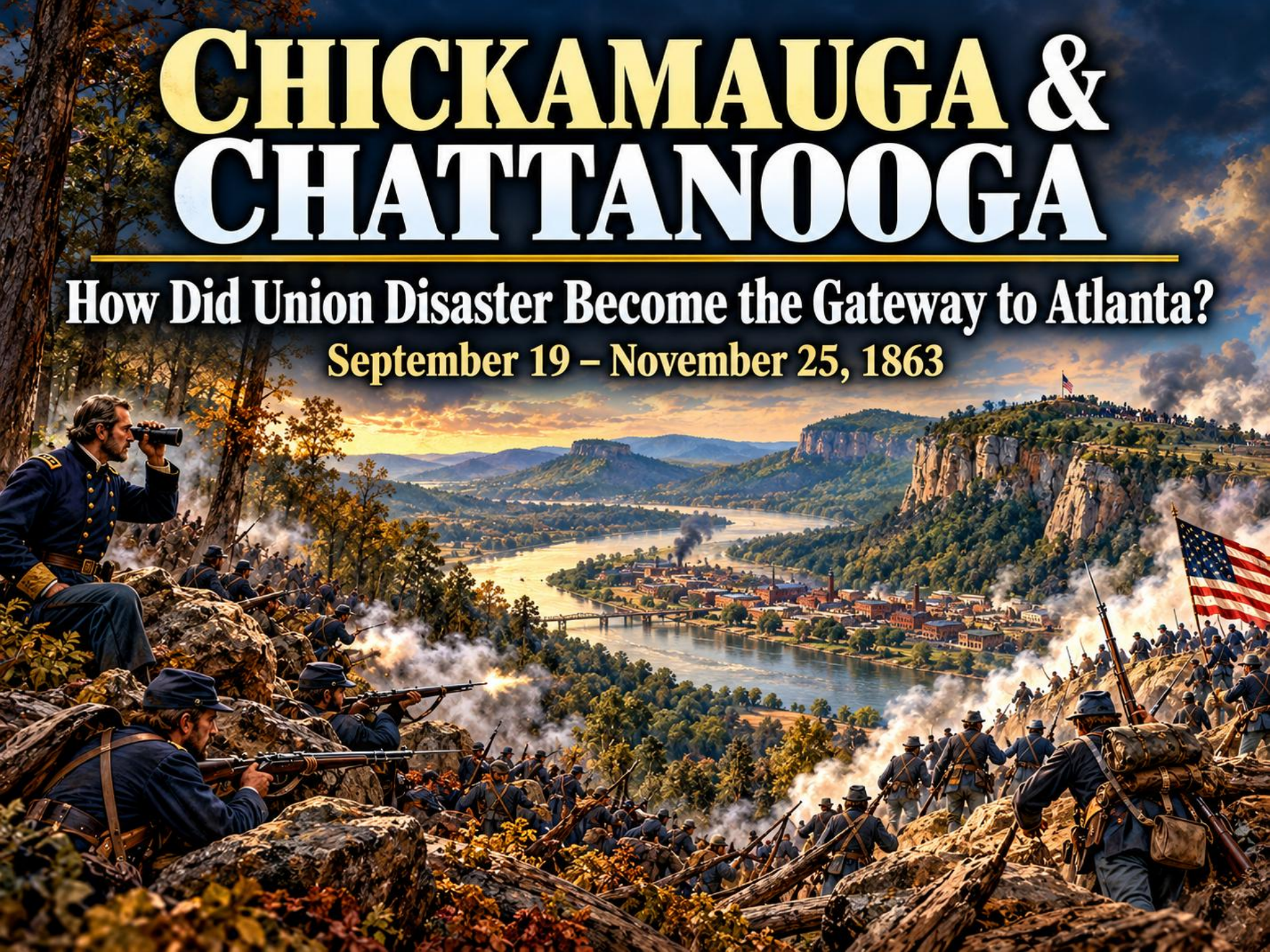
Chickamauga & Chattanooga

How Did Union Disaster Become the Gateway to Atlanta?

September 19 – November 25, 1863

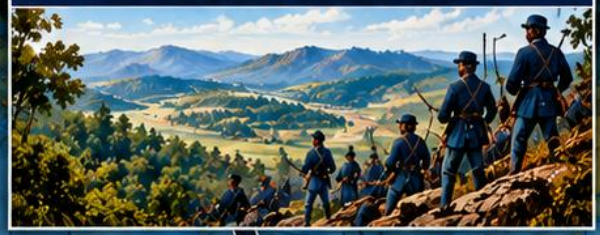


THE WAR IN JULY 1863

VICKSBURG
JULY 4, 1863
The Mississippi Is Open



TULLAHOMA
JUNE 23 – JULY 3, 1863
Bragg Driven from Middle Tennessee



GETTYSBURG
JULY 1 – 3, 1863
Lee Turned Back





THREE UNION VICTORIES

NOW THE FOCUS SHIFTS TO TENNESSEE

Meet the Two Armies

The Struggle for Tennessee in 1863



Stones River – Murfreesboro

December 31, 1862 – January 2, 1863



Bragg Attacks → **Rosecrans Holds** → **Bragg Withdraws**

— A Costly Union Victory —

The Tullahoma Campaign

June 23 – July 3, 1863



Why Chattanooga?

Gateway to the Deep South



Control Chattanooga —

Open the Way Into the Confederate Heartland

East Tennessee – Union Country

A Stronghold of Southern Unionism



Lincoln Wanted East Tennessee Back

Andrew Johnson
Tennessee Unionist





1. **U.S. Senator from Tennessee**
2. **Refused to Join Secession**
3. **Military Governor — 1862**



Tennessee Seceded — Johnson Stayed with the Union

Burnside Enters Knoxville

September 3, 1863



1 Large Unionist Population

East Tennessee had strong loyalty to the Union.

2 Burnside Welcomed

On September 3, 1863, Burnside's troops received a jubilant welcome in Knoxville.

3 Secures the Region

Union control of East Tennessee protects supply lines and keeps Confederate forces out.

4 Allows Rosecrans to Maneuver

With East Tennessee secure Rosecrans can concentrate on capturing Chattanooga

East Tennessee Stands With the Union

Burnside's Success Paves the Way for the Campaign Against Chattanooga

ROSECRANS OUTMANEUVERS BRAGG

THE CHATTANOOGA CAMPAIGN — AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 1863



BRAGG HAS BEEN OUTMANEUVERED

CHATTANOOGA MUST BE ABANDONED

BRAGG ABANDONS CHATTANOOGA

SEPTEMBER 8–9, 1863



1. **BRAGG OUTFLANKED**
2. **CHATTANOOGA EVACUATED**
3. **ROSECRANS PURSUES INTO GEORGIA**

ROSECRANS THINKS BRAGG IS RETREATING – BUT BRAGG IS LOOKING FOR A FIGHT.

Rosecrans Pursues Bragg
into Georgia – September 9–18, 1863



1 Rosecrans Leaves Chattanooga
September 9, 1863, pursuing Bragg's army into Georgia.

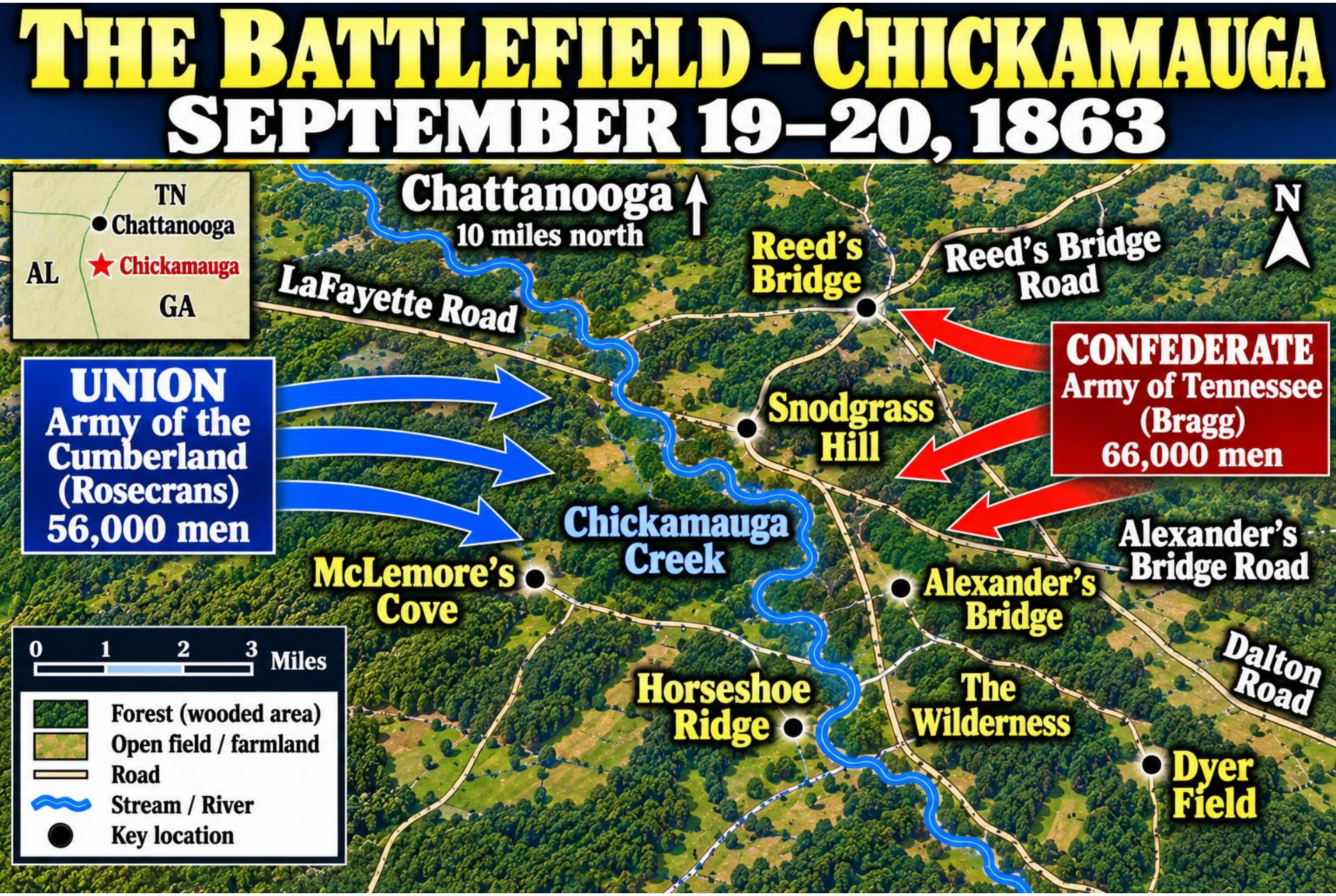
2 Bragg Falls Back
Bragg withdraws toward Dalton, drawing Rosecrans farther from Chattanooga.

3 Two Armies Separated
Rosecrans sends Thomas to hold Chattanooga and pursues with most of his army.

4 Bragg Looks For A Fight
Bragg is not retreating to Atlanta. He is concentrating near LaFayette to attack Rosecrans's separated forces.

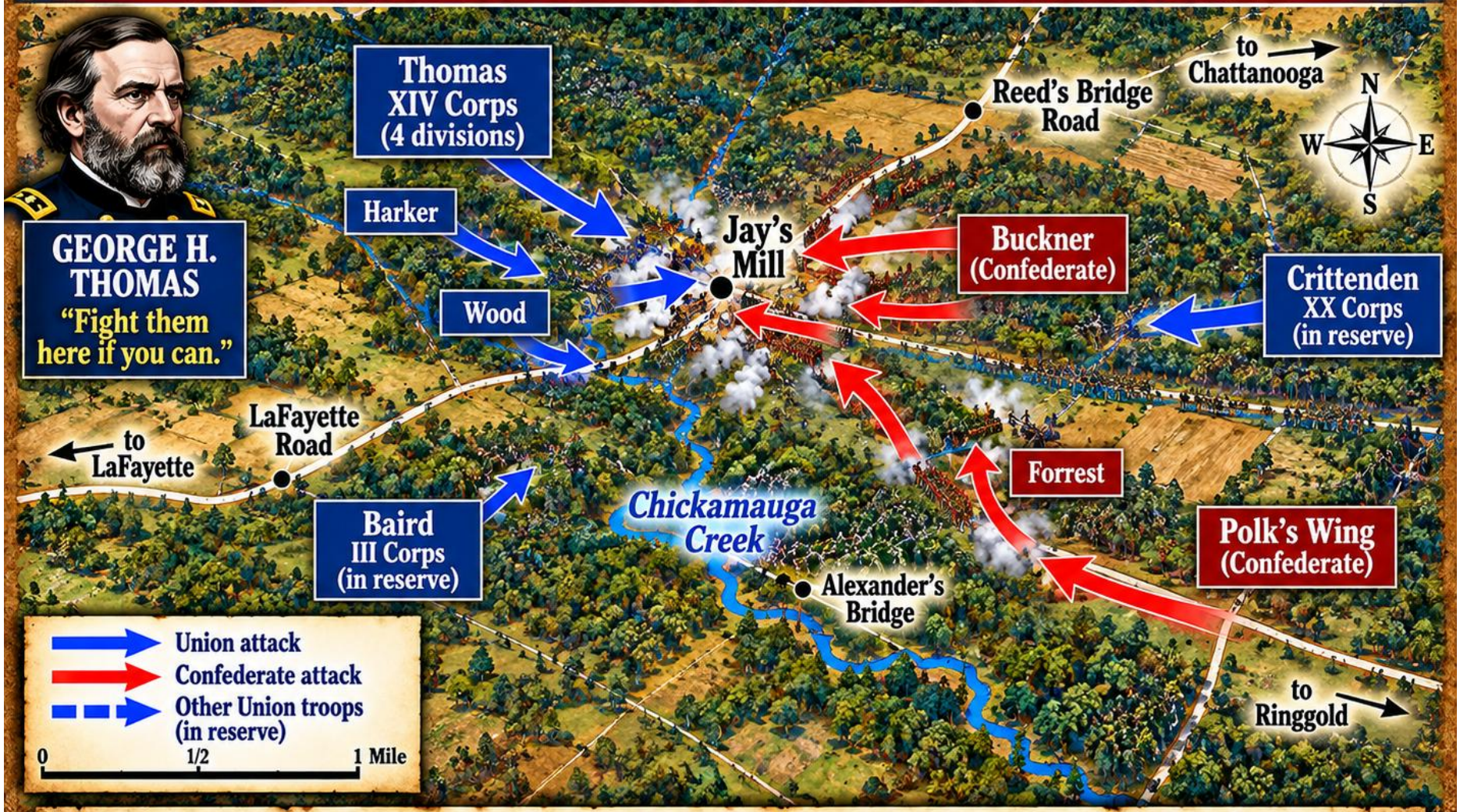
Rosecrans is Drawn away from Chattanooga
Bragg Seeks An Opportunity to Strike


CHICKAMAUGA & CHATTANOOGA
ONLY 9 MILES APART
Chattanooga
TENNESSEE
Tennessee River
24
N
Missionary Ridge
Lookout Mountain
ABOUT 9 MILES
75
TENNESSEE
Rossville
GEORGIA
Fort Oglethorpe
LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN — GEORGIA
Chickamauga Battlefield
GEORGIA
Chickamauga Creek
75
0
2.5
5
10
Miles


THE BATTLEFIELD – CHICKAMAUGA
SEPTEMBER 19–20, 1863
TN
Chattanooga
AL
Chickamauga
GA
Chattanooga
10 miles north
N
LaFayette Road
Reed's Bridge
Reed's Bridge Road
UNION
Army of the Cumberland
(Rosecrans)
56,000 men
CONFEDERATE
Army of Tennessee
(Bragg)
66,000 men
Snodgrass Hill
Chickamauga Creek
McLemore's Cove
Alexander's Bridge
Alexander's Bridge Road
Dalton Road
Horseshoe Ridge
The Wilderness
Dyer Field
0 1 2 3 Miles
Forest (wooded area)
Open field / farmland
Road
Stream / River
Key location

SEPTEMBER 19, 1863 – THE BATTLE BEGINS

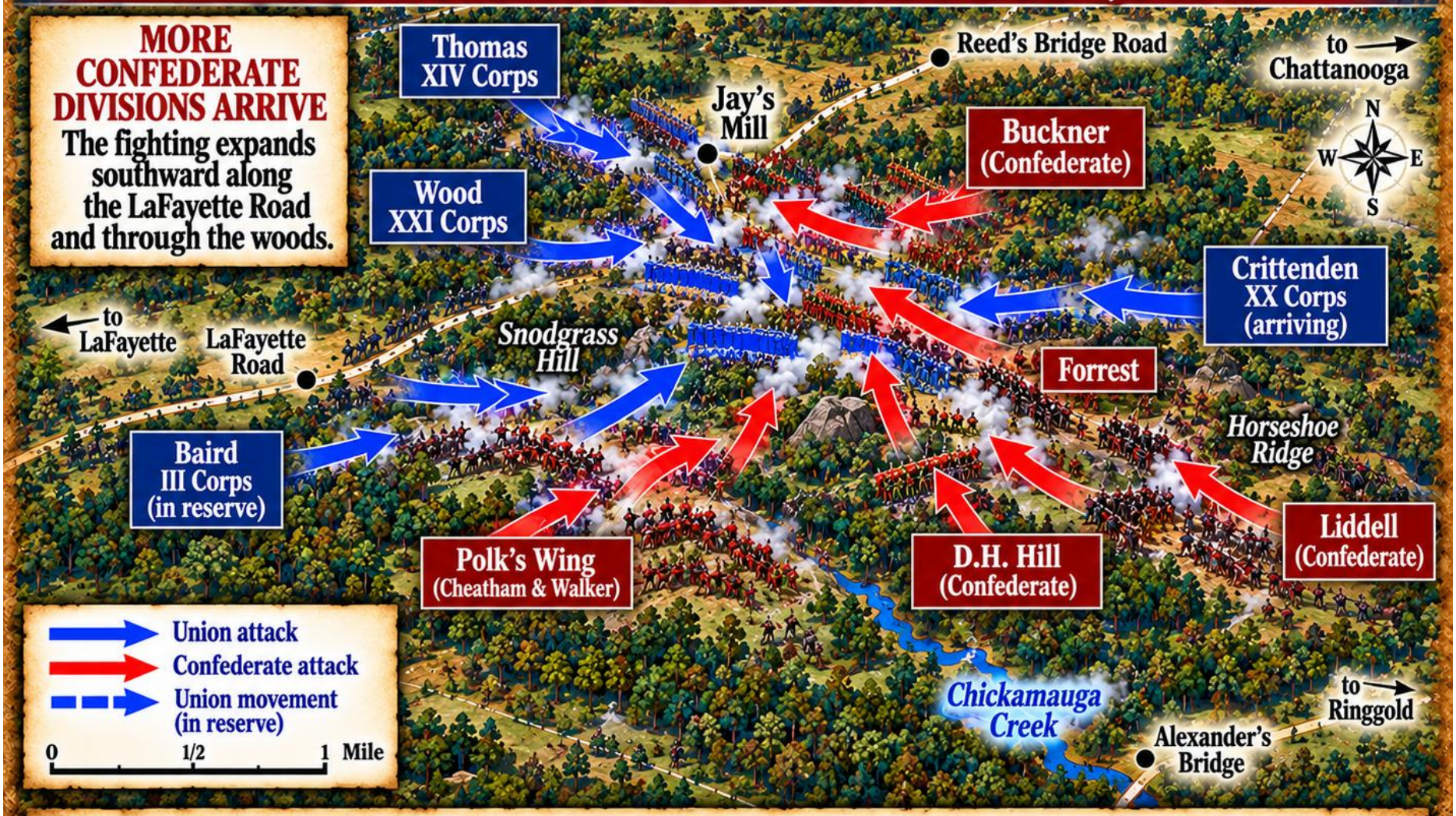
MORNING — THOMAS STRIKES NEAR JAY'S MILL



On the morning of September 19, Thomas moved south to strike Confederate forces near Jay's Mill. The fighting quickly spread through the dense woods along the creek as Polk's troops resisted and brought in reinforcements.

The Battle Spreads South

Late Morning – September 19, 1863

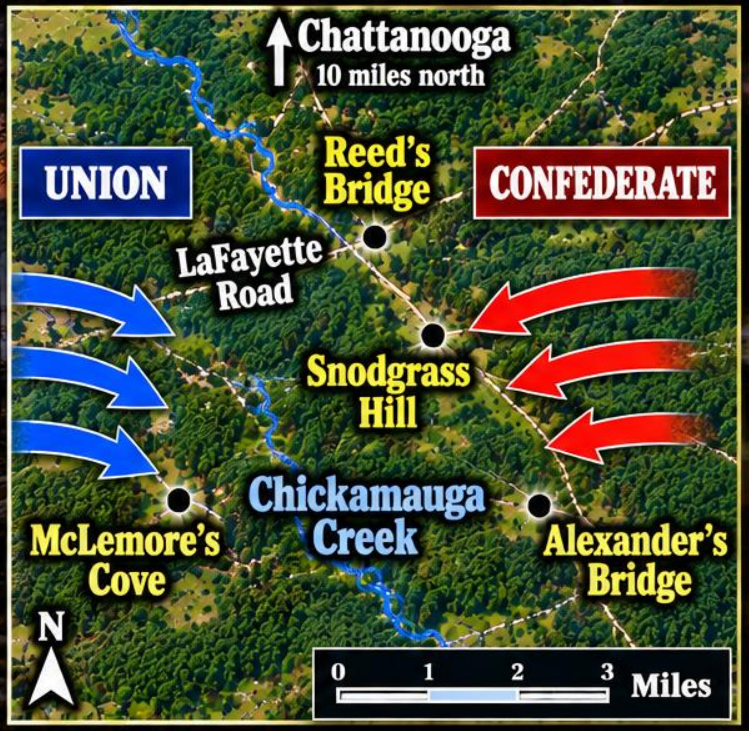


As the battle grew, more Confederate divisions arrived and the fighting spread southward along the LaFayette Road and into the dense woods.

SEPTEMBER 19, 1863

NIGHTFALL — NO DECISION



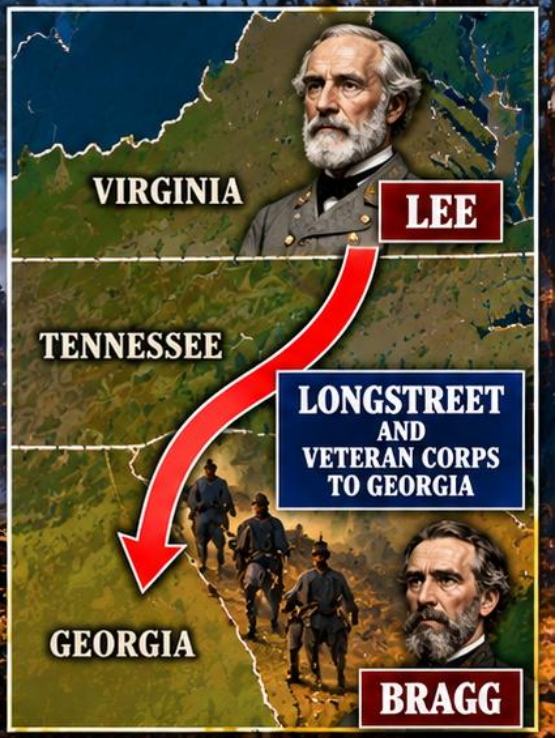


- **NEITHER ARMY ACHIEVES A DECISIVE BREAKTHROUGH**
- **BOTH SIDES PREPARE FOR RENEWED FIGHTING ON SEPTEMBER 20**

LONGSTREET TAKES COMMAND OF BRAGG'S LEFT WING

NIGHT OF SEPTEMBER 19–20, 1863





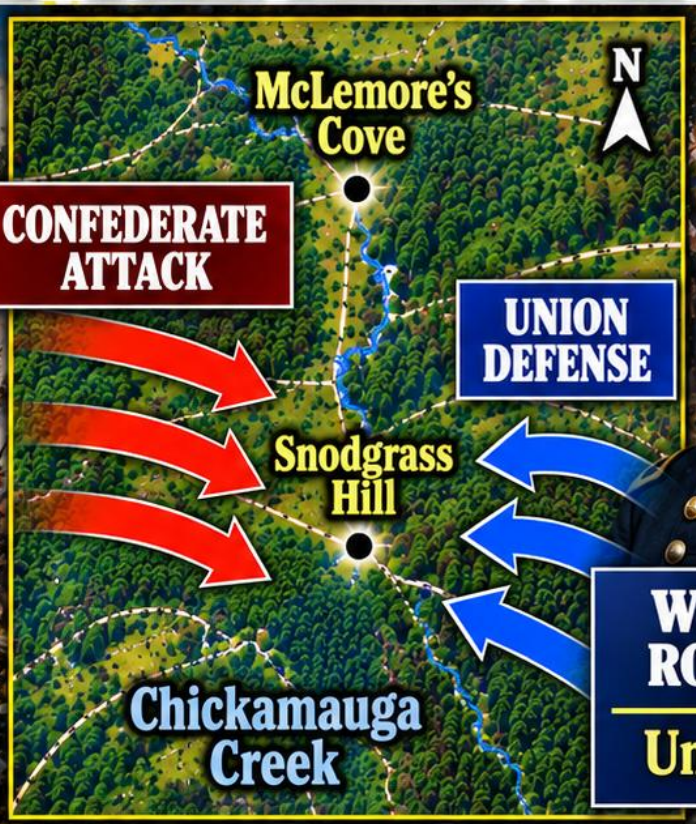
- **LEE SENDS VETERANS WEST**
- **BRAGG GIVES LONGSTREET THE LEFT WING**

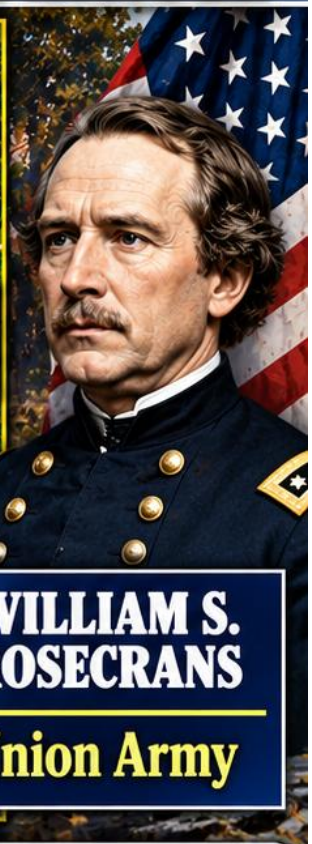
SEPTEMBER 20, 1863

BRAGG LAUNCHES THE MAIN ATTACK



BRAXTON BRAGG
Confederate Army



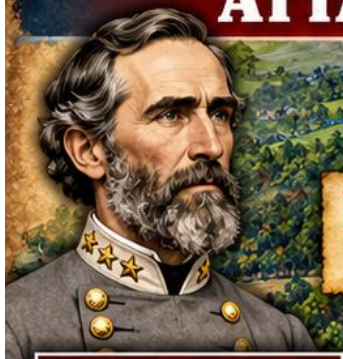


WILLIAM S. ROSECRANS
Union Army

- **BRAGG ATTACKS THE UNION LEFT**
- **LONGSTREET LEADS THE ASSAULT**

BRAGG'S PLAN – MORNING, SEPTEMBER 20, 1863

ATTACK ON BOTH WINGS TO ROLL UP THE UNION LINE



BRAXTON BRAGG
Confederate Army

LONGSTREET
Left Wing

Hood
McLaws
Walker

ROSECRANS
Army of the Cumberland

Thomas
XIV Corps

Reynolds
XX Corps

Wood
XXI Corps

Crittenden
XX Corps

POLK
Right Wing

Cheatham
Polk
Hardee

Pigeon Mountain

Lafayette Road

to Chattanooga

N
W E
S

Chickamauga Creek

LaFayette Road

Lee & Gordon's Mills

Dyer Field

Snodgrass Hill

Chickamauga Creek

Union line and corps

Confederate attack

0 1 2 Miles

Bragg planned a converging attack – Polk on the right and Longstreet on the left – to break the Union line in the center.

THE UNION LINE HOLDS

MORNING, SEPTEMBER 20, 1863



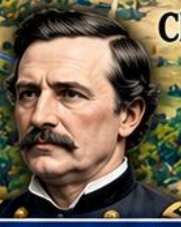
BRAXTON BRAGG
Confederate Army

LONGSTREET
Left Wing

Hood
McLaws
Walker



THOMAS
XIV Corps



ROSECRANS
Army of the Cumberland

Pigeon Mountain

to Chattanooga

N
W E
S

LaFayette Road

Reynolds
XX Corps

Wood
XXI Corps

Crittenden
XX Corps

Chickamauga Creek

Snodgrass Hill

LaFayette Road

Lee & Gordon's Mills

Dyer Field

POLK
Right Wing

Cheatham
Polk
Hardee

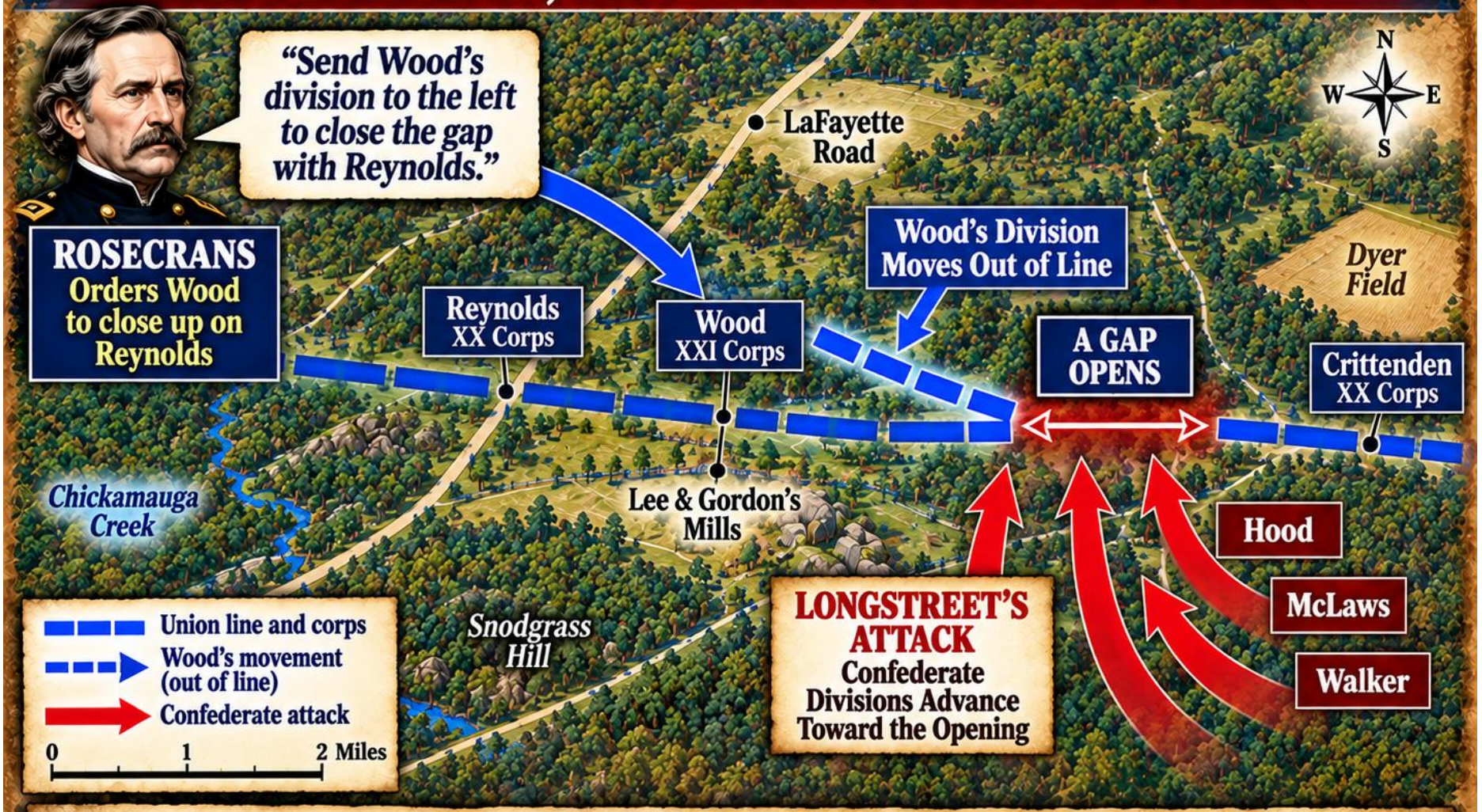
Chickamauga Creek

Union line and corps
Confederate attack
0 1 2 Miles

Thomas's XIV Corps holds the Confederate attacks on the Union left through the morning.

THE FATAL UNION ORDER

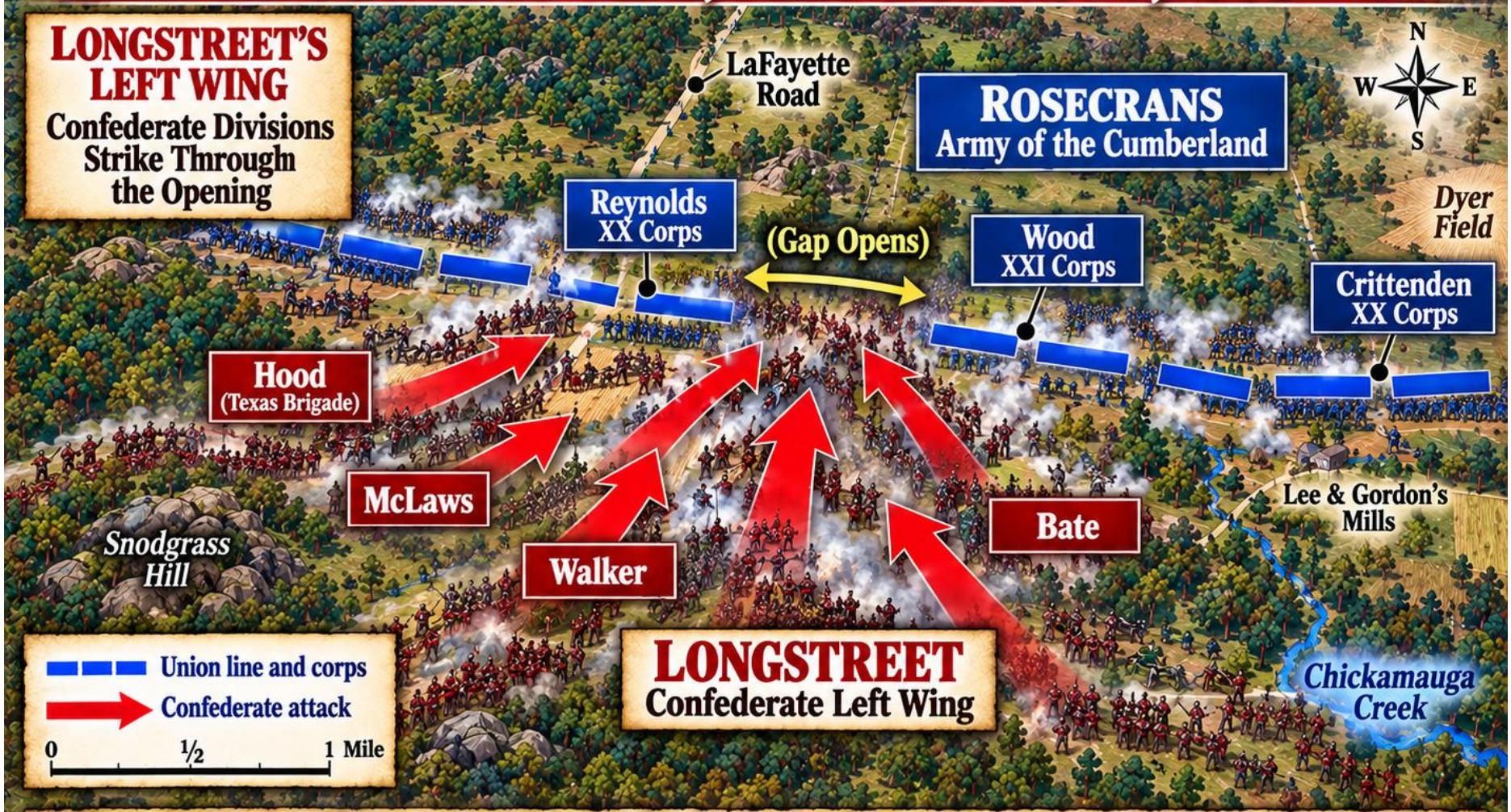
SEPTEMBER 20, 1863 – ABOUT 9:30–11:00 A.M.



Rosecrans ordered Wood to close up on Reynolds.
As Wood's division moved, a gap opened in the Union line.

LONGSTREET HITS THE GAP

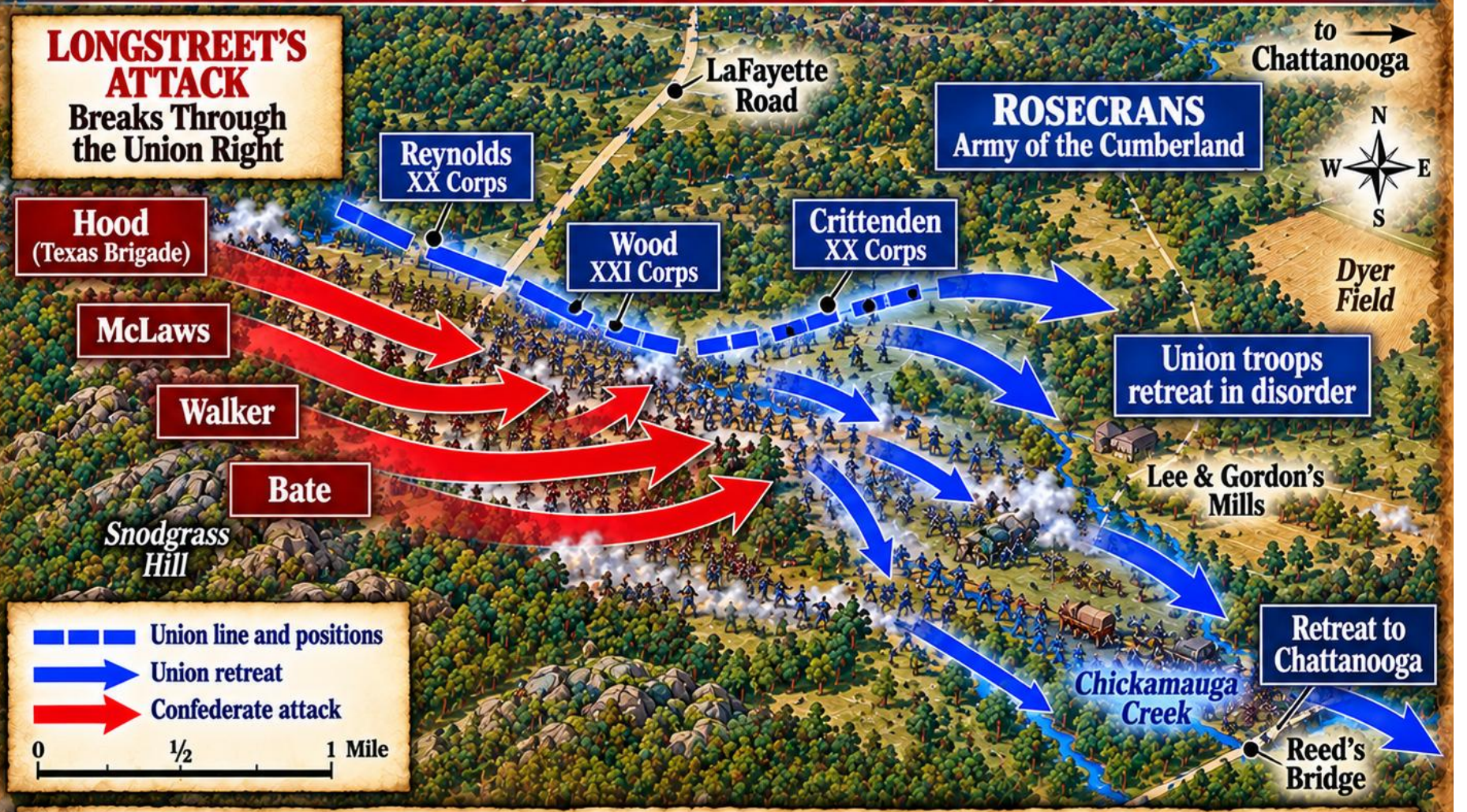
ABOUT 11:10 A.M., SEPTEMBER 20, 1863



Longstreet's divisions crash through the gap in the Union line, turning the Federal right and shattering the Army of the Cumberland.

THE UNION RIGHT COLLAPSES

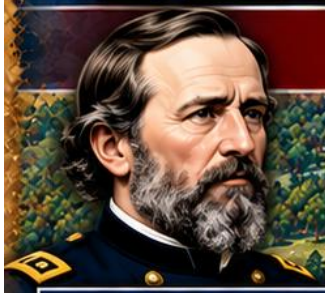
MIDDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1863



Longstreet's attack pours through the gap, overrunning the Union right. Federal troops retreat toward Chattanooga in confusion.

THOMAS FORMS A NEW LINE

AFTERNOON, SEPTEMBER 20, 1863



GEORGE H. THOMAS
"The Rock of Chickamauga"

Hood
McLaws
Walker
Bate

THOMAS
XIV Corps
Forms a new defensive line

LaFayette Road

to Chattanooga

N
W E
S

Palmer Division
Johnson Division
Steedman Division

Lee & Gordon's Mills

Dyer Field

Granger (Reserve Corps) Arriving

Horse Shoe Ridge

Snodgrass Hill

Chickamauga Creek

Reed's Bridge

to Chattanooga

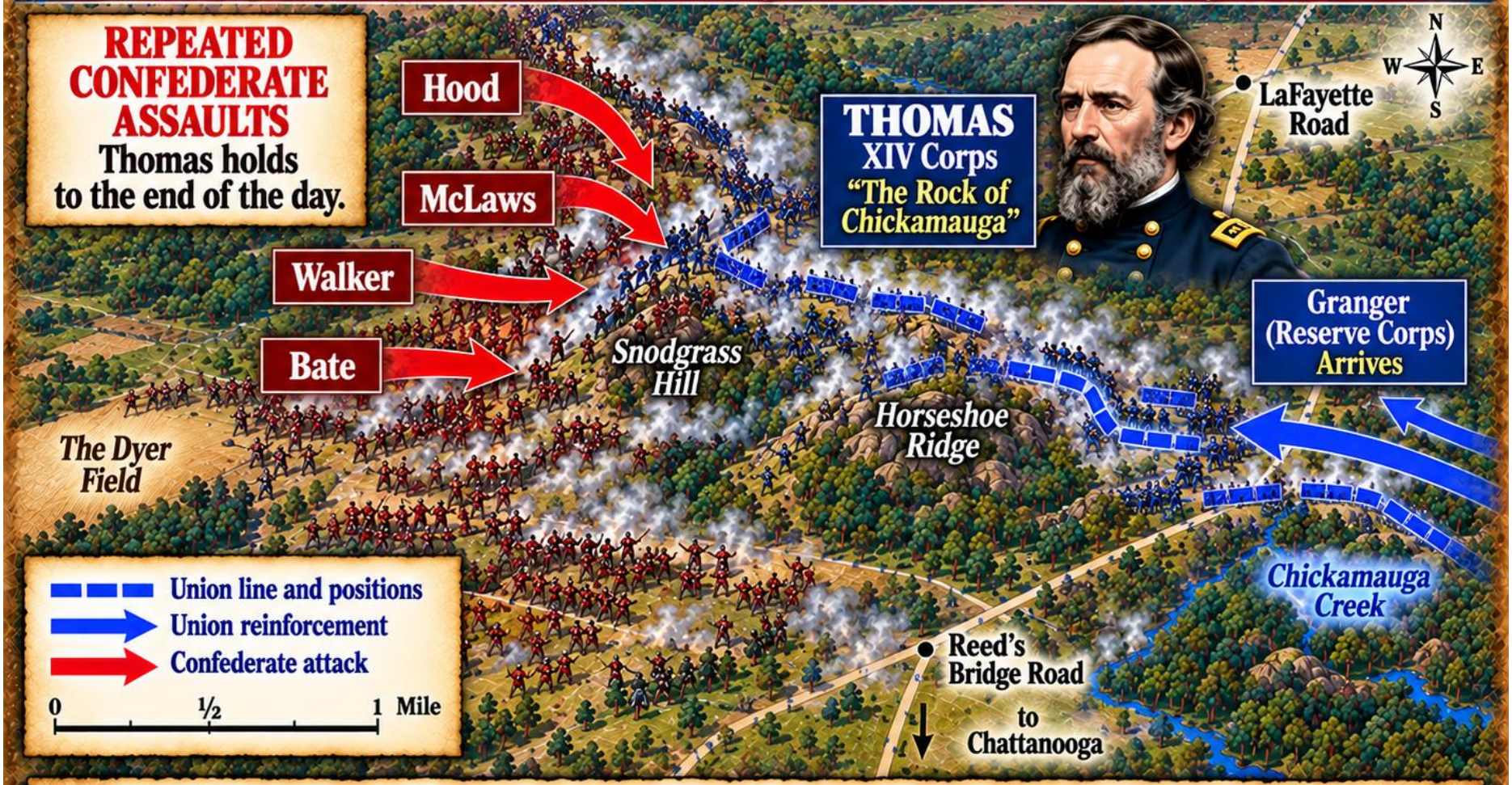
Union line and positions
Union reinforcement
Confederate attack

0 ½ 1 Mile

After the right collapses, Thomas quickly forms a new defensive line on Snodgrass Hill and along Horseshoe Ridge.

THE ROCK OF CHICKAMAUGA

AFTERNOON TO DARK, SEPTEMBER 20, 1863



Thomas and the XIV Corps hold their position on Snodgrass Hill and Horseshoe Ridge against repeated Confederate assaults. After dark, the Union army withdraws toward Chattanooga.

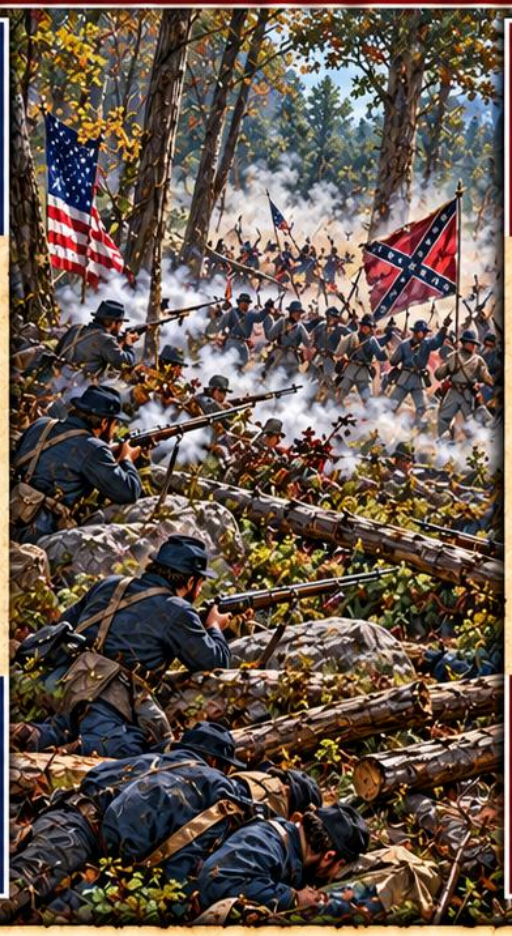
CASUALTIES AT CHICKAMAUGA

SEPTEMBER 19–20, 1863

UNION
Army of the Cumberland
(Maj. Gen. William S. Rosecrans)

Killed	1,657
Wounded	9,756
Missing / Captured	4,928
Total Casualties	16,341

About **24%** of 68,000 engaged



CONFEDERATE
Army of Tennessee
(Gen. Braxton Bragg)

Killed	1,728
Wounded	9,674
Missing / Captured	1,052
Total Casualties	12,454

About **18%** of 68,000 engaged

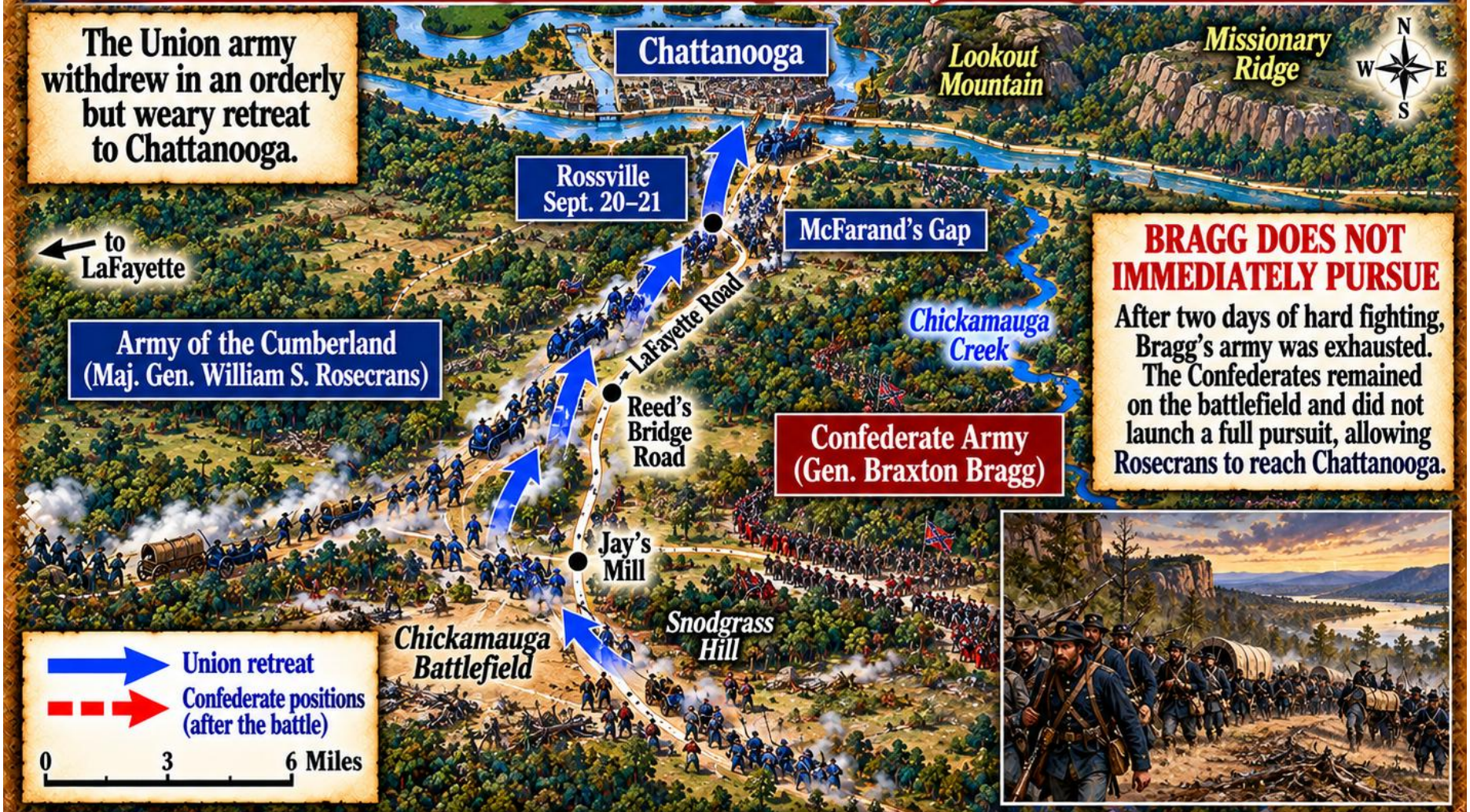
Nearly 28,800 casualties in two days

Almost 1 in 5 men engaged became a casualty,
making Chickamauga one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

RETREAT TO CHATTANOOGA

SEPTEMBER 20–21, 1863

The Union army withdrew in an orderly but weary retreat to Chattanooga.



BRAGG DOES NOT IMMEDIATELY PURSUE

After two days of hard fighting, Bragg's army was exhausted. The Confederates remained on the battlefield and did not launch a full pursuit, allowing Rosecrans to reach Chattanooga.

The Union army withdrew north toward Chattanooga on September 20–21. Bragg, with a heavily depleted army, did not immediately pursue.

THE TRAP CLOSES

CHATTANOOGA BESIEGED

LATE SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 1863



From the commanding heights of Lookout Mountain, Missionary Ridge, and Raccoon Mountain, Bragg's army surrounded Chattanooga and cut the Union army off from its main supply routes, beginning a siege.

The Army Begins to Starve

Chattanooga – October 1863 (1 of 2)



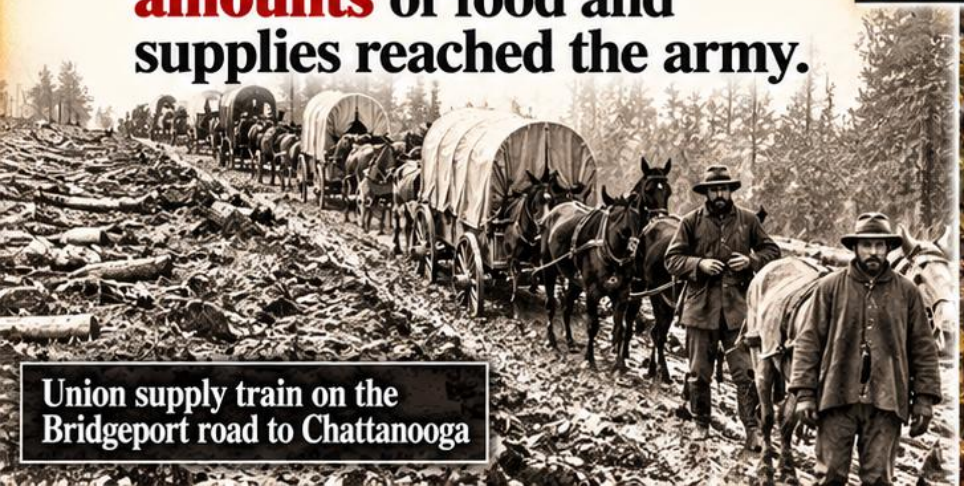
- **After the Union retreat, Bragg occupied the surrounding heights and cut Chattanooga off from the outside world.**
- Lookout Mountain (west), Missionary Ridge (east), and Raccoon Mountain (south) gave the Confederates commanding positions.
- The normal supply routes were blocked or threatened.
- The only open route was the long and difficult road through Bridgeport, Alabama.

The Army Begins to Starve

Pathetic Supply Lines (2 of 2)

- The only open route was the long, difficult road from **Bridgeport, Alabama — over 60 miles** away.
- Wagons had to cross **Lookout Mountain** and rough mountain roads.
- Confederate cavalry constantly **harassed the convoys**.
- As a result, **only small amounts** of food and supplies reached the army.





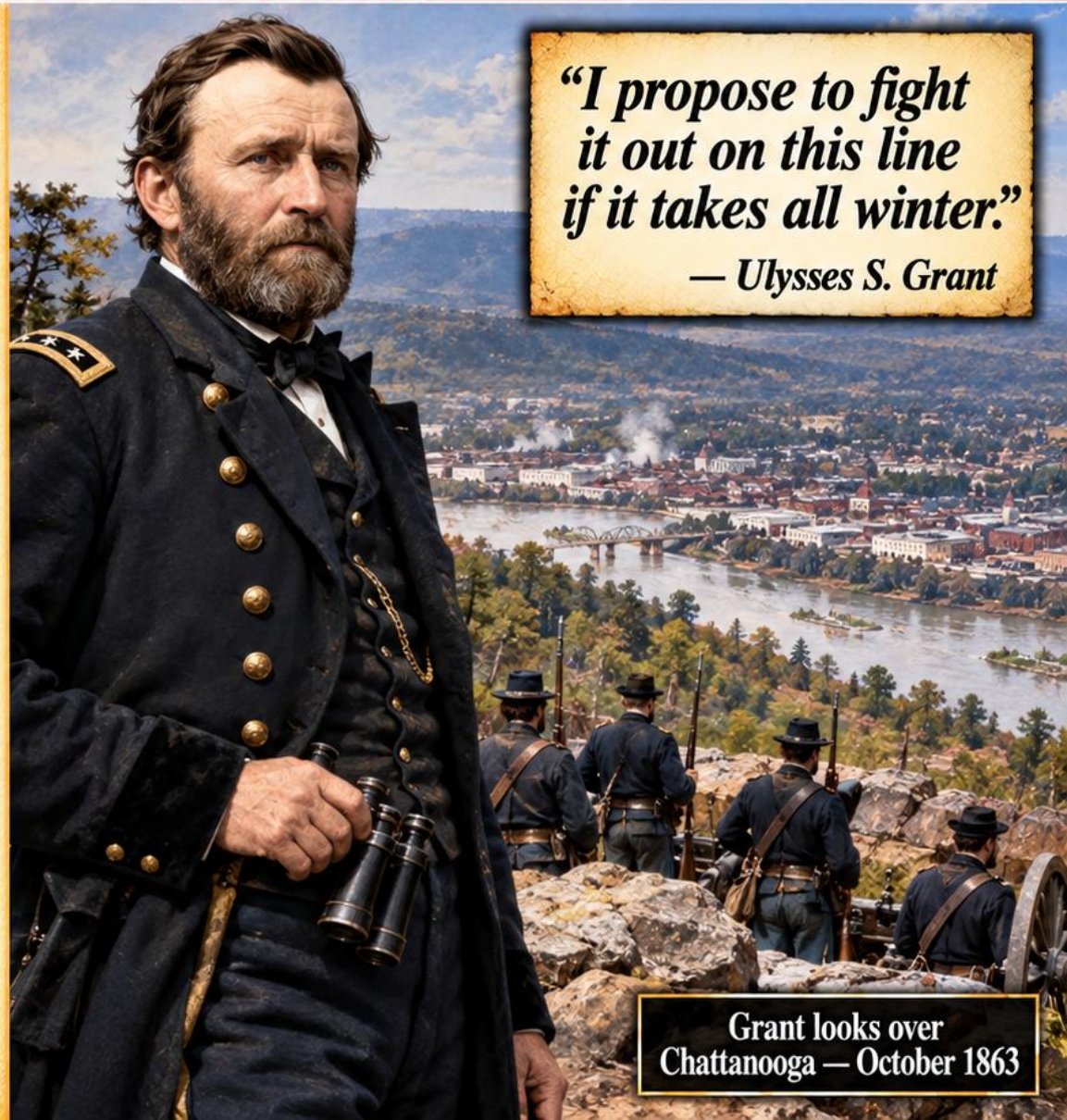
Union supply train on the Bridgeport road to Chattanooga



Enter Ulysses S. Grant

October 1863

- Lincoln gives Grant command of the new **Military Division of the Mississippi.**
- Grant now controls all Union armies in the Western Theater (Army of the Cumberland, Army of the Tennessee, and Army of the Ohio).
- Grant arrives in Chattanooga on **October 23, 1863.**
- He immediately assesses the desperate situation and sets out to reopen a supply line and prepare for an offensive.



Grant looks over Chattanooga — October 1863

ROSECRANS OUT – THOMAS IN

Grant Replaces Rosecrans and Promotes George H. Thomas

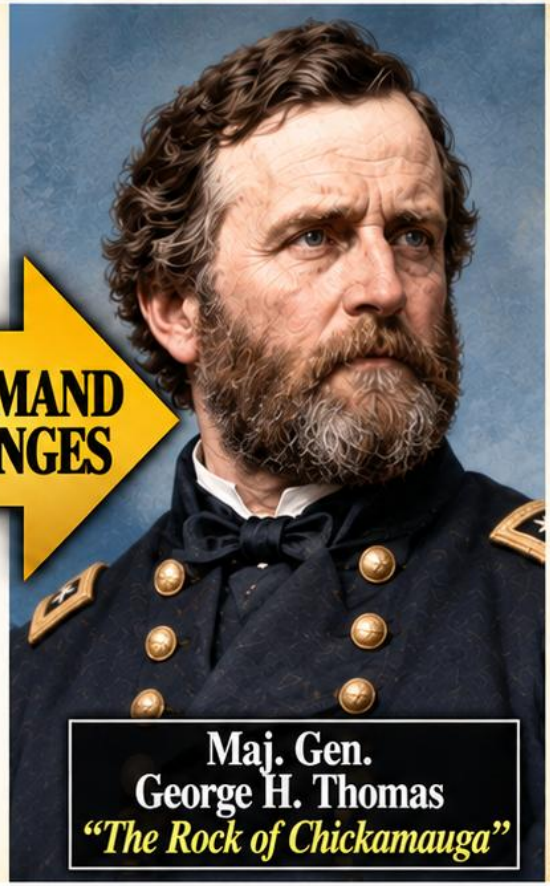
October 23, 1863



Maj. Gen.
William S. Rosecrans

- Criticized for his handling of Chickamauga.
- Relieved of command by Grant on October 23, 1863.
- Returned to the East and never again commanded an army.

COMMAND CHANGES

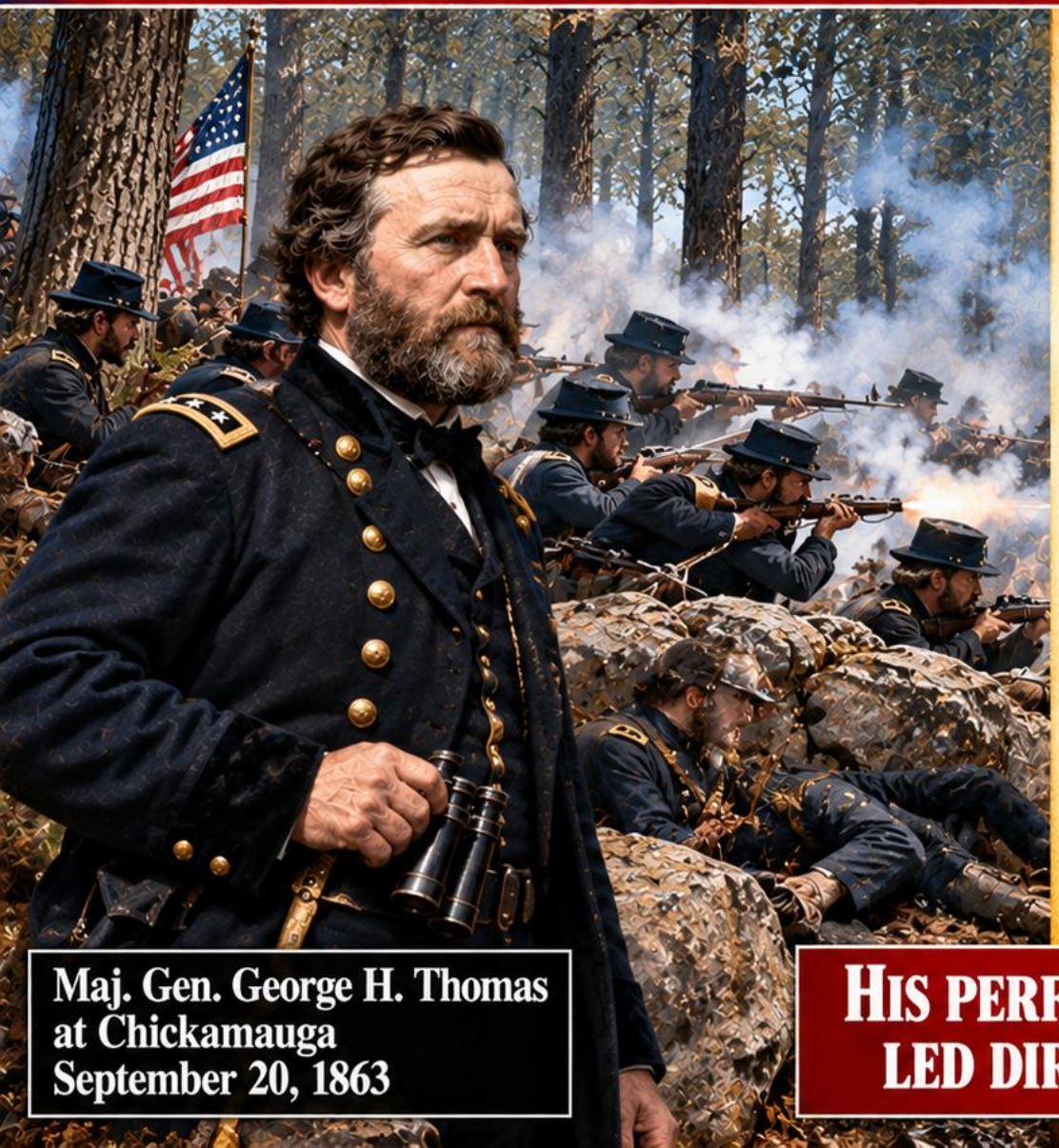


Maj. Gen.
George H. Thomas
"The Rock of Chickamauga"

- Praised for his steadfast defense at Chickamauga.
- Earned the title "The Rock of Chickamauga."
- Promoted to command the Army of the Cumberland.
- A key member of Grant's new Military Division of the Mississippi.

Thomas at Chickamauga

His Stand Earns Him Command of the Army of the Cumberland



Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas at Chickamauga September 20, 1863

- Held the Union right all day **September 20, 1863,** against overwhelming Confederate attacks.
- His steady leadership prevented a Confederate breakthrough and **saved the Army of the Cumberland** from complete destruction.
- Earned the trust and respect of Grant.

> *"Thomas is the very man for that command."*
>
> *— Ulysses S. Grant*
> *October 23, 1863*

His performance at Chickamauga led directly to his promotion.

Grant's First Problem

Feed the Army

October 1863



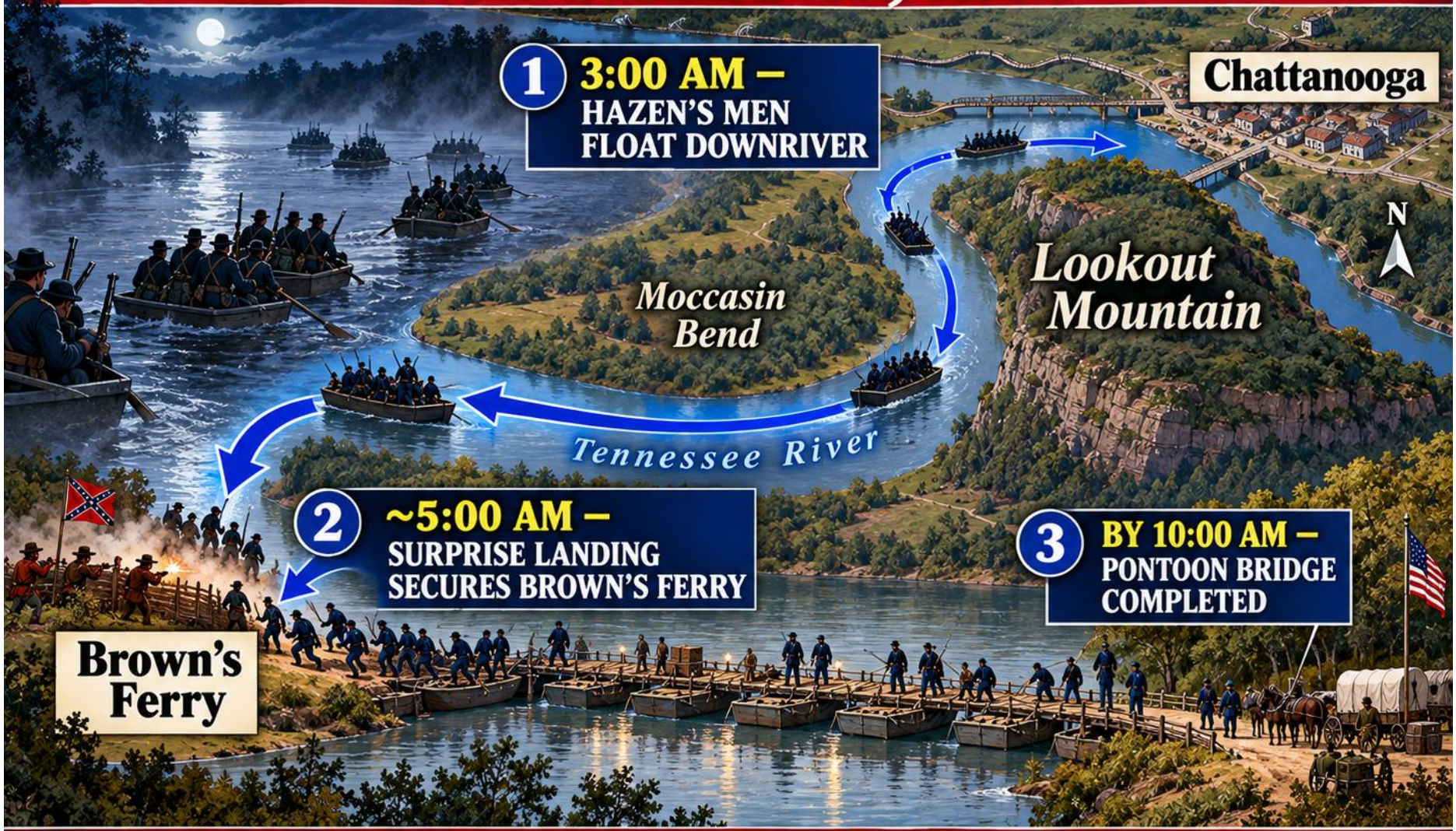
> *"Our men are almost starved. Nothing can be done until they are fed."*
>
> — *Ulysses S. Grant*
> *October 23, 1863*

1. **Hungry** and demoralized army.
2. Supplies **critically short**.
3. Must **open a supply line** before any offensive.

Maj. Gen.
Ulysses S. Grant
October 23, 1863

OPENING BROWN'S FERRY

OCTOBER 27, 1863

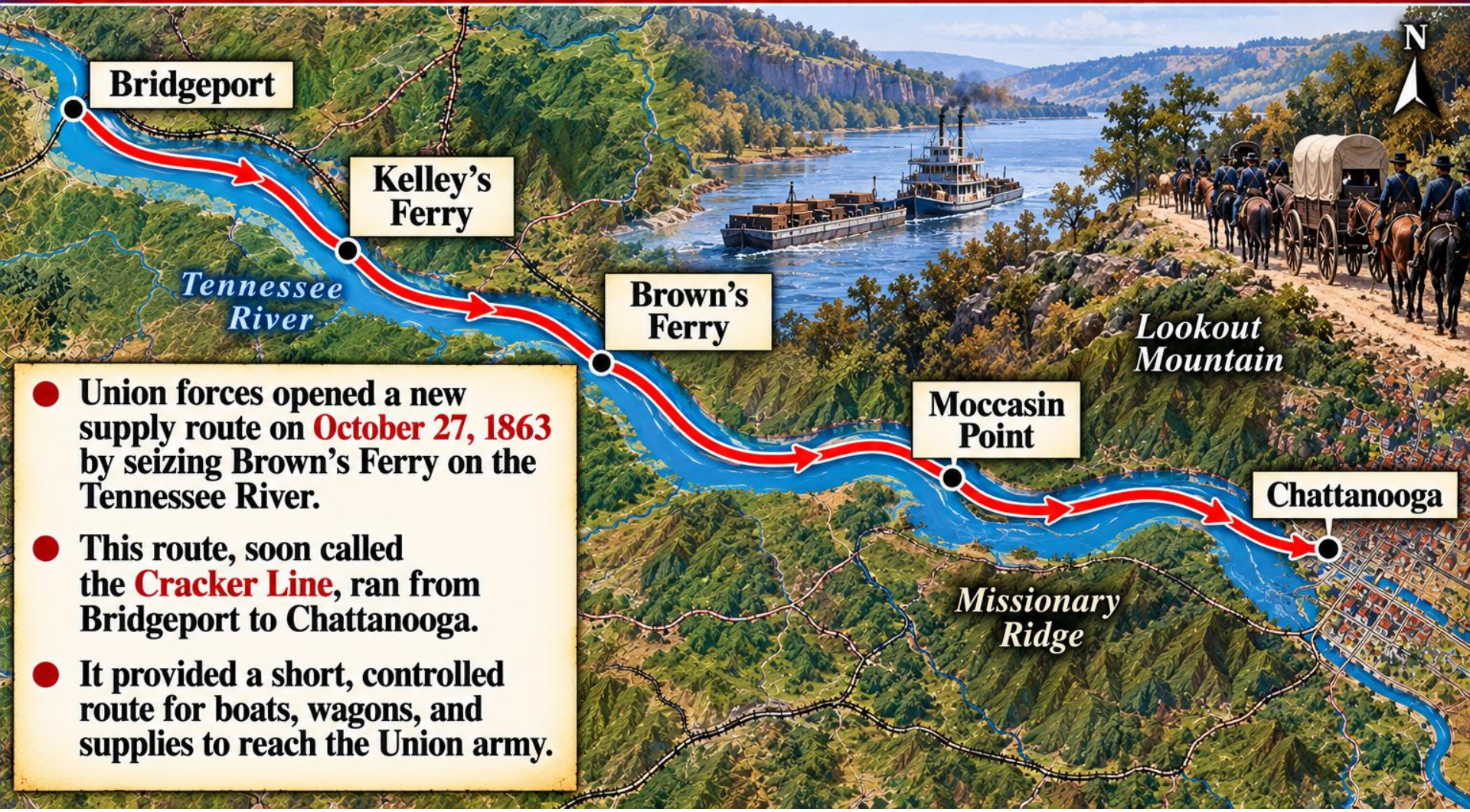


BROWN'S FERRY OPENS THE DOOR TO A NEW SUPPLY LINE.

THE CRACKER LINE OPENS

A NEW SUPPLY ROUTE TO CHATTANOOGA

October 27, 1863



- Union forces opened a new supply route on October 27, 1863 by seizing Brown's Ferry on the Tennessee River.
- This route, soon called the Cracker Line, ran from Bridgeport to Chattanooga.
- It provided a short, controlled route for boats, wagons, and supplies to reach the Union army.

THE CRACKER LINE OPENS

SUPPLIES FLOW TO CHATTANOOGA

October 27, 1863

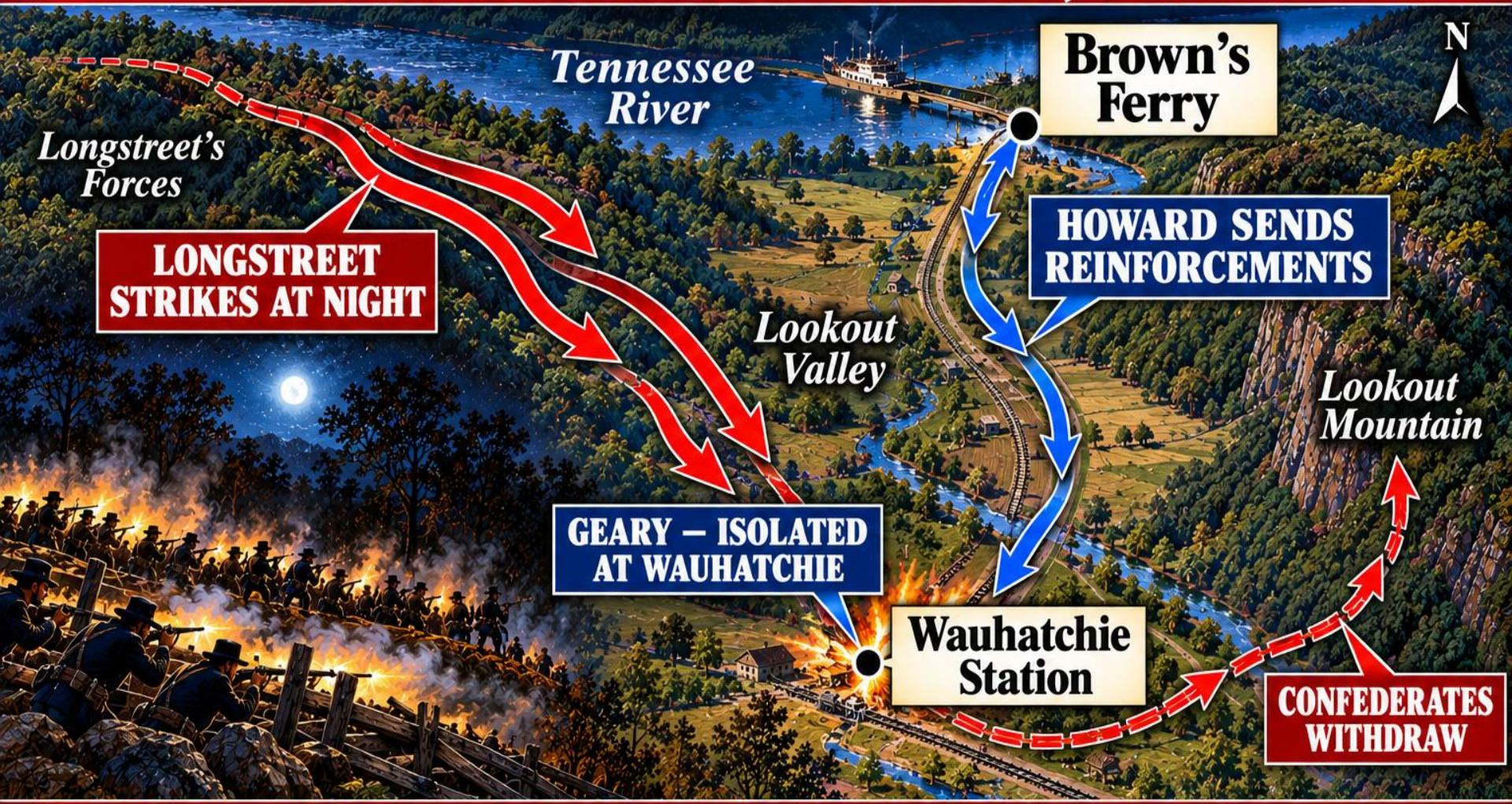
- Boats and barges now move **food, ammunition, and supplies** upriver to Chattanooga.
- Wagons continue the short haul from Brown's Ferry to the army.
- The army's supply situation improves dramatically.
- Grant can now sustain and reinforce the Chattanooga force.



THE CRACKER LINE KEEPS THE ARMY FED AND KEEPS CHATTANOOGA IN THE FIGHT.

WAUHATCHIE – THE CONFEDERATES STRIKE BACK

NIGHT OF OCTOBER 28–29, 1863



THE CONFEDERATE COUNTERATTACK FAILS – THE CRACKER LINE STAYS OPEN.

THE SIEGE IS BROKEN – FOOD POURS IN



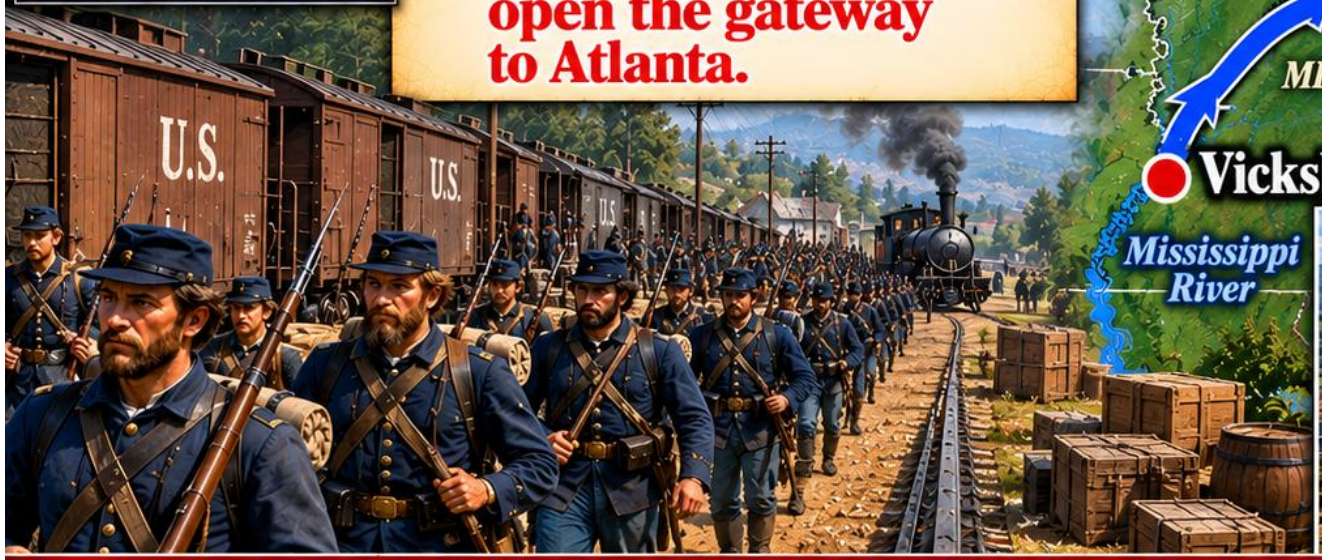
SHERMAN ARRIVES FROM VICKSBURG

NOVEMBER 1863

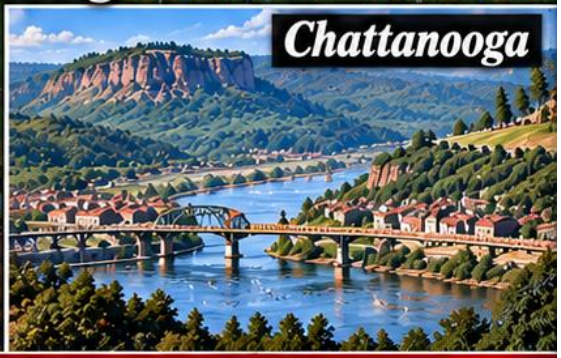


Maj. Gen.
William T. Sherman
Army of the Tennessee

- Sherman and the Army of the Tennessee **arrive from Vicksburg.**
- Veteran, battle-hardened troops **reinforce Grant.**
- The army that helped open the Mississippi now comes east to help **open the gateway to Atlanta.**





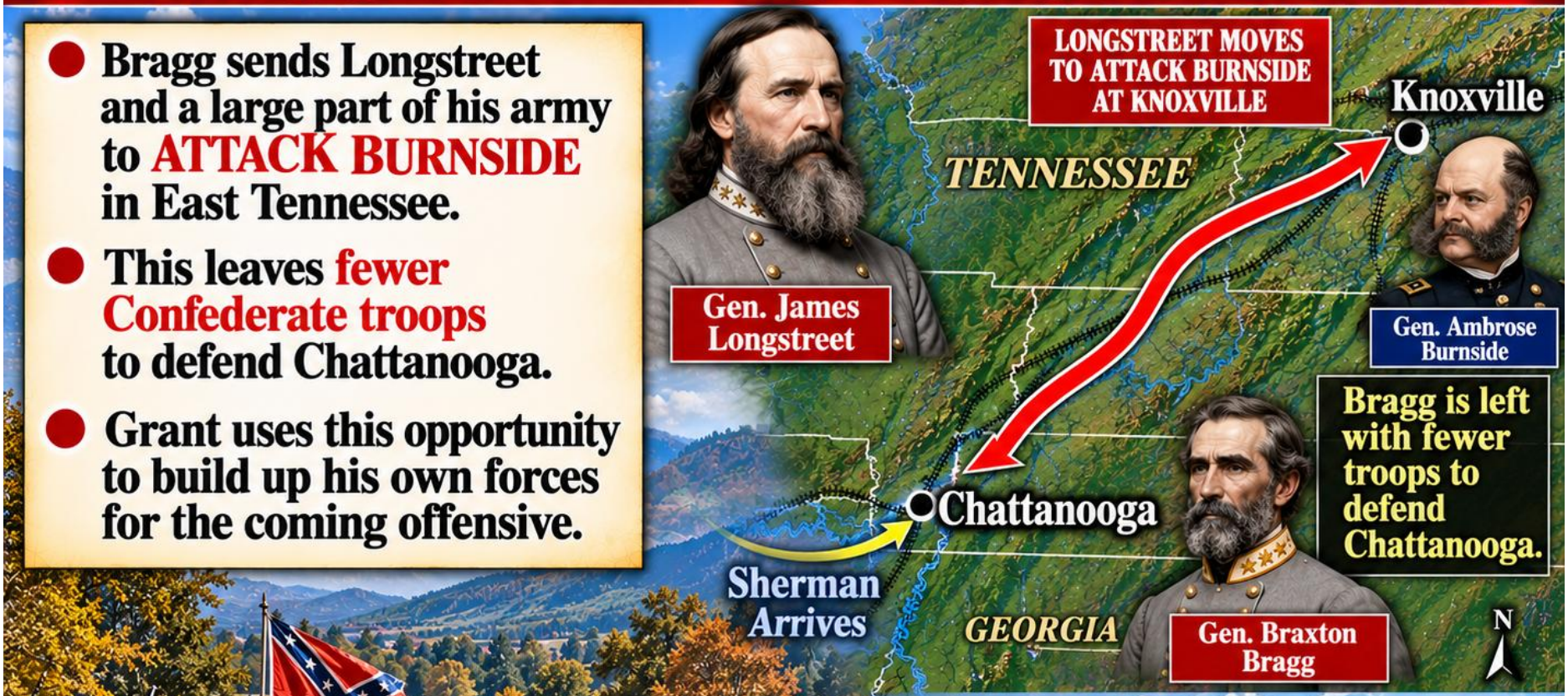


THE ARMY THAT HELPED OPEN THE MISSISSIPPI
NOW COMES EAST TO HELP OPEN THE GATEWAY TO ATLANTA.

LONGSTREET LEAVES CHATTANOOGA

BRAGG WEAKENS HIS OWN ARMY

- Bragg sends Longstreet and a large part of his army to **ATTACK BURNSIDE** in East Tennessee.
- This leaves **fewer Confederate troops** to defend Chattanooga.
- Grant uses this opportunity to build up his own forces for the coming offensive.





Grant's Plan – Break Bragg's Grip on Chattanooga



Sherman Attacks Tunnel Hill

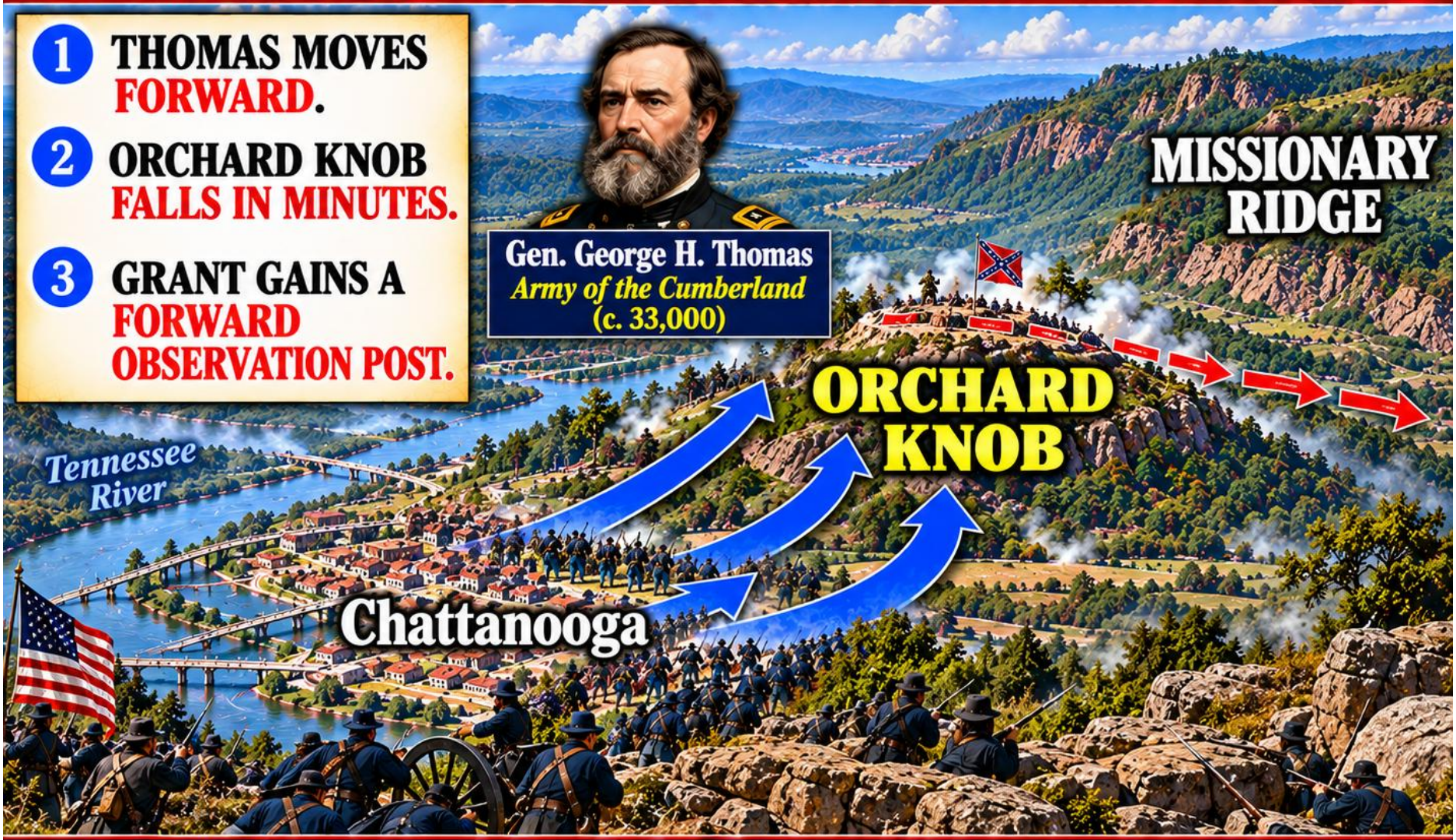
On the Right



NOVEMBER 23, 1863 –

THOMAS TAKES ORCHARD KNOB

1. THOMAS MOVES FORWARD.
2. ORCHARD KNOB FALLS IN MINUTES.
3. GRANT GAINS A FORWARD OBSERVATION POST.



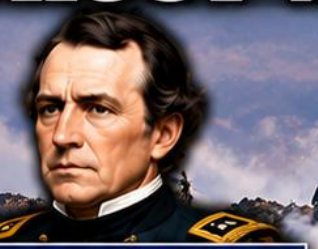
THE BATTLES FOR CHATTANOOGA BEGIN.

November 24, 1863 – Hooker Attacks

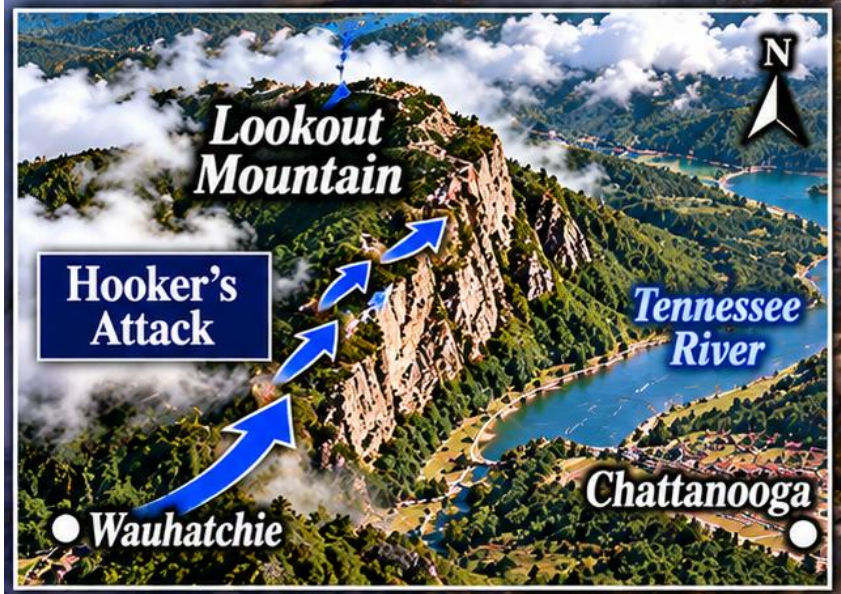
The Battle Above The Clouds

Lookout Mountain

1. Hooker attacks Lookout Mountain **before daylight.**
2. Scaling parties climb the cliffs in **heavy fog.**
3. By mid-morning the **Union controls** Lookout Mountain.



Gen. Joseph Hooker
Army of the Potomac
(c. 12,000)



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Tennessee River

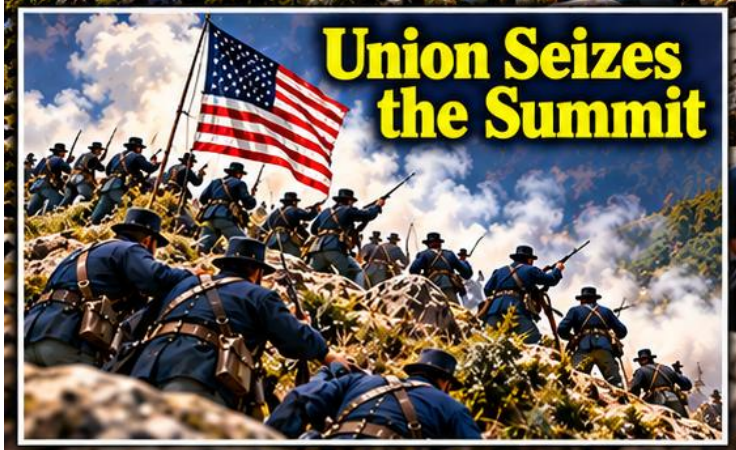
Chattanooga

Lookout Mountain Falls

Union Gains the Key to Chattanooga

1. Hooker's men climb the steep **western cliffs** before daylight.
2. Surprise and fierce fighting drive the **Confederates from the summit.**
3. Union now controls **Lookout Mountain.**







November 25, 1863 – Sherman Attacks Tunnel Hill

Cleburne Stops Grant's Main Attack



Grant's Planned Breakthrough Fails.

November 25, 1863 – Tunnel Hill

Cleburne Holds – Sherman Is Stopped

1. **SHERMAN ATTACKS REPEATEDLY** throughout the morning and early afternoon.
2. **CLEBURNE'S MEN HOLD** behind rocks, rifle pits, and stone walls.
3. **SHERMAN CANNOT BREAK THROUGH.**



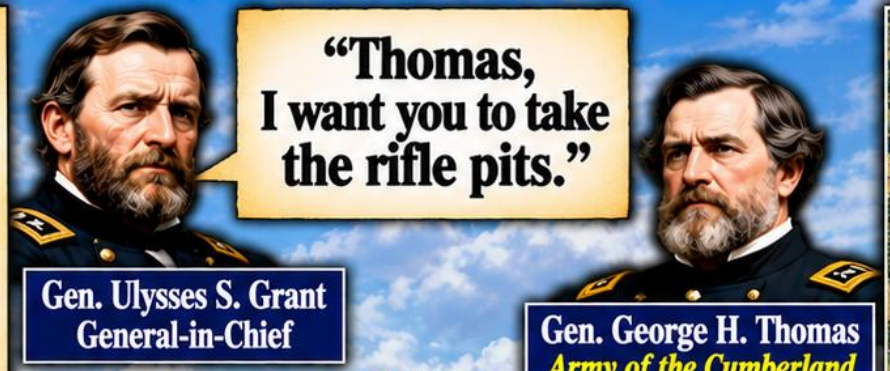


SHERMAN'S MEN FIGHT BRAVELY BUT CANNOT DISLODGE CLEBURNE.

November 25, 1863 – Grant Turns to Thomas

"Take the Rifle Pits!"

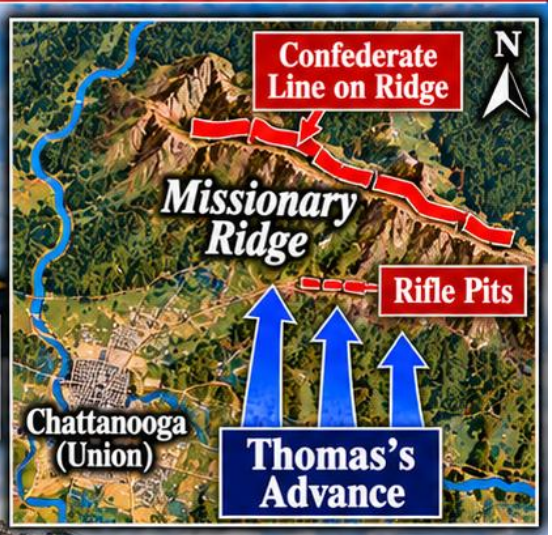
1. Sherman is stalled at Tunnel Hill.
2. Grant shifts his main effort to Thomas and the Army of the Cumberland.
3. Thomas is ordered to capture the Confederate rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge.



"Thomas, I want you to take the rifle pits."

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant
General-in-Chief

Gen. George H. Thomas
Army of the Cumberland
(c. 60,000)





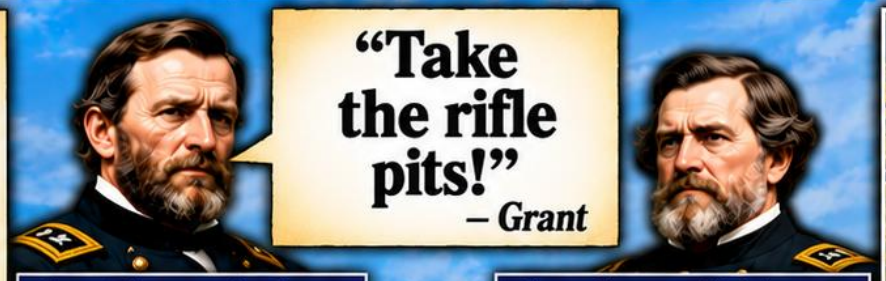
Gen. George H. Thomas
leads the Army of the Cumberland forward.

The men who were defeated at Chickamauga now get their chance.

November 25, 1863 – The Army of the Cumberland Advances

The Men of Chickamauga Get Their Chance

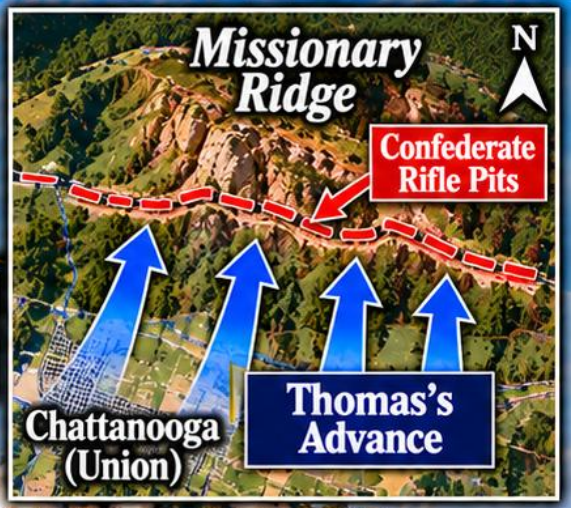
1. Tens of thousands of Union soldiers **advance across the Chattanooga plain** toward the Confederate rifle pits.
2. These are the same men who were **defeated at Chickamauga** only two months earlier.
3. Now they have a chance to **redeem themselves.**



"Take the rifle pits!" – Grant

Gen. Ulysses S. Grant
General-in-Chief

Gen. George H. Thomas
Army of the Cumberland
(c. 60,000)





The Army of the Cumberland advances to take the rifle pits at the base of Missionary Ridge.

1 THE RIFLE PITS FALL!

THOMAS'S MEN CAPTURE THE CONFEDERATE RIFLE PITS

1. THE ARMY OF THE CUMBERLAND ADVANCES ACROSS THE CHATTANOOGA PLAIN.
2. THOMAS'S MEN OVERWHELM THE **CONFEDERATE RIFLE PITS** AT THE BASE OF MISSIONARY RIDGE.
3. THE RIFLE PITS FALL, BUT THE MEN ARE NOW **EXPOSED TO DEVASTATING FIRE FROM ABOVE.**



2 Why Are They Going Up The Ridge?

After Capturing the Rifle Pits, the Men Keep Going!

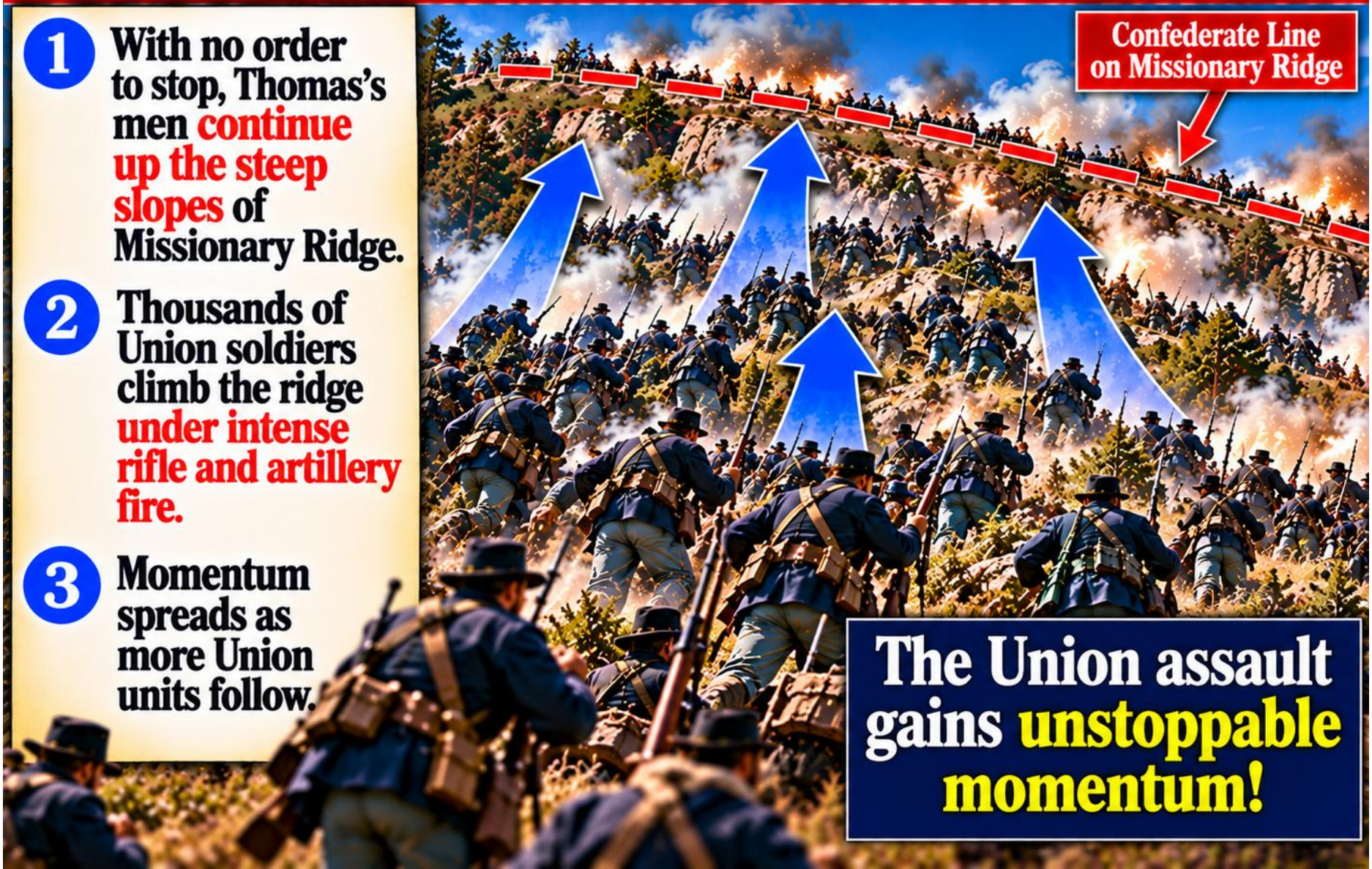
1. After taking the rifle pits, the Union men are exposed to **devastating fire** from the ridge above.
2. Men begin seeking cover **higher up the slope.**
3. Units follow, and the attack gains **momentum.**



3 They Keep Going!

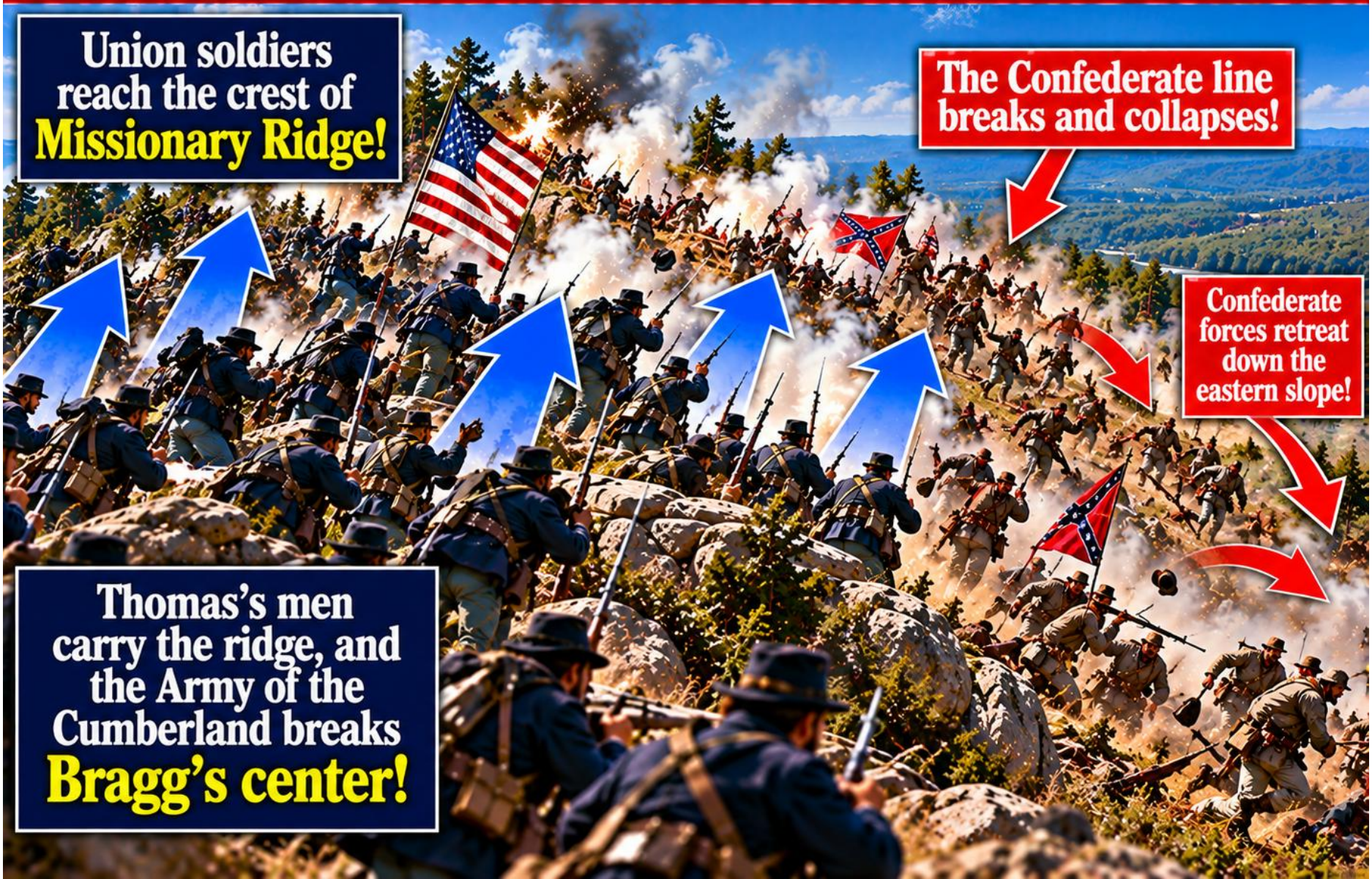
Union Soldiers Surge Up Missionary Ridge

1. With no order to stop, Thomas's men **continue up the steep slopes** of Missionary Ridge.
2. Thousands of Union soldiers climb the ridge **under intense rifle and artillery fire.**
3. Momentum spreads as more Union units follow.



4 THE CONFEDERATE LINE BREAKS!

UNION SOLDIERS REACH THE CREST AND THE LINE UNRAVELS!



MISSIONARY RIDGE – VICTORY!

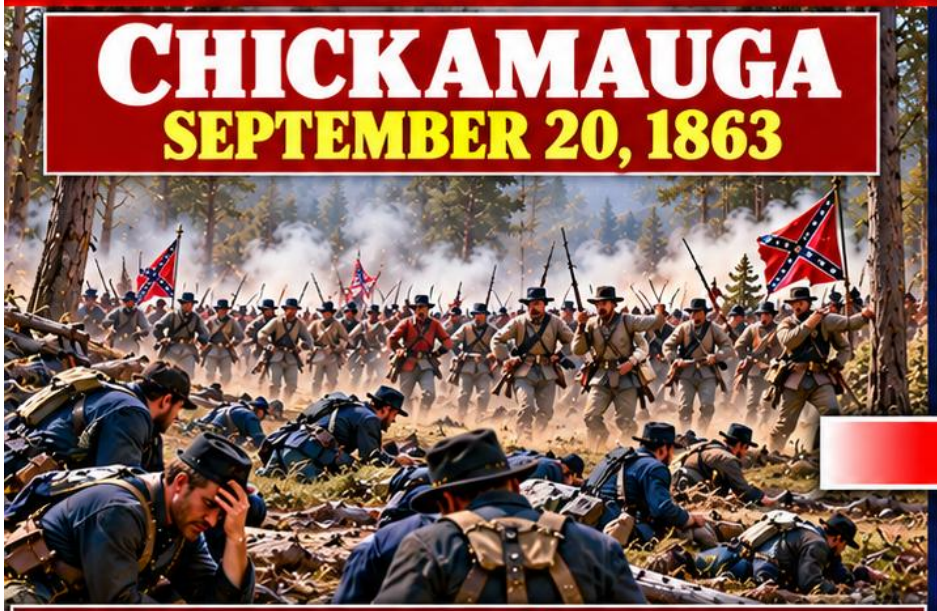
NOVEMBER 25, 1863



From Chickamauga to Chattanooga

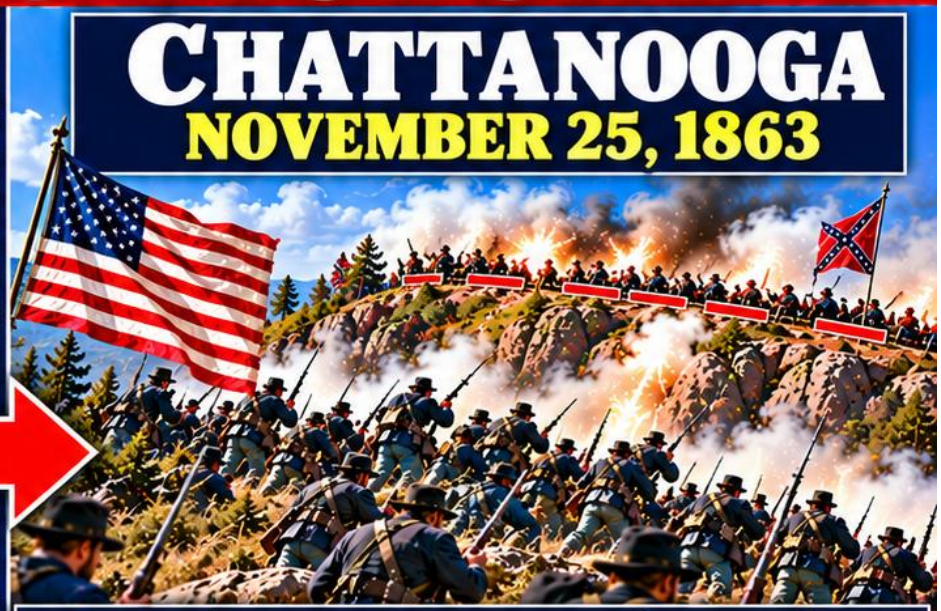
Defeat to Victory

Chickamauga
September 20, 1863



- Union army suffers a **costly defeat.**
- Army of the Cumberland **retreats** to Chattanooga.
- **Thomas holds the line** and prevents a total collapse.

Chattanooga
November 25, 1863

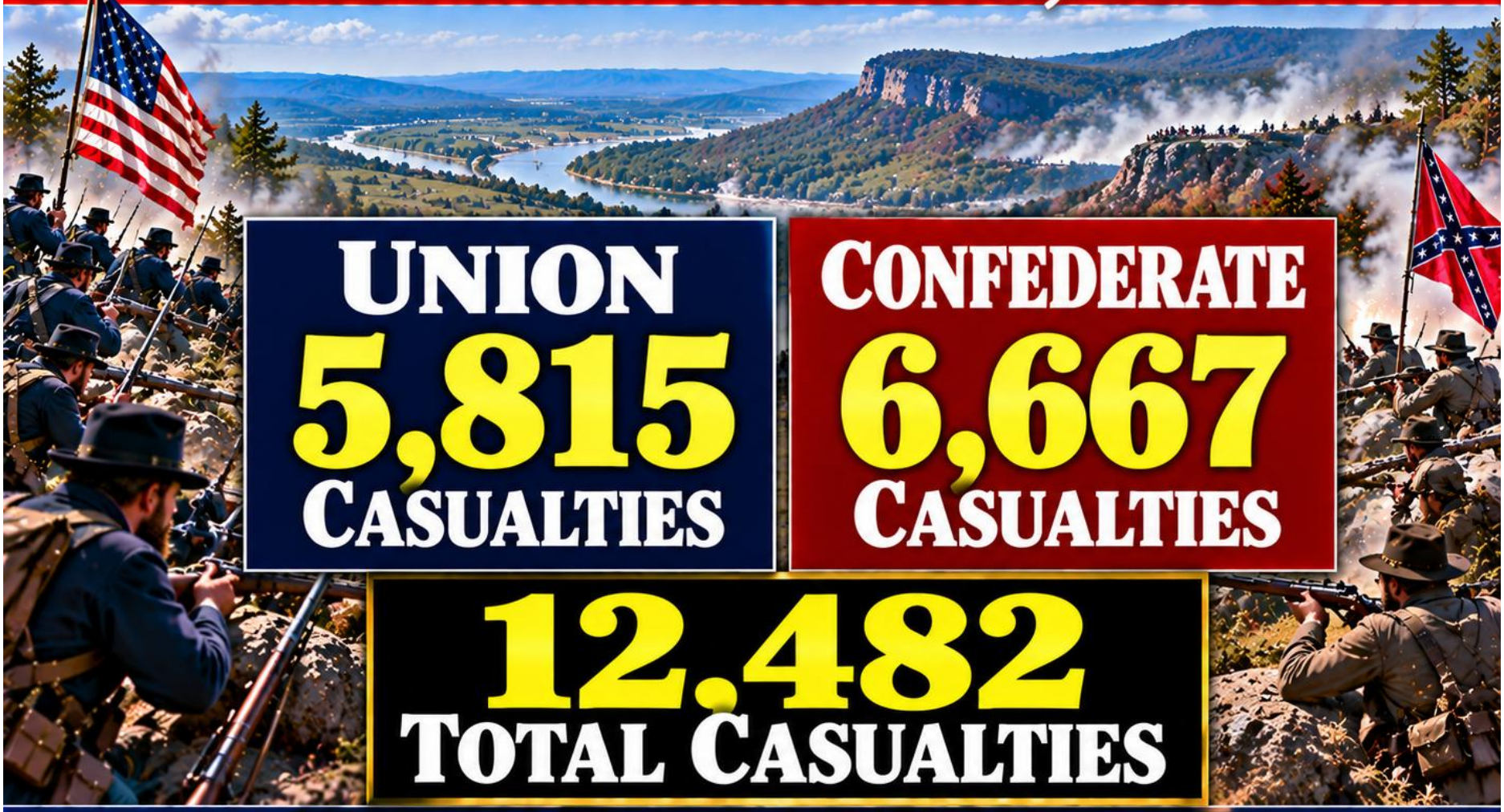


- Union army assaults and **captures Missionary Ridge.**
- Bragg's army is forced to **retreat** to Georgia.
- **Chattanooga is finally secure,** opening the road to Atlanta.

The same army that staggered out of Chickamauga helped deliver the decisive victory at Chattanooga just two months later.

The Cost of Chattanooga

November 23 – 25, 1863



Union
5,815
Casualties

Confederate
6,667
Casualties

12,482
Total Casualties

Three Days of Fighting
Secure Chattanooga for the Union.

CHATTANOOGA

THE GATEWAY TO ATLANTA



- Chattanooga provided a major **railroad hub and supply base.**
- Union forces could now move **into Georgia.**
- Sherman used Chattanooga as the staging area for the **Atlanta Campaign.**
- The capture of Chattanooga opened the door to the **Deep South.**

CHATTANOOGA WAS THE KEY THAT UNLOCKED ATLANTA.

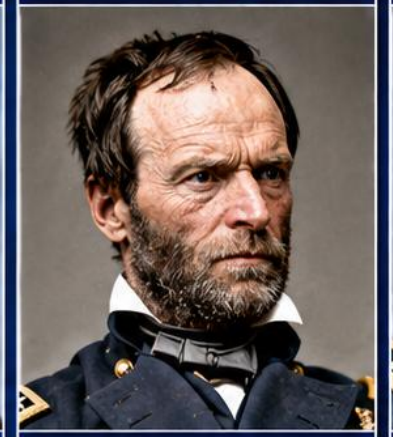
What Became of the Commanders?

Grant



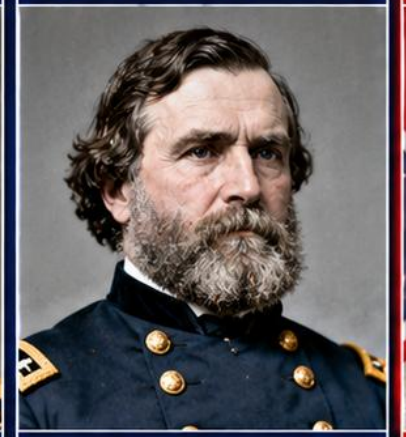
Rises to command all Union armies

Sherman



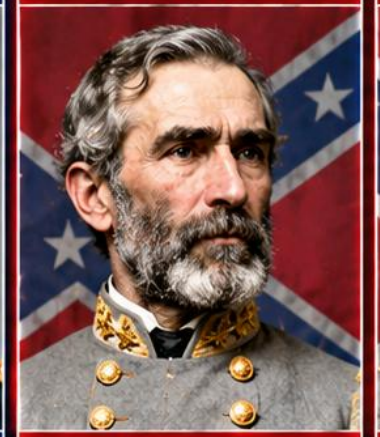
Takes command in the West

Thomas



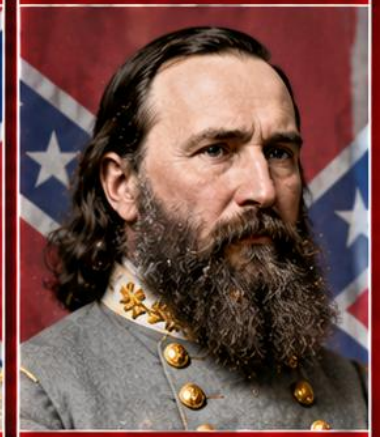
The Rock of Chickamauga remains a major Union commander

Bragg



Resigns command of the Army of Tennessee

Longstreet



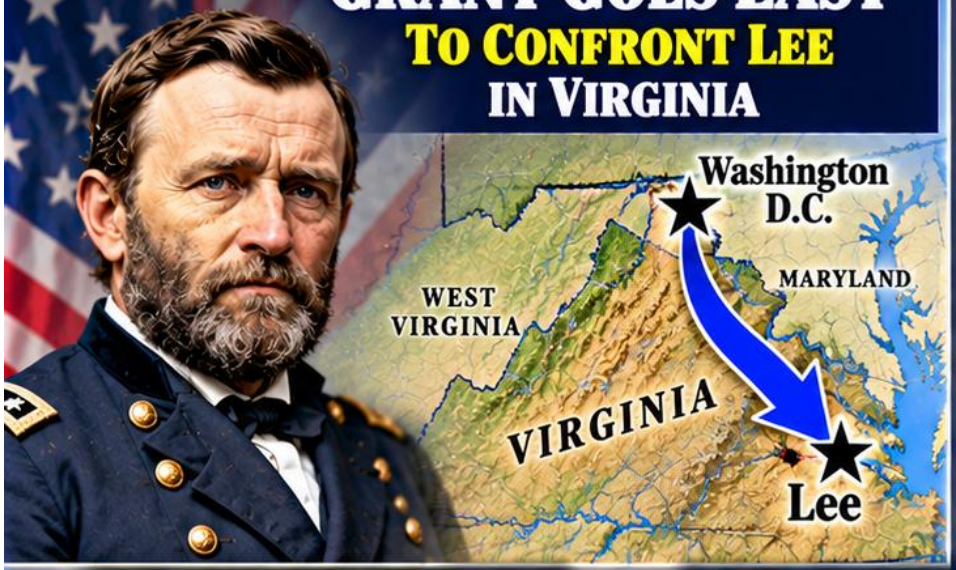
Eventually returns to Lee in Virginia



The Road to 1864

Grant Goes East — Sherman Goes South

Grant Goes East
To Confront Lee in Virginia



Sherman Goes South
To Capture Atlanta and Continue to the Deep South



Vicksburg — July 4, 1863 → **Chattanooga** — November 25, 1863 → **1864**



The War now Moves Toward Its Final Act.