

AMERICAN CIVIL WAR BATTLES

Chronological Timeline & Major Engagements

APRIL 12, 1861

Battle of Fort Sumter

Charleston, South Carolina

The opening engagement of the American Civil War.

JULY 21, 1861

First Battle of Bull Run

Manassas, Virginia

First major land battle; Confederate victory that ended hopes of a quick war.

APRIL 6, 1862

Battle of Shiloh

Hardin County, Tennessee

Major battle in the Western Theater with unprecedented casualties.

SEPT 17, 1862

Battle of Antietam

Sharpsburg, Maryland

The bloodiest single-day battle in American military history.

JULY 1-3, 1863

Battle of Gettysburg

Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Turning point of the war; Lee's second invasion of the North is halted.

JULY 4, 1863

Siege of Vicksburg

Vicksburg, Mississippi

Union gains control of the Mississippi River, splitting the Confederacy.

SEPT 2, 1864

Fall of Atlanta

Atlanta, Georgia

Union capture of the city secures Lincoln's reelection.

APRIL 9, 1865

Appomattox Court House

Appomattox, Virginia

General Lee surrenders the Army of Northern Virginia to General Grant.