

STRATEGIC CIVIL WAR BATTLES

Timeline Reference Chart 1861 - 1865

DATE	ENGAGEMENT & LOCATION	STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE
1861	First Battle of Bull Run <i>Confederate Victory</i>	Ended illusions of a short war; forced Union realization of necessary large-scale mobilization.
1862	Battle of Antietam <i>Union Strategic Victory</i>	Bloodiest single day; provided political capital for the Emancipation Proclamation; deterred British intervention.
1863	Battle of Gettysburg <i>Union Victory</i>	High-water mark of the Confederacy; Lee's final northern invasion halted; permanent shift in momentum.
1863	Siege of Vicksburg <i>Union Victory</i>	Gained control of the Mississippi River; effectively bisected the Confederacy geographically.
1864	Battle of Atlanta <i>Union Victory</i>	Critical rail hub capture; boosted Northern morale and secured Lincoln's re-election.
1865	Appomattox Court House <i>Union Victory / Surrender</i>	Surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia; symbolic and functional end of major organized hostilities.