



**THE LARGEST BATTLE FOUGHT  
IN NORTH AMERICA  
JULY 1-3, 1863**



General Robert E. Lee, Army of Northern Virginia

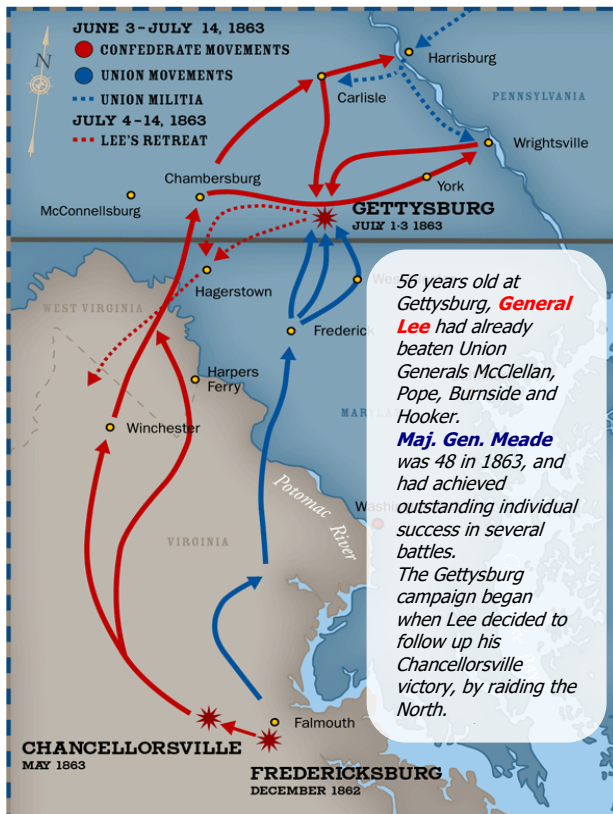


Maj. Gen. George Meade, Army of the Potomac

**Confederate Army**  
Strength: 71,700  
Casualties: 23,200

**Union Army**  
Strength: 93,900  
Casualties: 23,000

**THE BUILD-UP**

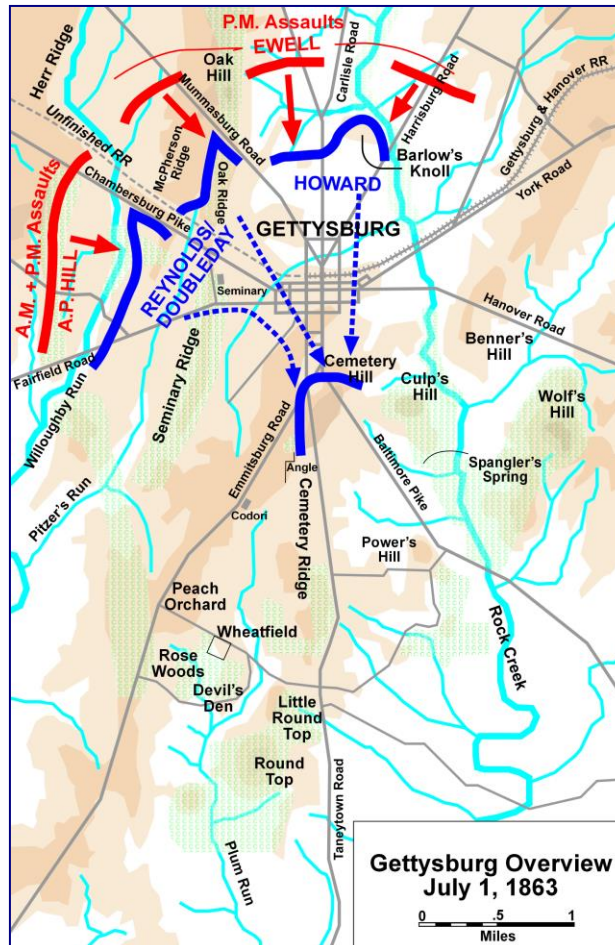


**July 1: The Armies Collide**



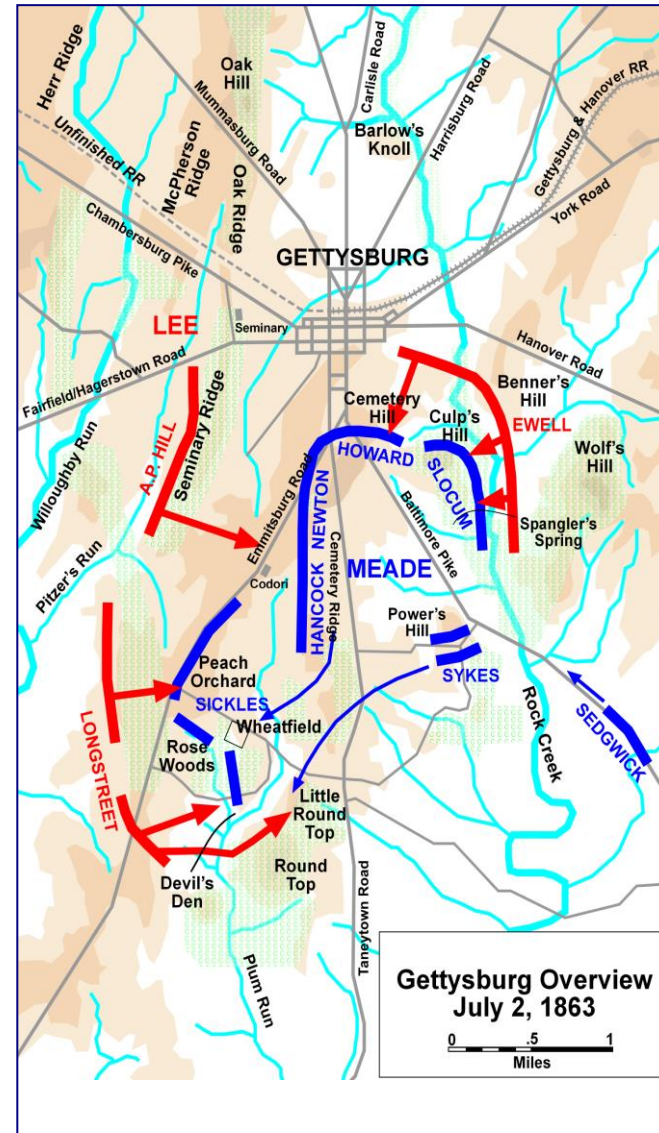
Gettysburg at the time of the Battle

In the early morning the searching armies met at Gettysburg. During the day the Union forces were driven through the town and rallied on Cemetery and Culp's Hills.



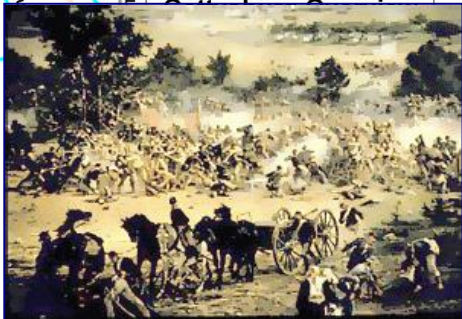
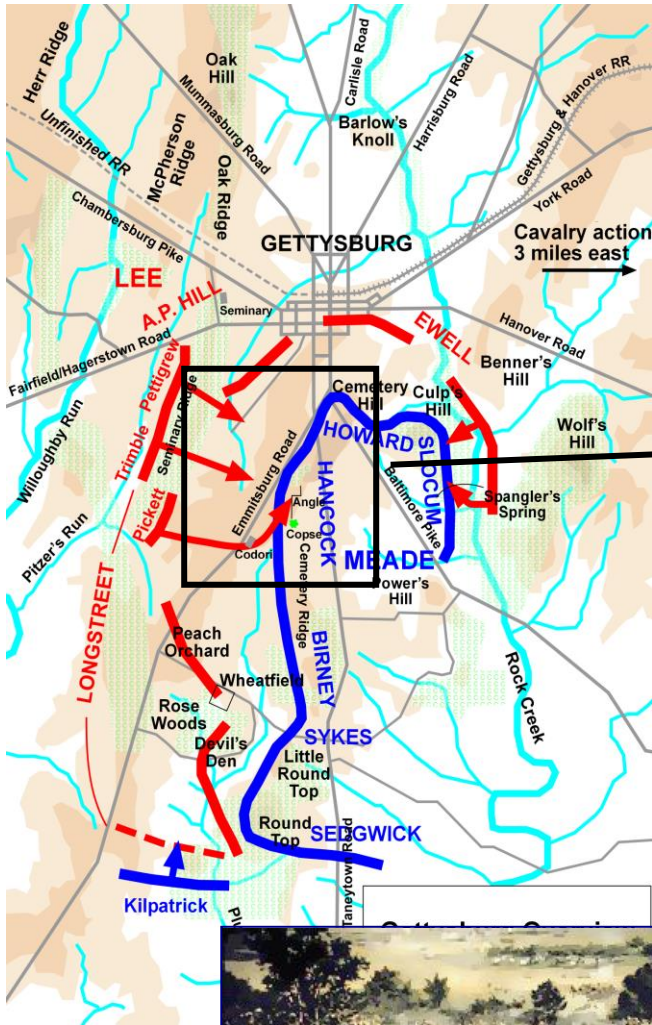
**July 2: The Squeeze**

- General Lee ordered General Longstreet to attack the Federal left flank at 10:00 a.m.,
- The Confederate attack did not get underway until 4:00 p.m. -- giving the Union time to prepare.
- Despite bitter fighting, Longstreet's men were finally driven back.
- The Union right was attacked by General Ewell at 6:30 p.m.
- Fighting went on into the darkness, and though the rebels seized some trenches on Culp's Hill, they were fought to a standstill at Cemetery Hill.



## July 3: Assault on the Center

- Next morning, an attack from the Union right flank and a delay by Longstreet on the left caused Lee to focus on the Union center.
- Lee attacked the Union center with 12,000 men under General Longstreet; Pickett's fresh division led the charge, with the divisions of Brig. General Pettigrew and Maj. Gen. Trimble.

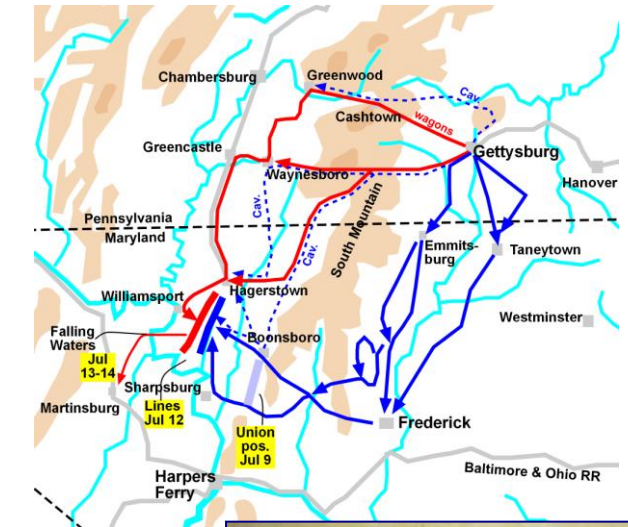
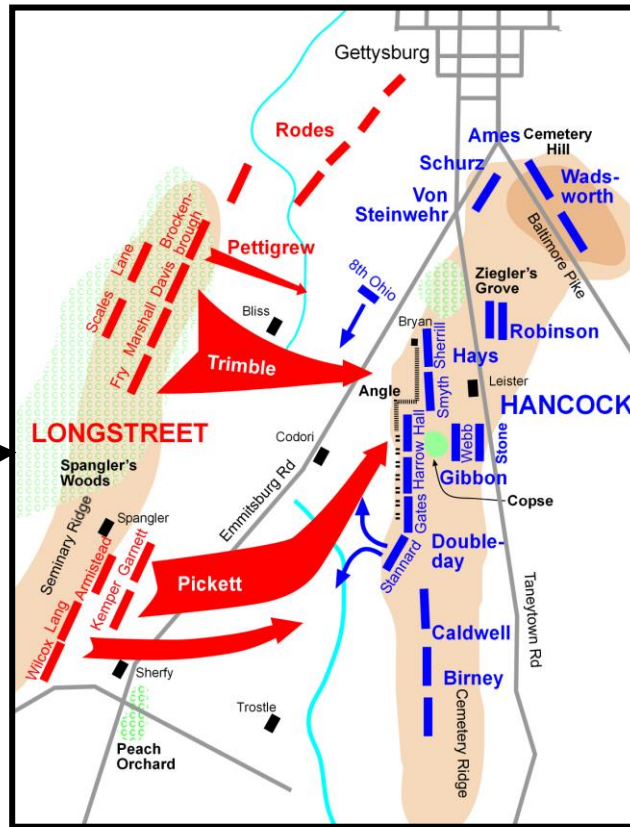
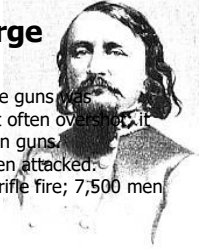


Confederate Brig. Gen. Armistead at the high-tide mark of Pickett's charge, going over the stone wall at Cemetery Ridge. He was fatally wounded as the charge crumbled.



## July 3: Pickett's Charge

- A massed cannonade from 150 Confederate guns was intended to pulverize the Union center, but often overheard, it was answered by an equal number of Union guns.
- After the two-hour cannonade, Pickett's men attacked.
- They charged into a hail of grapeshot and rifle fire; 7,500 men were cut down in 50 minutes.
- The Union lost 1,500 in the attack.



Little Round Top, used by residents as a peaceful picnic spot before the war, became the scene of some of Gettysburg's bloodiest fighting.



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## CONSEQUENCES



"Lee's Retreat", by Edwin Forbes

- 28,000 Confederate dead and wounded fell at Gettysburg; the Union lost 23,000
- On July 5, in torrential rain, Lee began a nightmare retreat from Gettysburg, protecting a wagon train of wounded soldiers estimated to be 17 miles long.
- A reluctant Meade did not pursue Lee aggressively, allowing the Confederate army to slip across the Potomac River.
- Crippled by his casualties, Lee never initiated a campaign again, and awaited the onslaught of a new Union commander -- General Ulysses S. Grant.