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SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

BATTLES AND LOSSES Oct 2009

In 1960 as the United States prepared to observe the centennial of the Civil War a special Civil War Centennial Commission was established to help educate Americans about the war. After reading some of the information assembled by the commission, President Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote, "An examination of these hard facts of the Civil War provides us at once with a realization of the magnitude of the tragedy which it represented to our country."

Approximately 6,000 battles, skirmishes, and engagements were fought during the Civil War.

There were over 2,000 lads 14 years old or younger in the Union ranks. Three hundred were 13 years or less while there were 200,000 no older than 16 years.

During the Civil War, one small section of Virginia became America's bloodiest battle ground. In three neighboring counties, embracing Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, The Wilderness, Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor, more than half a million men fought in deadly combat. Here, more men were killed and wounded during the Civil War than were killed and wounded in the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the War with Mexico and all of the Indian Wars combined. No fewer than 19 generals -- 10 Union and nine Confederate -- met death here.

Some authorities accredit the 26th North Carolina Regiment with having incurred the greatest loss in a single battle in the Civil War. At the Battle of Gettysburg, it lost 708 of its men, or approximately 85 per cent of its total strength. In one company of 84 men, every man and officer was hit. The orderly sergeant who made out the report had a bullet wound through both legs.

The 1st Maine Heavy Artillery in the assault on Petersburg, June 1864, lost 604 men killed and wounded in less than 20 minutes. This organization did not see action until 1864. In less than one year it lost in killed and wounded 1,283 men out of 2,202.

Of the 364,000 on the Union side who lost their lives, a third were killed or died of wounds and two-thirds died of disease.

There were 6,000,000 cases of disease in the Federal armies, which meant that, on an average, every man was sick at least twice.

The chance of surviving a wound in Civil War days was 7 to 1, in the Korean War 50 to 1.

About 15 per cent of the wounded died in the Civil War; about 8 per cent in World War I; about 4 per cent in World War II; about 2 per cent in the Korean War.

At the Battle of First Bull Run or Manassas, between 8,000 and 10,000 bullets were fired for every man killed or wounded.

At the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, there were 23,700 Union and Confederate casualties.

During the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862, "Stonewall" Jackson marched his force of 16,000 men over 600 miles in 39 days, fighting five major battles and defeating four separate armies totaling 63,000.

In the Vicksburg campaign in 1863, Grant won five battles within a period of 18 days, captured 67 field guns, and inflicted casualties of approximately 5,200 on the enemy. He captured 31,600 prisoners, 172 cannon and 60,000 small arms when Vicksburg fell -- the greatest military haul ever made in the western hemisphere.

During the Battle of Stone's River, the Union artillery fired 20,307 rounds and the infantry exhausted over 2,000,000 rounds. The total weight of the projectiles fired was in excess of 375,000 pounds.

At Fredericksburg in 1862, the Confederate trenches stretched for a distance of 7 miles. The troop density was 11,000 per mile, or 6 men to the yard.

The greatest cavalry battle ever fought in the Western hemisphere was at Brandy Station, Virginia, on June 9, 1863. Nearly 20,000 cavalymen were engaged on a relatively confined terrain for more than 12 hours.

General Grant's losses from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor in 1864, a period of 29 days, totaled 54,900.

The U.S.S. *Kearsarge* sunk the C.S.S. *Alabama* off the coast of Cherbourg, France, in a fierce engagement. Frenchmen gathered along the beach to witness the engagement, and Manet painted the scene which now hangs in a Philadelphia art gallery.

The C.S.S. *Alabama* in 11 months captured 69 Northern prizes valued at \$6,500,000.

The Confederate cruiser *Shenandoah* sailed completely around the world, raiding Union whalers and commerce vessels. The ship and its crew surrendered to English authorities in Liverpool more than 6 months after Lee's surrender at Appomattox.