

# Greenbrier River

October 3, 1861 Virginia

*"Of all the infernal inventions of war, it is these shells. They tear men and horses to tatters in an instant...."*

Correspondent, Cincinnati "Times"

## Background

West Virginia was of great strategic importance to both sides during the war. The Federals saw the area as a rich recruiting ground due to the pro-union sympathies of its populace. Even more important was the fact that running through the region was the vital Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, Washington's only direct link with the Western states. Because the area was so critical to the Union this made it equally so to the Confederacy, who wished to deny its benefits to the Federals.

The Northerners first invaded the area in June 1861 with some 20,000 men under Brigadier General George Brinton McClellan. Several actions resulted over the next few months which ended in Union dominance and McClellan's promotion to command all the armies of the United States. The Confederates under Robert E. Lee fought back later in the year but were unable to turn the tide of Yankee success.

The action at Greenbrier River was one of countless forays by both sides to probe the defenses of the other. As the Unionists deployed for battle the Confederates fled out of their camps in a hasty attempt to form a line of battle. In this they were helped by the excellent defensive terrain and the delay taken by the Federals to organize a formal attack. Although the Federals were beaten back and the position later abandoned voluntarily, both sides made extraordinary claims of winning the battle. The region was admitted to the Union on June 20, 1863 as the 35th State.

Federal casualties were 8 killed and 35 wounded. The Rebels lost 10 killed, 33 wounded, 13 missing.

## THE WARGAME

This begins at 7:30 a.m., with the Federal vanguard action against the 12th Georgia and ends at 2:30 p.m. Throughout the course of the fighting Reynolds formed several ad-hoc commands from the units in his brigade; repeatedly shuffling his command structure to meet new contingencies.

The Union player may do likewise, using Colonel Nathan Kimball of the 14th Indiana and Colonel George Wagner of the 15th Indiana.

The 12th Georgia, accompanied by Colonel Johnston, starts the game north of the river.

## DEPLOYMENT

As shown on the map.

The Federals, except for the 15th Indiana and 25th Ohio, arrive at point A on the first turn, the artillery first with the infantry following. The two regiments enter at A at 9 a.m.

For the Confederates, the 52nd Virginia arrives at B at 2 p.m.

### **TERRAIN**

All high ground is Simple, wooded slopes are Difficult.  
Greenbrier River can be forded anywhere as Difficult.  
The Rebel works are treated as Cover and Attacker (-1d6).

### **VICTORY CONDITIONS**

Whichever side causes the most casualties is the winner.

The Federal player however can claim a major victory if he holds the entrenchments at the end of the game.

### **COMMANDS:**

Union – 1 to 3  
Confederate - 4

### **SCALES:**

*Time* – 15 minutes per turn

*Units* – Strengths are base roughly on 100 to 1000 man Regiments and their Experience.

The nonlinear numbers for Infantry and Cavalry can be changed to a linear numbers, by reducing the next number in the row by one, down to the last.

*Map* - 1" = 40 yards / Each square is 12 inches

This Scenario was developed from "**Across a Deadly Space!**" by George Anderson & Ryan Toews, Potomac Publications. Their scenarios books can be Purchased at the Wargames Vault:  
<https://www.wargamevault.com/browse/pub/4892/Potomac-Publications?term=potomac> **Highly recommend!**

To use this scenario, you will need a copy of the "**Blücher**" rules by Sam Mustafa are available at:  
<https://sammustafa.com/store/> **Also, highly recommended!**

**Updated: 01.27.22**

UNION ORDER OF BATTLE

*Reynolds' Cheat Mountain Brigade*

BG John J. Reynolds

**(3+2d6) (Hero)**

- 7th IN (6)(5)(4)(3)(2) -/- II
- 9th IN (6)(5)(4)(3)(3) -/+1 II
- 13th IN (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/-
- 14th IN (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/-
- 15th IN (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/-
- 17th IN (5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/- II
- 24th OH (6)(6)(5)(4)(3)(2) +1/-
- 25th OH (6)(5)(4)(3)(2) -/+1 II
- 32nd OH (5)(5)(4)(3)(2) -/+1 II

A, 1st MI

(6)(5)(5)(4)(3)(3) **RL** -/-

G, 4th U.S. & A, WV Lt. Art.

(6)(5)(5)(4)(3)(3) **SBH** +1/+1

CONFEDERATE ORDER OF BATTLE

*Army of North West Virginia*

BG Henry R. Jackson

**(2)**

**Reserve**

52nd VA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) +1/-

**Right Wing**

Col. Edward Johnson

**(2)**

1st GA (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

12th GA (8)(7)(6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) -/+1

**Centre**

Col. William B. Taliaferro

**(2+1d6)**

23rd VA (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) +1/-

25th VA (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) -/+1

44th VA (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) -/+1

Danville VA & Rice's VA

(5)(4)(4)(3)(2)(2) **SBL** -/-

**Left Wing**

Col. Albert Rust

**(2+1d6)**

3rd AR (6)(5)(4)(3)(3)(2) +1/-

31st VA (6)(5)(4)(4)(3)(2) +1/-

9th VA Btn. (6)(5)(4)(3)(2)(2) +1/-

Lee VA

(4)(4)(3)(3)(2)(2) **SBL** -/-

**Cavalry & Mobile = CC**

**Impetuous = II**

**Counter Battery = CB**

**Sharpshooters = SS**

**Repeaters = RR**

