



# The Battle of Strasburg

A new battle scenario brought to you by the Strasburg Railroad and the 16<sup>th</sup> Maine Volunteer Inf.

JUNE 7<sup>TH</sup>, 8<sup>TH</sup> & 9<sup>TH</sup> 2024

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*The scenario.*

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June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1863, Confederate troops under the command of Jubal A. Early and John B Gordon begin the assault on the Columbia-Wrightsville bridge spanning the Susquehanna. Union forces attempted several methods to make the bridge to be impassable. Setting charges, digging out supports, and eventually soaking the whole bridge in oil and burning the entire thing into the river. Early would never cross and be forced to head back through York leading to the engagement at Gettysburg only a few days later. What if history had changed? What if Early and Gordon were able to cross? Early would've continued his march no doubt towards Lancaster and its rich and abundant farmlands with raiding parties. In doing as much damage as he could to the Federal war machine, he'd turn his eyes to disrupting the valuable rail network of the now mighty Pennsylvania Railroad only a few miles east. Raiders would march right into the town of Strasburg, a rail served farming town by the Strasburg Railroad originally chartered in 1832 with a connection to the Pennsy only 4 miles away. News of the eastern movement would make its way to the 1<sup>st</sup> Corps out ahead of the Army of the Potomac and Reynolds would utilize the rail system to move with troops northward to meet the enemy. Leading to the clash of forces at Strasburg.



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*The Basics*

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### **The battle plan**

Confederate forces will march and engage in a small skirmish for control of the station. Spectators will either be in pre-determined areas or on board the train. Union will lose the skirmish and the train will depart east to Leaman Place where the Union forces will board and ride back west toward town. Raiders will stop the train and the main battle will take place. Ultimately the union forces will successfully push the raider back and retake the station. This is a very brief synopsis of what will unfold as this will be the first year and the first time something like this has been done on this line we are working with local land owners and seeing what can be done, and where the audience can best see the battle. I'm certain there will be multiple plans attempted this year so every day may vary until we find something that flows and works for everyone. This will be revised as we get a better understanding of the scope and what is available to us.

**Registration** is free, there is no charge for reenactors.

**Strasburg Railroad** will be providing the following.

- Camping sites for both sides.
- Water
- Firewood
- Hay (if needed due to rain)
- Ice

Due to the perhaps restricted room and noisy nature of the steam locomotives we have had to make the decision to not have any cavalry or mounts this year.

### **The Goal**

As with all, we wish to immerse our guests in this time. Reenactors will be encouraged to ride the train, patrol the station, perform drills for the public and have demonstrations. The whole railroad for the weekend will be immersed in the civil war in what we can only hope will be a huge success.

For your consideration,

Capt. Joshua Haufle,

16<sup>th</sup> MAINE VOL INF.



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