



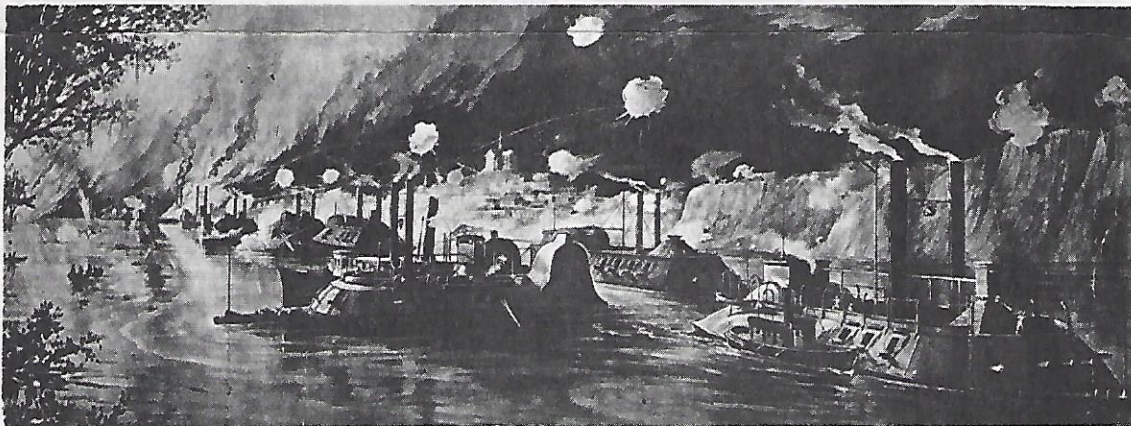
# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE

Volume XXXI, Battlefield Tour Number

Chicago, Illinois

April, 1972

## 22nd Battlefield Tour The Vicksburg Campaign-May-4-May-7-1972



by Gordon Whitney

On February 21, 1899, President McKinley signed the bill establishing the Vicksburg National Park. On May 4th through 7th, 1972, the Civil War Round Table of Chicago will establish their headquarters there to relive this most famous battle and seige.

Check-in time with Registrar, Margaret April, will be on Thursday May 4th at 8:00 A.M. at Butler Aviation Terminal. We will depart from O'Hare Field at 9:00 A.M. by a chartered flight on Southern Air Lines which includes breakfast. Upon our arrival in Jackson, Mississippi at 10:30, we will tour Old Jackson and have lunch before we depart for Vicksburg on air conditioned Greyhound Scenicruisers complete with modern conveniences and all the necessary refreshments. On our way we will stop at Raymond, Champion Hill and the Big Black. It was these three battles that forced General Pemberton and the Confederate Army to retreat into Vicksburg.

Then on to the Holiday Inn, with its beautiful swimming pool and dining facilities, which will be our permanent headquarters. There the campaigners will check in and find ample time for relaxing and maybe swim before reporting to Command Post at 6:30 P.M. with dinner at 7:30. Our speaker will be the eminent expert of Vicksburg, Mr. Edwin C. Bearss.

Friday morning after breakfast, served buffet style, and as usual on your own, we will board the buses at 9 A.M. for Port Gibson. There we will be greeted by the Mayor and the Ladies of the city in costumes of the period. We will then travel on to Grand Gulf. It was here that Grant originally proposed to land his army. From Grand Gulf we'll be going back to Port Gibson for lunch. After adding all those calories, we'll be on our way to Bruinsburg, where Grant was forced to disembark the Army when the naval attack at Grand Gulf failed. On our way, we'll

### COST OF TOUR

\$225, Two to a room (\*); \$235, Single

(\* ) Indicate person with whom you wish to share room.

INCLUDES: Round trip plane fare, bus ground transportation, hotel room, Command Posts, lunches and dinners, (breakfasts are "on your own") group service tips, group admission fees where required, tour literature in packet, and \$10 registration fee to cover promotional and overhead expenses.

FOR VARIATIONS: Portions of tour, joining en route, individual meetings, meals or rooms, write or phone, Registrar Margaret April, 18 East Chestnut Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611, Phone (area 312) WHitehall 4-3085.

Local CWRT groups and others joining in lunches or dinners, please make reservations through registrar so that caterer can be notified of number to prepare for and payment can be made.

be passing the Ruins of Windsor—used in so many movies. Rodney will be next, the little town that the U.S.S. Rattler shelled. This village has not changed much through all these years.

Our final stop on Friday will find us at the Battlefield of Port Gibson to relive General McClernan's attack on the city. As we proceed home, we will be on part of the famous Natchez Trace Trail. That night, after Command Post and dinner at the motel, we will be treated to a most interesting



# THE CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

18 East Chestnut Street,  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
Phone: Whitehall 4-3085

## OFFICERS

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Founding Newsletter editor: Gil Twiss, 1954-1968



program featuring Lt. Col. (Ret.) Henry Hanisee of Vicksburg.

Saturday will find us "up and at 'em" early, as we follow Grant's plans on assualting the citadel of the Mississippi River, a city greatly fortified by lunettes, redans and redoubts and irregular topography that added strength to General Pemberton's 31,000 men. Led by Mr. Vicksburg, Ed Bearss, we will cover the attacks from the Stockdale Redan Complex to the Railroad Redoubt and finally the seige itself.

Not only will we be viewing the battle by land but also by water aboard the Jeff Davis, a fine modern and fully accomodated ship licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard. We will be having lunch aboard the ship. Those campaigners of the former tour to Vicksburg will remember it well.

Returning to the motel, the veteran campaigners will have time to relax before dinner at our motel. "Fun Night" will be aboard the famed old River Boat, Sprague, the world's largest sternwheeler which is permanently anchored at the Vicksburg riverfront. We will relive those old nostalgic days of the "Gay Nineties" as the Dixie showboat players present "Gold in the Hills".

Sunday, after breakfast and church, we'll visit the first assault on Vicksburg, Chickasaw Bayou, followed by a tour through the famed Old Court House Museum which contains some of the finest Civil War artifacts in the country. From here we will be going to the McRaven House, one of the finest anti-bellum homes in the South, built in 1797.

After lunch we will board the buses for the return trip to Jackson for a visit to their fine museum. And as they say in the travelogues, "As the sun sets in the west, we will leave the fair State of Mississippi and return to Chicago." A meal will be served on the plane before landing at O'Hare at 6:30 P.M.

from the  
Editor's pen



## 1971 TOUR COMMITTEE

Co-Chairman—Charles Wesselhoeft, Gordon Whitney  
Registrar—Margaret April  
Newsletter—Gordon Whitney, Don Russell.  
Chief Marshal—Al Meyer  
Book List—E. B. (Pete Long)  
Itinerary—Edwin C. Bearss

## BATTLES OF THE CAMPAIGN

by  
GORDON WHITNEY

"Vicksburg was the key," declared President Lincoln, "and the war cannot be brought to a successful conclusion until that key is in our pocket."

Sea-going men of war and iron clad gunboats engaged shore defenses and escorted troops along enemy lines as the Armies of the West marched and countermarched in a gigantic operation which culminated in the campaign and the seige of Vicksburg.

Protected by heavy artillery batteries on the river front and with land approaches to the North and Southwest guarded by densely wooded swamplands, Vicksburg defied land and river expeditions for over a year.

The campaign for the city was launched December 8, 1862 when General Sherman received orders from General Grant for a full scale assault. By the 19th of December, General Sherman had some 32,000 men packed aboard some sixty transports and was steaming down the Mississippi from Memphis. Meanwhile, General Grant was moving his Army inland, traveling South down the Mississippi Central Railroad. On the 20th day of December the dashing Confederate, General Van Dorn, captured and burned Grant's giant supply base at Holly Springs, forcing Grant to give up his forward movement and the attack against General Pemberton. Sherman, not knowing of Grant's misfortune, continued and on December 29th launched an attack on Chickasaw Bayou at two points.

The "blue clads" were repulsed with heavy losses and Sherman withdrew on the night of January 1st. By the 30th of January, Grant had moved his command to Memphis and assumed command of the Army of the Tennessee, which was divided into four corps—the 13th under McClernand, the 15th under Sherman, the 16th under Hurlbut and the 17th under McPherson. The Navy was under the command of Admiral Porter with a fleet of some fifty ships and ironclads. Now began a series of campaigns that was to try the patience of any commander.

The winter of 1862-1863 was a period of unusually high water. The Mississippi crested higher than ever before and until things were dry enough to permit land movements, not much could be done.

Grant's plans began to formulate by trying to by-pass Vicksburg and operate against the rear of the Confederates by building canals across the Peninsula below the city diverting the river through it. Troops and supplies could be transported safely beyond the big guns. Grant's canal, Duckport Canal and the Lake Providence Expeditions all proved futile either because of the rising or the falling of the river or other troublesome difficulties.

Still determined, Grant appointed young Lt. Col. James H. Wilson, his chief topographical engineer, to open a route through the Delta Waterway to the bluffs north of the city by cutting a passage through from the Yazoo Pass connecting the



rivers. The Union army could flank Vicksburg from the North. When General McPherson moved his troops down the Tallahatchie River, they found everything under water. The only high ground was Fort Pemberton which was entrenched with W. W. Loring's Division. The attack was short lived and the Federals withdrew.

Grant, returning from a reconnaissance of Steele's Bayou, saw here the possibility of a much shorter route to Vicksburg. On March 15th, Admiral Porter went down the Yazoo River with Union soldiers bulging at the sides of his ships. The alert Confederates, following behind, blocked their exit and nearly succeeded in capturing the fleet. If it had not been for the speed of the men in the 15th Corps coming to their aid, all would have been lost.

Although greatly discouraged by these failures, Grant still was determined to avoid a frontal assault. He had promised Washington that he would be in Vicksburg before the end of March and now his credit had fallen. He revised a plan he had thought of before. It involved running the guns of Vicksburg and landing the Army south of the city.

On April 16th Admiral Porter with the fleet dashed past the heights of Vicksburg. Although they were detected by the Confederate gunners and a fierce fight encountered, most of the ships came through with little damage. By April 29th most of the Army of the Tennessee were assembled at Hard Times Landing.

As a diversion, Grant ordered Col. Ben Grierson to conduct a cavalry raid through Mississippi starting at LaGrange, Tennessee on April 17th and ending up at Baton Rouge, La. on May 2nd. He inflicted great damage and caused Pemberton to send off much needed infantry and cavalry on a fruitless chase.

Admiral Porter, who was now past the guns of Vicksburg, launched a bombardment on Grand Gulf, but the batteries proved to be tough and so Grant dropped down to Bruinsburg. On April 30th McClernand's Corps was ferried over the river and moved inland towards Port Gibson.

To counter this new movement, General Bowen was dispatched to hold the city. McClernand's Corps was too great. A skirmish followed and Bowen was forced to abandon the city and retreat. By now, McPherson, with most of his Corps, was moving inland with great speed. Determined to live off the land, Grant ordered up Sherman's 15th Corps.

Thus, while Grant was moving Northeast on Jackson, General Pemberton was in constant doubt whether Jackson or Vicksburg was the object of the Union Army. To General Pemberton's aid, General Joseph Johnston was moving towards Jackson with an Army. If Grant met these forces united, they might overwhelm him. To prevent the joining of these two rebel forces, Grant directed McClernand's Corps to the left, McPherson to the right, with Sherman in the center. On May 12th at the outskirts of Raymond, McPherson's Corps was attacked by Gregg's Brigade. Naturally the superiority in numbers of the Unions was to prove too great for the Confederates, but they fought on with grim determination for two and a half hours before retreating. This show of force led Grant to believe that a formidable striking force was in Jackson and before he could give his undivided attention to Pemberton, he must take the city.

McPherson was now directed to move due north on the 13th to Clinton, then turn east to Jackson to join Sherman who was marching due east to the city.

Realizing the size of the Union Army was too great for his forces, J. Johnston abandoned the city and on the 14th Sherman's Corps entered Jackson. The next morning, Grant turned the army about face to the west, moving towards Edwards Station. This sudden turn was due to word received that Pemberton was moving his army east out of Vicksburg to strike the Union rear.

Grant's quickly converging columns caught Pemberton unready at Champion Hill on the 16th. Three times the hill changed hands in what was to be the bloodiest battle of the

## TOUR SCHEDULE

(All times local daylight saving)  
(Variations will be announced at lunch or dinner)

### THURSDAY, MAY 4, 1972

- 8:00 a.m.— Check in with Registrar, Margaret April, at the Southern Air Lines Terminal in the Butler Aviation Building, O'Hare International Airport.
- 9:00 a.m.— Depart Southern Airlines—Breakfast enroute.
- 10:30 a.m.—Arrive Jackson, Mississippi.
- 11:00 a.m.—Board buses for a tour of Old Jackson.
- 12:00 p.m.—Lunch.
- 1:30 p.m.— Board buses for Raymond, Champion Hill and the Big Black.
- 5:00 p.m.— Check in at the Holiday Inn, Vicksburg. Tour headquarters.
- 6:30 p.m.— Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m.— Dinner followed by Speaker, Ed Bearss.

### FRIDAY MAY 5, 1972

- Breakfast—on your own.
- 9:00 a.m.— Board buses for Port Gibson and Grand Gulf.
- 11:30 a.m.—Lunch in Port Gibson.
- Afternoon— Bruinsburg, Ruins of Windsor, Rodney and Battlefield of Port Gibson.
- 6:30 p.m.— Command Post.
- 7:30 p.m.— Dinner followed by Speaker Lt. Col. (ret.) Henry Hanisee.

### SATURDAY MAY 6, 1972

- Breakfast on your own.
- 8:30 a.m.— Board the buses for Campaign and Siege of Vicksburg. One half of the group will tour the battlefield and siege lines. Second half will go aboard the Jeff Davis to view the campaign from the Mississippi River.
- Noon— The two groups will meet aboard the Jeff Davis for a catered lunch. Following the above plan will be reversed.
- 5:30 p.m.— Command Post.
- 6:30 p.m.— Dinner at the Holiday Inn.
- 8:00 p.m.— Fun Night—showtime aboard the river boat Sprague. The show will be "Gold in the Hills".

### SUNDAY MAY 7, 1972

- Breakfast on your own.
- Have all luggage packed and available for pickup.
- 9:30 a.m.— Board the buses for the assault on Chickasaw Bayou and tour of the Old Court House Museum.
- Noon— Lunch.
- Afternoon— Tour of the McRaven House.
- 2:00 p.m.— Board the buses for trip back to Jackson.
- 3:00 p.m.— Tour of the Jackson Museum.
- 5:00 p.m.— Depart from Jackson Airport with dinner enroute.
- 6:40 p.m.— Arrive Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

campaign. Union losses were 2500 and the Confederates 4000. The rebels were now forced to retreat westward to the Big Black River. There behind a strong natural barrier, they waited, but it took just a short charge to drive the panic stricken Confederates out of their defenses to the other side of the river and the protection of Vicksburg. This stronghold was rimmed by lines of deep trenches that zigzagged around the city with artillery positioned at commanding points. In fact, nine forts had been built along this line.

Grant feared Johnston's gathering strength which posed a threat to his rear. Thus, while Pemberton's men were still weary and confused, Grant decided not to wait. On May 19th, the Union soldiers dashed forward, but the stout entrenchment proved to be too great and the attack was repulsed.





## ORDERS AND AMMUNITION

BY E. B. (PETE) LONG  
University of Wyoming

The following is a partial bibliography of the military campaigns of the Civil War in the Vicksburg Campaign. These sources should be useful in preparation for a visit to Vicksburg.

### VICKSBURG

#### *A Bibliography for on the Field Study*

All histories of the American Civil War of course mention to a greater or lesser degree the Vicksburg Campaign. A number of them go into some detail. It is not deemed necessary to list these standard works in this bibliography. We have confined the list of those articles, volumes, and pamphlets more directly concerned with Vicksburg, the campaign and the area. In addition to those listed below, there are unit histories, scores of memoirs and personal accounts, and works of secondary value.

*Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, Volume III primarily, excellent.

Bearss, Edwin C., *Decision in Mississippi*, a detailed study.

Bearss, Edwin C., *Hardluck Ironclad; the Sinking and Salvage of the Cairo*.

Bearss, Edwin C., "Grand Gulf's Role in the Civil War." *Civil War History*, March, 1959.

Bettsworth, John K., *Confederate Mississippi*.

Brown, D. Alexander, *Grierson's Raid*.

Cadwallader, Sylvanus, *Three Years with Grant*, edited by Benjamin P. Thomas.

Catton, Bruce, *Grant Moves South*, major biography covering Vicksburg.

Connelly, Thomas L., Vicksburg, Strategic Point or Propaganda Device?" *Military Affairs Journal*, April, 1970.

Crummer, Wilbur Fisk, *With Grant at Fort Donelson, Shiloh and Vicksburg*.

Everhart, William C., *Vicksburg National Military Park, Mississippi*, National Park Service Handbook.

Fiske, John, *The Mississippi Valley in the Civil War*.

Fuller, J.F.C., *The Generalship of Ulysses S. Grant*.

Grant, U.S., *Personal Memoirs*.

Greene, Francis Vinton, *The Mississippi*, useful.

Johnston, Joseph E., *Narrative of Military Operations*.

Livermore, William R., "The Vicksburg Campaign," *Papers of the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts*, Vol. IX.

Loughborough, Mary Ann, *My Cave Life in Vicksburg*.

Mahan, A.T., *The Gulf and Inland Waters*, useful for naval matters.

Miers, Earl Schenck, *The Web of Victory, Grant at Vicksburg*.

Mulvihill, Michael J., *Vicksburg and Warren County, Mississippi*.

*Official Records Union and Confederate Navies*, Series I, Vols. 23, 24, and 25.

*Official Records, Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, Vol. XXIV, Parts I, II, III, for main coverage. Vol. XVII, Parts I and II for 1862 events around Vicksburg.

Pemberton, John Clifford, *Pemberton, Defender of Vicksburg*.

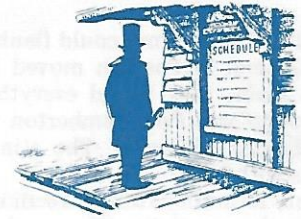
Reed, Samuel Rockwell, *The Vicksburg Campaign and the Battles Around Chattanooga*.

Rowland, Dunbar, *History of Mississippi*, 2 vols.

Sherman, William T., *Memoirs*.

"Struggle for Vicksburg; The Battles & Siege That Decided the Civil War," *Civil War Times Illustrated*, July, 1967, also available bound, quite useful military survey with maps.

## BULLETIN BOARD



CHECK-IN TIME: 8:00 a.m. Thursday May 4th, at the Butler Aviation Terminal—Southern Airlines. Registrar Margaret April will be at a special desk for smooth handling of passengers and luggage. Tour packet will be passed out.

DEPARTURE: 9:00 a.m. (CDT), Southern Airlines—breakfast enroute. Arrive Jackson, Miss. Airport 10:30 a.m.

ON THE TOUR: Please be prompt at all stated times because we will be operating on a close schedule. Bus Marshals will be on hand for guidance. If you plan a side excursion or join a car group, you must notify your bus marshal.

RETURN: Sunday, May 7th. Depart from Jackson Airport on Southern Airlines 5:00 p.m. Diner enroute. Arrive Butler Terminal, O'Hare Airport 6:40 p.m. (CDT).



Walker, Peter Franklin, *Vicksburg, A People at War, 1860-1865*.

*War of the Rebellion, Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies in the War of the Rebellion*, see *Official Records*.

Williams, Kenneth P., *Lincoln Finds A General*, Vol. IV, Iuka to Vicksburg.



FOUNDED DECEMBER 3, 1940

Grant allowed two days for further reconnaissance and on the 22nd launched a combined assault all along the three mile front from Stockade Redan south to Fort Garratt. However, this only resulted in a more emphatic repulse than before.

The Union entrenchments were extended until they enclosed the Fortress. THE SEIGE HAD BEGUN. The mortars on the peninsula opposite Vicksburg threw 10,000 shells into and over the city every 24 hours. The bombardment from Porter's fleet at night sent shells streaking high across the sky before disappearing into the city. The only relief came when the Union men stopped to eat. Sharpshooting reached such a degree of accuracy, that, in one instance, a hat placed on a stick and held above the wall was pierced by 15 bullets in a minute. The Southern troops and citizens were in sad straits, many on the verge of starvation. Because of the heavy bombardments, people were forced to take refuge in caves that were dug into the hillsides.

By June, Grant had received so many reinforcements that he had two lines of works. One to hold Pemberton in and the other facing east to hold Johnston out.

On the 3rd of July, after 47 days of isolation, Pemberton asked for an armistice and, by the next morning, the rebels poured out of their trenches and laid down their colors. When the National Banner rose over the court house in the city, thousands of voices struck up the song, "Rally Round the Flag".

The campaign was over.