

THE SEVEN DAYS CAMPAIGN



The Seven Days campaign, fought from June 25 to July 1, 1862, was a singular episode of the Civil War. At the culmination of the Peninsula campaign, which had begun in March, Union forces had pushed to within seven miles of the Confederate capital at Richmond. In this week-long, fluid, and on-going battle, the Confederates attacked time after time. The result was costly in Confederate casualties, but the Union army was forced to

maneuver yielding previously won territory, until it was about thirty miles from the capital.

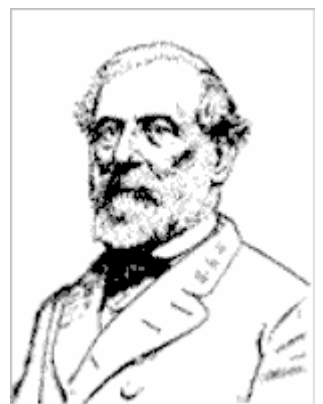
The threat to the Confederate capital was diminished, and the war's future course in Virginia was permanently altered. General Lee and President Jefferson Davis were both educated by the Seven Days experience. Victories could be purchased at too great a cost. The Confederates afterward eschewed purely offensive battle tactics.



As for McClellan, he lost rather little militarily, but he suffered much loss of esteem. There was little doubt in the minds of the northern public as to who had won. President Lincoln termed McClellan's campaign a "half defeat" which seriously depressed popular morale. The Seven Days campaign set the stage for the second Manassas campaign and for Lee's subsequent invasion of Maryland.

Upon arrival in Richmond a knowledgeable historian guide will join our group to re-live The Seven Days Campaign. The first day will focus on the greater Richmond area. The second day will extend from Richmond down the peninsula to Hampton and back. The tour will include a visit to **Berkeley Plantation**, site of the first official Thanksgiving in 1619 and headquarters for General McClellan, and "Taps" composed here in 1862. Also included is a tour of **Lee Hall**, a Southern headquarters for General Magruder.

Other attractions included in this package are **Casemate Museum** at **Fort Monroe**, **Old Yorktown** (Union Supply Base), **Tredagor Iron Works** – the new Civil War Visitor's Center, **Drewry's Bluff** (Ft. Darling) on the James River, a tour of **Gaine's Mill Battlefield**, a drive-by **Chickahominy Swamp** and a tour of **Malvern Hill Battlefield**. We may be able to visit other sites as time and weather permit.



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