



THE BEGINNING OF THE END NOVEMBER 23-25, 1863



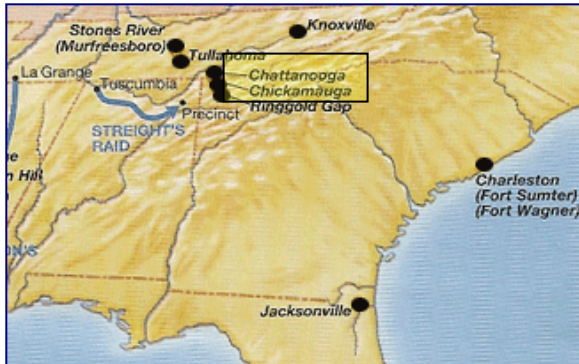
Gen. Braxton Bragg
Army of Tennessee



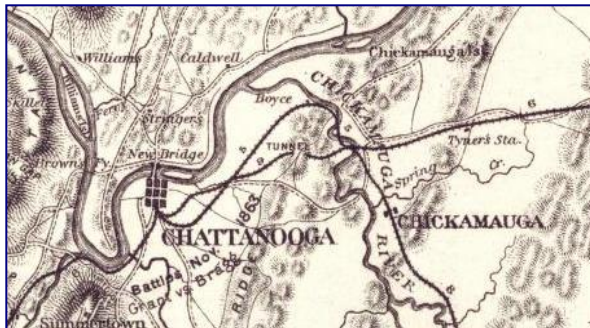
Maj. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant,
Military Division of the Mississippi

Confederate Army
Strength: 44,000
Casualties: 6,600

Union Army
Strength: 56,400
Casualties: 5,800



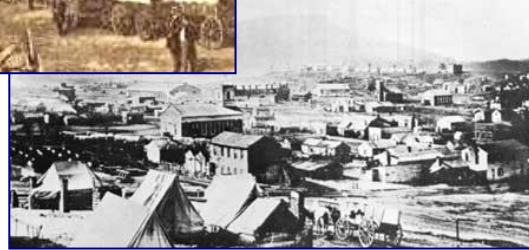
- Chattanooga was a major railway hub for the Confederacy; capturing it was "as important as taking Richmond," to Lincoln.
- In September of 1863, the Union army staggered back into Chattanooga after being mauled of Chickamauga -- the greatest Confederate victory of the war.
- **Gen. Bragg** surrounded the city, bottling up the Union army, and waited for it to surrender. **Gen. Thomas**, whose steadfast stand at Chickamauga had saved the Union army, took charge.



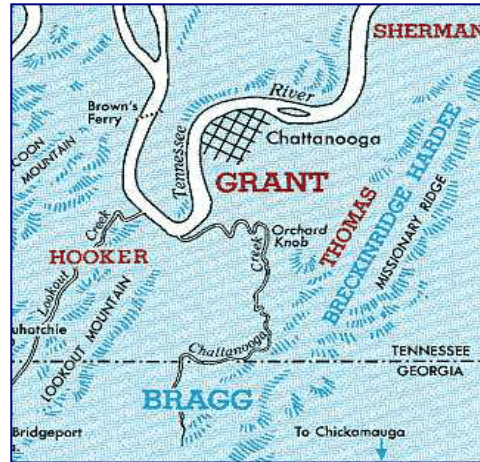
October: Grant Opens the Cracker Line



(left) Union wagons in the streets of Chattanooga (below) in 1863



- On October 23, **Gen. Grant** arrived in Chattanooga.
- He found that Confederate artillery on Lookout Mountain cut off suppliers coming from the river, and their infantry overlooked the city from Missionary Ridge.
- A surprise Union amphibious attack on Brown's Ferry opened up the supply road, which became known as the "Cracker Line".
- Bragg weakened his force by sending a corps to besiege Knoxville.
- Grant's 40,000 men were joined by Hooker with 20,000 and Sherman with another 20,000.
- The Union army now outnumbered its besiegers.



On November 23^d, the files of Union soldiers moved forward, capturing a low hill called Orchard Knob in the front of Missionary Ridge. The stage was set for the main battle.

View from Lookout Mountain over Moccasin Bend



November 24: Battle Above The Clouds

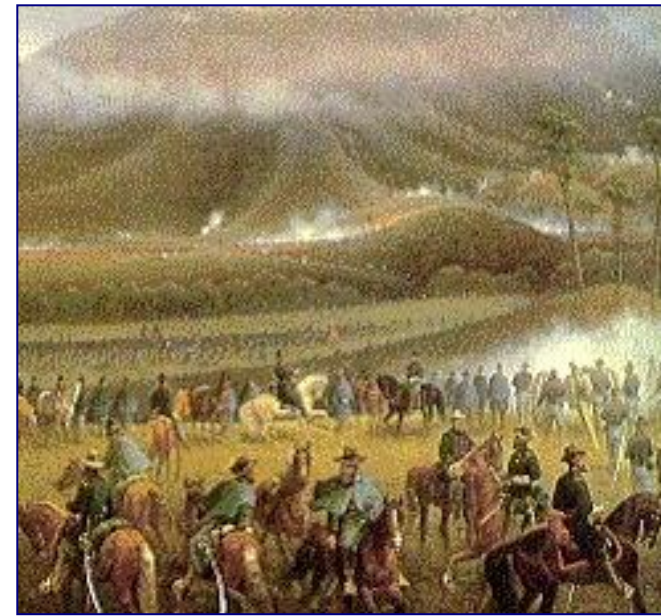


- Grant sent two wings of his army against Bragg. The left punch, under Sherman, captured a hill that turned out to be unconnected to the main Confederate line on Missionary Ridge.
- Grant's right wing, under Hooker, found a hole in the Confederate line between Lookout Mountain and the river.
- They charged up the mountain through heavy fog. Halfway up the slope, Confederate defenders made a stand. The fog became so thick the soldiers couldn't see each other. During the night, the Confederates abandoned Lookout Mountain.
- As the dawn broke, the Union troops cheered to see the Stars and Stripes flying on the mountain's peak
- Because of the fog, it was called the "battle above the clouds".

(right) Gen. Grant (lower left) on the Mountain.

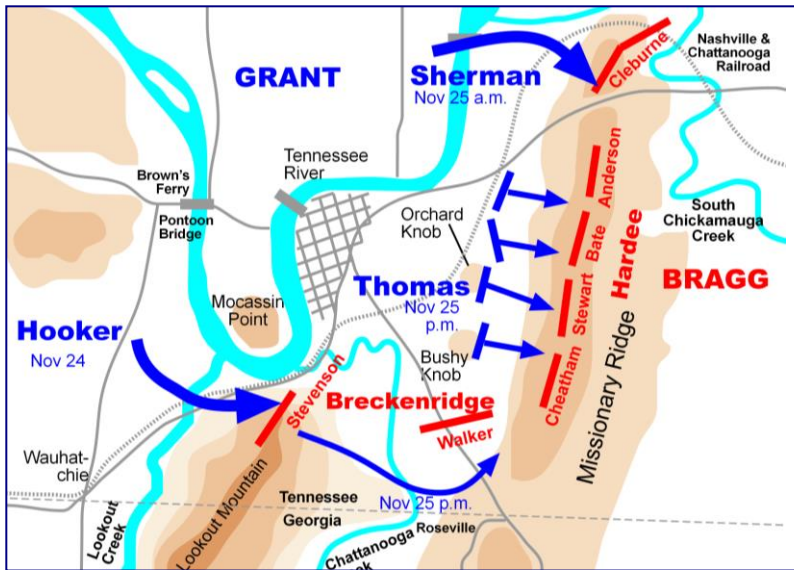


(below) Attacking towards Lookout Mountain.



November 25: The Flank Attacks Fail

- Grant's plan called for another left and right punch.
- Hooked, coming from Lookout Mountain, was slowed by the terrain.
- Sherman, with the largest force, was to form a heavy hammer that would crash down on the north end of Missionary Ridge, catching Bragg's army in the flank.
- Despite being out-numbered four or five to one, the Confederates held out against Sherman.
- To give some support to Sherman, Grant ordered Thomas to advance and "make a demonstration" on the centre of the Confederate line.
- Thomas's men charged forward and took the trenches at the base of Missionary Ridge. There, they came under fire from Bragg's troops on the top of the Ridge.



"Someone Would Suffer"

- Stung by the Confederate fire from above, humiliated by their reputation as the men who fled the battle of Chickamauga, Thomas's troops suddenly charged straight up the Ridge.
- Against orders, they pressed on in the face of deadly rifle and cannon blasts.
- Grant asked who had ordered them to make such a suicidal attack, saying that if it did not go well, "someone [in command] would suffer".
- Clawing their way up the Ridge, shouting "Chickamauga, Chickamauga!", they broke the centre of the Confederate line.
- Bragg's army began a hasty retreat. Thomas's soldiers had taken their revenge.

CONSEQUENCES

- The Union now had a clear path into the heart of the Confederacy.
 - By breaking one of the Confederacy's two major armies, the Union took the initiative in the West and held it for the course of the war.
 - The Confederates were unable to put up a significant resistance to the Federal advance on Atlanta, which served as the springboard for Sherman's devastating "March to the Sea".
- With this victory, Grant was given command of all Federal *Missionary Ridge 1865* armies. His next opponent would be General Lee, in the East.



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



Thomas's men storm
Missionary Ridge

Missionary Ridge during (above) and before the
battle (below)

