THE BIG ONE: THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

Lee took another chance on invading the North. In June of 1863, Lee’s army entered Pennsylvania and searched for supplies in the town of Gettysburg, unaware that Union cavalry was there as well. It was an accidental encounter that blew up into the most famous battle of the Civil War.

TIMELINE:

**July 1:** After the Rebels pushed the outnumbered Union forces back into the town, the Union troops regrouped on CEMETERY RIDGE and CULP’S HILL, strategic positions on high ground. Both sides called for reinforcements.

**July 2:** Lee ordered the Confederate army to gain the high ground on the hills BIG ROUND TOP and LITTLE ROUND TOP, but the Union held on to these positions after heavy fighting.

**July 3:** When the Union line appeared to be weakened, Lee ordered GENERAL GEORGE PICKETT to attack the center of the Union line. In PICKETT’S CHARGE, the Confederates marched directly into heavy Union fire.

**July 4:** Lee and his army began to retreat back to Virginia.