



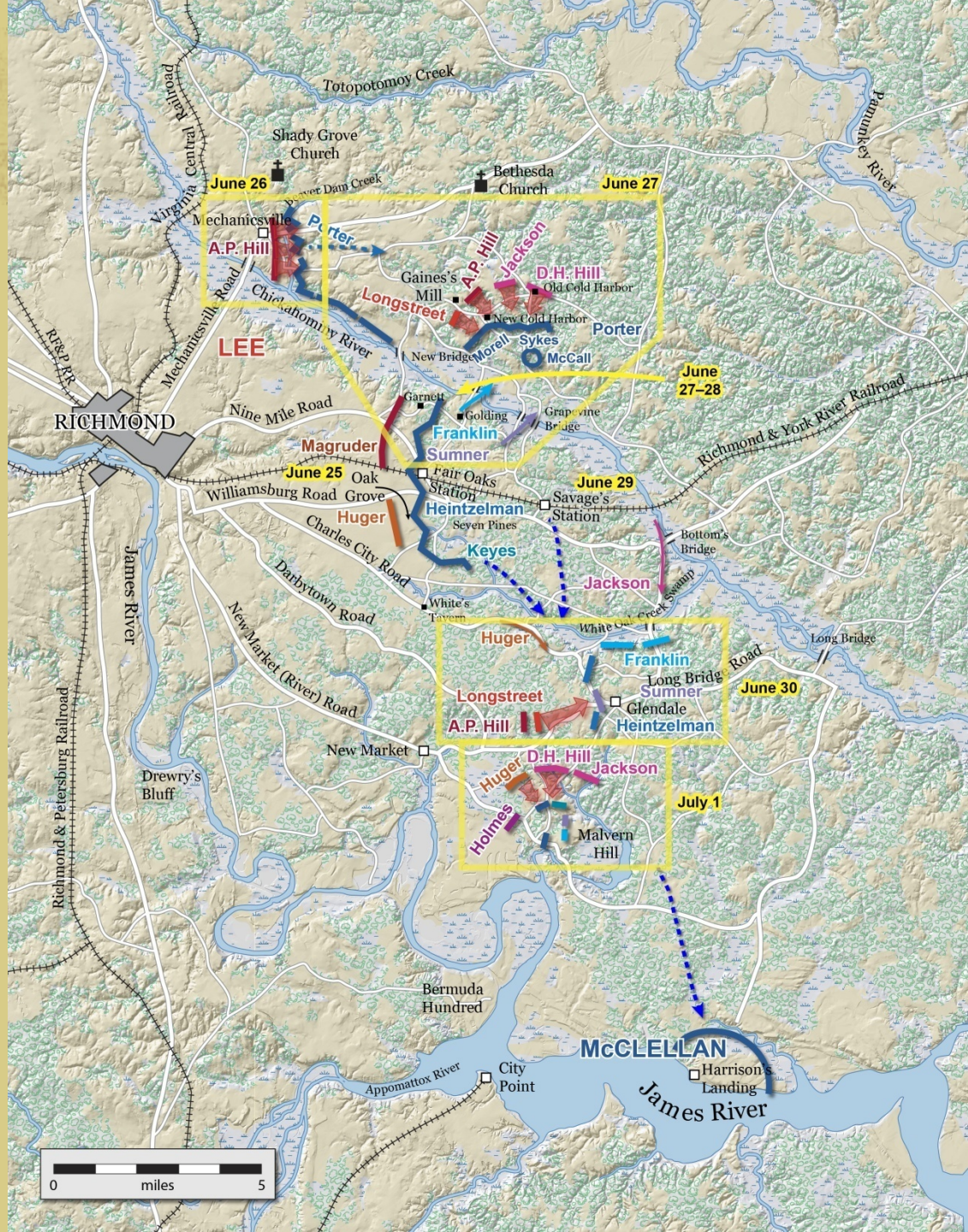
# The Seven Days Battles

A presentation to the  
South Bay CWRT

Hal Jespersen

[www.posix.com/CW](http://www.posix.com/CW)

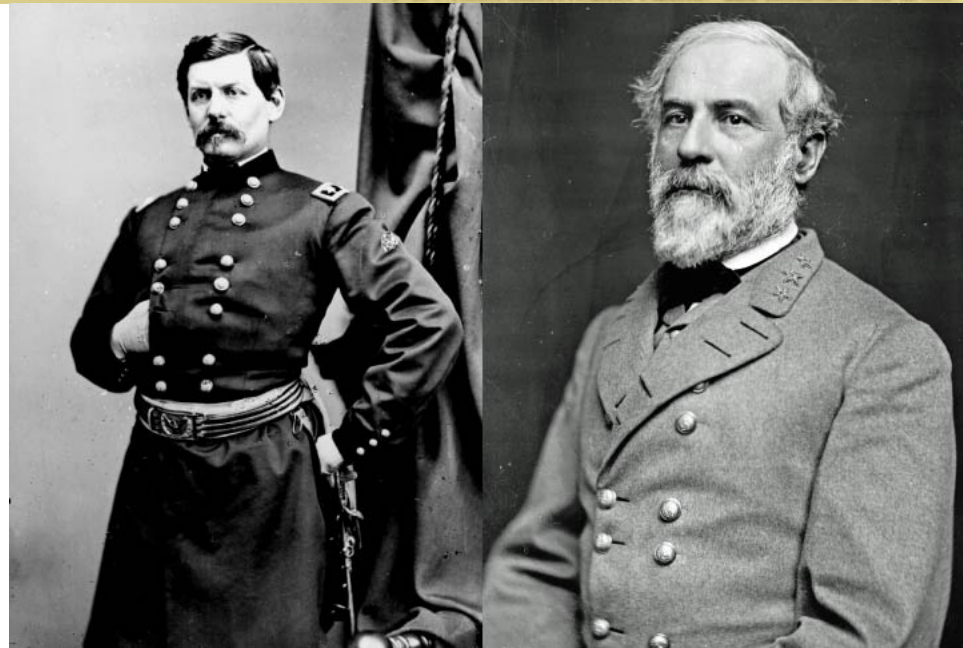
August 25, 2012





# The Seven Days Battles

- One of the most significant campaigns (battle?) of the American Civil War, a turning point
- June 25 – July 1, 1862:
  - 200,000 men in 4 major engagements, 4 minor
  - Over 36,000 total casualties
- Saved Richmond
- Signaled the emergence of Robert E. Lee and a new offensive strategy

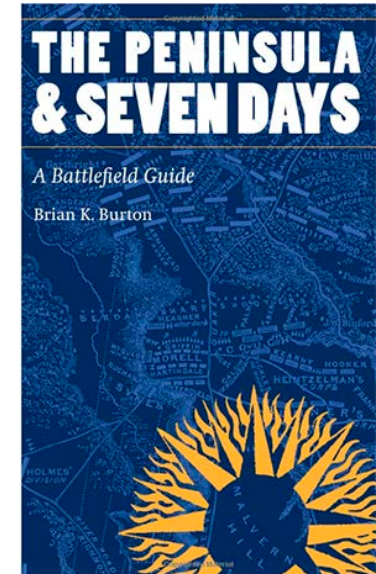
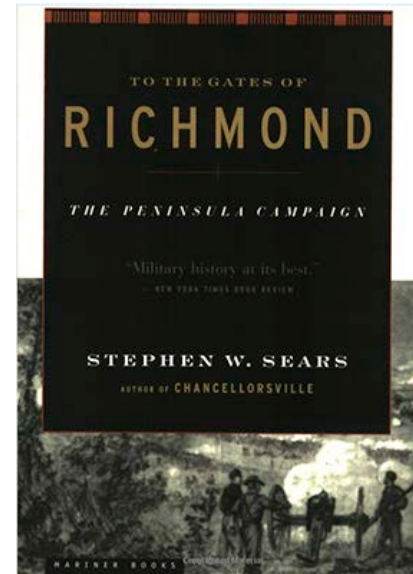
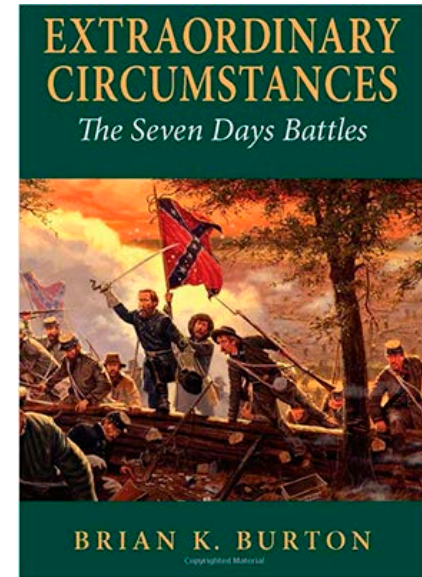
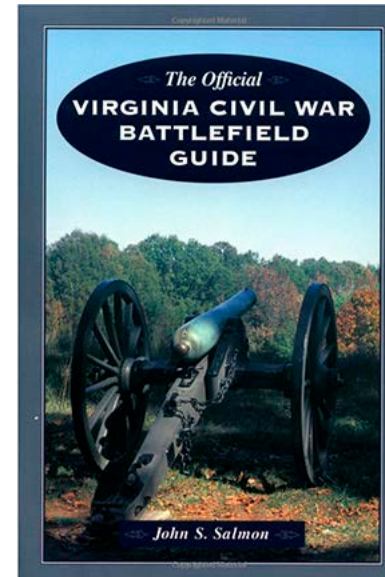
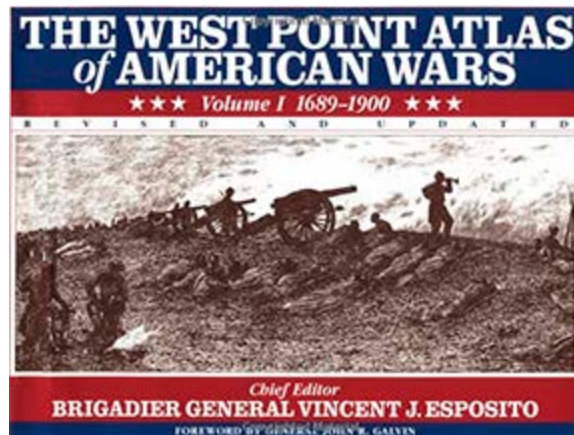


# Outline

- Sources of my material
- Background of the Peninsula Campaign
  - From planning to the Battle of Seven Pines
- Overview of the armies, the key commanders and their objectives
- Narrative of movements and battles, highlighting Mechanicsville, Gaines's Mill, Glendale, and Malvern Hill
- Aftermath and importance

# Sources

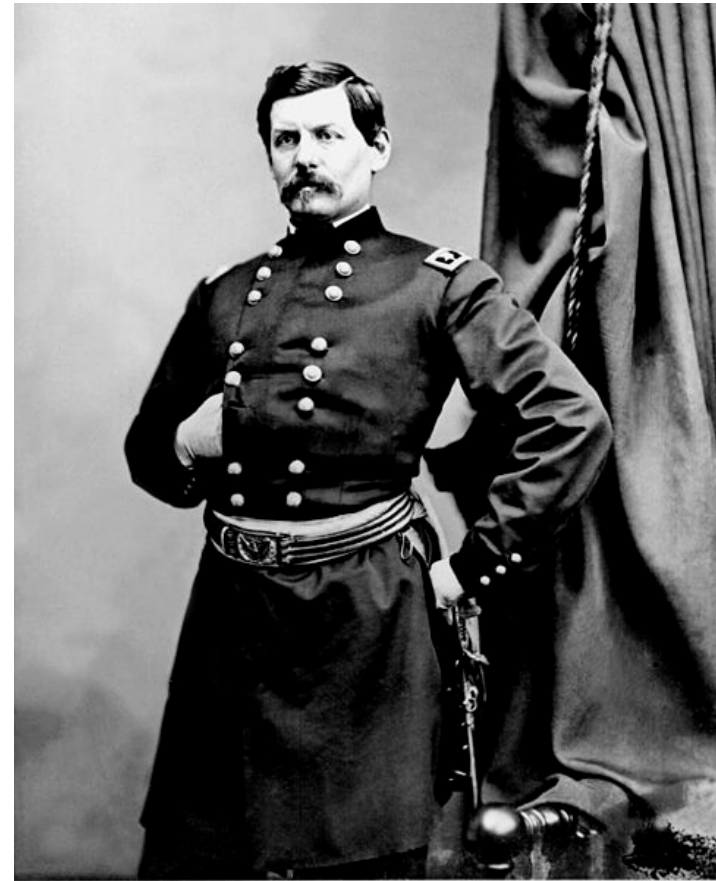
- My Wikipedia articles
- New maps from *Lee Triumphant* (to be published late 2012)





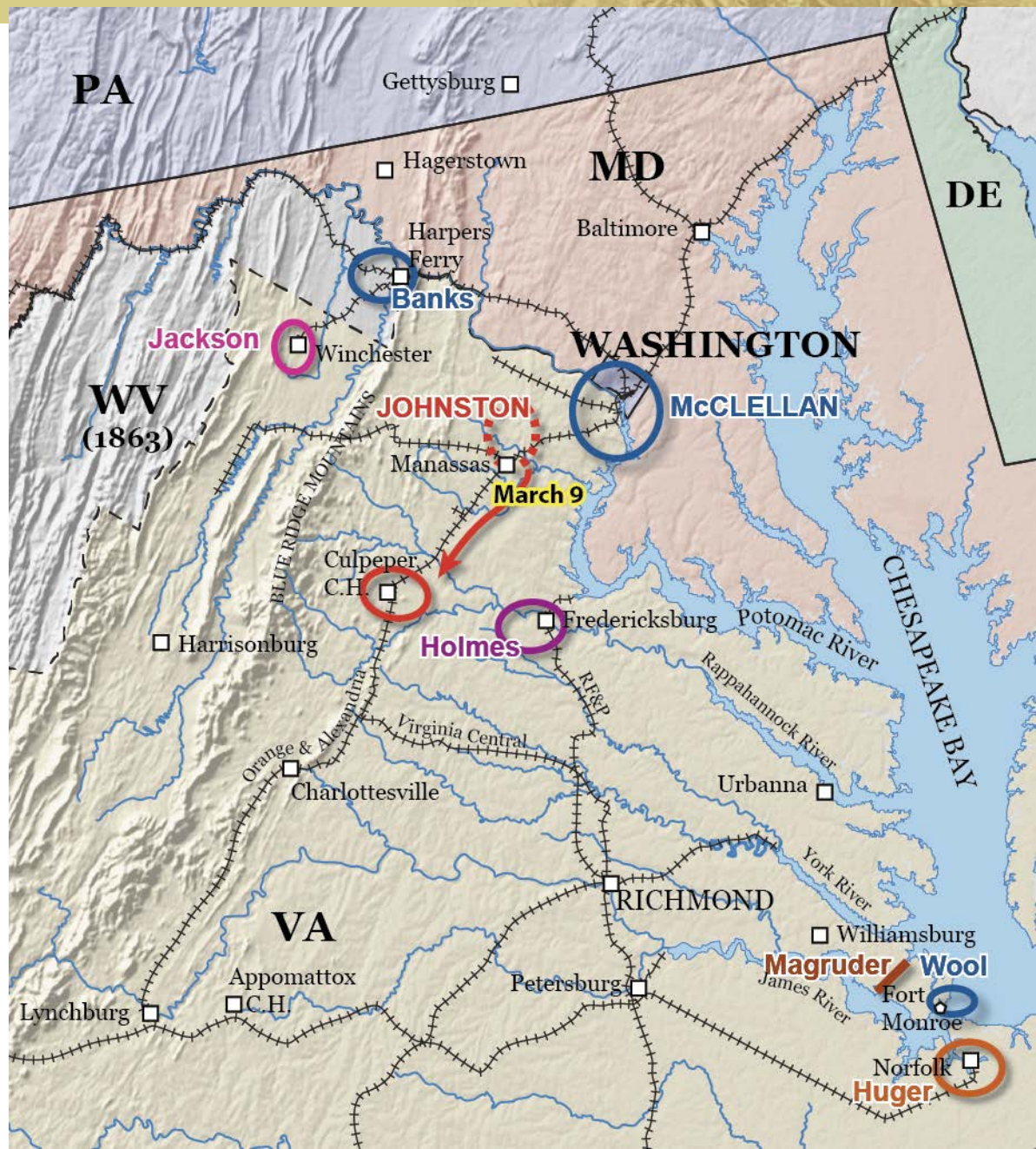
# Background of the Peninsula Campaign

- George B. McClellan formed the Army of the Potomac
- Named general in chief on November 1, 1861
- “On to Richmond!” places pressure on the Young Napoleon



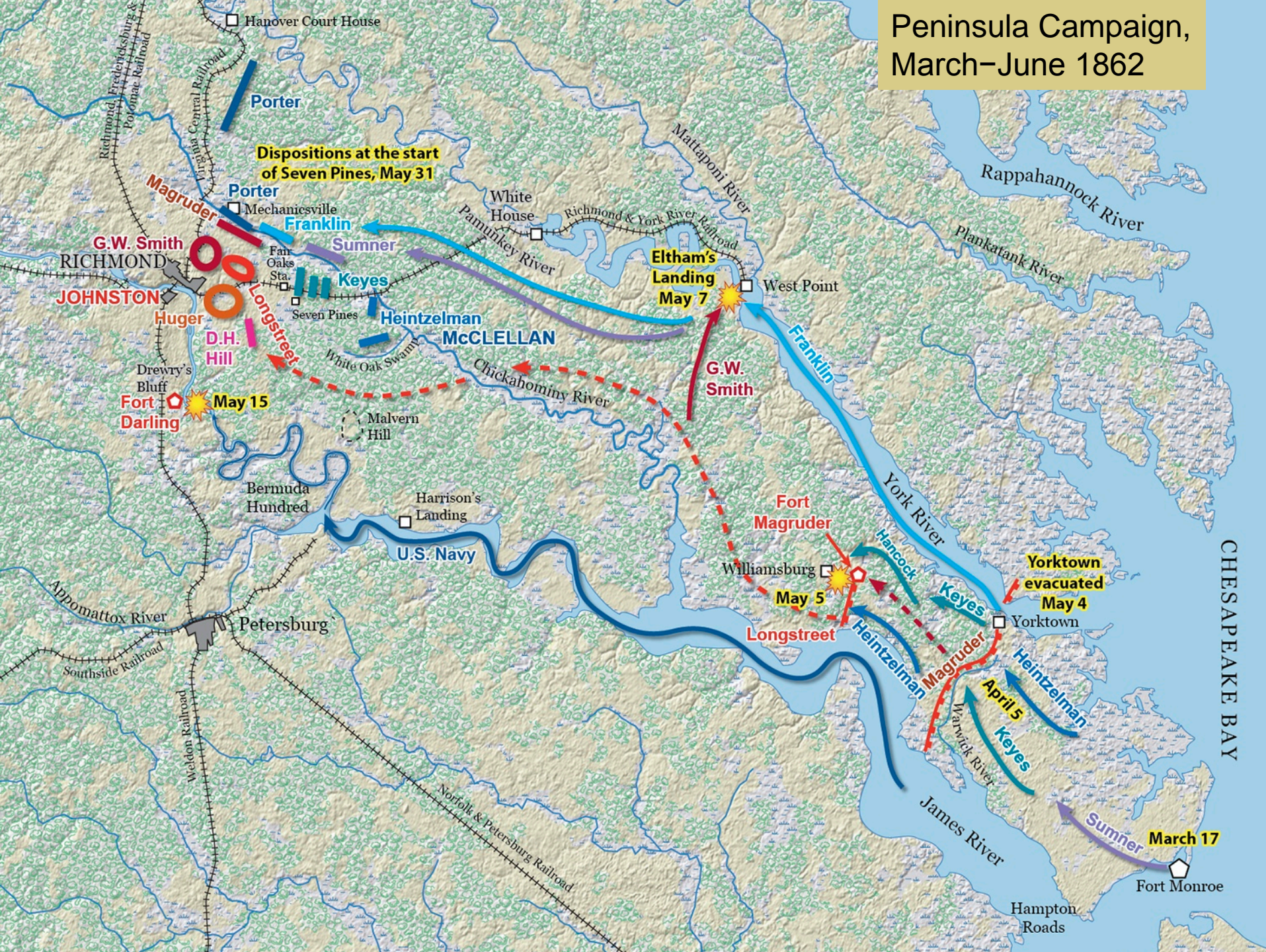
# Background of the Peninsula Campaign

- Difficulty of overland advance to Richmond
- McClellan's Urbanna plan (Jan. 12) disrupted by Johnston's withdrawal
- CSS *Virginia* (March 8–9)
- McClellan relieved as G-in-C March 11
- Sailed to Fort Monroe starting March 17





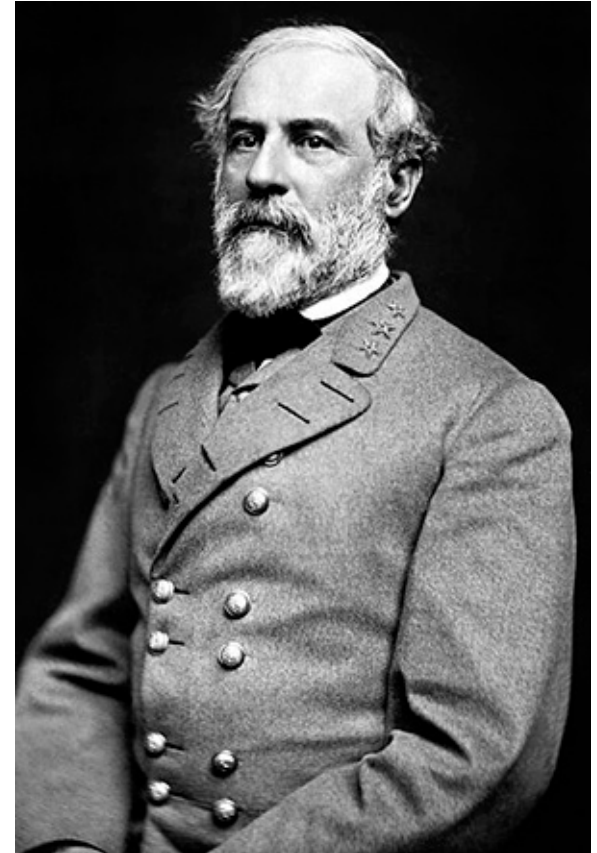
# Peninsula Campaign, March–June 1862





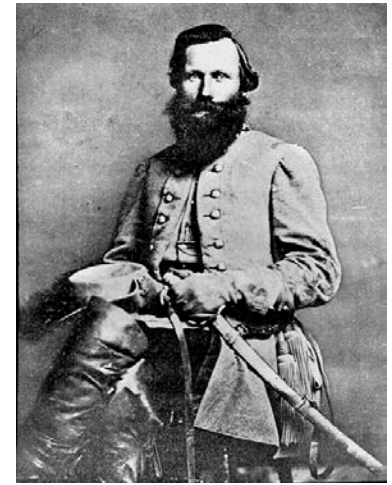
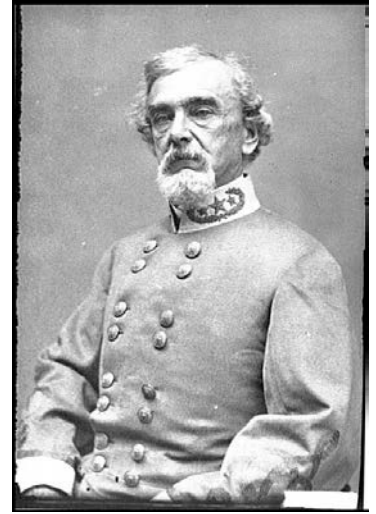
# Robert E. Lee

- Command of Army of Northern Virginia on June 1
- “Granny Lee’s” spotted reputation
  - Failed 1861 Western Virginia campaign
  - Winter of 1861–62 fortifying South Carolina coastal works
  - Military Advisor to Jefferson Davis
  - Fortifying the city: “King of Spades”

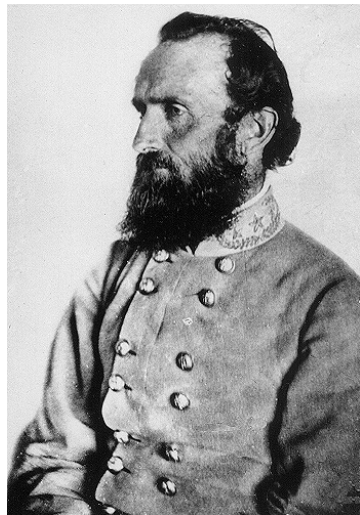




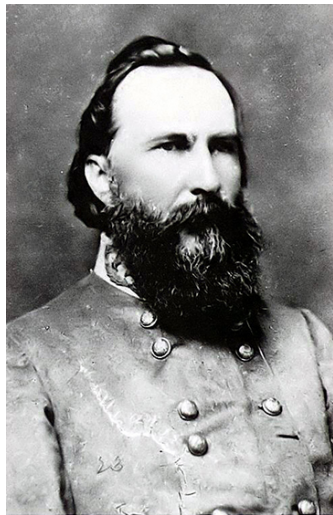
# Lee's Key Commanders



# Lee's Key Commanders



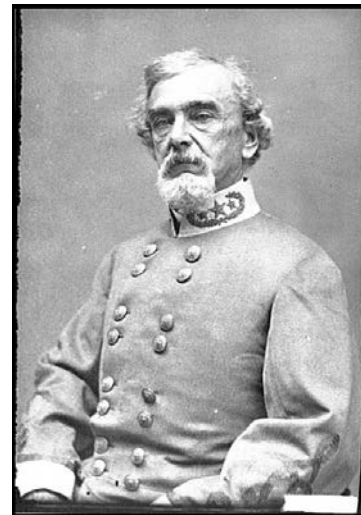
Stonewall Jackson (4 divs)



James Longstreet



John B. Magruder (3)



Benjamin Huger



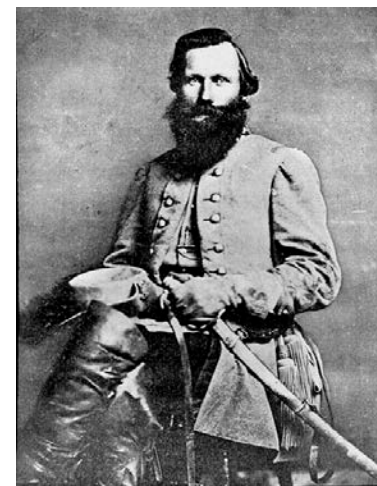
D.H. Hill + Winder,  
Ewell, Whiting



A.P. Hill



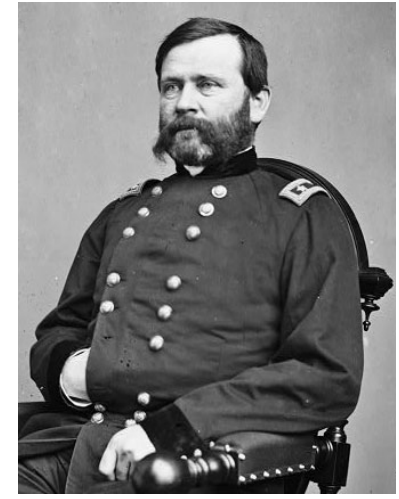
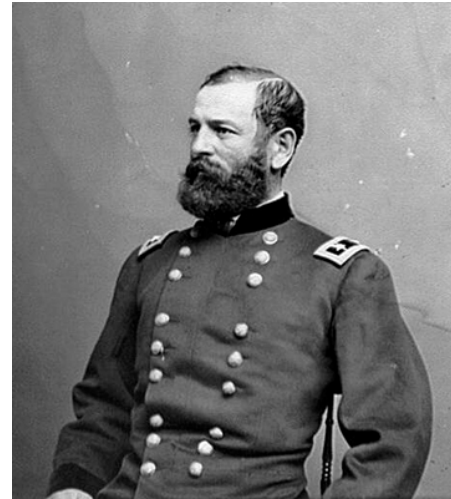
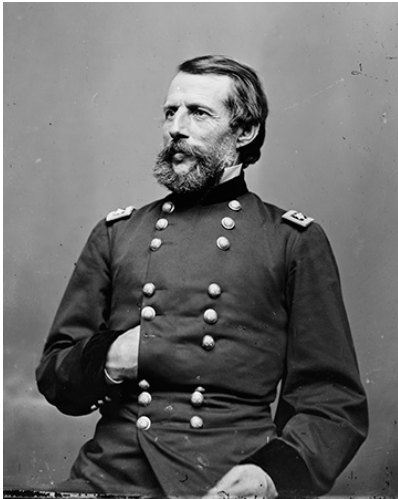
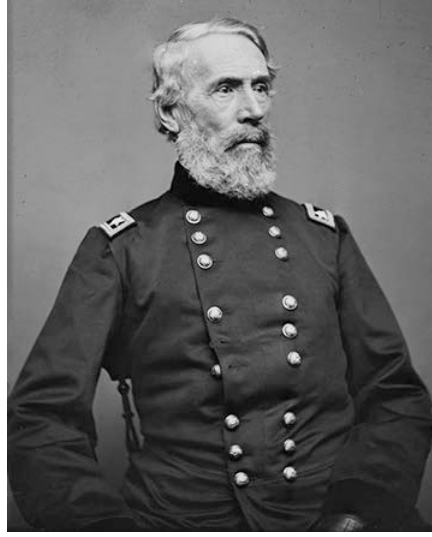
Theophilus Holmes



Jeb Stuart



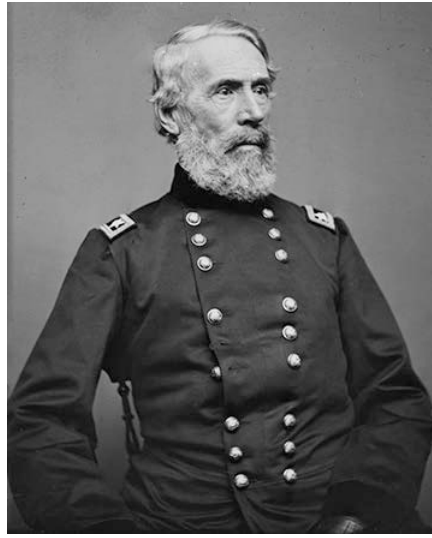
# McClellan's Corps Commanders



# McClellan's Corps Commanders



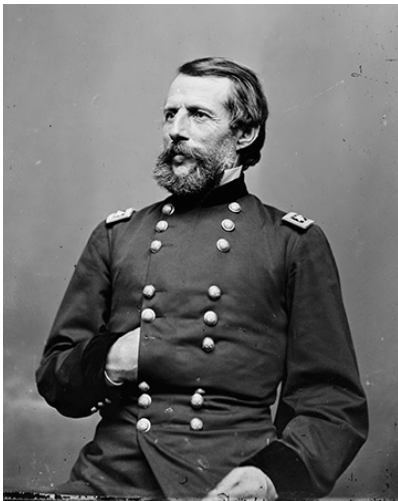
I – Irvin McDowell]



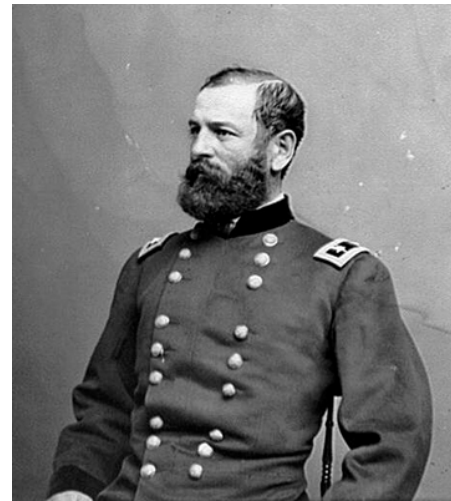
II – Edwin V. Sumner



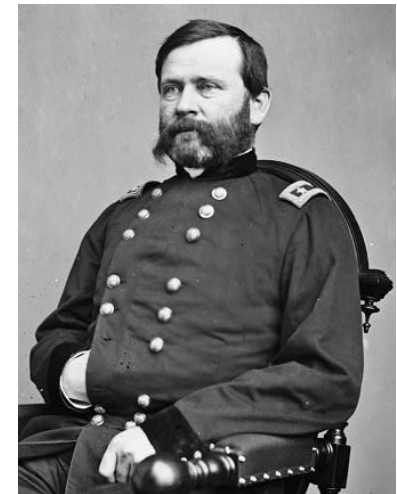
III – Samuel P. Heintzelman



IV – Erasmus Keyes



V – Fitz John Porter

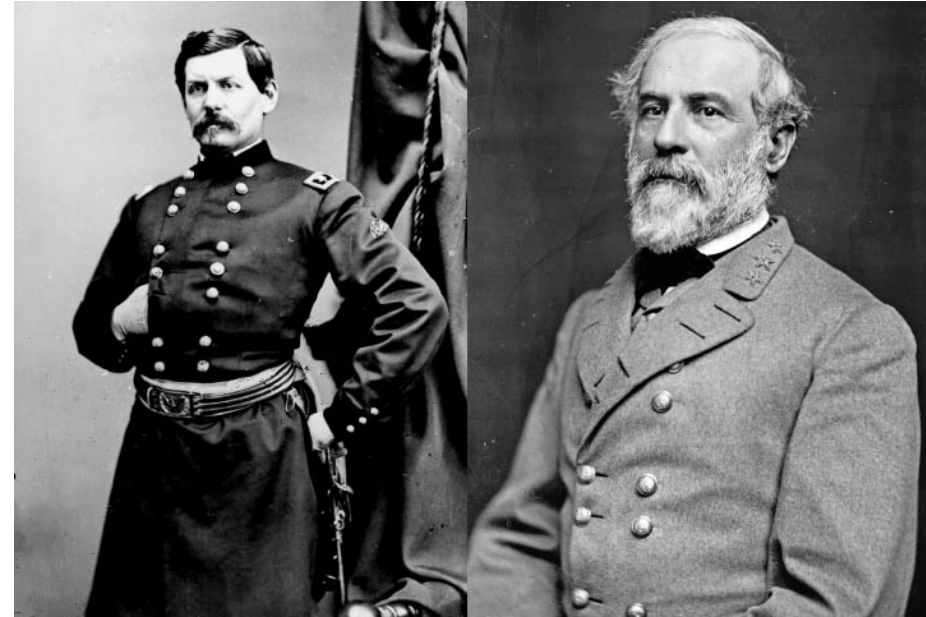


VI – William B. Franklin



# The Opposing Armies

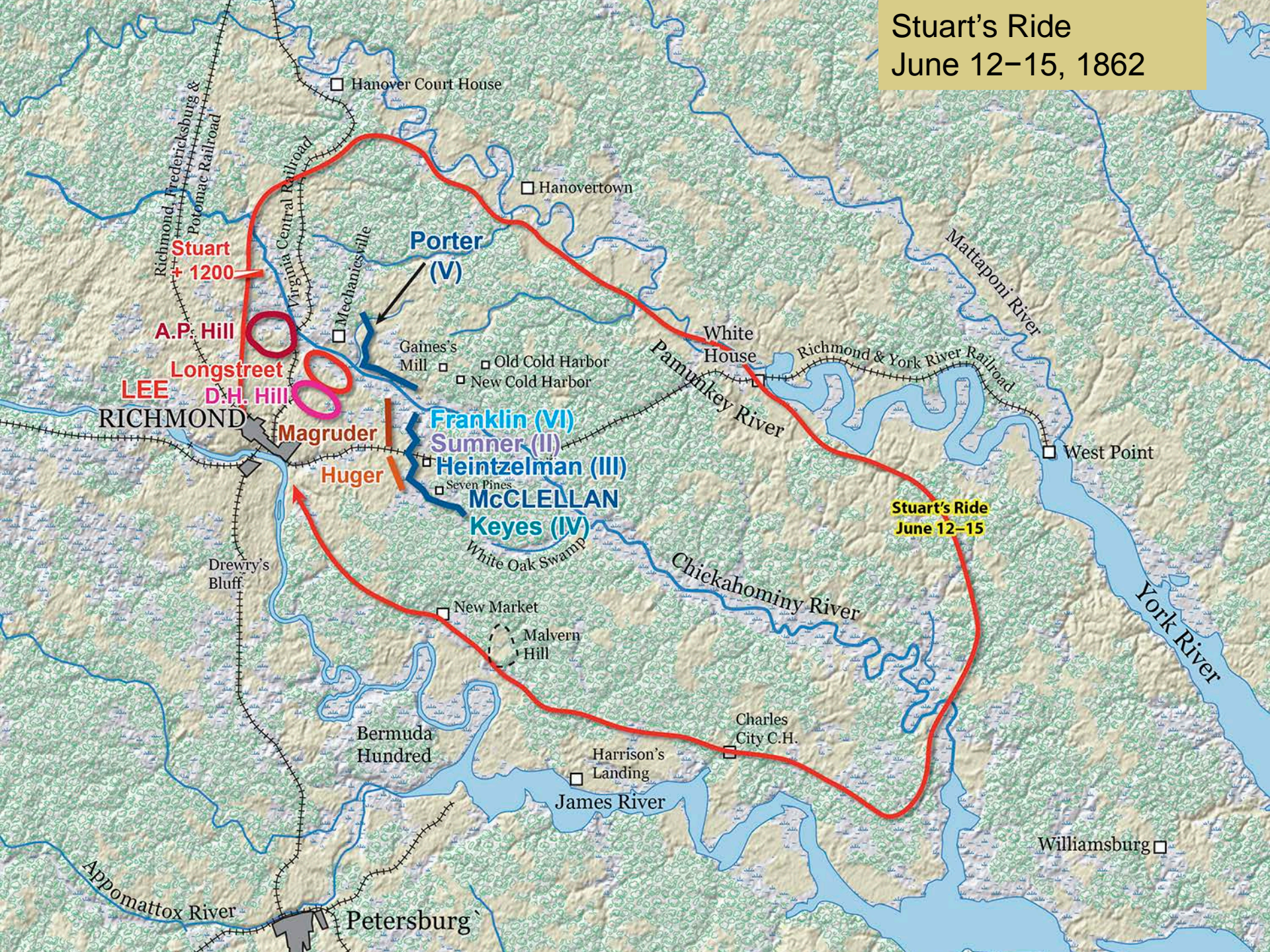
- Army of the Potomac
  - 104,100 effectives in 5 army corps (11 divisions)
  - Mission: capture Richmond by siege
- Army of Northern Virginia
  - 92,000 effectives in 11 divisions
  - Mission: drive McClellan away from capital, destroy AoP



McClellan assumed 200,000!



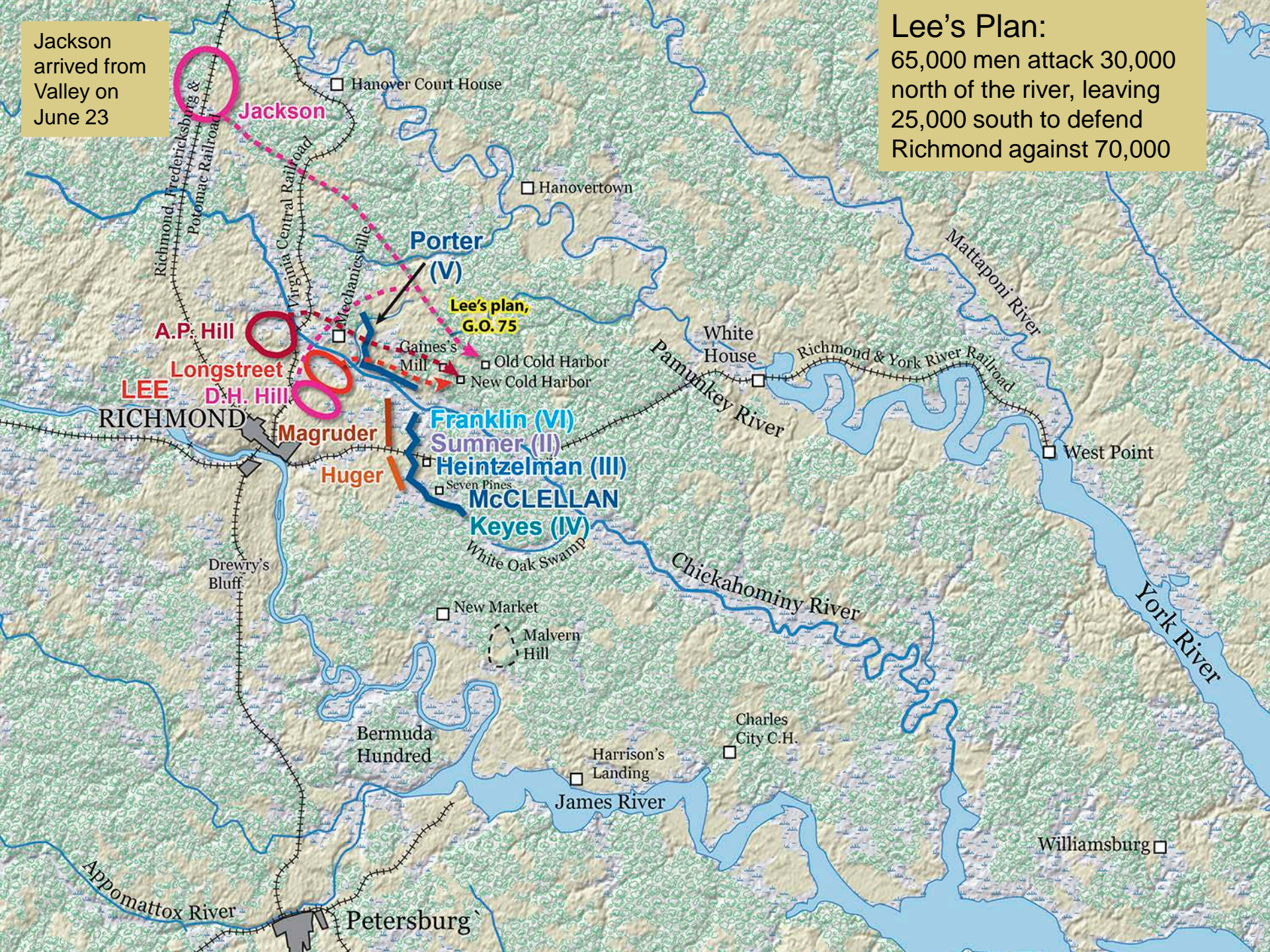
# Stuart's Ride June 12-15, 1862





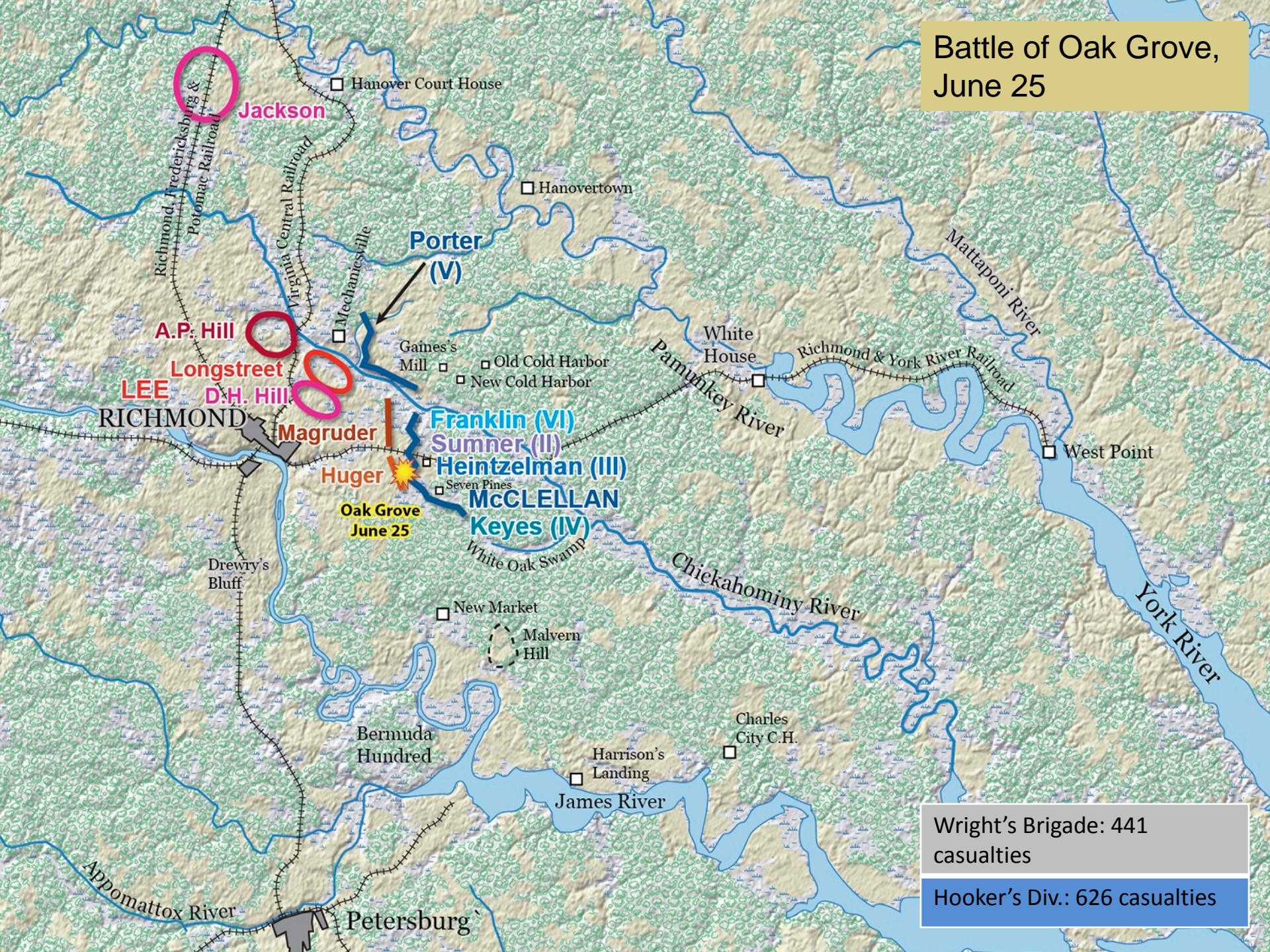
Jackson  
arrived from  
Valley on  
June 23

**Lee's Plan:**  
65,000 men attack 30,000  
north of the river, leaving  
25,000 south to defend  
Richmond against 70,000





# Battle of Oak Grove, June 25

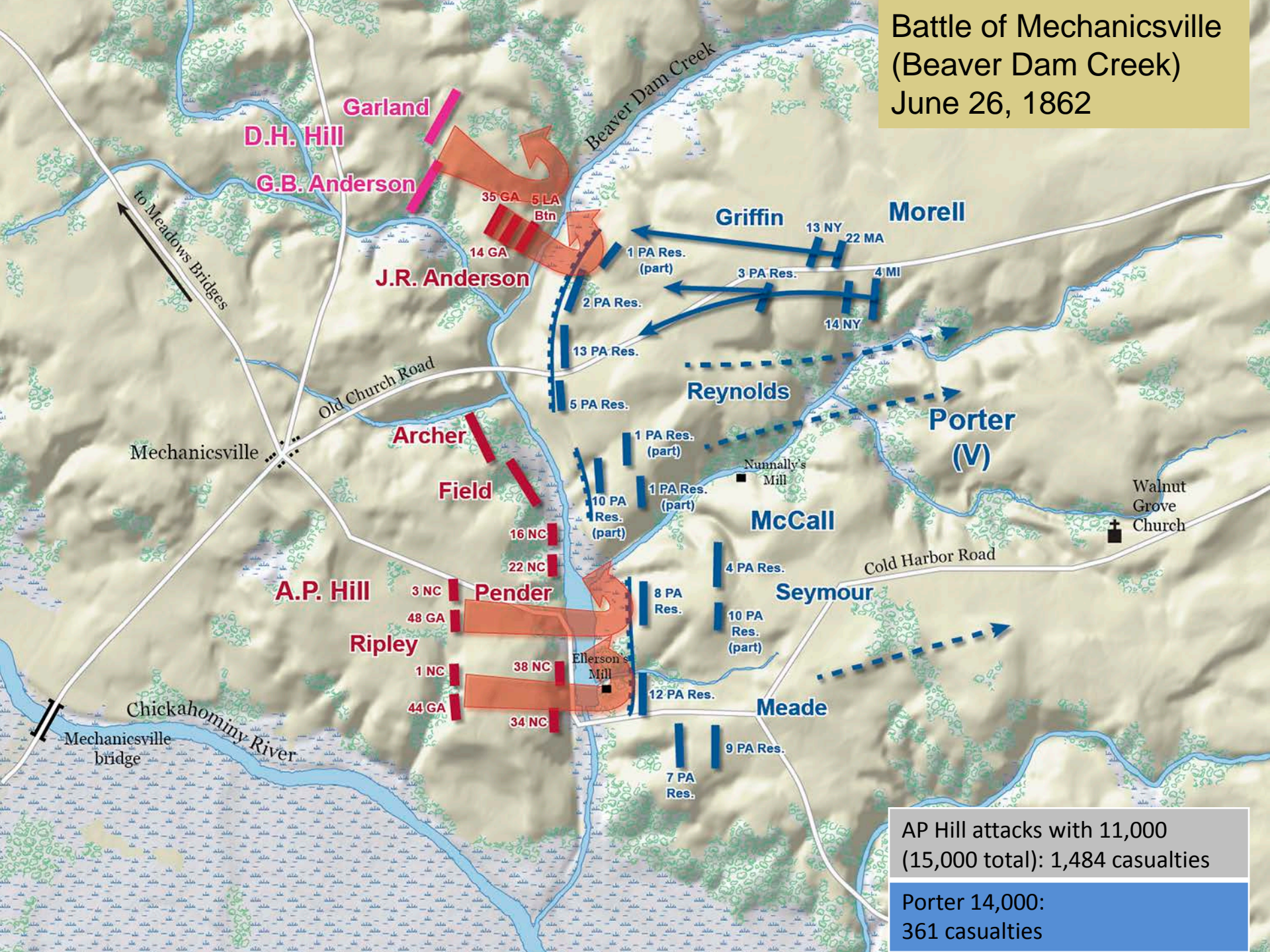


Wright's Brigade: 441 casualties

Hooker's Div.: 626 casualties



# Battle of Mechanicsville (Beaver Dam Creek) June 26, 1862



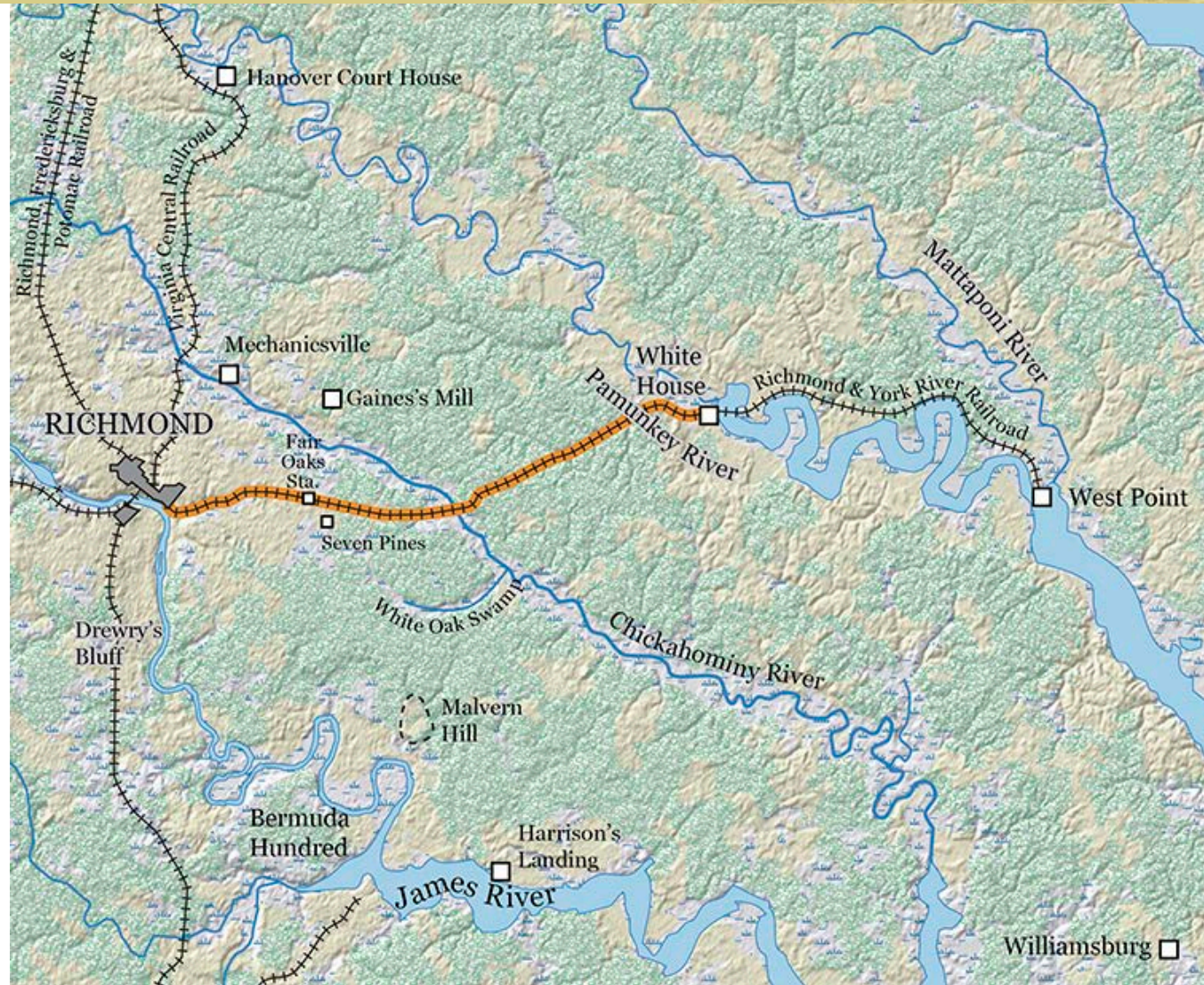
AP Hill attacks with 11,000  
(15,000 total): 1,484 casualties

Porter 14,000:  
361 casualties



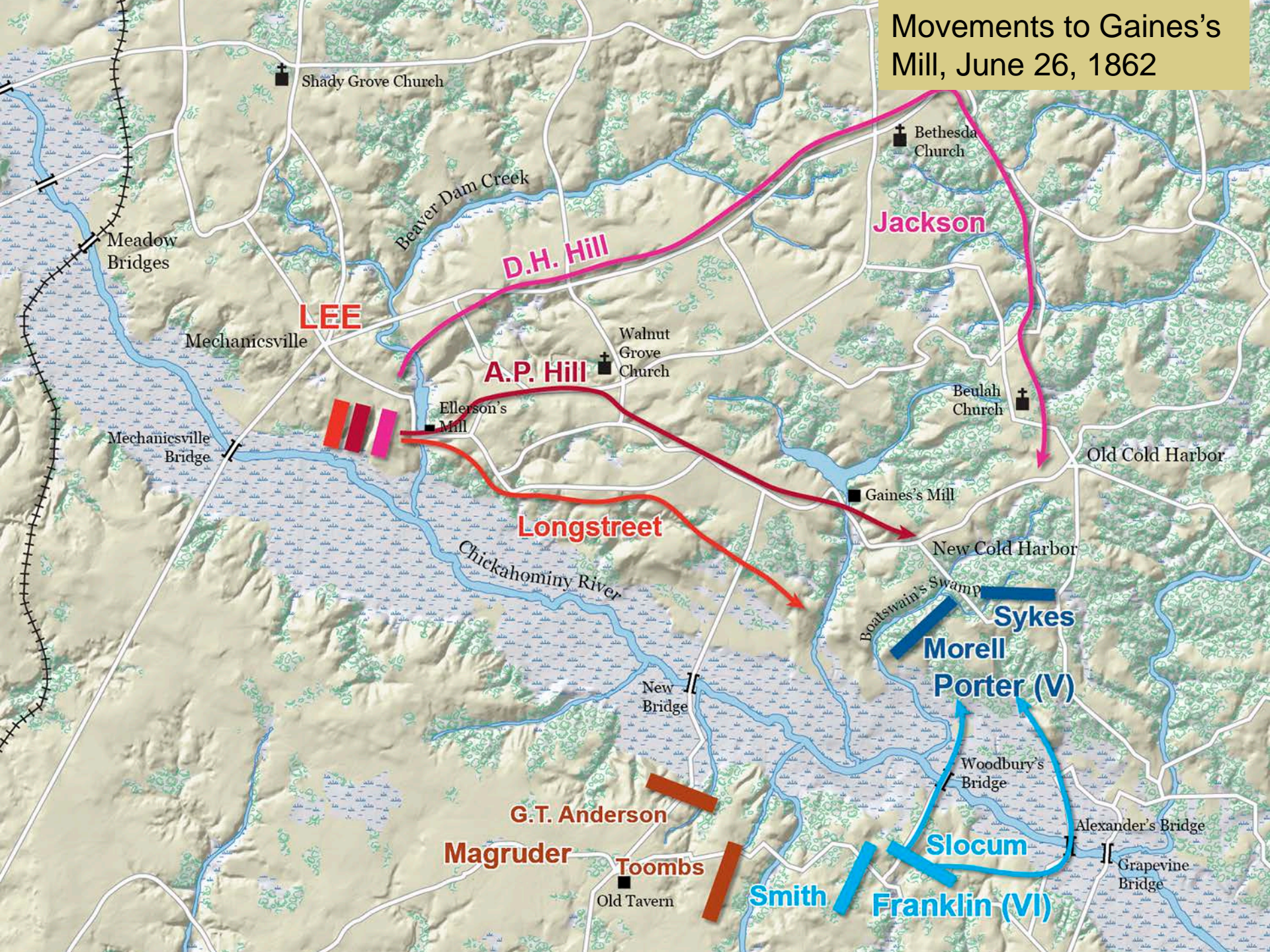
# Aftermath of Mechanicsville

- “Bridge of bodies across the swamp”
- Despite his tactical victory, McClellan decides to relocate his supply base to James River
- Effective end of Richmond campaign
- Orders army to Harrison’s Landing, Porter to defend behind Boatswain’s Swamp



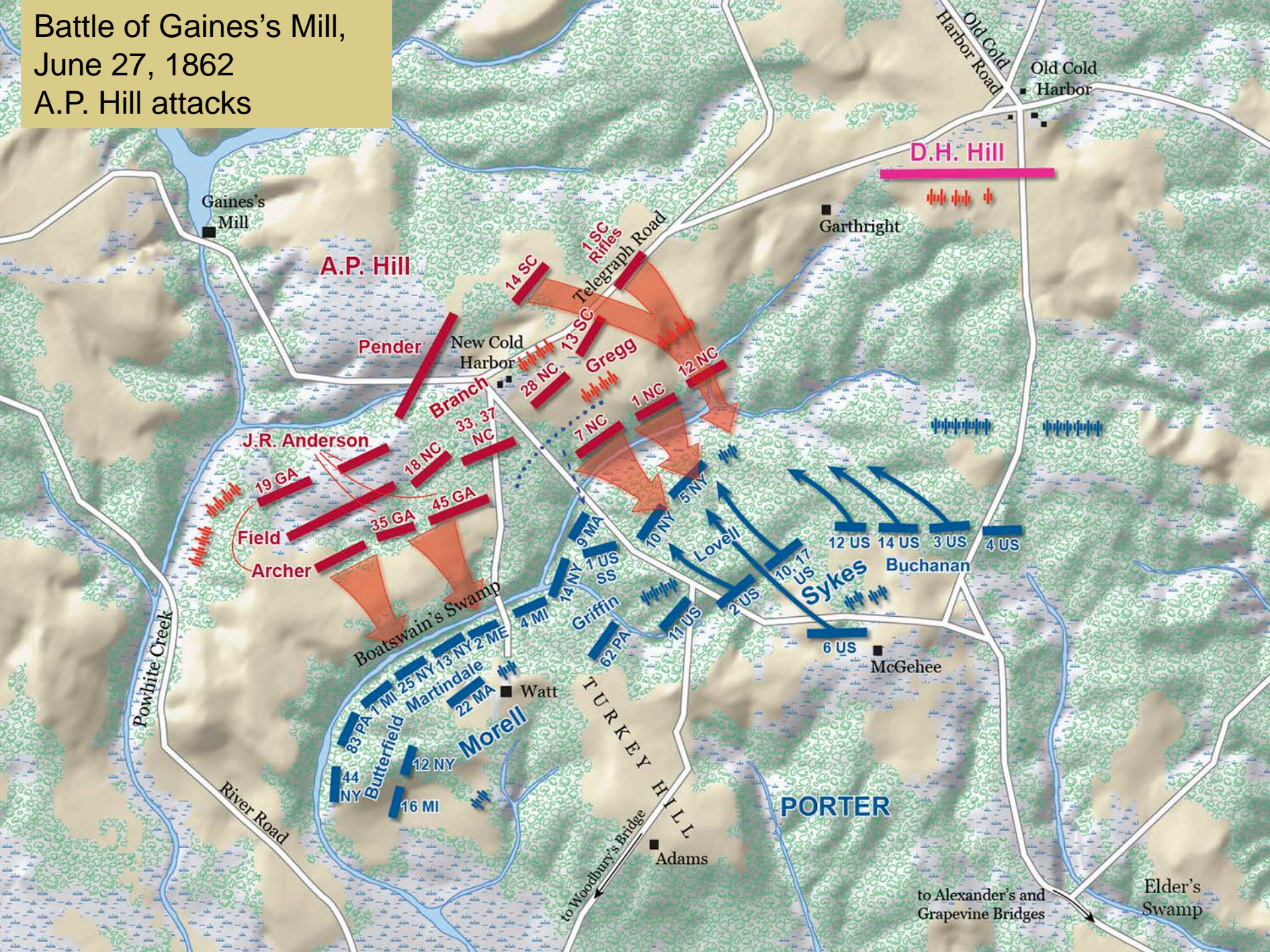


# Movements to Gaines's Mill, June 26, 1862



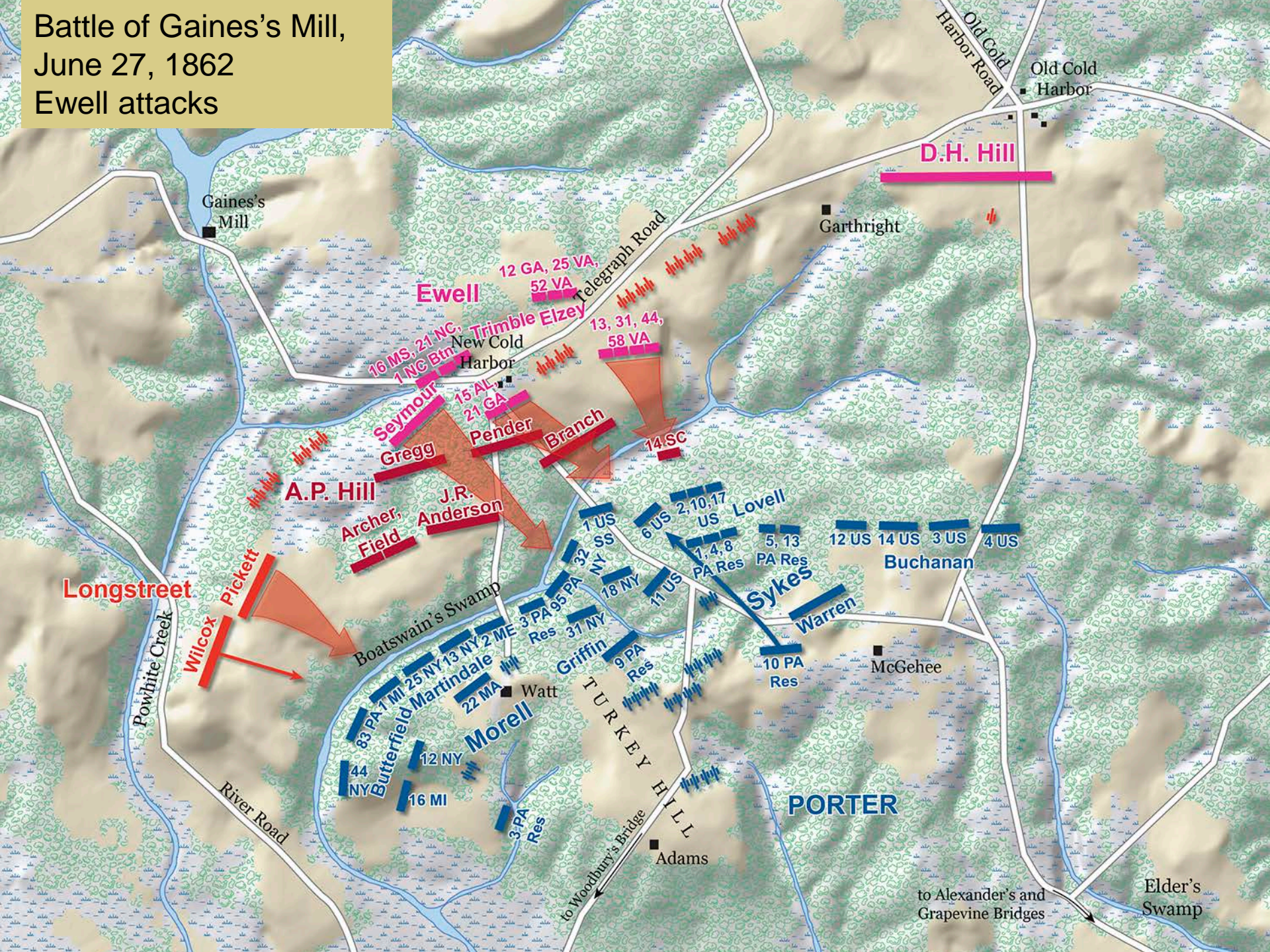


Battle of Gaines's Mill,  
June 27, 1862  
A.P. Hill attacks



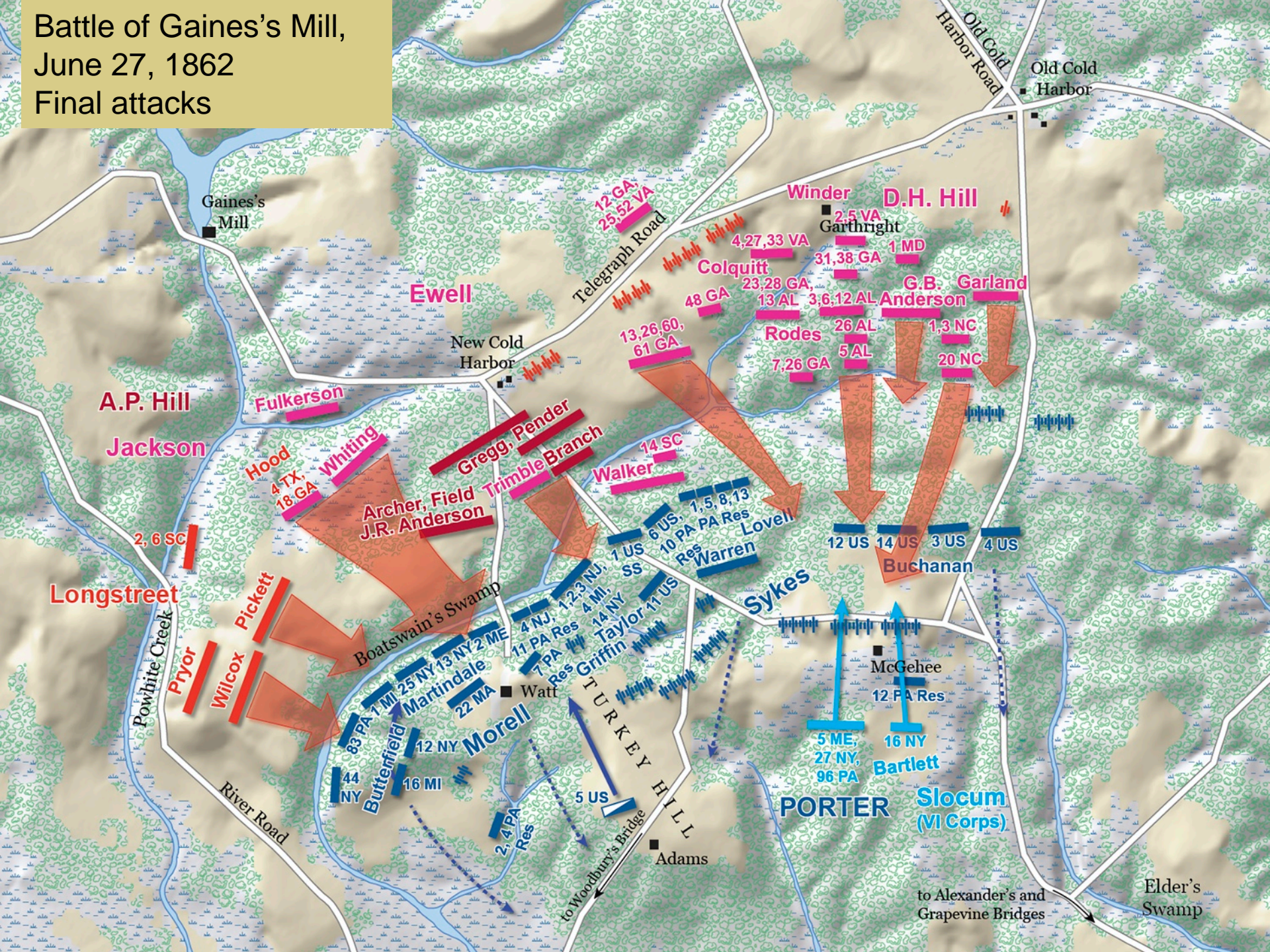


Battle of Gaines's Mill,  
June 27, 1862  
Ewell attacks





Battle of Gaines's Mill,  
June 27, 1862  
Final attacks





# Aftermath of Gaines's Mill

- Largest Confederate attack of the war, 57,000 men in six divisions
- Only clear-cut Confederate tactical victory of the campaign
- Magruder again fooled McClellan—demonstrations kept 60,000 Union troops unoccupied south of the Chickahominy

57,018 engaged,  
7,933 casualties


34,214 engaged,  
6,837 casualties



*Battle of Friday on the Chickahominy, Alfred R. Waud*



# Aftermath of Gaines's Mill

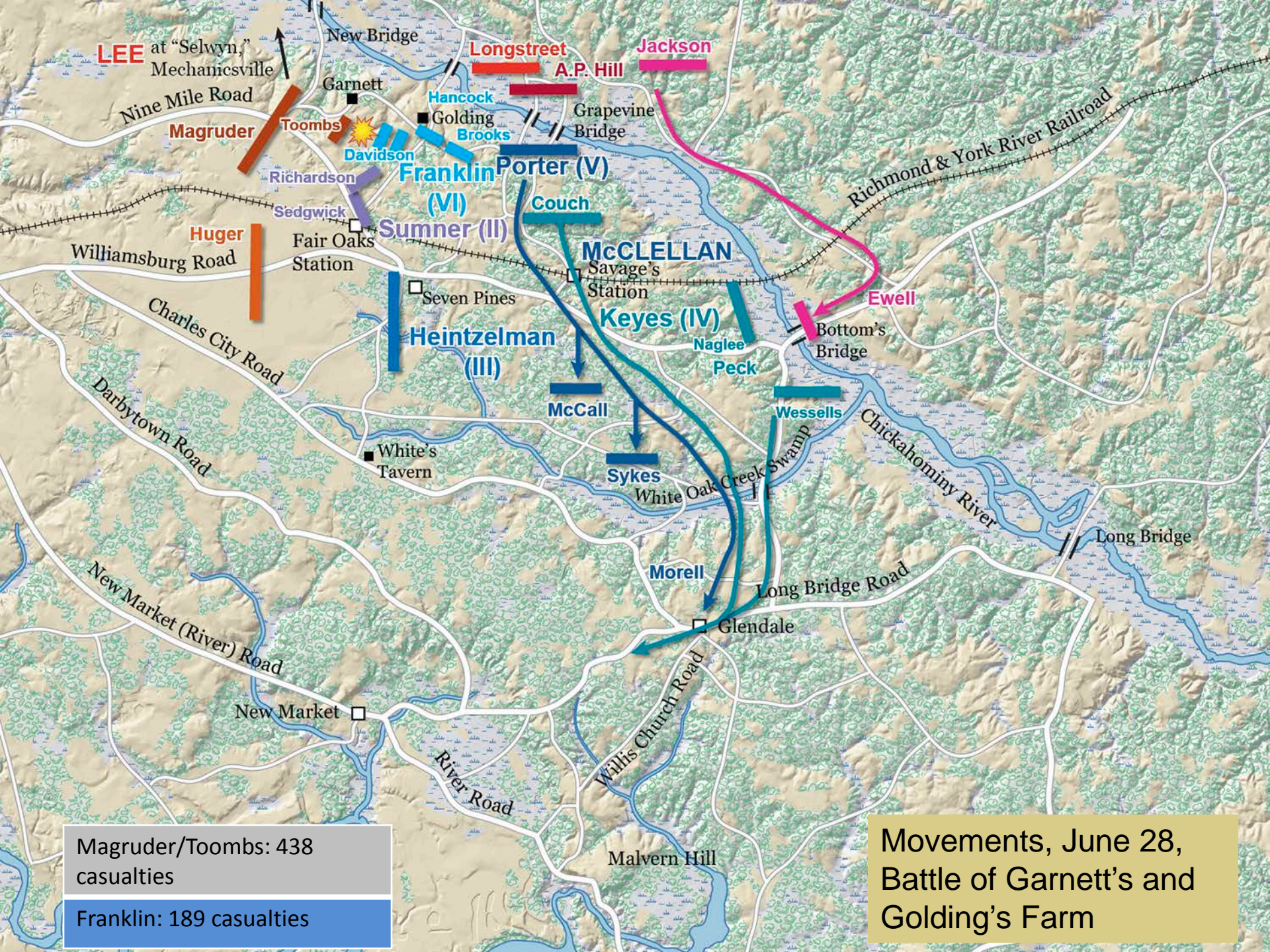


- Army of the Potomac remained in good shape, only Porter's V Corps heavily affected
- Army of Virginia formed under John Pope (June 26), ordered to reinforce McClellan
- But McClellan unnerved, began precipitous withdrawal to the James

## **McClellan telegram to Stanton:**

**If I save this Army now I tell you plainly that I owe no thanks to you or any other persons in Washington—you have done your best to sacrifice this Army.**



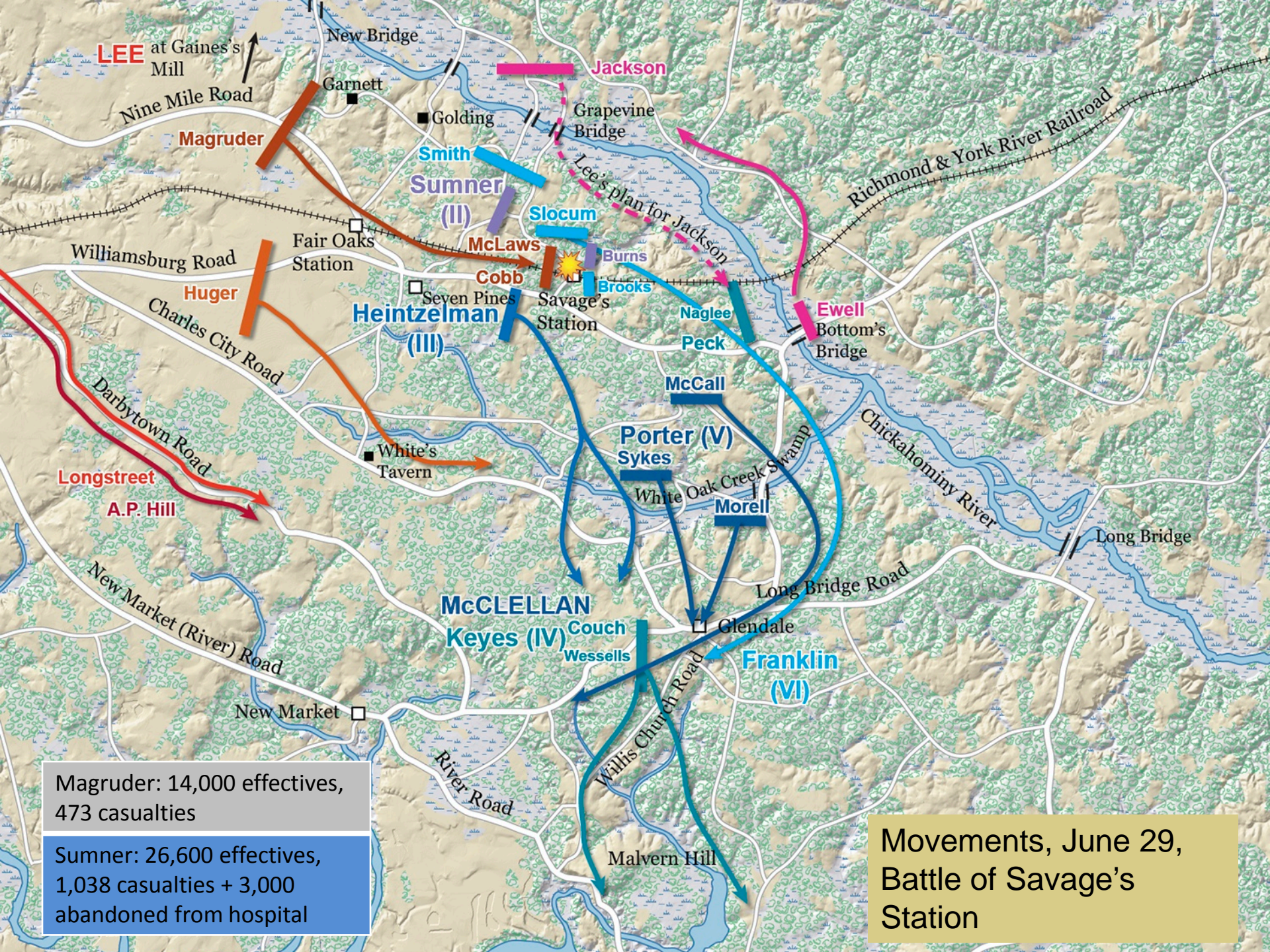


Magruder/Toombs: 438 casualties

Franklin: 189 casualties

Movements, June 28,  
Battle of Garnett's and  
Golding's Farm





**LEE** at Gaines's Mill

Nine Mile Road

**Magruder**

New Bridge

Garnett

Golding

**Jackson**

Grapevine Bridge

**Smith**

**Sumner (II)**

**Slocum**

**McLaws**

**Burns**

**Brooks**

**Cobb**

Savage's Station

**Naglee**

**Peck**

**Ewell**

Bottom's Bridge

Richmond & York River Railroad

Williamsburg Road

**Huger**

Charles City Road

Fair Oaks Station

**Heintzelman (III)**

Seven Pines

White's Tavern

**Longstreet**

**A.P. Hill**

Darbytown Road

New Market (River) Road

New Market

**McCLELLAN**

**Keyes (IV)**

**Couch**

**Wessells**

**Porter (V) Sykes**

White Oak Creek Swamp

**Morell**

**McCall**

Long Bridge Road

**Franklin (VI)**

Glendale

Willis Church Road

Malvern Hill

Long Bridge

Chickahominy River

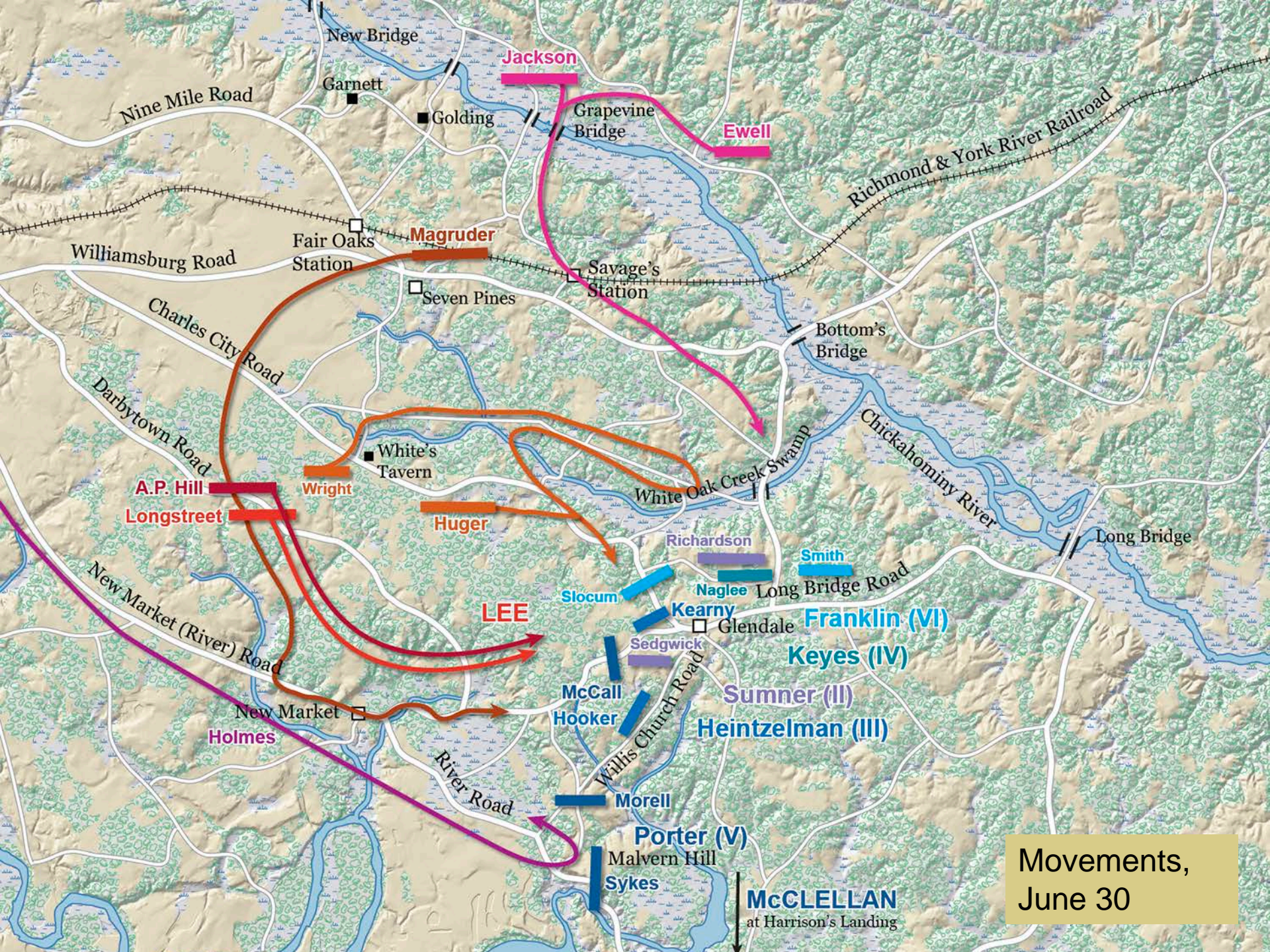
River Road

Magruder: 14,000 effectives,  
473 casualties

Sumner: 26,600 effectives,  
1,038 casualties + 3,000  
abandoned from hospital

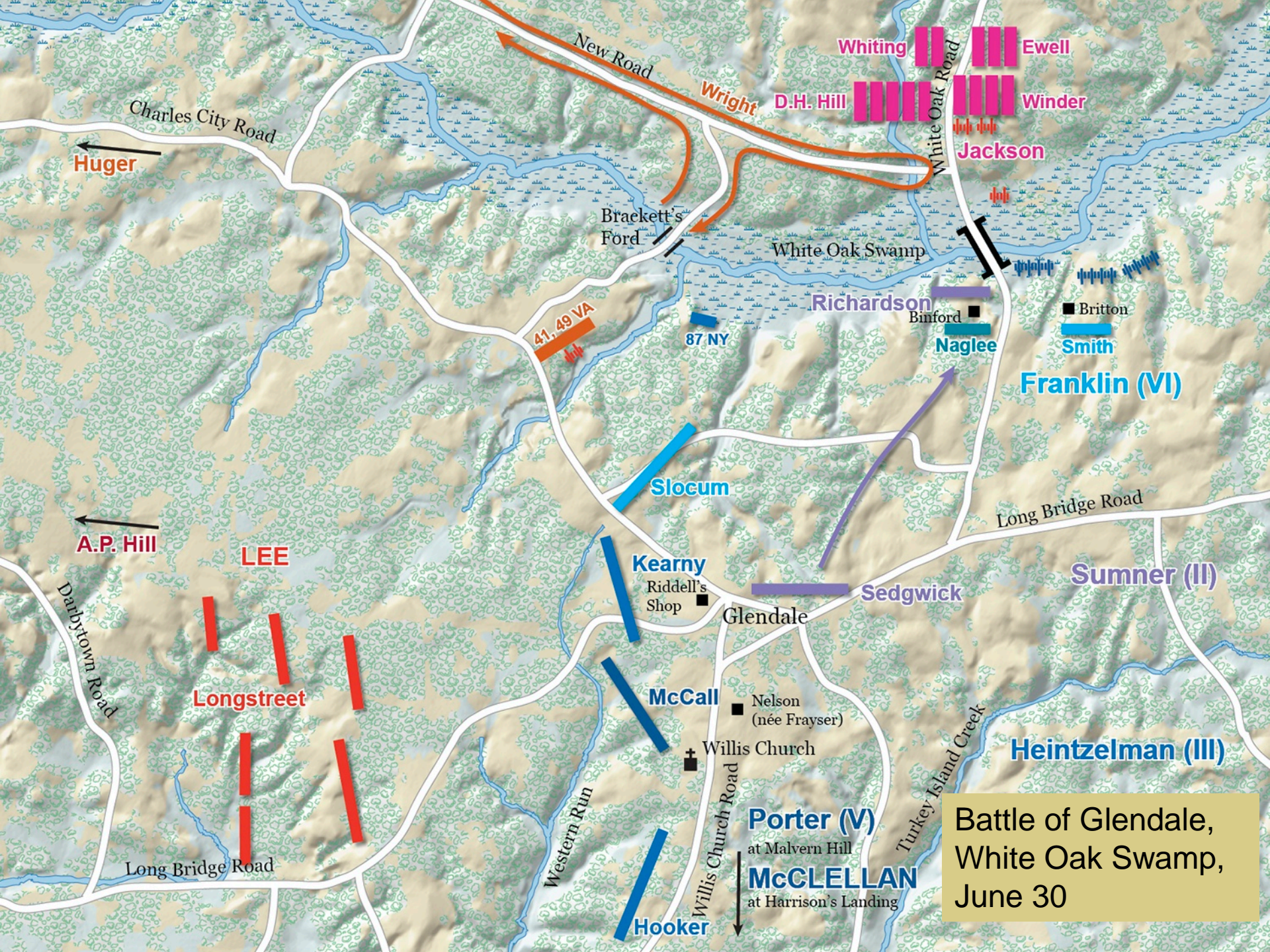
Movements, June 29,  
Battle of Savage's  
Station





Movements,  
June 30

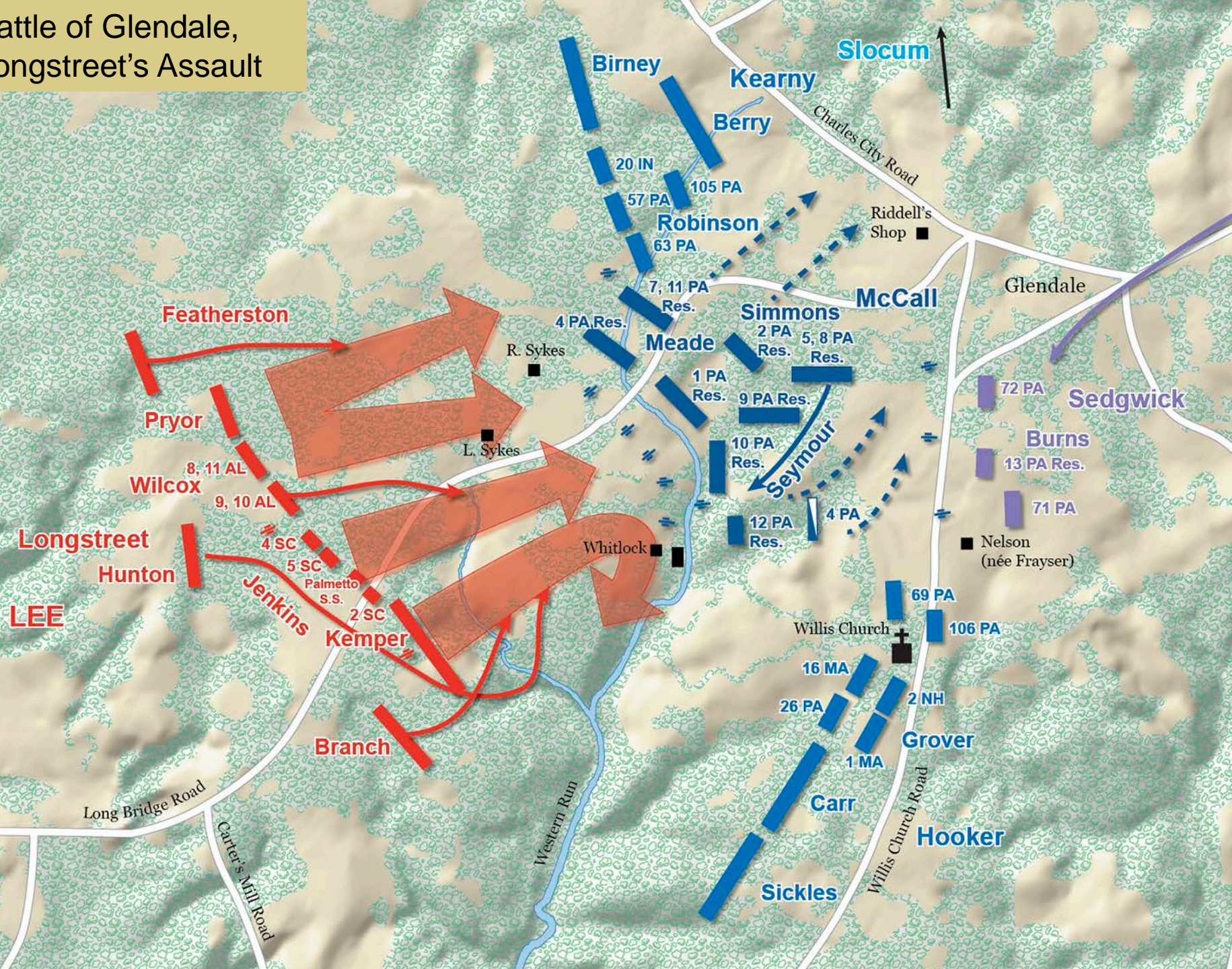




Battle of Glendale,  
White Oak Swamp,  
June 30

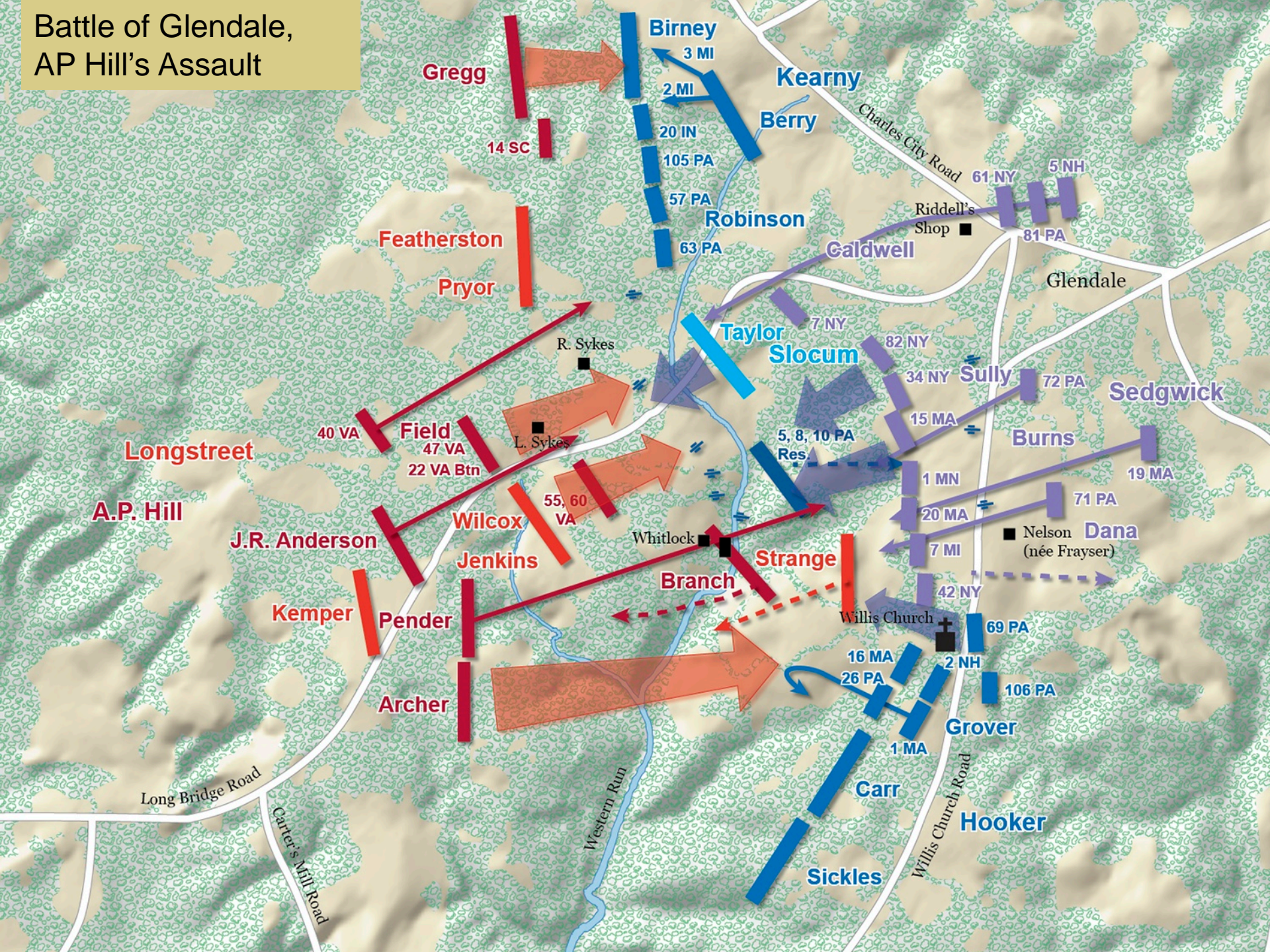


# Battle of Glendale, Longstreet's Assault





# Battle of Glendale, AP Hill's Assault





# Aftermath of Glendale

- Tactical draw, Lee's golden opportunity missed, marred by poor execution
  - Holmes and Huger did not achieve objectives
  - Stonewall Jackson inexplicably lethargic

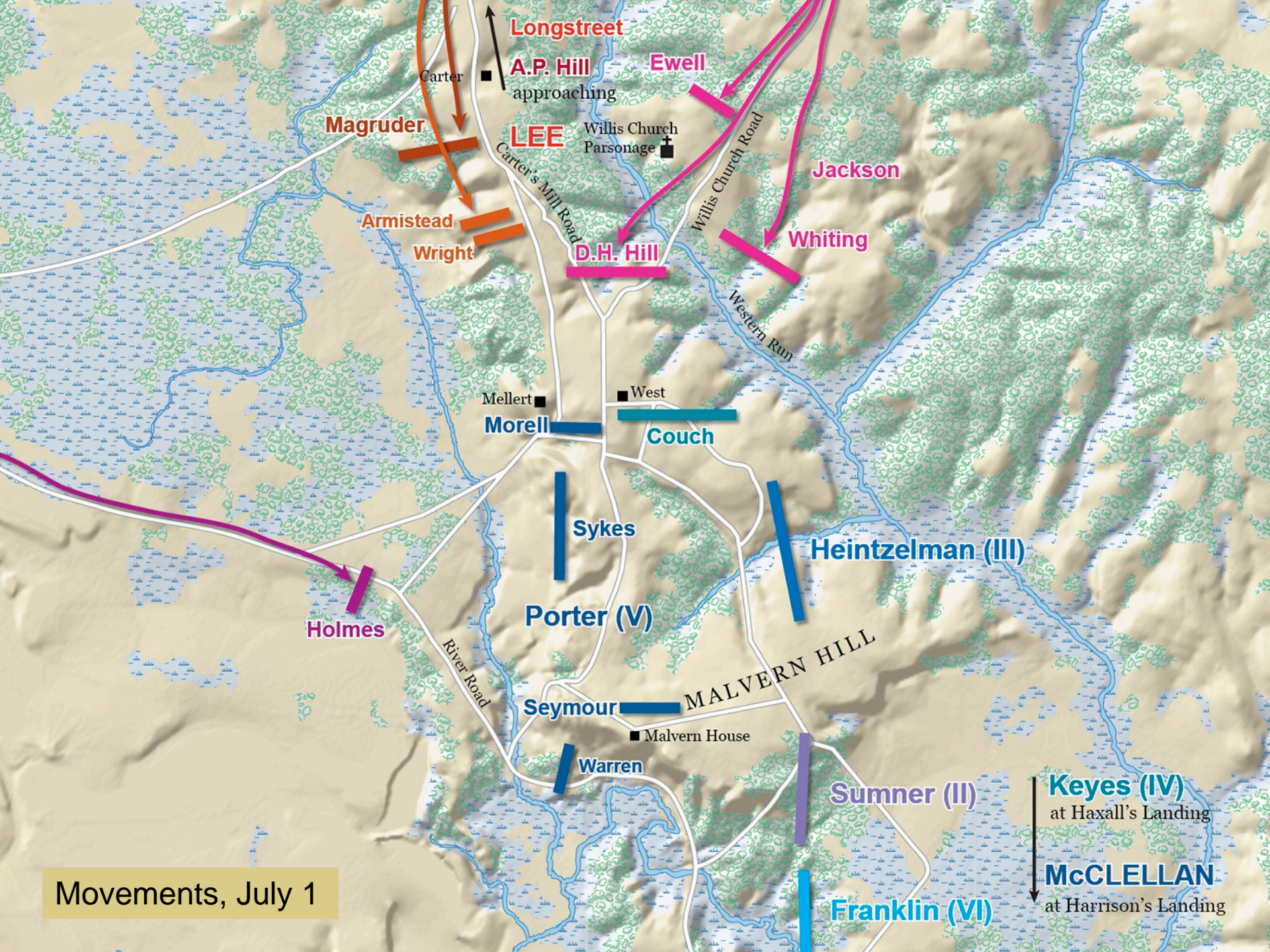
45,000 engaged,  
3,673 casualties

40,000 engaged,  
3,797 casualties

## Edward Porter Alexander (post-war)

Never, before or after, did the fates put such a prize within our reach. It is my individual belief that on two occasions in the four years, we were within reach of military successes so great that we might have hoped to end the war with our independence. ... The first was at Bull Run [in] July 1861 ... This [second] chance of June 30, 1862 impresses me as the best of all.

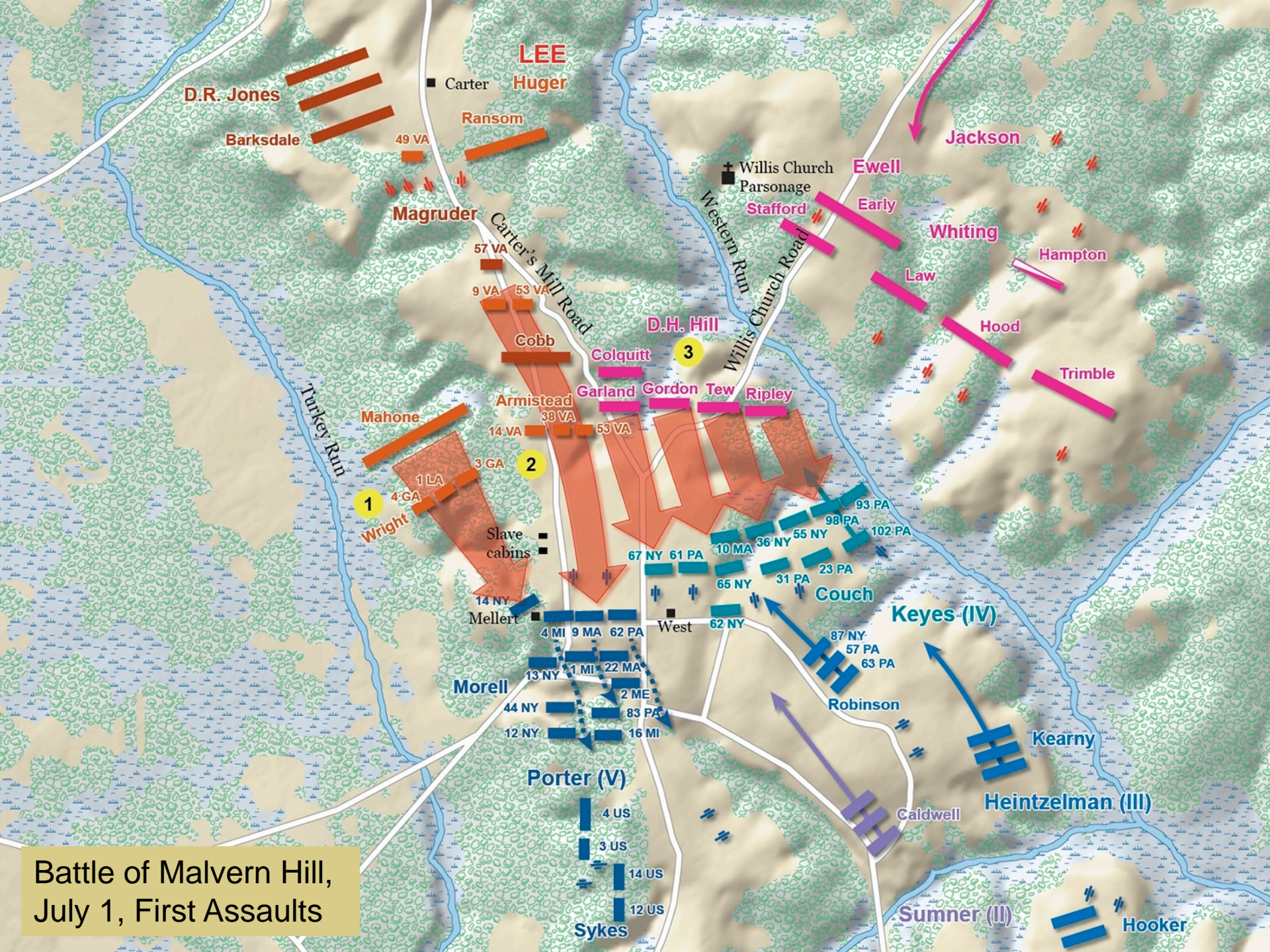




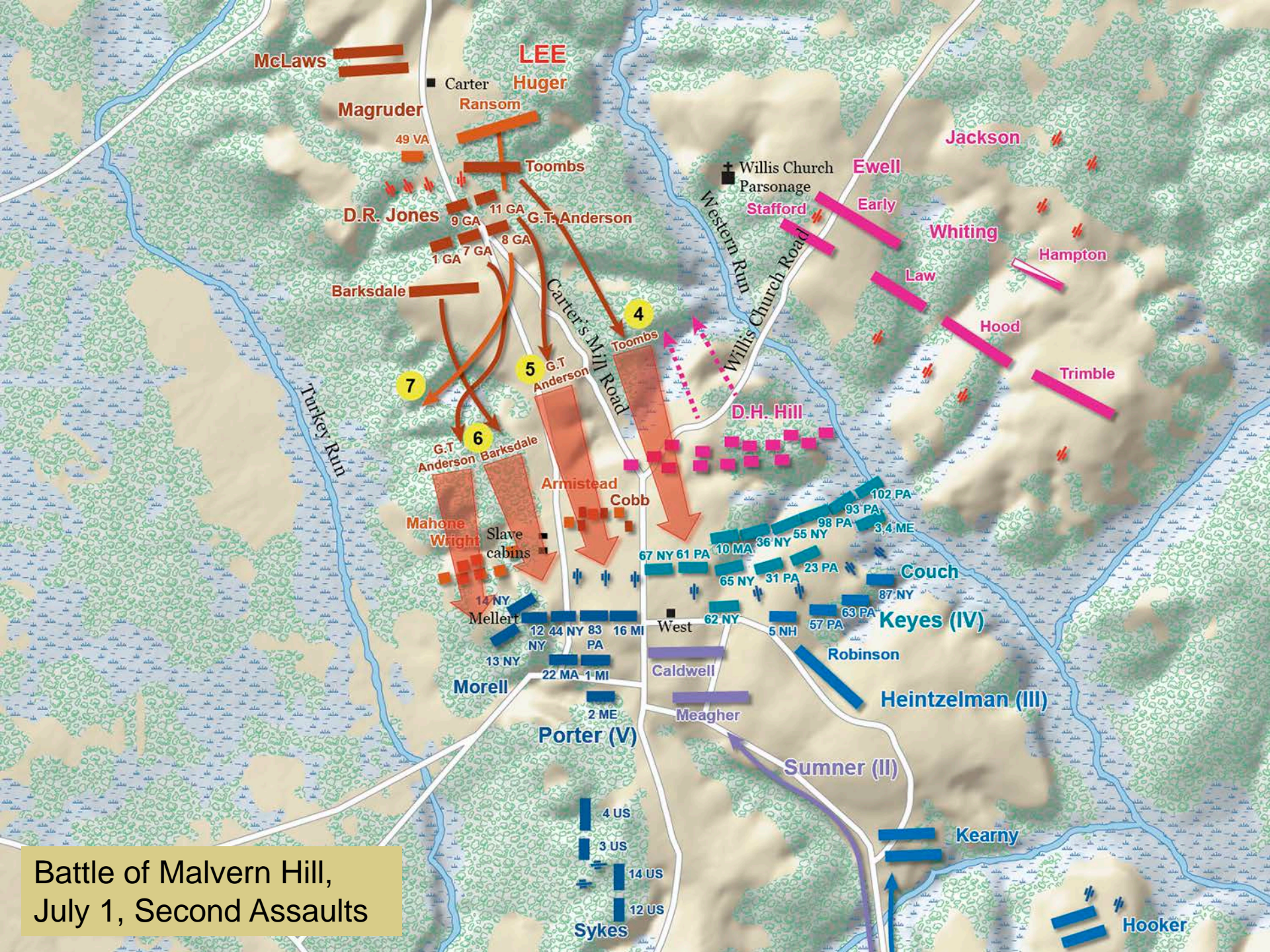
Movements, July 1



Battle of Malvern Hill,  
July 1, First Assaults

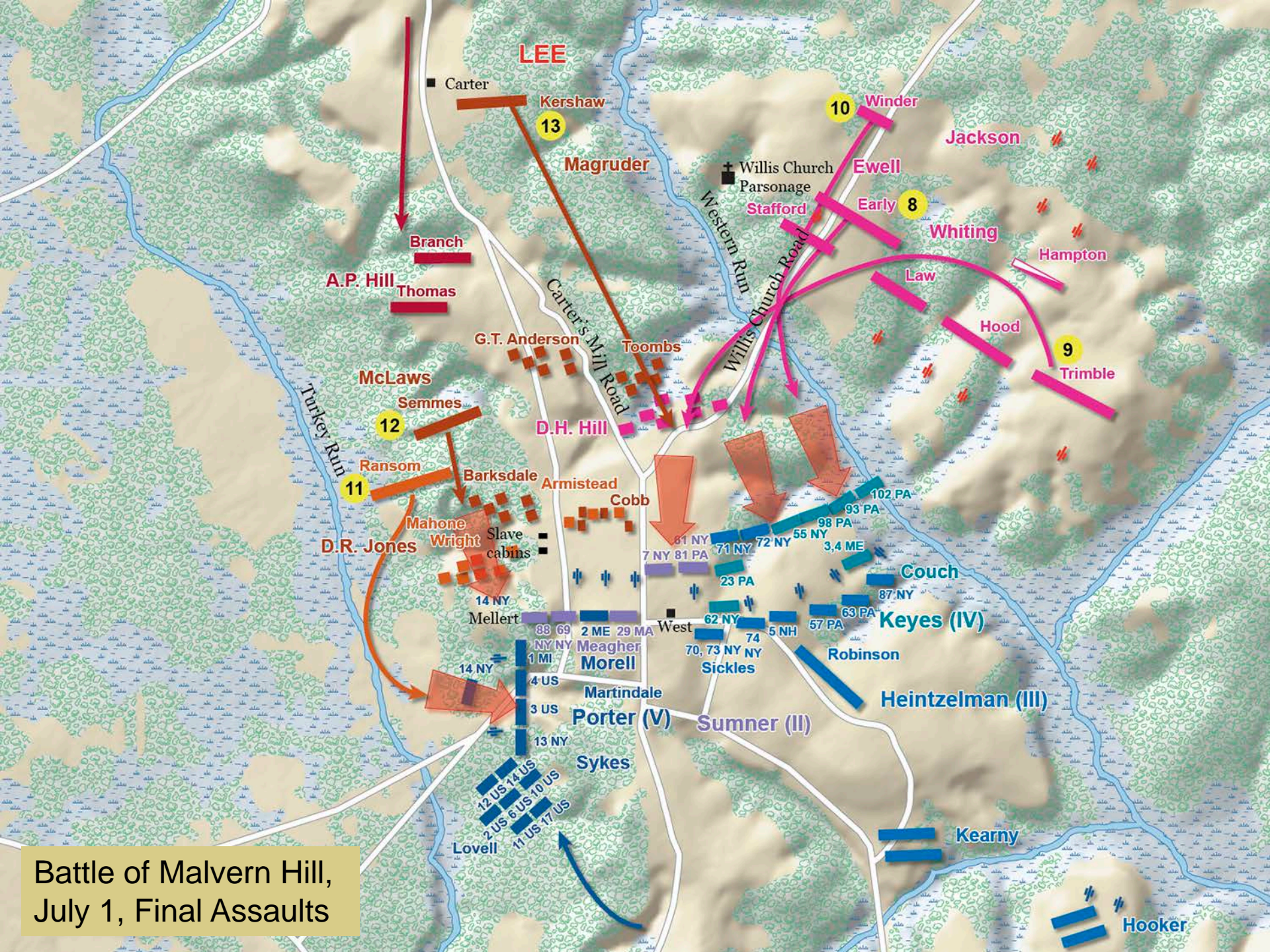






Battle of Malvern Hill,  
July 1, Second Assaults



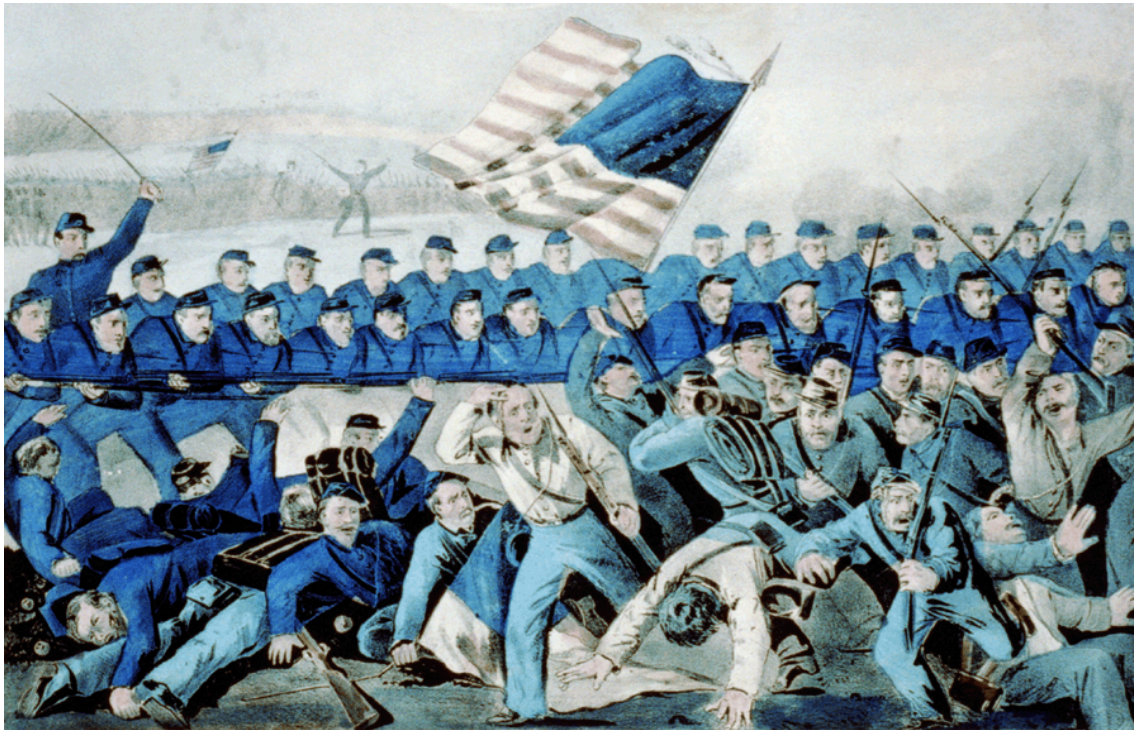


Battle of Malvern Hill,  
July 1, Final Assaults



# Aftermath of Malvern Hill

- Lee's most significant tactical defeat of the campaign



*Battle of Malvern Hill, Currier and Ives*

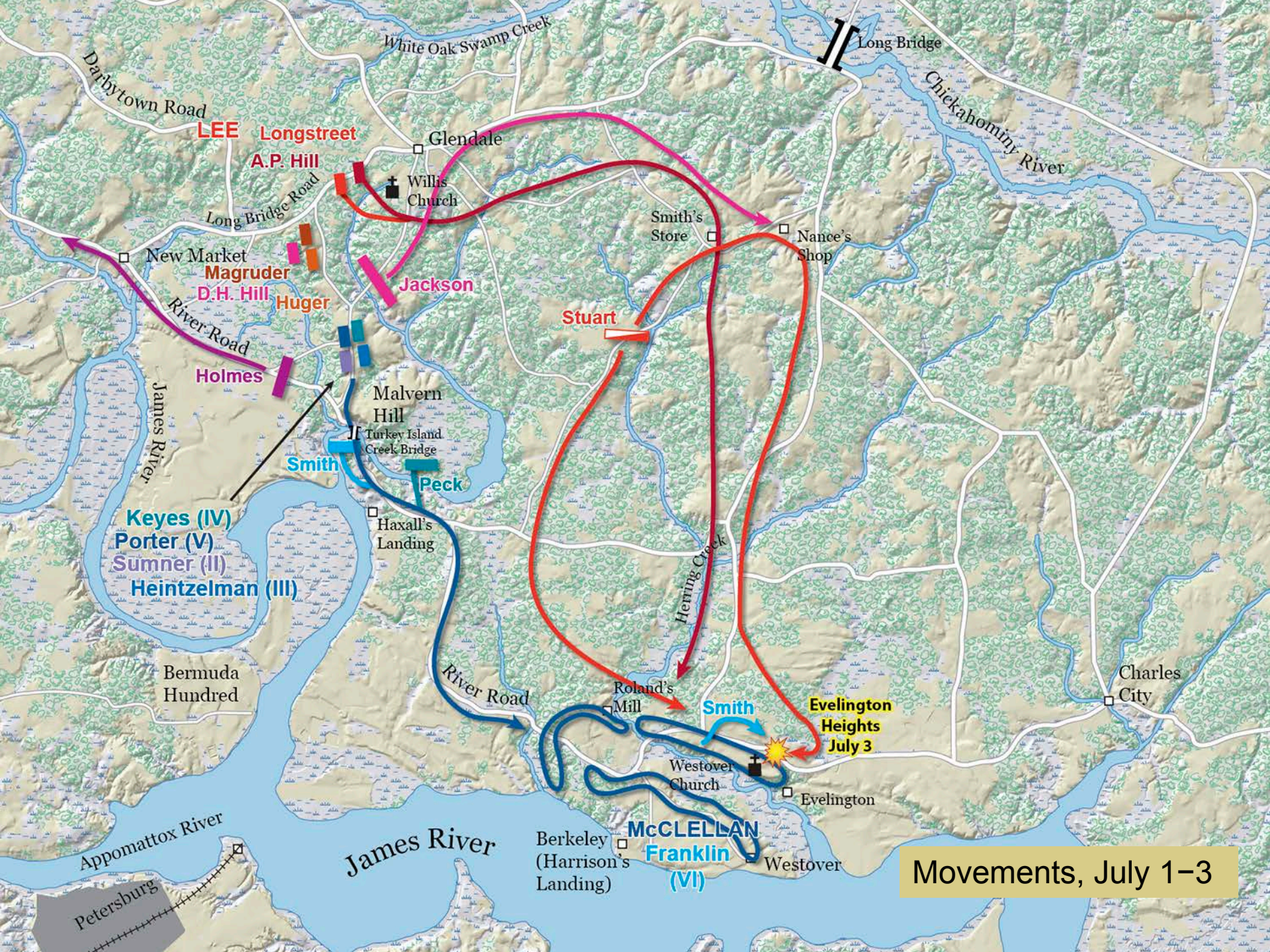
55,000 engaged,  
5,650 casualties

54,000 engaged,  
2,100 casualties

**D.H. Hill (post-war)**

It wasn't war; it was murder.







# End of the Campaign



- A single, continuous 7-day battle?
  - Largest armies deployed (200,000, but poorly managed)
  - Second only to Gettysburg in casualties (36,000 vs. 48,000)

92,000 engaged,  
20,204 casualties

104,100 engaged,  
15,855 casualties

- Army of the Potomac safe, but immobilized, at Harrison's Landing

- Protected by Union gunboats
- Suffered from heat, humidity, and disease
- Withdrawn by President Lincoln in August

- Richmond safe until 1864
- Union morale crushed

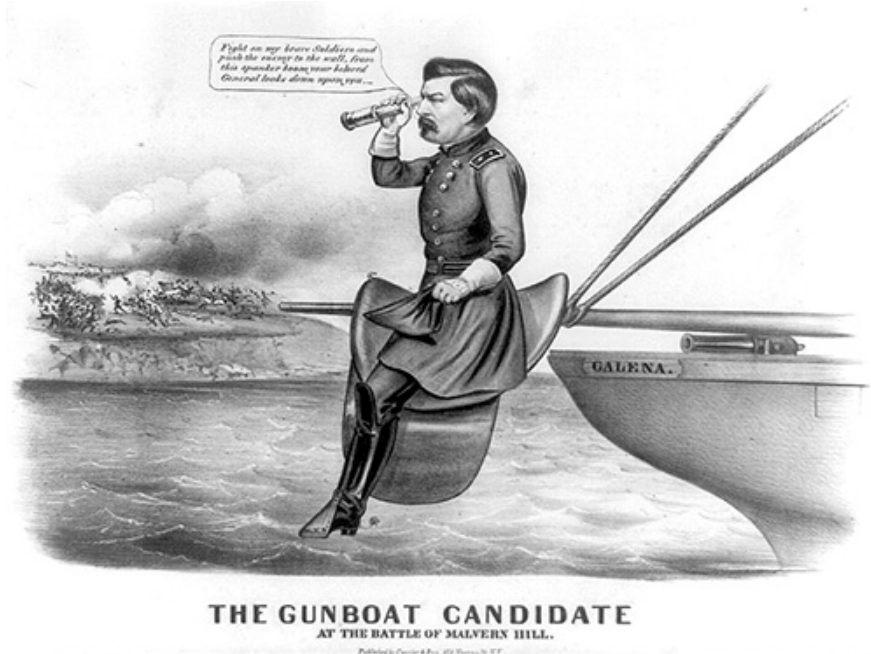
## Gary Gallagher

Because of its striking reorientation of the strategic situation during the summer of 1862, as well as the long-term consequences of Lee's generalship regarding morale, the possibility of emancipation and the duration of the war, the Seven Days' Campaign belongs in the front rank of Civil War turning points.



# Lee and McClellan

- Robert E. Lee the new Confederate hero
  - Supplanted Stonewall Jackson
  - Returned to Richmond, purged 3 generals
  - Assumed Richmond was safe, began an offensive through Second Manassas and Maryland
- George B. McClellan:
  - Criticized for his campaign conduct, but called by Lincoln to face Lee again at Antietam
  - Henry W. Halleck named new Union general in chief





# Thank you

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- CW travelogues at <http://www.posix.com>
- Send me email to get on my notification list:  
[hlj@posix.com](mailto:hlj@posix.com)
- Or Facebook

