

Shiloh Heroes Honored by North and South

3,582 Buried at Scene of Battle

In a motor tour of the south, Hal Foust has visited famous Civil war battlefields and other sites of historical interest. The accompanying article by him on the Shiloh battlefield is the first of a series.

By HAL FOUST

Shiloh National Park, Tenn.

TOURISTS from the north and from the south meet on this wooded west bank of the Tennessee river in common respect for the armies of the two sections which met here in 1862 in deadly combat.

In the parking lot in front of the administration building license plates identify the residences of the visitors. There is one car, in addition to The Tribune roadster, from Illinois, one from Wisconsin, one from Mississippi, and two from Tennessee. In the last year there have been 320,240 visitors to these consecrated grounds, almost twice as many as in the previous year.

In a lecture hall inside William W. Lockett, junior historian of the department of interior, tells the story of the first great battle of the civil war, a battle that took a heavy toll of young volunteers from Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Iowa. Large maps cover the wall beside him.

Outside are the graves of 1,728 Confederates and 1,854 Federals, whose ages averaged 20 years.

Fred J. Vanous, a park ranger, conducts the party on a tour of the 3,600 acres where, in addition to these killed, there were 8,012 Confederates and 8,408 Federals wounded, a total of 20,000 killed or wounded in two days of fighting. The visitors from the north and from the south together read the plaques that mark the stages in the battle.

In the spring of 1862 Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, advancing from Cairo, Ill., had broken the first line of rebel defense in the west by capturing Fort Henry on the Tennessee river and Fort Donelson on the Cumberland river. The Union army advanced up the Tennessee river with Corinth, Miss., a railroad junction, as its objective.

At Corinth, Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston had a strong army behind earth breastworks in this second line of Confederate defense. His intelligence service told him of the maneuvers of the Union divisions. At Pittsburg Landing, just a river dock then and the same today, 39,800 men under Sherman, McClelland, and Hurlbut were camped on small hills twenty-two miles from Corinth. Grant, in command, was at Savannah (the



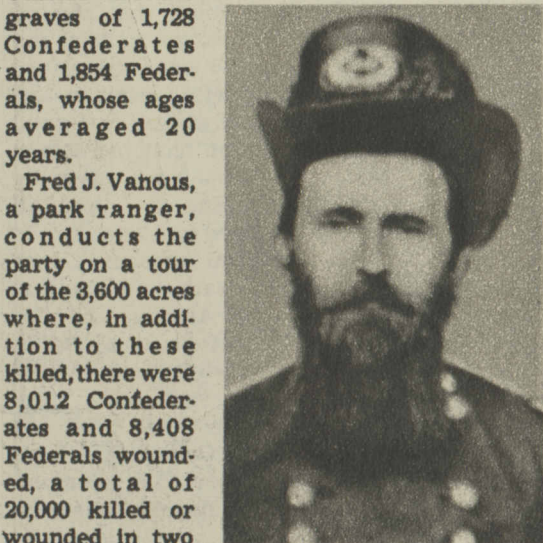
Gen. Grant's charge at the battle of Shiloh, from an old engraving. The battle was fought on April 6 and 7, 1862.



(McCord photo.) Illinois monument on Shiloh battlefield.



(McCord photo.) Under the tree (shown in the foreground) on the battlefield of Shiloh Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston died.



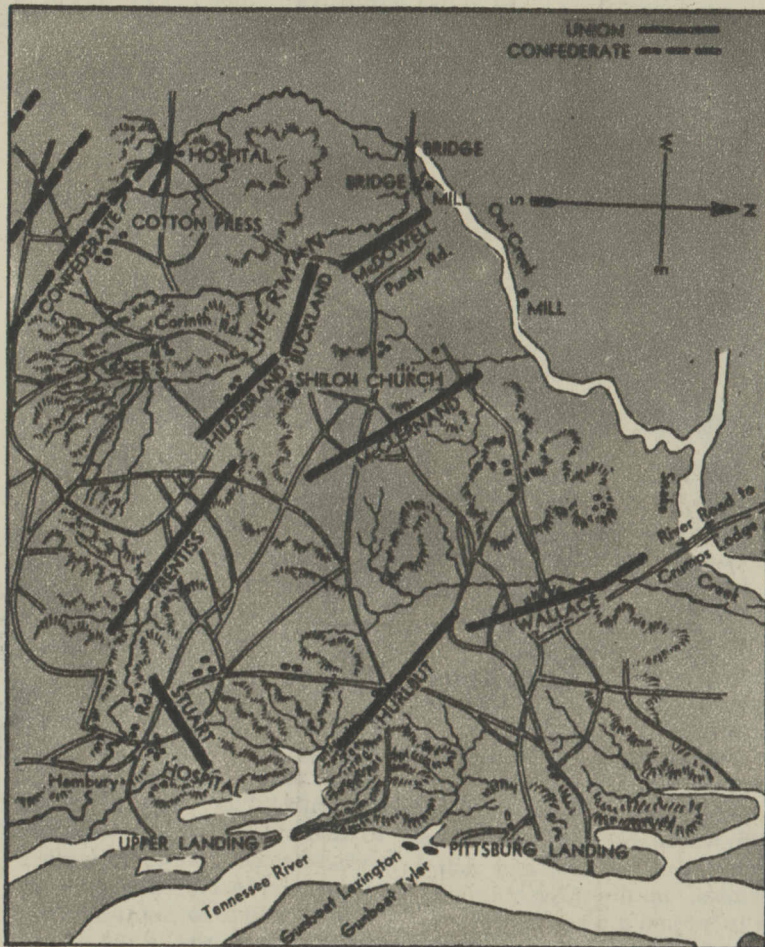
Gen. U. S. Grant as he appeared in 1862.

house still stands), nine miles farther north, waiting for Gen. D. C. Buell's army of 20,000 to reinforce him. Gen. Lew Wallace was encamped at Crump's Landing, about five miles north of Shiloh, with 6,000 Federals.

General Johnston didn't wait for this superior force to form and move against him. Over a muddy road, now a federal parkway with the pavement winding over the original alignment, he marched his 40,000 men. Monuments mark positions of each division. On the night of April 5, the southerners were in battle formation in the woods, ravines, and swamps that

characterize the terrain. They slept on their arms that night less than two miles from the Union pickets.

At daybreak of April 6, a Sunday, troops in gray came yelling and shooting through the brush

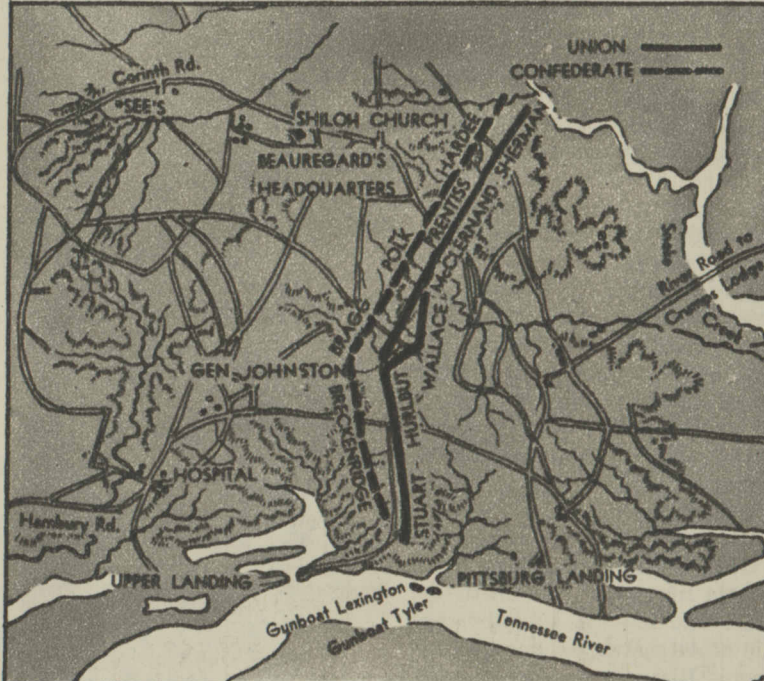


1 Positions of opposing armies on morning of April 6. Wallace's division (as shown) was that of W. H. L. Wallace, who was killed in the battle. Lew Wallace's division was not present at this time.

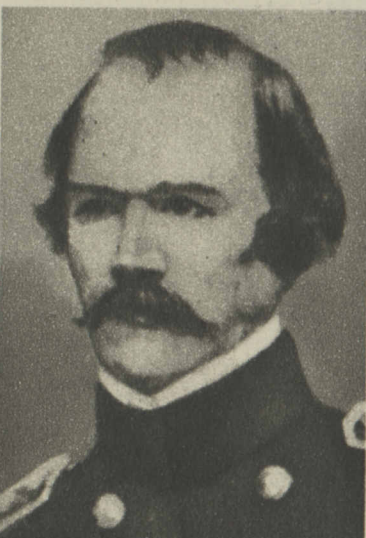


PITTSBURG LANDING.

Above: A contemporary sketch of Pittsburg Landing, around which the battle was fought. People of the south still refer to the encounter as the battle of Pittsburgh Landing.

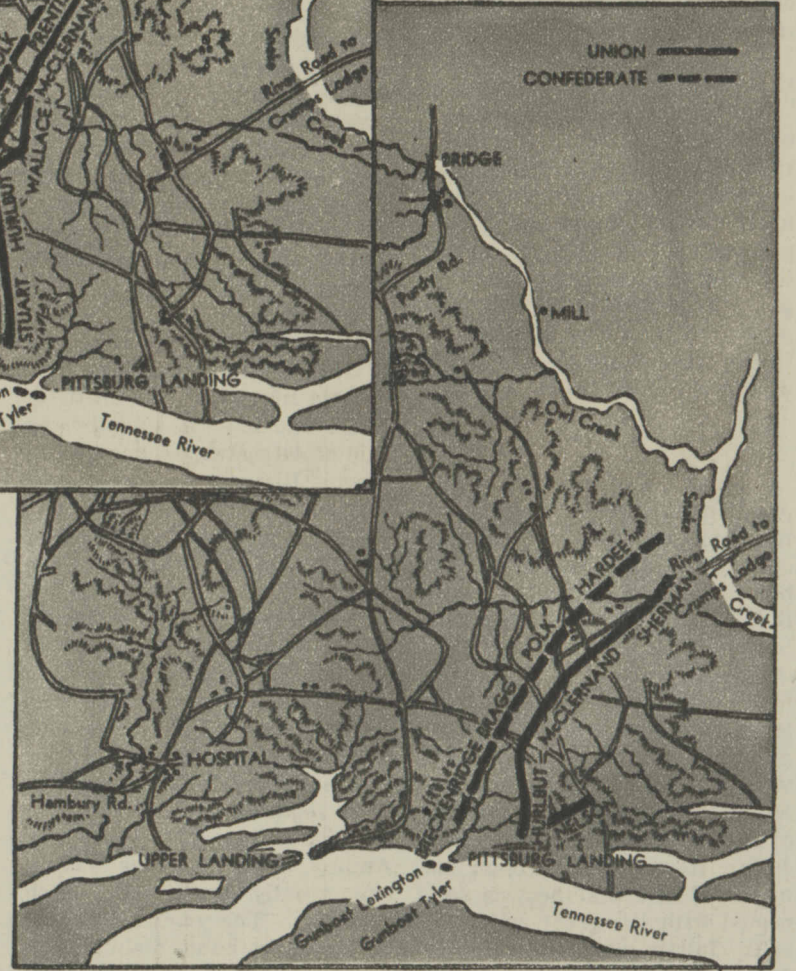


2 Positions of armies at noon of April 6.



Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston, Confederate leader killed at Shiloh.

and trees. The Federals were at their breakfasts. Grant, nursing an ankle injured by a falling horse, was nine miles away. Lew Wallace was five miles away. Buell was on the other side of the river with his leading divisions nine miles from the scene. Fresh recruits in their teens ran. Others retired shooting as



3 Positions of armies at sunset April 6. During the night the Union army was reinforced by 18,000 men under Gen. D. C. Buell and 6,000 men under Gen. Lew Wallace. At 5 o'clock next morning Grant launched a counter offensive and during the day the Confederates retired fighting.

they retreated from tree to tree. At a crossroads there are the remains today of a stone church which replaced the log Shiloh church, scene of heavy casualties, which gave the battle its name.

The tourist sees a grass grown natural meadow surrounded by sparse groves of trees marked by a tablet as "Bloody Pond." The spring freshets of 1862 had left water in this hollow and during the battle it was dyed red by the

The tourists from the north and from the south stroll over these grounds maintained by the government in memory of that battle. They seem to have a mutual appreciation of the significance of this reservation. If there is any sectionalism lingering from enmities of grandfathers and great-grandfathers, it isn't apparent. Those from the north and those from the south honor these grounds as part of the history of America.

Where Grant Saved Day in 1862

wounded men who crawled to it in that agony of thirst that accompanies loss of blood.

There's an old sunken road on a low ridge of ground on the reservation. Retreating blue infantry reached this line and there held, repulsing twelve Confederate charges. The position is known in history as the "Hornets' Nest." Both Union flanks retired while this center held. Almost surrounded, weakened by heavy casualties, and under a shell fire unprecedented on this continent, the remains of three Federal divisions surrendered, 2,200 becoming prisoners.

Early in the afternoon, General Johnston was struck in the right leg by a minie ball. He bled to death from a severed artery under an oak that still stands.

General Grant, who had arrived by boat after hearing the first gun fire, was on the bluff near the landing through the day, directing the re-formation of panic stricken troops and the forwarding of ammunition. Gen. Lew Wallace was marching and counter marching, trying to get over muddy trails and into battle position.

Darkness recessed the fighting. The battered Federal line had been driven back two miles. The southerners slept that night in captured camps. Grant, in a spot now marked by a monument, sat with his back to a tree during the rainy night; a log cabin which he had used as a headquarters was converted into a field hospital.

The next morning, the Union forces were reinforced by fresh men. Gen. Lew Wallace had arrived with 6,000 men. About 18,000 of Buell's army had crossed the river and moved into line. Federal artillery was in place, whereas the Confederates had advanced without their cannon. Two federal gunboats were in an advantageous position to shell the enemy.

On the second day the Union army struck back, regaining in fierce fighting the positions it had occupied the previous morning. The Confederates retired toward Corinth, but were not pursued.



(McCord photo.)

Left: This monument of perpendicular guns marks the spot where Gen. Grant had his headquarters on the battlefield. In the background are graves of soldiers who lost their lives at Shiloh.