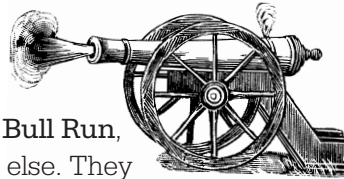


1861

I've scampered up a hillside in **Centreville, Virginia**. It's a warm Sunday afternoon in July, and the hill is full of men and women with picnic baskets and . . . binoculars. What are they watching? The first major land battle of the **American Civil War**.

## Battle and a Bite



In the days before this battle, known as the **Battle of Bull Run**, people in nearby **Washington, D.C.** could talk of little else. They all expected a huge victory for the North and, possibly, a quick end to the war.

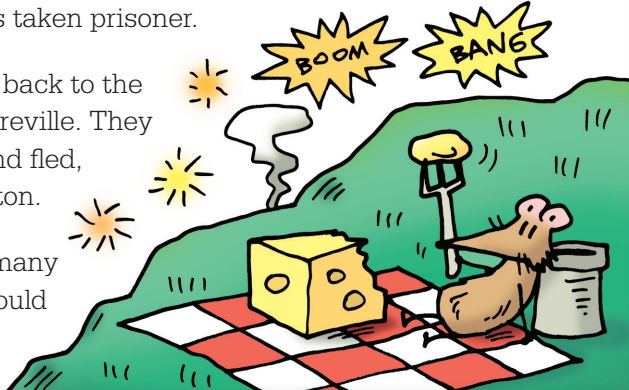
When the day of the battle arrived, spectators on horseback and in carriages filled the roads leading to Centreville. The high ground there provided a sweeping view of the battlefield five miles away. The crowd, about 500 strong, included politicians, reporters, workers who had the day off, and the occasional "huckster" selling pies and snacks for those who hadn't thought to pack a lunch.

Unfortunately, when the fighting began, nobody could see much. Thick woods covered the ground below. The noise and white smoke of rifle and cannon fire provided the only evidence of a battle. As to what was actually happening, the onlookers could only guess.

A group of about 50 politicians and reporters, itching for something more than a view of the surrounding treetops, moved closer. They ended up on a ridge only a mile from the action. The scene that soon unfolded didn't match the visions of victory they had expected, though. Strengthened by fresh troops, the South took control of the fight, forcing the North to retreat. The withdrawal quickly turned into a panicked stampede of soldiers, horses, and wagons. Amid the confusion, one Congressman was taken prisoner.

Word of the disaster soon filtered back to the tree-watching picnickers in Centreville. They quickly packed up their things and fled, filling the roads back to Washington.

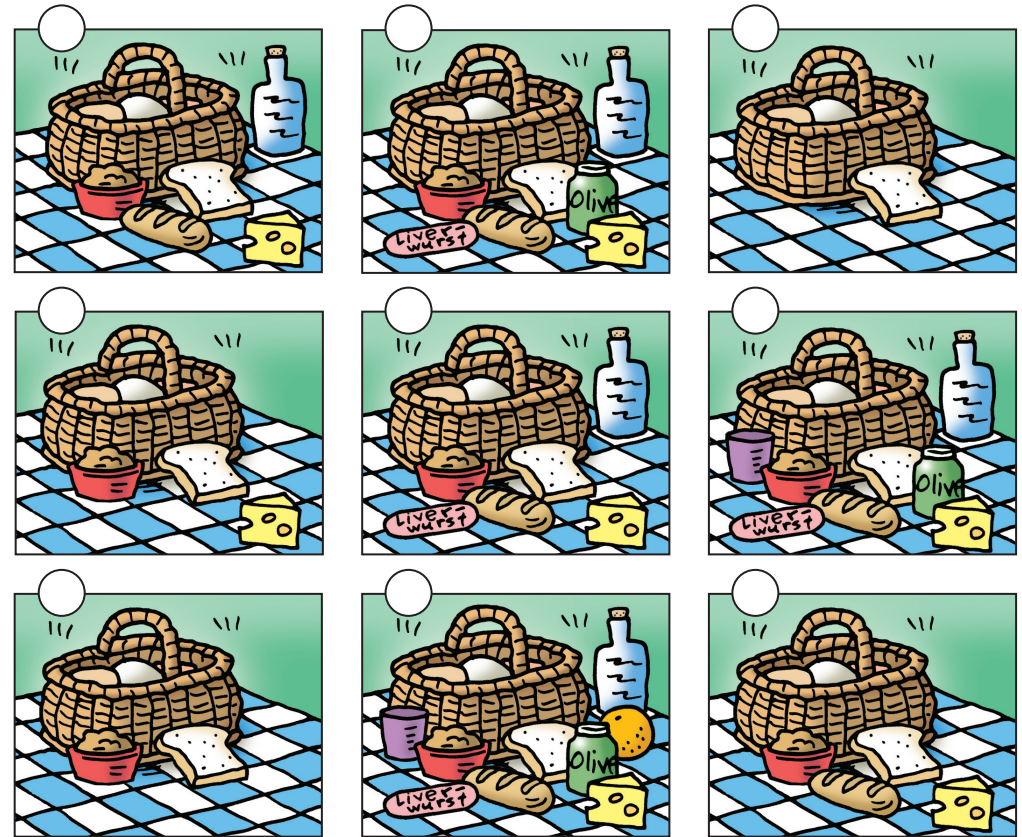
The "quick end" to the war that many in Washington seemed sure of would take four long and deadly years.



iPuzzle

## Scenes at a Picnic

Write numbers in the circles to show the order in which items were removed from the basket.



**Train:** That word played two important roles in the Battle of Bull Run: 1) with most of the North's army signed up for only 90 days of duty, there was no time to properly train them, and 2) many of the Confederate reinforcements arrived by train. It was the first battle in American history where that was done. Railroads would be used extensively throughout the war.



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