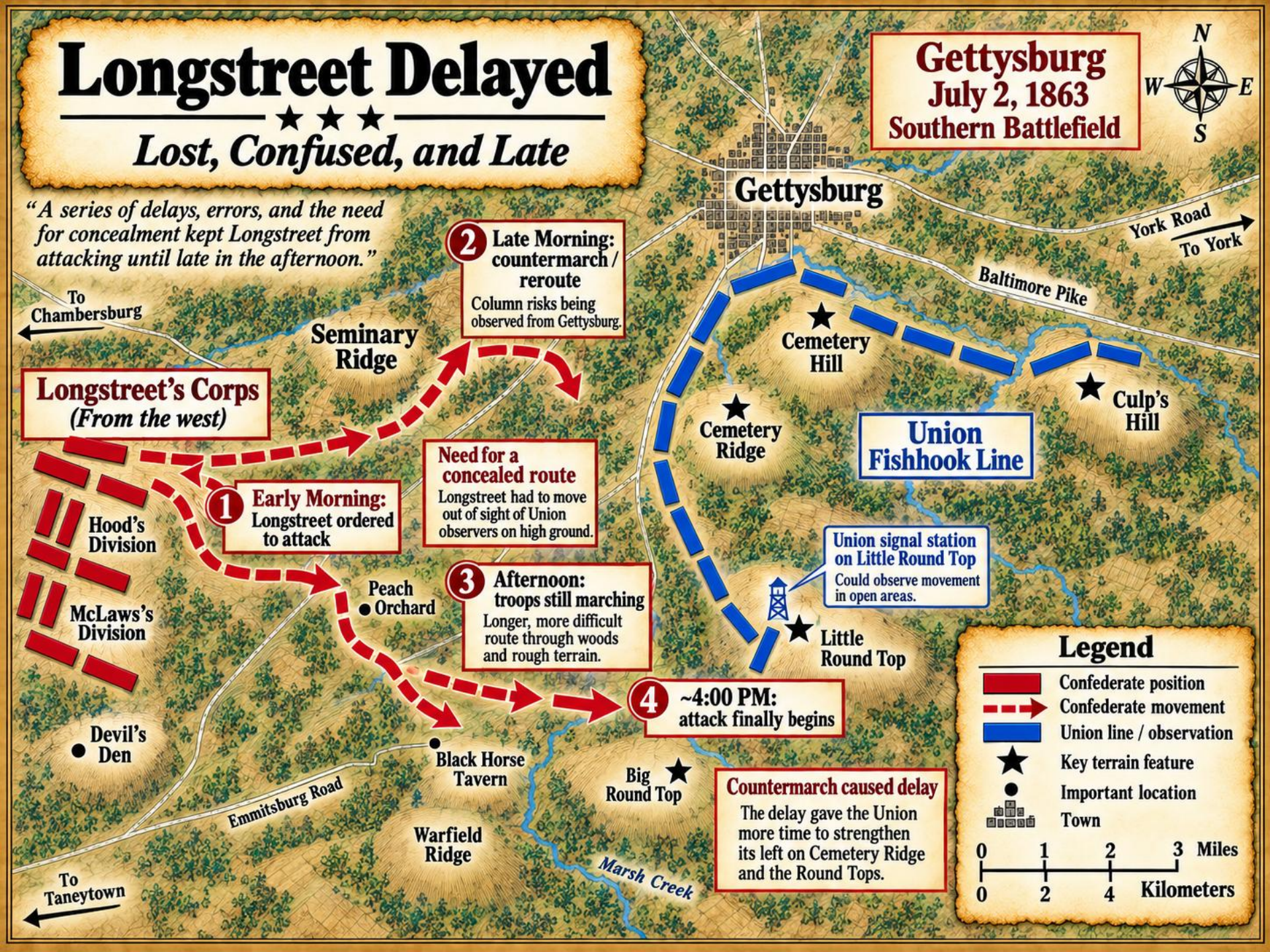

END OF DAY 1 TROOP DISPOSITIONS
JULY 1, 1863 — GETTYSBURG AT DUSK
HILL'S CORPS
(Confederate)
In position west and northwest of Gettysburg
EWELL'S CORPS
(Confederate)
Confederates hold Gettysburg at dusk (July 1).
To Chambersburg
Chambersburg Pike
Seminary Ridge
Gettysburg
York Road
To York
Union retreats through Gettysburg to the heights.
Baltimore Pike
To Baltimore
McPherson Ridge
Cemetery Hill
Culp's Hill
LONGSTREET'S CORPS
(Confederate)
Arriving from the west (little action on July 1)
Taneytown Road
Cemetery Ridge
To Taneytown
N
W
E
S
Legend
= Union positions
= Confederate positions
0
1/2
1
2 Miles
LEE HOLDS THE TOWN — THE UNION HOLDS THE HEIGHTS


Day 2 Opening Positions
★ ★ ★
The Armies at Dawn — July 2, 1863
"The eyes of the nation are upon this battlefield."
— A. Lincoln, July 2, 1863
Confederate Positions at Dawn
N
W
E
S
Ewell
Chambersburg Pike
Gettysburg
York Road
To York
Baltimore Pike
Seminary Ridge
Hill
Cemetery Hill
Culp's Hill
Union Fishhook Line
Cemetery Ridge
Peach Orchard
Longstreet
Devil's Den
Emmitsburg Road
Little Round Top
Big Round Top
To Taneytown
Legend
Union position
Confederate position
Key high ground
Town
0 1 2 3 Miles
0 2 4 Kilometers

LEE'S PLAN FOR DAY 2
ATTACK BOTH ENDS OF THE LINE

- **JULY 2 — Lee decides to renew the offensive**
- **LONGSTREET will strike the Union left**
- **HOOD & McLAWS spearhead the Confederate assault**
- **HILL supports the attack and pressures the center**
- **EWELL demonstrates against the Union right**
- **IF OPPORTUNITY OFFERS Ewell is to attack**
- **LEE'S GOAL — break Meade's line from both ends**

BREAK THE FISHHOOK —
PRESSURE BOTH FLANKS AT ONCE


Longstreet Delayed
★ ★ ★
Lost, Confused, and Late
"A series of delays, errors, and the need for concealment kept Longstreet from attacking until late in the afternoon."
Gettysburg
July 2, 1863
Southern Battlefield
N
W
E
S
Gettysburg
York Road
To York
Baltimore Pike
To Chambersburg
Seminary Ridge
Longstreet's Corps
(From the west)
2 Late Morning: countermarch / reroute
Column risks being observed from Gettysburg.
Cemetery Hill
Culp's Hill
Cemetery Ridge
Union Fishhook Line
Need for a concealed route
Longstreet had to move out of sight of Union observers on high ground.
1 Early Morning: Longstreet ordered to attack
Hood's Division
McLaws's Division
Union signal station on Little Round Top
Could observe movement in open areas.
Peach Orchard
3 Afternoon: troops still marching
Longer, more difficult route through woods and rough terrain.
Little Round Top
4 ~4:00 PM: attack finally begins
Devil's Den
Black Horse Tavern
Big Round Top
Emmitsburg Road
Warfield Ridge
Marsh Creek
Countermarch caused delay
The delay gave the Union more time to strengthen its left on Cemetery Ridge and the Round Tops.
To Taneytown
Legend
Confederate position
Confederate movement
Union line / observation
Key terrain feature
Important location
Town
0 1 2 3 Miles
0 2 4 Kilometers

WHAT IF LONGSTREET ATTACKS EARLY?

THE GREAT "WHAT IF" OF DAY 2

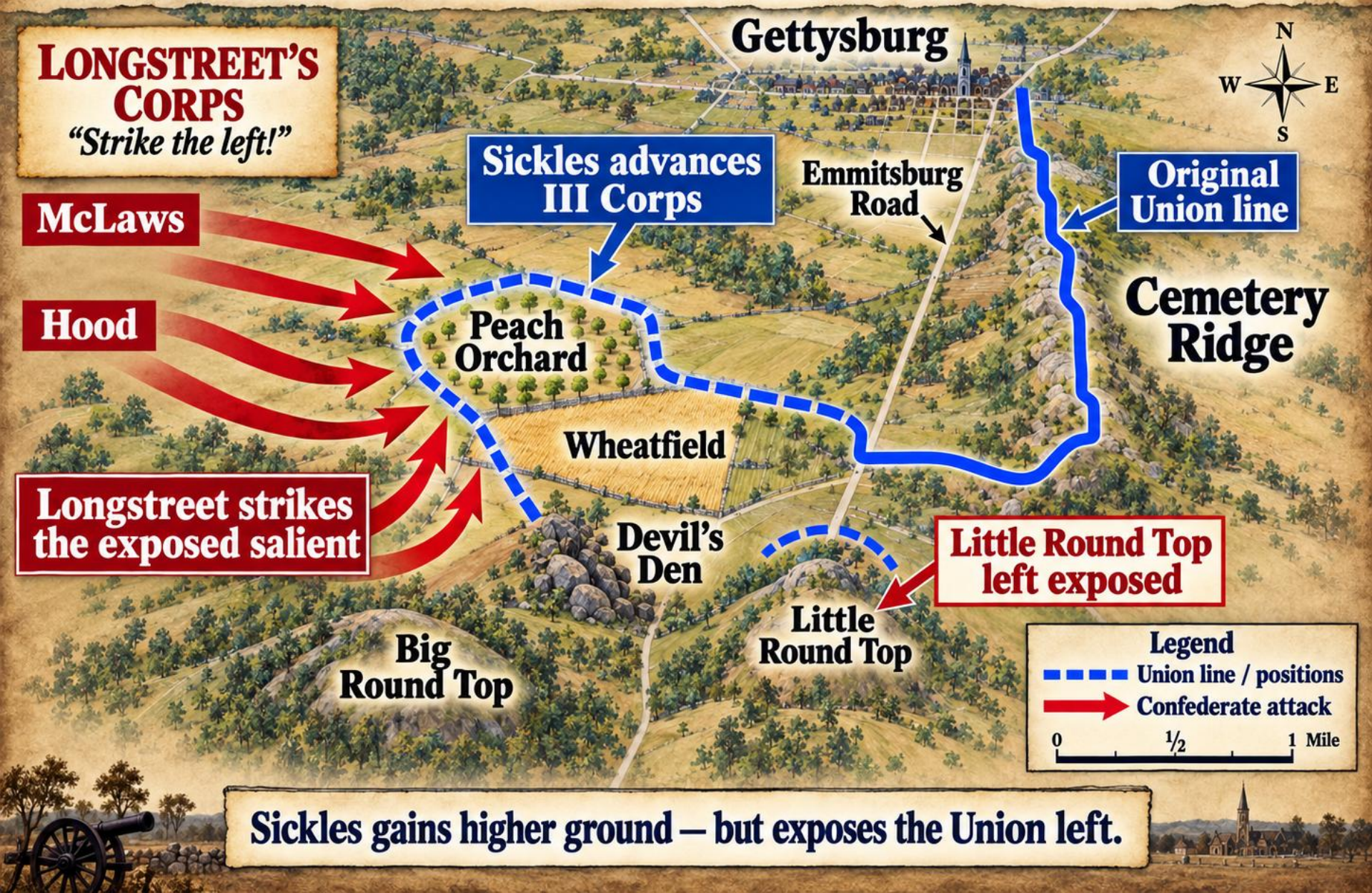
- **MORNING — the Union left is not yet fully organized**
- **LITTLE ROUND TOP is still only lightly defended**
- **EARLIER ATTACK might strike before reinforcements arrive**
- **BUT Longstreet's assault is not yet fully prepared**
- **TERRAIN & ROADS make deployment difficult/slow**
- **BY LATE AFTERNOON Meade has strengthened the Union left**
- **HISTORIANS still debate whether an early attack changes the battle**

THE DELAY MATTERED —

BUT DID IT COST LEE THE BATTLE?

Sickles Moves Forward, July 2, 1863

Late Afternoon – approximately 3:00–4:00 PM, July 2, 1863



Sickles gains higher ground – but exposes the Union left.


Union Left Exposed
Peach Orchard • Wheatfield • Devil's Den
Late Afternoon – approximately 4:00–5:30 PM, July 2, 1863
LONGSTREET
strikes the exposed Union left!
Gettysburg
N
W
E
S
Sickles's advanced III Corps line
Emmitsburg Road
Original Union line
McLaws
Hood
Peach Orchard
Cemetery Ridge
Wheatfield
Confederate pressure on the Union left
Devil's Den
Little Round Top nearly undefended!
Little Round Top
Trostle Farm
Big Round Top
Legend
Union line / positions
Confederate attack
0
½
1 Mile
Sickles's forward move leaves the Union left stretched thin and exposed.

Devil's Den
Hood Strikes the Rocks

July 2, 1863
Late Afternoon

Hood's division drives the Union from the Wheatfield into the rocky chaos of Devil's Den, deepening the crisis on the Union left.

Law's Division

McLaws' Division

Hood's Division (Texas Brigade)

Wheatfield

Devil's Den

Round Top

Peach Orchard

83rd Pennsylvania

16th Michigan

44th New York

N

Union
Confederate
Stone Wall
Road

0 500 1,000 Feet

"The ground was absolutely fearsome … a chaos of rocks, crevices, and boulders, through which men fought at close quarters."

– A Union Soldier



Devil's Den Today

Warren Sees the Danger

Little Round Top Nearly Undefended



★ WARREN SPOTS THE CRISIS – JUST IN TIME ★

Race for Little Round Top

Vincent • O'Rorke • Hazlett

Late Afternoon
July 2, 1863



Warren spots the danger!

"The enemy is going for that hill!"
– Gouverneur K. Warren

Gettysburg

Peach Orchard

Wheatfield

Cemetery Ridge

N
W E
S

Strong Vincent's brigade rushes to the hill

O'Rorke / 140th New York arrives in the crisis

Union line

Confederate attack from Hood's sector

Devil's Den

Little Round Top

Hazlett brings guns up

Big Round Top

Confederates strike the Union left — Little Round Top nearly undefended!

Legend
Union movement
Confederate attack
Key high ground
0 ½ 1 Mile

★ Bold Men Saved the Union at Little Round Top ★

The Men Who Saved the Hill

Vincent • O'Rorke • Weed • Hazlett

A few brave men, a rocky hill, and a turning point in American history.

"Here men stood and made a difference."





Strong Vincent

Brigade commander
Mortally wounded

"Stand fast, men, stand fast!"



Patrick O'Rorke

140th New York
Killed leading attack

"Forward, boys! For the 140th!"



Stephen Weed

Brigade commander
Mortally wounded

"Hold this ground at all hazards."



Charles Hazlett

Battery commander
Killed beside Weed

"We'll give them a bloody stop here."

★ They Saved Little Round Top — At Terrible Cost ★

LITTLE ROUND TOP ★ JULY 2, 1863 ★ A HIGHER GROUND

Fight for Little Round Top

The Hill Must Be Held

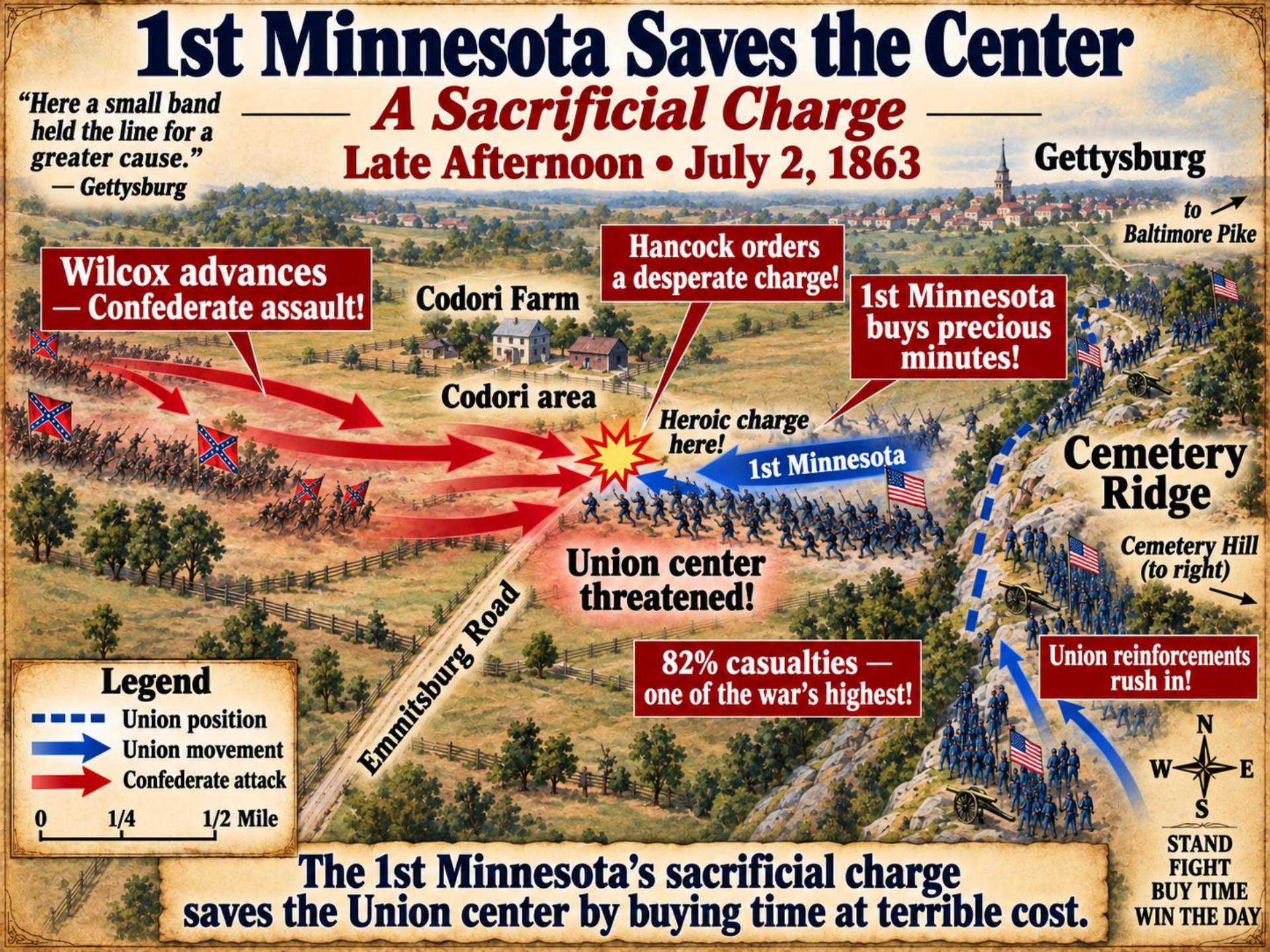
- Confederates attack in repeated waves
- Union soldiers use rocks, trees and every advantage
- Fierce hand-to-hand fighting
- Vincent and O'Rorke are killed
- The Union holds — the Confederate attack finally fails

"We fought like tigers among the rocks."
— Union Soldier




BAYONETS!
The 20th Maine Charges
Little Round Top — About 7:00 PM, July 2, 1863
20th MAINE
20th Maine
Fix bayonets!
Ammunition nearly gone
Downhill charge breaks the Confederate attack
"STAND FIRM FOR THE RIGHT" — CHAMBERLAIN
Confederate attackers


Sickles Falls
III Corps Shattered
Late Afternoon–Early Evening • July 2, 1863
LONGSTREET
smashes the exposed salient!
Gettysburg
N
W
E
S
Union reinforcements move in
III Corps line collapses!
Emmitsburg Road
McLaws
Hood
Peach Orchard
Cemetery Ridge
Wheatfield
Devil's Den
Sickles wounded here
III Corps driven back in confusion!
Trostle Farm
Big Round Top
Little Round Top
Legend
Union line / positions
Confederate attack
0
½
1 Mile
Sickles's forward move ends in disaster as III Corps is shattered and the Union left reels backward.


1st Minnesota Saves the Center
A Sacrificial Charge
Late Afternoon • July 2, 1863
"Here a small band held the line for a greater cause."
— Gettysburg
Gettysburg
to Baltimore Pike
Wilcox advances — Confederate assault!
Hancock orders a desperate charge!
1st Minnesota buys precious minutes!
Codori Farm
Codori area
Heroic charge here!
1st Minnesota
Cemetery Ridge
Cemetery Hill (to right)
Union center threatened!
Emmitsburg Road
82% casualties — one of the war's highest!
Union reinforcements rush in!
Legend
Union position
Union movement
Confederate attack
0 1/4 1/2 Mile
N
W E
S
STAND
FIGHT
BUY TIME
WIN THE DAY
The 1st Minnesota's sacrificial charge saves the Union center by buying time at terrible cost.

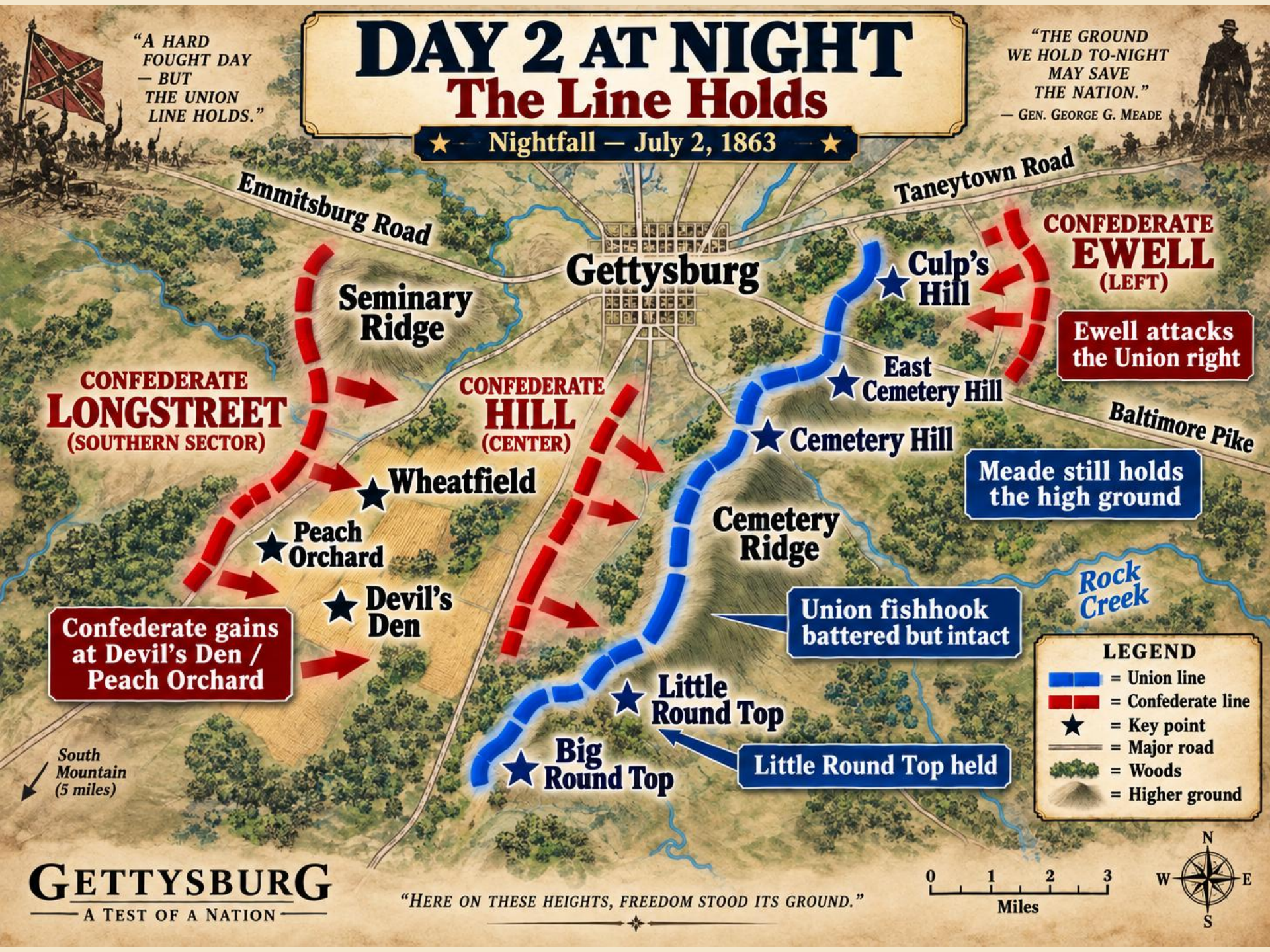
Ewell Attacks the Right

East Cemetery Hill • Culp's Hill

Evening • July 2, 1863



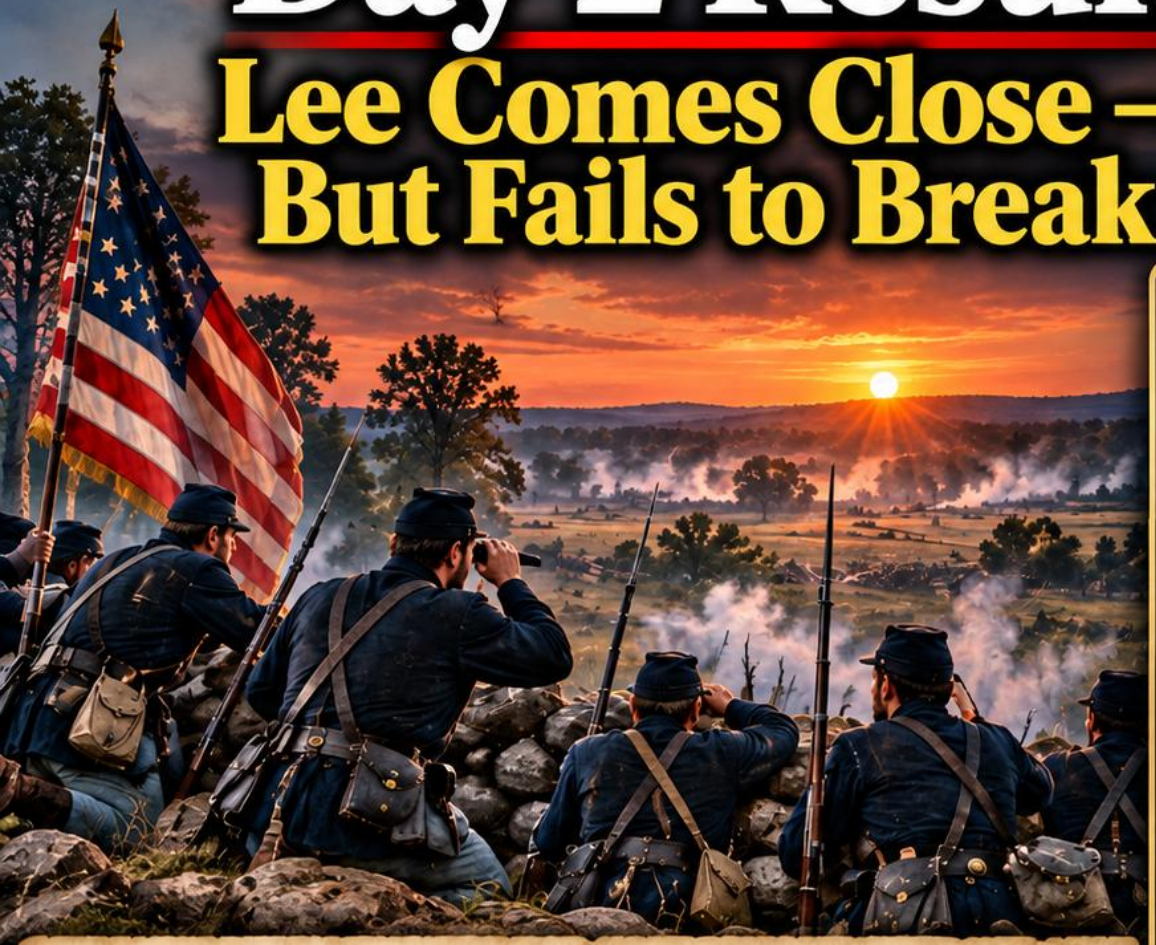
EWELL THREATENS THE UNION RIGHT — BUT FAILS TO BREAK IT


"A HARD FOUGHT DAY — BUT THE UNION LINE HOLDS."
DAY 2 AT NIGHT
The Line Holds
Nightfall — July 2, 1863
"THE GROUND WE HOLD TO-NIGHT MAY SAVE THE NATION."
— Gen. George G. Meade
Emmitsburg Road
Taneytown Road
Gettysburg
Seminary Ridge
Culp's Hill
CONFEDERATE EWELL (LEFT)
Ewell attacks the Union right
East Cemetery Hill
Cemetery Hill
Baltimore Pike
CONFEDERATE LONGSTREET (SOUTHERN SECTOR)
CONFEDERATE HILL (CENTER)
Wheatfield
Peach Orchard
Devil's Den
Meade still holds the high ground
Cemetery Ridge
Rock Creek
Confederate gains at Devil's Den / Peach Orchard
Union fishhook battered but intact
Little Round Top
Big Round Top
Little Round Top held
South Mountain (5 miles)
LEGEND
= Union line
= Confederate line
= Key point
= Major road
= Woods
= Higher ground
GETTYSBURG
A TEST OF A NATION
"HERE ON THESE HEIGHTS, FREEDOM STOOD ITS GROUND."
0 1 2 3
Miles
N
W
E
S

Day 2 Result

Lee Comes Close – But Fails to Break the Line

"It was all my fault."
— Robert E. Lee



- **Confederates seize key ground:** Peach Orchard, Wheatfield, Devil's Den
- **Fierce fighting at Little Round Top –** Union holds the heights
- **20th Maine repels** the final attack on the left
- **Heavy casualties on both sides**
- **Lee fails to break** the Union line by nightfall.

The Confederacy had come closer than ever to victory – but the Union line held.

★ ★ ★

LEE PLANS DAY 3

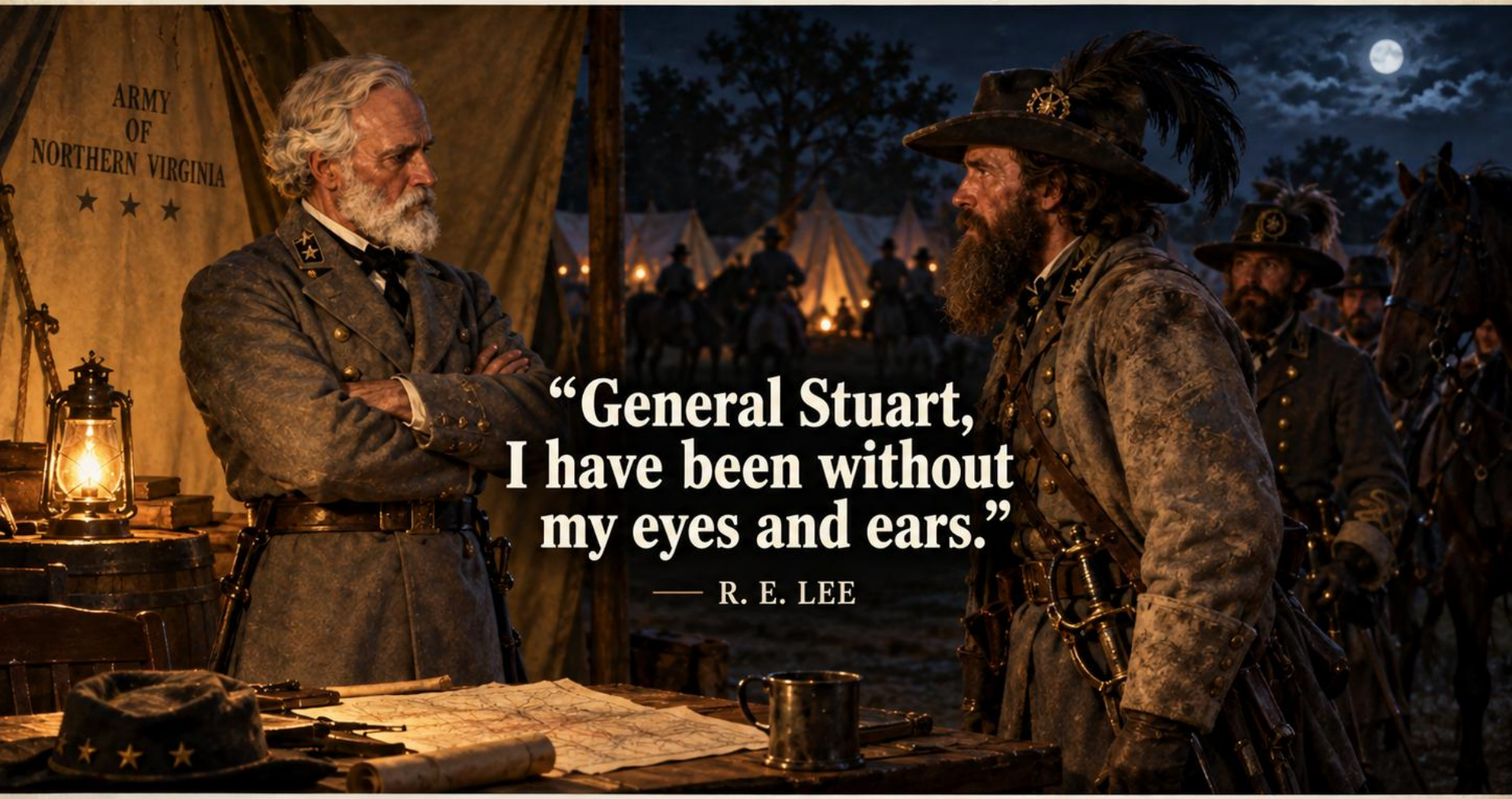
Night of July 2: Lee meets with his commanders



Lee decides to renew the attack on July 3.

STUART RETURNS TO LEE

Lee confronts the loss of his 'eyes and ears'



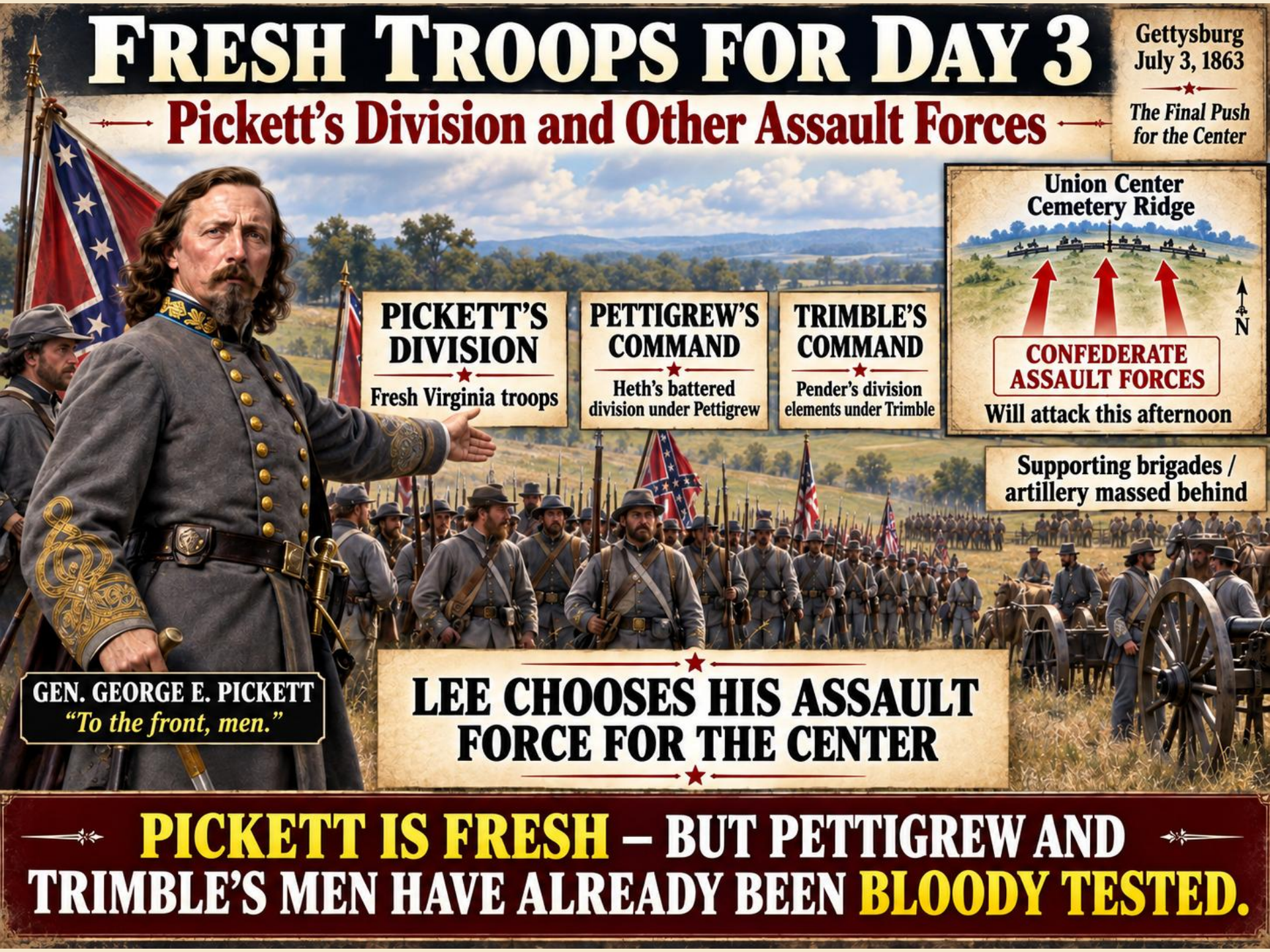
Stuart's absence left Lee blind to Union movements.

FRESH TROOPS FOR DAY 3

Pickett's Division and Other Assault Forces

Gettysburg
July 3, 1863

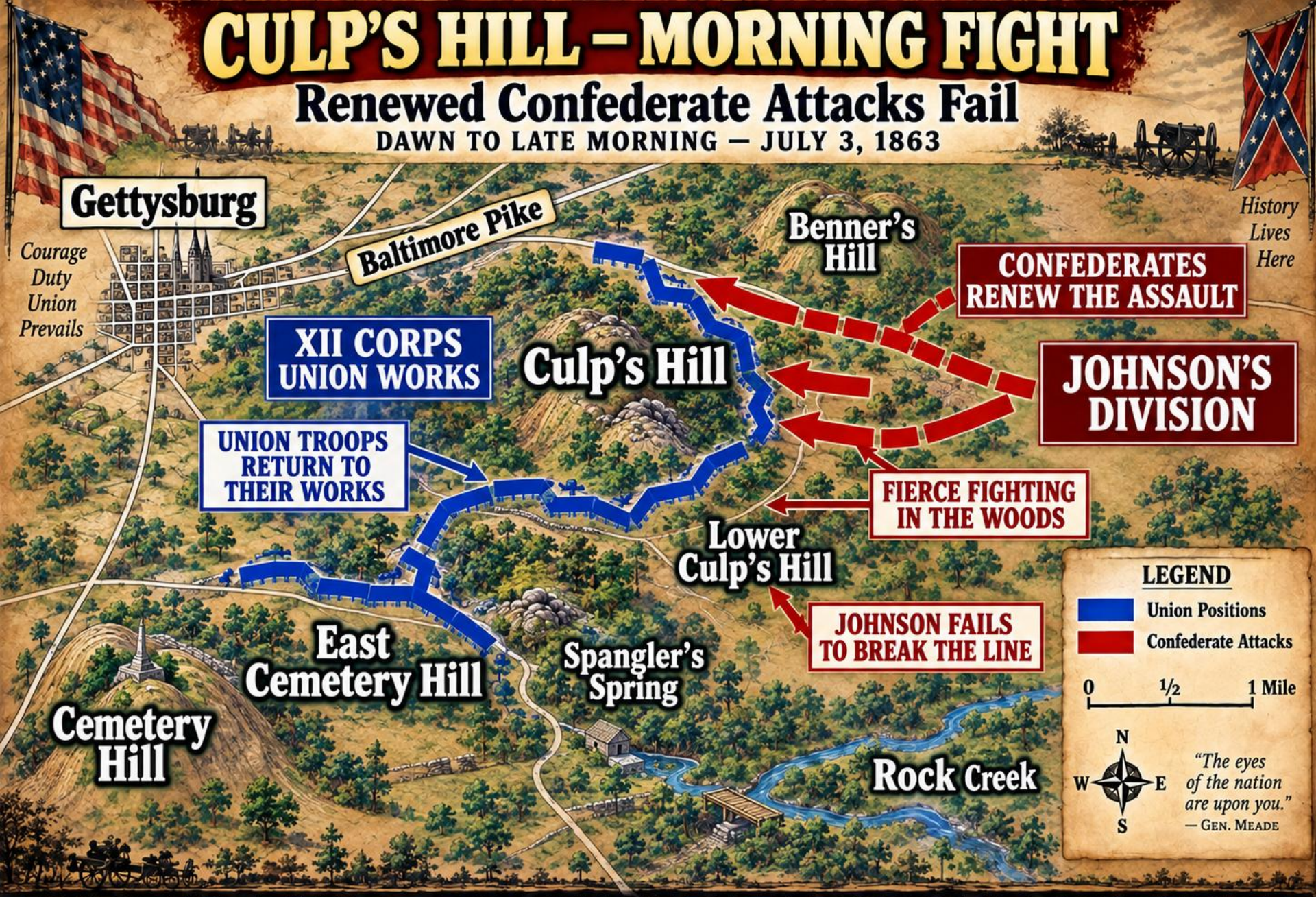
The Final Push for the Center



LEE CHOOSES HIS ASSAULT FORCE FOR THE CENTER

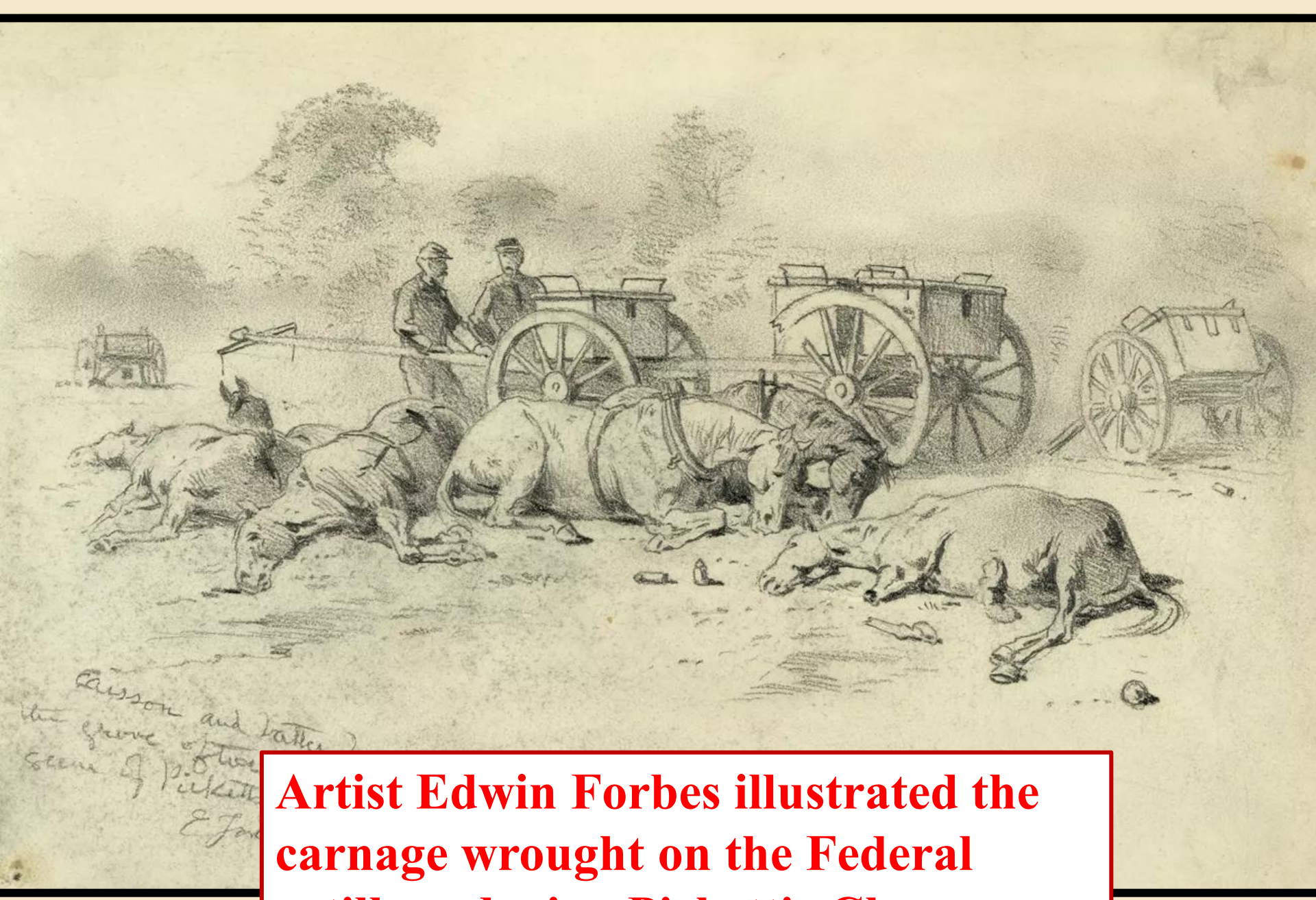
PICKETT IS FRESH – BUT PETTIGREW AND TRIMBLE'S MEN HAVE ALREADY BEEN BLOODY TESTED.


DAY 3 OPENING POSITIONS
Both Armies at Dawn — July 3, 1863
"A Nation Divided ..." — Lincoln
Emmitsburg Road
Gettysburg
EWELL
Baltimore Pike
History Lives Here
Gettysburg 1863
Courage
Sacrifice
Remembrance
A. P. HILL
Culp's Hill
East Cemetery Hill
Cemetery Hill
Wheatfield
Seminary Ridge
The Angle (Union Center)
Taneytown Road
Devil's Den
Cemetery Ridge
UNION HOLDS THE HIGH GROUND
LONGSTREET
Peach Orchard
Little Round Top
CONFEDERATE LINE PREPARES TO ATTACK
Big Round Top
LEGEND
Union Positions
Confederate Positions
0 1/2 1 Mile
N
W E
S
"The eyes of the nation are upon you."
— Gen. Meade
DAWN, JULY 3 — BOTH ARMIES PREPARE FOR THE DECISIVE DAY
GETTYSBURG ★ JULY 1 – 3, 1863 ★ A HIGHER CAUSE


CULP'S HILL – MORNING FIGHT
Renewed Confederate Attacks Fail
DAWN TO LATE MORNING — JULY 3, 1863
Gettysburg
Courage
Duty
Union
Prevails
Baltimore Pike
Benner's Hill
CONFEDERATES RENEW THE ASSAULT
History Lives Here
XII CORPS UNION WORKS
Culp's Hill
JOHNSON'S DIVISION
UNION TROOPS RETURN TO THEIR WORKS
FIERCE FIGHTING IN THE WOODS
Lower Culp's Hill
JOHNSON FAILS TO BREAK THE LINE
East Cemetery Hill
Spangler's Spring
Cemetery Hill
Rock Creek
LEGEND
Union Positions
Confederate Attacks
0 ½ 1 Mile
N
W E
S
"The eyes of the nation are upon you."
— Gen. Meade
MORNING, JULY 3 – THE UNION RIGHT HOLDS AT CULP'S HILL
GETTYSBURG ★ JULY 3 1863 ★ A HIGHER CAUSE


LEE CHOOSES THE CENTER
The flanks held; now attack the middle
LATE MORNING — JULY 3, 1863
Liberty
Union
Victory
Courage
Duty
The South
Remembers
Gettysburg
CULP'S HILL HOLDS
Culp's Hill
LEE TURNS TO THE CENTER
Cemetery Hill
Seminary Ridge
The Angle
ATTACK THE MIDDLE
Cemetery Ridge
Little Round Top
LEFT FLANK HOLDS
LEGEND
Union Positions
Confederate Positions
0 ½ 1 Mile
N
W E
S
"The fate of a nation was decided here."
THE FLANKS HOLD — LEE DECIDES TO STRIKE THE UNION CENTER
GETTYSBURG ★ JULY 3, 1863 ★ A NATION TESTED


THE ARTILLERY PLAN
Massed Confederate Batteries Face Cemetery Ridge
EARLY AFTERNOON — JULY 3, 1863
Bold Men Grand Guns
Union Stands Firm
Gettysburg
MASS CONFEDERATE BATTERIES
Porter Alexander directs the fire
Seminary Ridge
Open a great bombardment
Union center is the target
The Angle
CEMETERY RIDGE
Copse of Trees
About 140 Confederate guns
LEGEND
Confederate Artillery Line / Positions
Union Positions
Artillery Fire
0 ½ 1 Mile
N
W E
S
LEE PREPARES THE WAY — ARTILLERY WILL SOFTEN THE UNION CENTER
GETTYSBURG ★ JULY 3, 1863 ★ A NATION TESTED



Artist Edwin Forbes illustrated the carnage wrought on the Federal artillery during Pickett's Charge.

THE GREAT CANNONADE

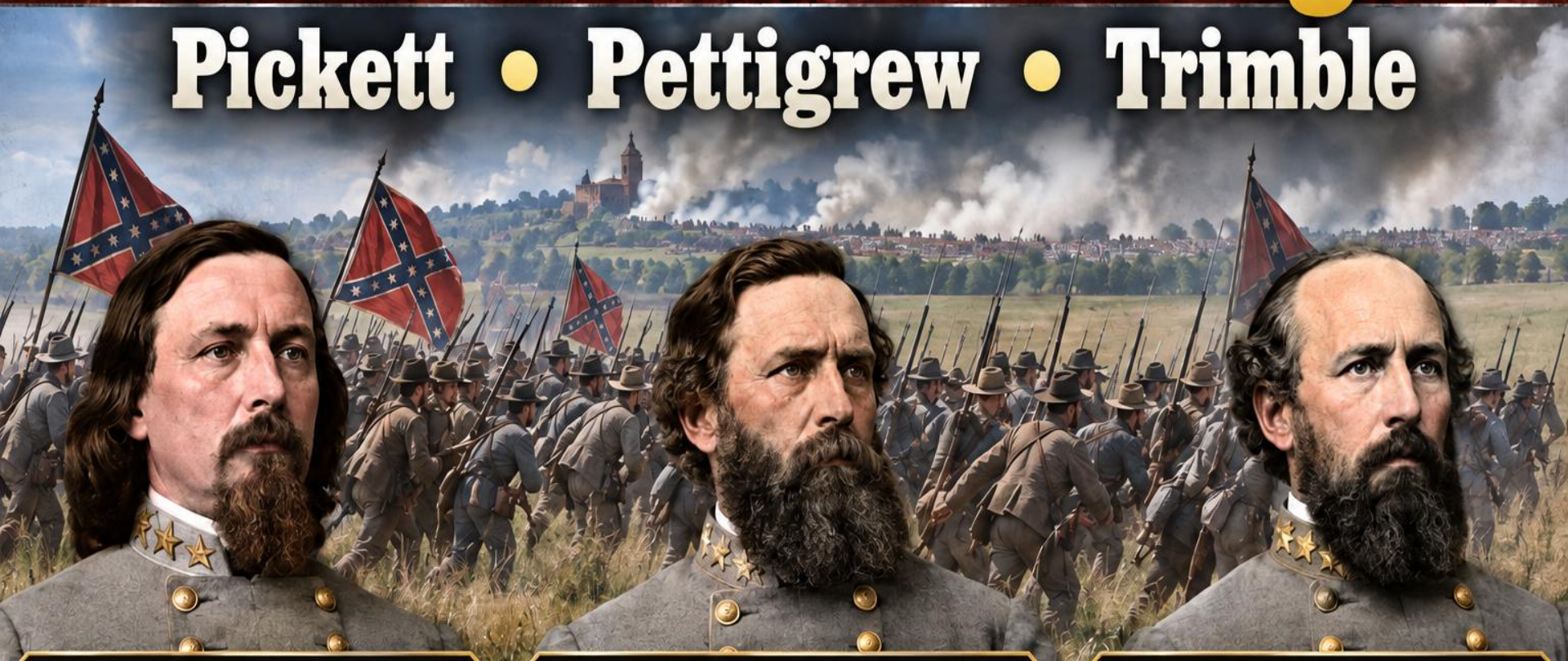
REAR-AREA CARNAGE — FRONT LINE STILL HOLDS



Union guns suffer badly — but the infantry line remains intact.

Who Makes the Charge?

Pickett • Pettigrew • Trimble



General
GEORGE E. PICKETT
Pickett's Division
Longstreet's Corps

General
JAMES J. PETTIGREW
Pettigrew's Division
Longstreet's Corps

General
ISAAC R. TRIMBLE
Trimble's Division
A.P. Hill's Corps


PICKETT'S CHARGE BEGINS
★ THE CONFEDERATE LINE STEPS INTO THE OPEN ★
ABOUT 3:00 PM — JULY 3, 1863
Seminary Ridge
Emmitsburg Road
Codori Farm
The Angle
UNION LINE
Copse of Trees
Cemetery Ridge
CONFEDERATE LINE STEPS OFF
A LONG, BRAVE ADVANCE ACROSS OPEN GROUND


INTO THE CROSSFIRE
★ ARTILLERY AND RIFLE FIRE TEAR INTO THE ADVANCE ★
Approx. 3:15 – 3:45 PM — JULY 3, 1863
Seminary Ridge
Emmitsburg Road
Codori Farm
The Angle
UNION ARTILLERY
CONFEDERATE ADVANCE
CROSS FIRE
RIFLE FIRE
Copse of Trees
Cemetery Ridge
Confederate Advance
Union Fire (Artillery & Rifles)
Shell Bursts
Gaps in Confederate Line
BRAVE MEN INTO A STORM OF FIRE


THE HIGH WATER MARK
★ ARMISTEAD REACHES THE ANGLE ★
Approx. 3:45 – 4:00 PM — JULY 3, 1863
Seminary Ridge
Cemetery Ridge
The Angle
CONFEDERATE ADVANCE
Lewis Armistead
UNION INFANTRY
Copse of Trees
High Water Mark
Confederate Attack
Union Defense
A few Confederates reach the wall but cannot break the Union line.
THE FARTHEST REACH OF THE CONFEDERACY

OLD FRIENDS ACROSS THE LINE

ARMISTEAD AND HANCOCK

JULY 3, 1863 — PICKETT'S CHARGE



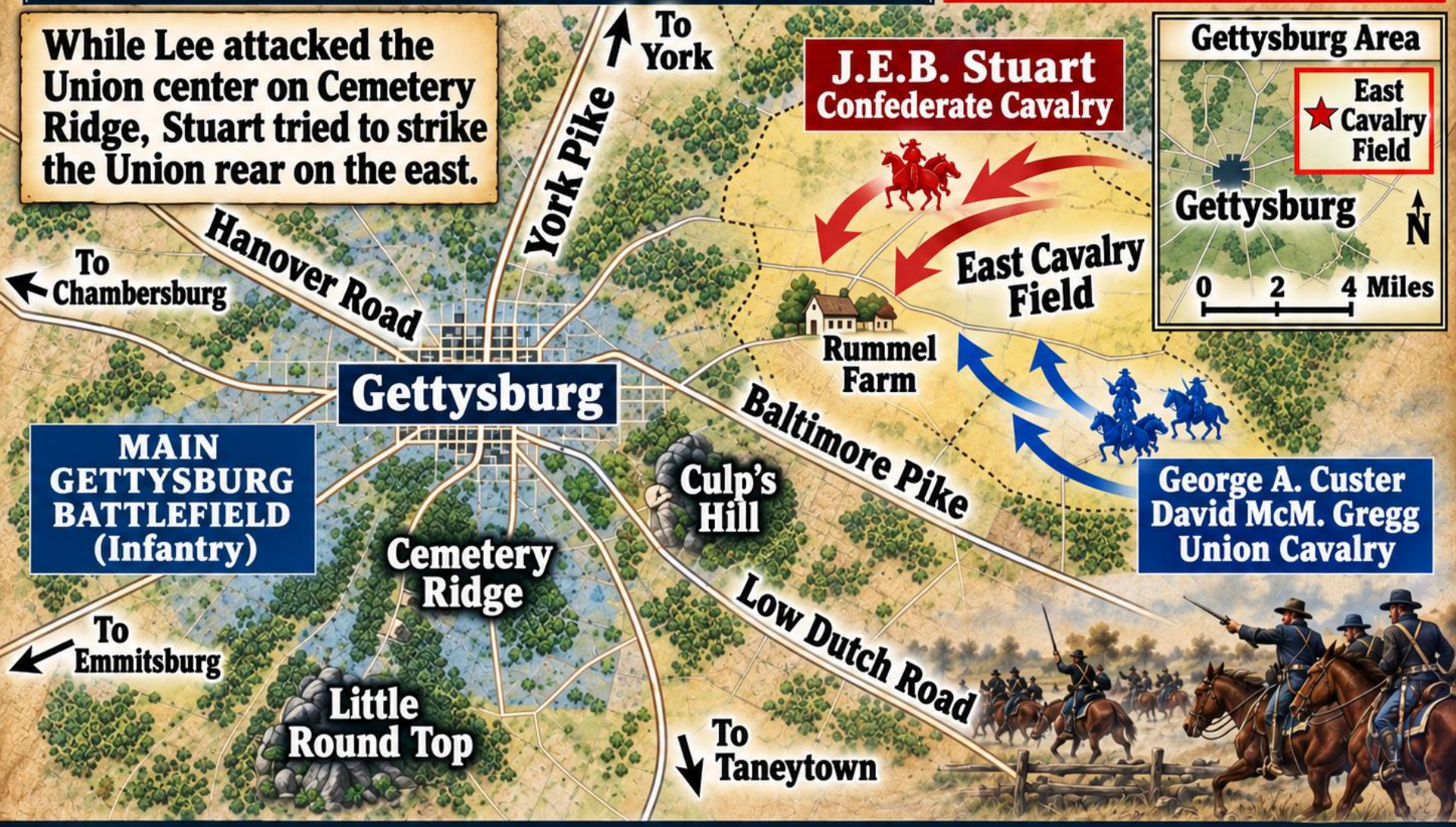
FRIENDSHIP DIVIDED BY WAR

East Cavalry Field

Location and Timing — July 3, 1863

TIME STAMP: AFTERNOON OF JULY 3, 1863
Occurred at roughly the same time as Pickett's Charge

While Lee attacked the Union center on Cemetery Ridge, Stuart tried to strike the Union rear on the east.



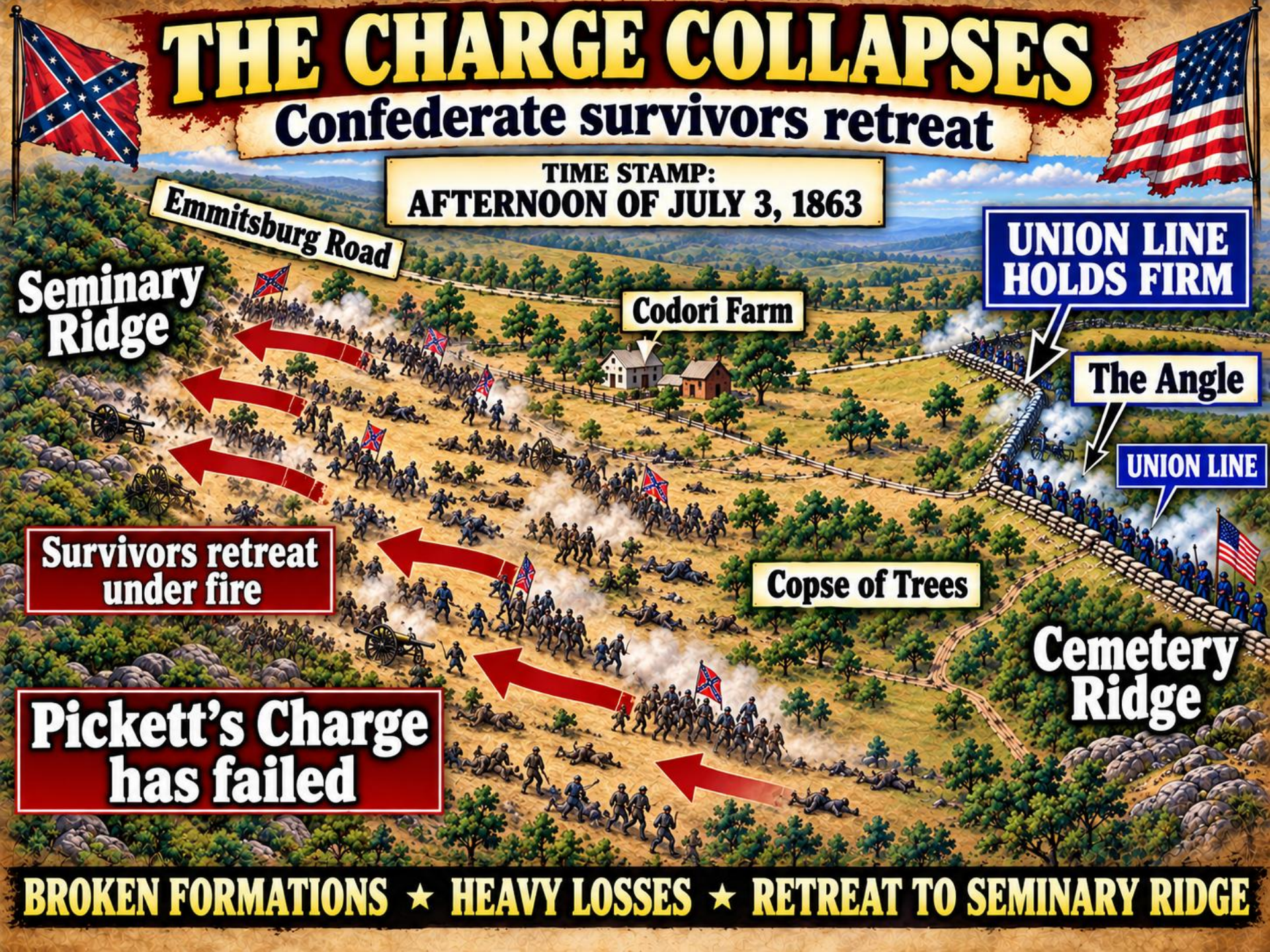
SAME BATTLE. A WIDER STRUGGLE.

GETTYSBURG — JULY 1 - 3, 1863

Stuart vs. Custer

East Cavalry Field




THE CHARGE COLLAPSES
Confederate survivors retreat
TIME STAMP:
AFTERNOON OF JULY 3, 1863
Emmitsburg Road
Seminary Ridge
Codori Farm
UNION LINE HOLDS FIRM
The Angle
UNION LINE
Survivors retreat under fire
Copse of Trees
Cemetery Ridge
Pickett's Charge has failed
BROKEN FORMATIONS ★ HEAVY LOSSES ★ RETREAT TO SEMINARY RIDGE

JULY 4 — LEE WAITS

Expecting a Union attack that never comes

"A sullen silence lies across the field ..."

TIME STAMP: MORNING–AFTERNOON, JULY 4, 1863

LEE EXPECTS MEADE TO COUNTERATTACK

MEADE HOLDS HIS POSITION

Seminary Ridge

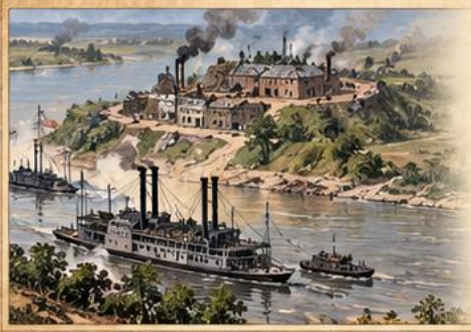
Cemetery Ridge

Culp's Hill

Cemetery Hill

Little Round Top

NO MAJOR UNION ASSAULT COMES



IRONICALLY –

VICKSBURG SURRENDERS ON JULY 4, 1863

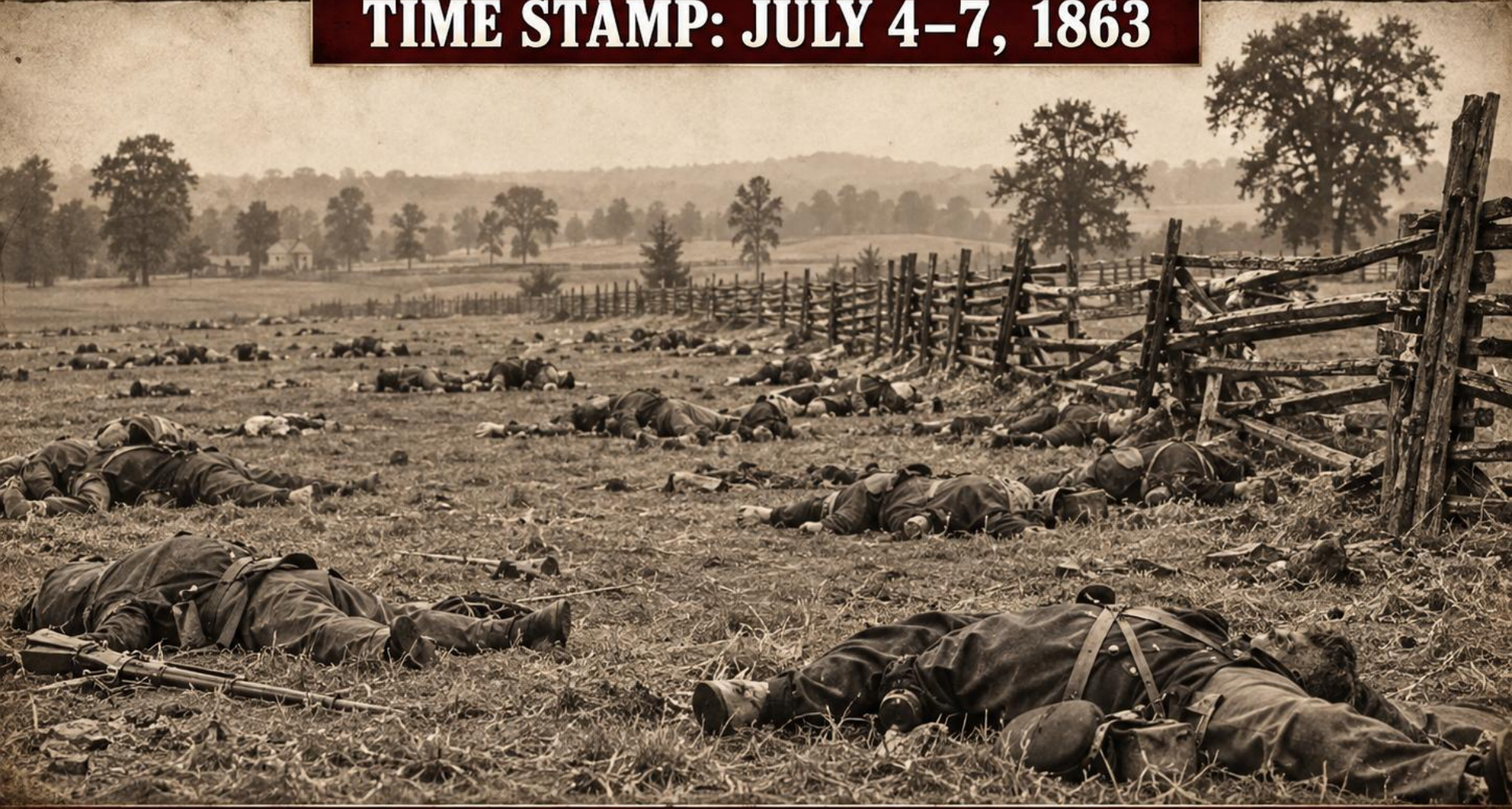
Two major blows strike the Confederacy on the same day.

LEE WAITS IN VAIN • MEADE DOES NOT ATTACK • THE CONFEDERATE RETREAT IS NEAR

GETTYSBURG AFTERMATH — THE DEAD

★ ★ ★ BATTLEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHS • JULY 1863 ★ ★ ★

TIME STAMP: JULY 4–7, 1863



Six photograph slides of the battlefield aftermath — 1 of 6

THE BATTLEFIELD IS LITTERED WITH THE DEAD

JULY 4–7, 1863



Fields around Gettysburg remained covered with the fallen

A NATION FOREVER CHANGED

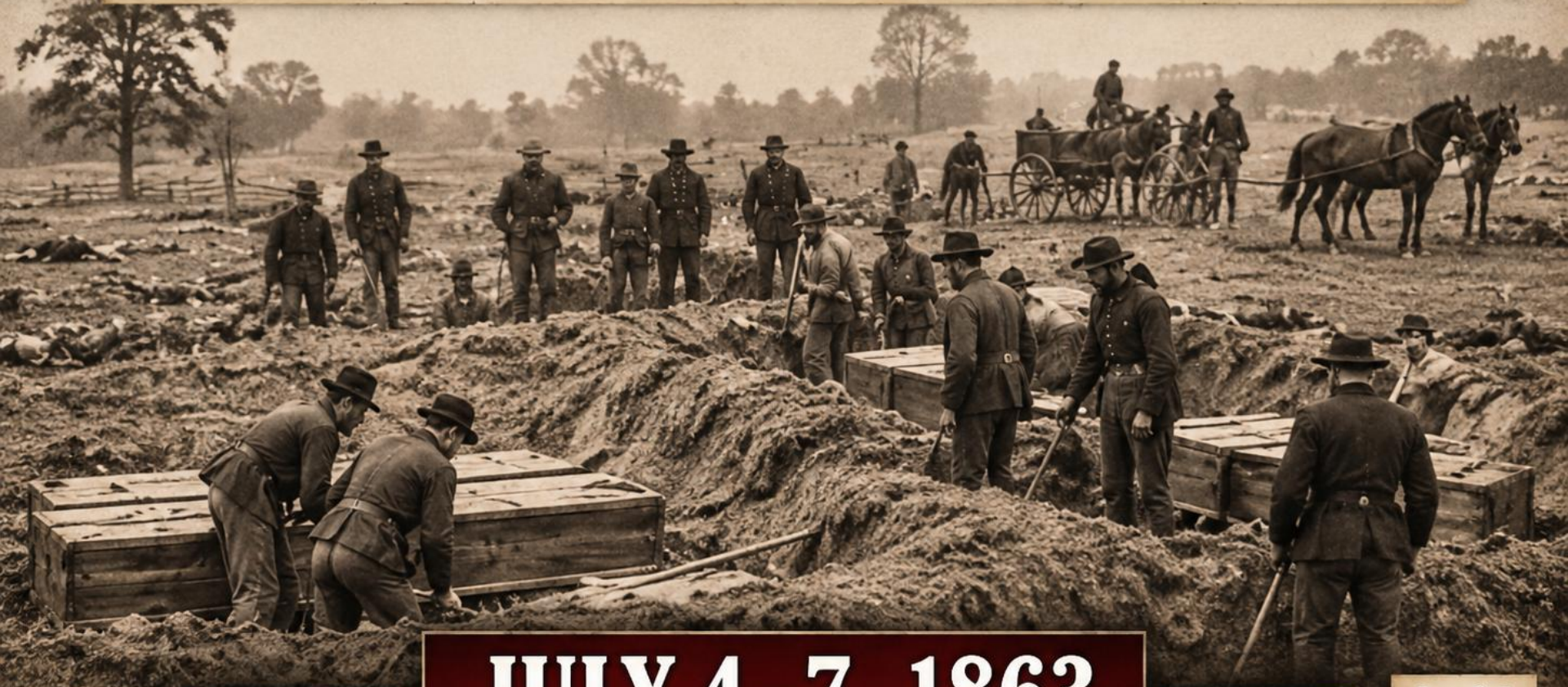
GETTYSBURG AFTERMATH — THE DEAD

BATTLEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHS • JULY 1863

"These are the realities of war."
— ALEXANDER GARDNER

BURIAL DETAILS WORK FOR DAYS

The dead had to be collected and buried across the field



JULY 4–7, 1863

PHOTOGRAPHS SHOCK THE NORTHERN PUBLIC



Alexander Gardner's team records the aftermath

— JULY 1863 —

GETTYSBURG AFTERMATH — THE DEAD

BATTLEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHS • JULY 1863

"These are the realities of war."
— Alexander Gardner

THE COST OF GETTYSBURG BECOMES VISIBLE



Men, animals, guns, and wagons lay scattered across the field

JULY 1863

A NATION FOREVER CHANGED

GETTYSBURG AFTERMATH – THE DEAD

★★★ BATTLEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHS • JULY 1863 ★★★

"These are the realities of war."
— Alexander Gardner

THE GLORY OF BATTLE GIVES WAY TO THE HORROR OF WAR

Gettysburg revealed the true human cost of Civil War combat



AFTERMATH OF JULY 1–3, 1863

REAL PEOPLE. REAL PLACES. A LASTING PRICE.

A NATION FOREVER CHANGED

GETTYSBURG AFTERMATH —

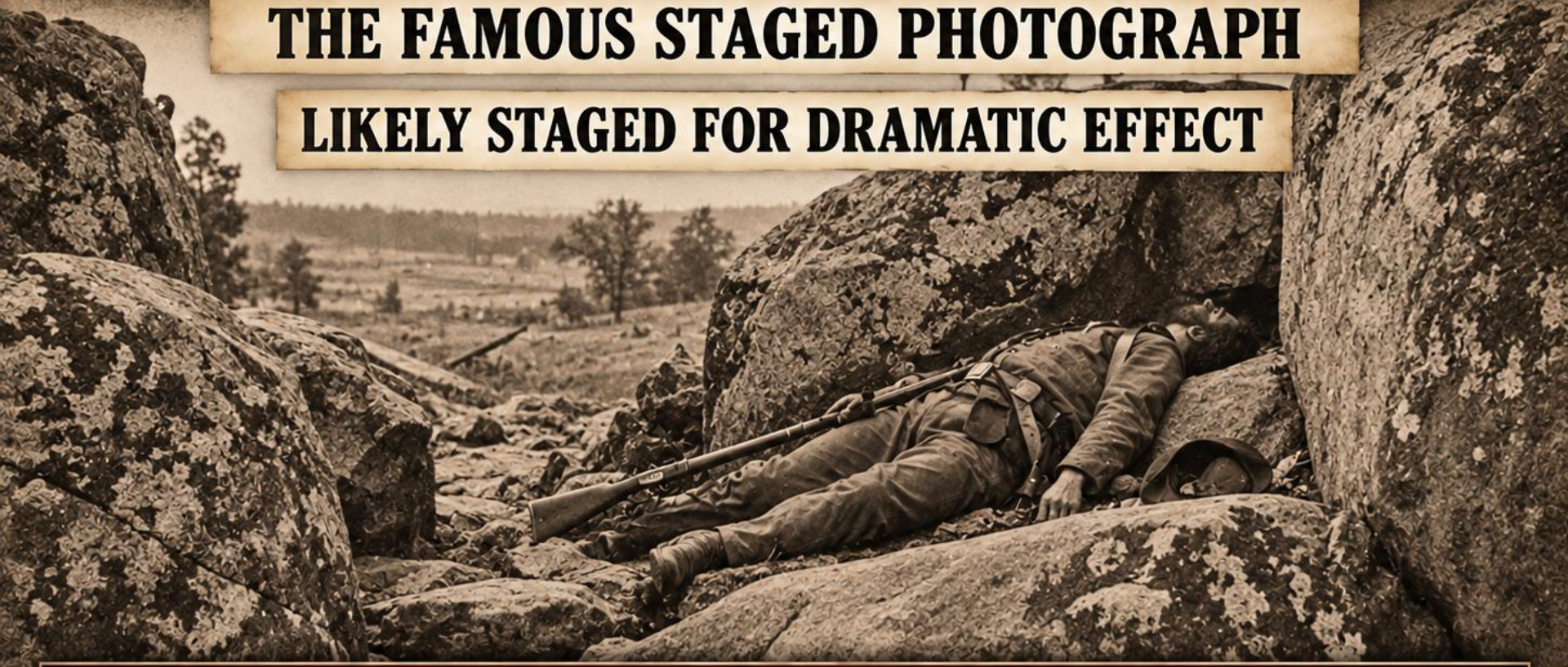
BATTLEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHS • JULY 1863

"These are the realities of war."
— Alexander Gardner

THE DEVIL'S DEN SNIPER PHOTO

THE FAMOUS STAGED PHOTOGRAPH

LIKELY STAGED FOR DRAMATIC EFFECT



ALEXANDER GARDNER'S TEAM MAY HAVE MOVED THE BODY AND RIFLE

DEVIL'S DEN • JULY 1863

GETTYSBURG AFTERMATH – THE COST OF GETTYSBURG

★★★ CASUALTIES • COMMAND LOSSES • SHATTERED UNITS ★★★

51,000+ TOTAL CASUALTIES

UNION:
about **23,000**

CONFEDERATE:
about **28,000**



COMMAND LOSSES

- ★ REYNOLDS killed
- ★ HANCOCK wounded
- ★ SICKLES wounded
- ★ ARMISTEAD mortally wounded
- ★ PENDER mortally wounded
- ★ BARKSDALE killed

SHATTERED UNITS

- ★ I CORPS mauled
- ★ III CORPS shattered
- ★ PICKETT'S DIVISION wrecked
- ★ 1ST MINNESOTA lost 82%

LEE'S ARMY COULD NOT REPLACE THESE LOSSES

JULY 1–3, 1863

GETTYSBURG + VICKSBURG

TWO BLOWS TO THE CONFEDERACY

GETTYSBURG

JULY 1–3, 1863



- LEE TURNED BACK IN THE EAST
- CONFEDERATE ATTACK FAILS

VICKSBURG

JULY 4, 1863



- MISSISSIPPI RIVER LOST
- CONFEDERACY SPLIT IN TWO

JULY 1863 – THE TIDE TURNS

EAST: LEE REPULSED • WEST: GRANT TRIUMPHS

TOGETHER, THESE VICTORIES CHANGED THE WAR

FINAL ASSESSMENT

WHY GETTYSBURG MATTERED TO THE WAR

LEE TURNED BACK

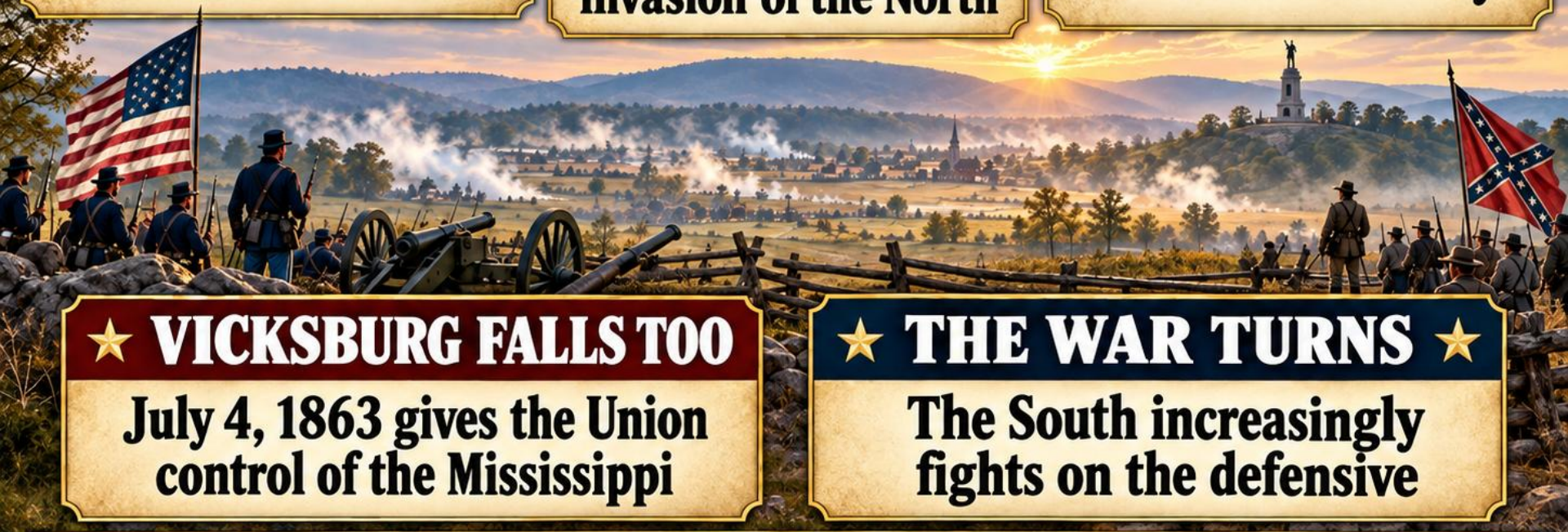
The invasion of the North failed

CONFEDERACY LOSES MOMENTUM

Lee never again launched a major invasion of the North

UNION MORALE SURGES

A badly needed Northern victory



VICKSBURG FALLS TOO

July 4, 1863 gives the Union control of the Mississippi

THE WAR TURNS

The South increasingly fights on the defensive

GETTYSBURG DID NOT END THE WAR — BUT IT CHANGED ITS DIRECTION.

GETTYSBURG

A NATION FOREVER CHANGED

QUESTIONS?

???



"These are the realities of war."
— Alexander Gardner

PEOPLE ★ PRINCIPLES ★ A NATION FOREVER CHANGED