

Challenge Yourself, Round 10

During this down time occasioned by the fight against the spread of the Coronavirus, we want to keep our members in touch with the Civil War with a bi-weekly round of questions and ponderables. Some will be easy, some will not. This is not a formal quiz, but a way to keep your ACW expertise sharp. No response is needed; however, if you do want to comment, send them via email to Emil at emilposey@ardmore.net, and he will post with the next "Challenge Yourself," which will also contain the "school solution" to this set of questions.

1. Field Artillery is also known as:
 - a. The Ground Pounders
 - b. Heavy Metal
 - c. The Queen of Battle
 - d. The King of BattleBonus: Extra points if you know why.
2. What was the most popular smoothbore cannon used during the Civil War?
 - a. The 3-inch Rodman
 - b. The 12-pound Napoleon
 - c. The 20-pound Parrot
 - d. The 12-pound Whitworth
3. Short-barreled guns that were optimized for firing explosive shells in a high trajectory are known as?
 - a. Howitzers
 - b. Mortars
 - c. Field Guns
 - d. Big Bertha
4. What was the most widely used rifled gun during the war?
 - a. The 12-pound Whitworth
 - b. The 14-pound James Rifle
 - c. The 1841 Model Gun
 - d. The 3-inch Rifle

5. The Confederacy developed a Revolver Cannon late in the War. How many shots could it fire without being reloaded?
- a. 2
 - b. 4
 - c. 5
 - d. 6
6. Even before the start of the Civil War, an ordnance board recommended that rifling be added to the 6-pounder field gun in order to improve its accuracy. Which was the first rifle chosen to go into production?
- a. The 3-inch Rodman
 - b. 12-pounder James Rifle
 - c. The 20-pound Parrot
 - d. The 12-pound Whitworth

7. What type of artillery piece is pictured below?



- a. 10-Pounder Parrott Rifle
 - b. 14-pounder James rifle
 - c. 12-Pounder Whitworth Breechloading Rifle
 - d. 3-inch ordnance rifle
8. What was considered to be the deadliest type of artillery ammunition?
- a. Solid Shot
 - b. Case Shot
 - c. Grapeshot
 - d. Canister

BONUS: Why is the correct answer better than another choice available?

9. Each gun in an artillery battery required how many teams comprised of how many horses?
- 1 Team, 3 horses each
 - 2 teams, 6 horses each
 - 2 teams, 4 horses each
 - 3 teams 7 horses

BONUS: How were they divided and what were their functions?

10. What was a major problem with Confederate artillery (multiple choices may apply)?
- Manufacturing capability
 - The Union Blockade
 - The Shortage of Quality Metals
 - Shoddy Workmanship

11. How many guns were normally assigned to each Union Battery?
- 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6

12. And how many guns were normally in each Confederate Battery?
- 3
 - 4
 - 5
 - 6

13. What was the Wiard Rifle?

Answers to Round 9 questions:

1. b

This is a speculative question more than verifiable. The substance of your argument will determine the degree to which your answer is reasonable. Judge (Ret) David Breland, in a presentation to our RT back on June 11, opined it was Shiloh. (I was intrigued, and his discussion led to this question.)

He looked at several factors. There was strong sentiment in the North in early 1862 that the war was not worth the expenditure of men, materiel, etc. necessary to prosecute what was going to be a long and costly war—the “cost” being a fact that was obvious to most by this time. Some simply said, in essence, that it was not worth the effort to try to keep states in the Union that didn’t want to be there. There were also pockets (sometimes large ones) of Southern sympathizers in the North, including Mary Todd Lincoln, the President’s wife. Southern sympathizers were significant in the border states. A Southern victory at the first “mega-battle” of the war in terms of casualties (Shiloh) would have fanned the flames of these feelings among the Northern populace and, therefore, would have made possible an ending more favorable to the South.

Militarily, Southern forces had a major Union army squeezed into, in essence, a small peninsula with the Tennessee River at its back on Day 1 of Shiloh. Had the advantage been successfully pressed, it could have resulted in the complete destruction of a Union army added to the factors set out above. The Union reinforcement and successful breakout, however, had the exact opposite effect. Members of the Northern public were cheered by Grant snatching a significant strategic victory out of the “jaws of defeat.” Moreover, the reinforced Union force was so large that the South was unable to split its forces to defend both Corinth, Mississippi (a railroad center being the gateway to the Mississippi River) and Decatur, Alabama (a railroad center being the gateway to the Tennessee Valley). In the event, Corinth was defended, leaving Decatur and virtually all of North Alabama open to Union capture. Grant and Sherman understood the crucial strategic importance in maintaining control over the railroads and the river at Decatur as being vital to the capture of both Chattanooga and Atlanta. Direct RR lines from Nashville (where vast stores of Union supplies were located) to Decatur would have been a large part of this.

Now, First Bull Run is a possibility that I consider. With the Union forces defeated and retreating in disorder, had General Beauregard’s Army of the Potomac, reinforced by General Johnston’s Army of the Shenandoah, been able to immediately follow up with a thrust to capture Washington, DC, he not only had a good chance of capturing the Union capitol, throwing the Union government into disarray, he very well may have tipped Maryland into succession. In any event, there certainly would have been huge political pressure on the new President to end the conflict. Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending upon where you sit), the Confederate forces were not capable of mounting such an offensive at that point, and the window of opportunity quickly closed.

Political sentiment for a negotiated peace was still present in late 1862 and in 1863, but President Lincoln’s position was becoming stronger. A decisive defeat of the Union’s Army of the Potomac stemming from either of Lee’s thrusts northward would have been problematic for President Lincoln, particularly if Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia threatened Washington, DC, Philadelphia, or other parts of the Union heartland. One could argue that possibilities existed with each of these campaigns, but the South was being pressed hard in the other theaters. Operations in the Western Theater, the blockade, which was tightening, and the waning possibility of gaining diplomatic support from Great Britain and France, which Jefferson Davis so longed for, also served to limit the South’s strategic options.

An argument in favor of Vicksburg being a decisive turning point in favor of the South is even tougher to support. As long as the Confederacy held onto Vicksburg, the Union would be unable to split the Confederacy and would be denied full use of the Mississippi River, but there was little

expectation of a decisive Confederate victory vis-à-vis Grant as that campaign wore on. At best, it seems, Confederate forces could only hope for local, operational success and thereby stave off the inevitable.

2. d

In the Battle of Fredericksburg alone, the Union bombarded the city with over 3,000 rounds of artillery, destroying most of the city's buildings – some 80 buildings hit, 50 burned to the ground. Union soldiers plundered the city, looting and destroying the insides of many homes.

The 1860 census listed Fredericksburg with some 5,200 people. Most became refugees. Some 1,000 remained in city during war. After the war there were only some 3,000. For the 40 years following the war, the overall population of northern Virginia doubled, but Fredericksburg's went down. It was 1944 – some 60 years – before it got back to its 1860 baseline.

Armies are like a plague of locusts, drawing remorselessly upon local resources for food and fodder, wood for shelters, draft animals, and so forth. The area around Fredericksburg was denuded of wildlife and trees. (An interesting book on this general topic is *Ruin Nation: Destruction and the American Civil War*, by Megan Kate Nelson; Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 2012.)

It took not years but generations for Fredericksburg to flourish. Property values dropped 72% after the war; real estate values depreciated 23%. Basically, Fredericksburg baselined and didn't start growing until the 1960s.

Atlanta would be a popular choice, but its systematic destruction was primarily in its business district and rail net, not the whole city. Moreover, war raged around (but not in) it for some two years, then moved on. War came early to Fredericksburg and stayed.

Thanks to Frank O'Reilly, NPS, lead historian at Fredericksburg & Spotsylvania National Military Park for most of this information.

3. b (Kelly) and c (Pennypacker)

BONUS: What was his age at promotion and effective date of rank?

George Armstrong Custer: 23; dob December 5, 1839; BG of Volunteers, USA, effective date June 29, 1863

John Herbert Kelly: 23; dob March 31, 1840; BG CSA, effective date November 16, 1863

Galusha Pennypacker: 20; dob June 1, 1844; BG of Volunteers, USA, effective date February 18, 1865

William P. Roberts ; 24; dob July 11, 1841; BG CSA, effective date February 21, 1865

4. True

5. b

BONUS: What prompted the nickname? While organizing a brigade of Arkansans, his initial assignment as a newly promoted brigadier general in the Confederate Army, he impressed his men

with his ability to solve difficult supply problems. (His initial assignment, as a colonel, had been to strengthen the defenses of Fort Morgan at the mouth of Mobile Bay after its seizure from the Union. He showed his problem-solving skills here, too.)

6. c

The 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry regiment (aka Rush's Lances) was formed during August and September 1861 from companies raised in Philadelphia, Montgomery and Berks counties. At the suggestion of Maj. General George B. McClellan, the men were armed with Austrian lances. After several weeks of training in Philadelphia, the regiment was transferred to Washington, D.C., where it was assigned to the Cavalry Division of the Army of the Potomac. In the May 1863, the regiment was rearmed with Sharps carbines and assigned to the Reserve Brigade of the 1st Cavalry Division. See Wiki; also <https://civilwartalk.com/threads/lancers-in-the-civil-war.116310/>

7. a, b, c, and d

Ponderable: Which was the greater loss to the Confederacy, Thomas Jonathan Jackson or Albert Sydney Johnston?

Certainly arguable. My sense is that Johnston was the greater loss. Had he lived and been kept in the Western Theater, he would have been a much more effective leader than Polk, Bragg, or any other Confederate four-star in the west. Jefferson Davis believed the loss of Johnston "was the turning point of our fate... Without doing injustice to the living, it may safely be asserted that our loss is irreparable; and that among the shining host of the great and good who now cluster around the banner of our country, there exists no purer spirit, no more heroic soul, than that of the illustrious man whose death I join you in lamenting." On the other hand, as big as the loss as Jackson was to the AoNV (General Lee remarked that losing Jackson was like losing his right arm), the Confederacy still had Lee.

For those wanting to delve deeper into these and other ACW topics, you might go to our website (www.tvcwrt.org) and roam through the various collections at our Education pull-down tab. Those collections are continually expanding.