

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT	Description from <i>Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant</i>	3 Key words	Key phrase
May 13	Dalton	Union flank movement forces the withdrawal of Confederate army	"Sherman soon found that Dalton was so strongly fortified that it was useless to make any attempt to carry it by assault; and even to carry it by regular approaches was impracticable. There was a narrowing up in the mountain, between the National and Confederate armies, through which a stream, a wagon road and a railroad ran.... McPherson (Union general) was therefore sent around by the right (of the Confederate forces), to come by the way of Snake Creek Gap into the rear of the enemy. This was a surprise to Johnston (Confederate Commander), and about the 13 th (of May) he decided to abandon his position at Dalton." P. 404		
May 15	Resaca	Battle with Union flank movement that forces the withdrawal of Confederate army	"there was very hard fighting about Resaca; but our cavalry having been sent around to the right got near the road in the enemy's rear. Again Johnston fell back, our Army pursuing." P. 405		
May 19 th	Kingston	Kingston abandoned by the Confederate army	"The pursuit was continued to Kingston, which was reached on the 19 th with very little fighting, except that (John) Newton's division overtook the rear of Johnston's army and engaged it. Sherman was now obliged to stop to halt for purpose of bring up his railroad trains.... Of course the railroad was wholly destroyed as Johnston fell back, it has to be rebuilt." P. 405		

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May 23- June 4	Allatoona and Dallas- Battle of New Hope Church	Union flank movement forces the withdrawal of Confederate army- fighting vicinity New Hope Church	<p>“It was the 23d of May before the road (railroad) was finished up to the rear of Sherman’s army and the pursuit renewed. This pursuit brought him up to the vicinity of Allatoona. This place was very strongly intrenched, and naturally a very defensible position. An assault upon it was not thought of, but preparations were made to flank the enemy out of it. This was done by sending a large force around our right, by the way of Dallas, to reach the rear of the enemy.”</p> <p>“Before reaching there (Dallas), however, they found the enemy fortified in their way and there resulted hard fighting for about a week at a place called New Hope Church.... By the 4th of June Johnston found that he was being hemmed in so rapidly that he drew off and Allatoona was left in our possession.” P. 405</p>		
June 27- July 3	Marietta and Kenesaw Mountain	Battle of Kennesaw Mountain	<p>“Johnston had fallen back to Marietta and Kenesaw Mountain, where strong intrenchments awaited him. At this latter place our troops made an assault (June 27) upon the enemy’s lines And failed, sustaining considerable loss. But during the progress of the battle Schofield was gaining ground to the left; and the cavalry on his left were gaining still more toward the enemy’s rear. These operations were completed by the 3rd of July, when it was found that Johnston had evacuated the place.” P. 407</p>		

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July 5- July 9	Confederate Army north of the Chattahoochee River	Confederates outflanked and withdrawal south of the Chattahoochee River	"This time he (Johnston) fell back to the Chattahoochee. About the 5 th of July he was besieged again, Sherman getting easy possession of the Chattahoochee River above and below him. The enemy was again outflanked out of his position, or so frightened by flanking movements that on the night of the 9 th he fell back across the river." P. 407		
July 9- July 17	Confederate Army south of the Chattahoochee River	Confederates outflanked and withdraw towards Atlanta	"Here Johnston made a stand until the 17 th , when Sherman's old tactics (of flanking) prevailed again and the final movement toward Atlanta began. Johnston was now relieved of command, and (John B.) Hood superseded him." P. 407		
July 20	Peachtree Creek- Northeast of Atlanta	Battle of Peach Tree Creek	"Sure enough, as indicated by the change of commanders, the enemy was about to assume the offensive. On the 20 th he came out and attacked the Army of the Cumberland (the Union army attacking Atlanta) most furiously" p. 408 https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/peach-tree-creek		

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July 21- 22	South of Atlanta between Decatur and Atlanta	Battle of Atlanta	<p>“During the night of the 21st Hood moved out again, passing by our left flank, which was then in motion to get a position farther in rear of him, and a desperate battle ensued (Battle of Atlanta), which lasted most of the day of the 22d. At first the battle went very much in favor of the Confederates, our troops being somewhat surprised. While our troops were advancing they were struck in the flank, and their flank was enveloped..... Finally, however, and before night, the enemy was driven back into the city.” P. 408</p> <p>https://www.battlefields.org/learn/maps/atlanta-july-22-1864</p>		
July 27- July 28	Northwest of Atlanta	Battle of Ezra Church	<p>“On the 28th the enemy struck our right flank, General Logan commanding, with great vigor. Logan intrenched himself hastily, and by that means was enabled to resist all assaults and inflict a great deal of damage upon the enemy..... During the evening the enemy withdrew in the town.” P. 409</p>		

			<p>NOTE: The Confederate General in command at Ezra Church was Stephen Lee who became the first president of MSU after the Civil War.</p> <p>https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/battle-ezra-church</p>		
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Late July	South of Atlanta near Macon	Destruction of railroads south of Atlanta	<p>“In the latter part of July Sherman sent (George) Stoneman to destroy the railroads to the south, about Macon.” P. 410</p>		
August 31- Sept 1	South of Atlanta	Battle of Jonesboro	<p>“Sherman made preparations for a repetition of his tactics; that is for a flank movement with as large a force as could be got together to some point in the enemy’s rear. Sherman commenced this last movement on the 25th of August, and on the 1st of September was well up towards the railroad twenty miles south of Atlanta. Here he found Hardee intrenched, ready to meet him. A battle ensued (August 31), but he was able to drive Hardee away before night set in.” p. 412</p> <p>https://www.battlefields.org/learn/civil-war/battles/jonesborough</p>		
September 2	Atlanta	Confederates abandon Atlanta	<p>“The next morning at daylight (September 2) General H.W. Slocum, who was commanding north of the city, moved in and took possession of Atlanta, and notified Sherman.” P. 412</p>		

			https://www.battlefields.org/learn/articles/surrender-atlanta		

Additional resources related to the Atlanta Campaign used on the annotated maps

Why seize and destroy Atlanta?

Grant’s perspective

“Atlanta was destroyed so far as to render it worthless for military purposes before starting, Sherman himself remaining over a day to superintend the work, and see that it was done well. Sherman’s orders for this campaign were perfect.” (Grant, p. 526)

From a textbook

“Sherman moved his Army toward Atlanta, Georgia, a vital industrial and railway center. The opposing confederate Army could not defend the city and retreated. Atlanta fell to the Union on September 2, 1864.”

“General Sherman used a method of warfare called total war. The aim of total war is to destroy not just the opposing Army, but the people’s will to fight. Sherman’s men ordered everyone to leave Atlanta, and burned almost the entire city.” (Boyd, et al., 2005, p. 510)

Was the Atlanta Campaign important?

Grant’s perspective

“The campaign to Atlanta was managed with the most consummate skill, the enemy being flanked out of one position after another all the way there. It is true this was not accomplished without a good deal of fighting—some of it very hard fighting, rising to the dignity of very important battles-- neither were single positions gained in a day. On the contrary, weeks were spent at some; and about Atlanta more than a month was consumed.” P. 405

“For my part, I think that Johnston’s tactics were right. Anything that could have prolonged the war a year beyond the time that it did finally close, would probably have exhausted the North to such an extent that they might have abandoned the contest and agreed to a separation.” P. 407- 408

“The campaign had lasted about four months, and was one of the most memorable in history. There was but little if anything in the whole campaign, now that it is over, to criticize as all, and nothing to criticize it severely.” P. 412

“The news of Sherman’s success reached the North instantaneously, and set the country all aglow. This was the first great political campaign for the Republicans in their canvas of 1864. It was followed later by Sheridan’s campaign in the Shenandoah Valley; and these two campaigns probably had more effect in settling the election of the following November than all the speeches, all the bonfires, and all the parading with banners and bands of music in the North.” P. 413

References

Boyd, et al. (2005). *Scott Foresman Social Studies: The United States*. Glenview, IL: Pearson.

Grant, U.S. (1999/1885-1886). *Personal Memoirs*. New York: Penguin.