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World History > Wars, Battles & Armed Conflicts

Seven Days' Battles

American Civil War

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Seven Days' Battles, (June 25–July 1, 1862), series of [American Civil War](#) battles in which a [Confederate](#) army under General [Robert E. Lee](#) drove back General George B. [McClellan's](#) Union forces and thwarted the Northern attempt to capture the Confederate capital of [Richmond](#), Virginia. McClellan was forced to retreat from a position 4 miles (6 km) east of the Confederate capital to a new base of operations at Harrison's Landing on the James River.

After the indecisive Battle of Oak Grove (June 25), Lee's attack on the Union right at Mechanicsville (June 26) was repulsed with great losses, but Lee and [General "Stonewall" Jackson](#) combined to defeat General Fitz-John Porter's V Corps in a bloody encounter at Gaines's Mill (June 27). In the battles of Peach Orchard and Savage's Station (June 29) and Frayser's Farm (Glendale; June 30), the retreating Union forces inflicted heavy [casualties](#) on the pursuing Confederates. Reaching the James River, and supported by Union gunboats, the Northern troops turned back Lee's final assaults at Malvern Hill (July 1). Lee later stated in his official report that "Under ordinary circumstances the Federal Army should have been destroyed."

McClellan's failure to capture Richmond, and the subsequent withdrawal of the Union's Army of the Potomac from the Yorktown Peninsula, signified the end of the [Peninsular Campaign](#) (*q.v.*). Northern casualties were estimated at 16,000 men and Southern at 20,000.



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Seven Days' Battles: Union field hospital
Union field hospital, Savage's Station, Virginia, photograph by James F. Gibs...(more)

Quick Facts

Date: June 25, 1862 - July 1, 1862**Location:** [Richmond](#) • [United States](#)**Participants:** [Confederate States of America](#) • [United States](#)**Context:** [American Civil War](#) • [Peninsular Campaign](#)**Key People:** [A. P. Hill](#) • [Robert E. Lee](#) • [George B. McClellan](#) • [Jeb Stuart](#)[See all related content](#)*The Editors of Encyclopaedia Britannica**This article was most recently revised and updated by [Adam Augustyn](#).*

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Peninsular Campaign

American Civil War

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Peninsular Campaign, (April 4–July 1, 1862), in the [American Civil War](#), large-scale but unsuccessful Union effort to capture the [Confederate](#) capital at [Richmond](#), Va., by way of the peninsula formed by the York and the James rivers. Following the engagement between the ironclads *Monitor* and *Merrimack* at nearby [Hampton Roads](#) (March 9), Federal supplies and 100,000 troops were disembarked at Fort Monroe under Major General George B. [McClellan](#). The first phase of the campaign, during which the North reached the town of [White House](#), within striking distance of Richmond, concluded with the indecisive [Battle of Seven Pines](#) (May 31–June 1), in which Confederate General [Joseph E. Johnston](#) was seriously wounded and field command passed to [Robert E. Lee](#). A second phase was characterized by three weeks of inactivity. The final phase ended triumphantly for the Confederate forces of General Lee, who forced the [withdrawal](#) of the Federal Army of the Potomac after the [Seven Days' Battles](#) (*q.v.*; June 25–July 1).



American Civil War: Peninsular Campaign
Union forces passing the Trent House, between Fair Oaks Station and... [... \(more\)](#)

Quick Facts

Date: April 4, 1862 - July 1, 1862

Location: [United States](#) • [Virginia](#)

Participants: [Confederate States of America](#) • [United States](#)

Context: [American Civil War](#)

Major Events: [Seven Days' Battles](#) • [Battle of Seven Pines](#)

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