



# PETERSBURG NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD

## BSA National Historic Trail



**Proceed out of the museum and to Stop #1 on your left. Follow the trail to the row of cannons and Battery Five.**

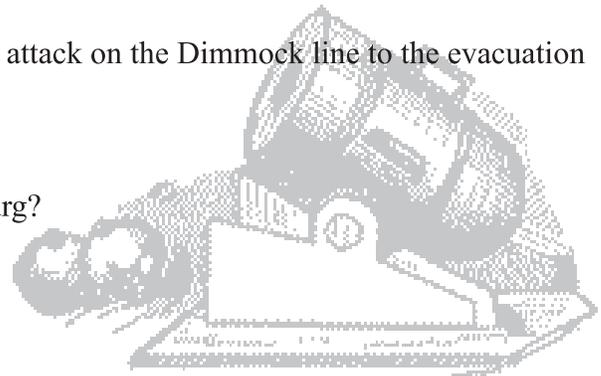
1. Who was the Confederate engineer who laid out the 10 miles of defenses to protect Petersburg?
2. Which of these cannons has the greatest firing range?

### **Battery Five (ahead on the trail)**

3. How long in advance was the Dimmock Line created before the war actually came to Petersburg's door?
4. How many artillery positions were there in the 10 miles of the Dimmock Line?

### **Continue inside the battery and follow the trail towards the Dictator.**

5. How many miles of the Petersburg defenses were captured on the evening of June 15, 1864?
6. What was the Petersburg timeline from the Union attack on the Dimmock line to the evacuation of Petersburg?
7. Was the Dictator effective in the siege of Petersburg?
8. How many rounds were fired on Petersburg?
9. How many pounds of black powder were required to hurl the 225 lb / 13 inch shell 2 miles?



**From the Dictator Trail proceed through the parking lot and down the Park Tour Road to the first crosswalk. Turn right onto the first yellow trail, Friend Trail. Continue on the Friend Trail, and take the first yellow trail on your left onto Harrison's Creek Trail. Continue to Stop #4.**

10. What did Harrison's Creek represent to the contending armies during the siege?

**Follow Harrison's Creek Trail in the direction you have just traveled. Follow the yellow trail to the left, and cross the bridge continuing on Friend Trail. Take the next left on the yellow trail (Prince George Court House) and stay straight on red trail to the Park Tour Road. Take the Park Tour Road to your right to Stop #5. From the parking lot travel up to the trail on your right.**

11. Following Lee's last offensive of the Civil War here at Fort Stedman, how much longer would Confederate forces hold before Petersburg would fall?

12. What was the name of the house that saw fighting on June 18, 1864 and during "Lee's Last Grand Offensive," March 25, 1865?

13. According to the monument of the First Maine Heavy Artillery, how many members fell while charging in battle on June 18, 1864?

*Union soldiers lost an equivalent of a man each second (more than any other regiment in any single battle of the Civil War) during their charge on June 18, 1864. Conversely, the Confederate unit directly confronting this charge had one man killed and 24 wounded. Here on this ground the value of earthen entrenchments is realized to its fullest extent. As you return back down the path you just came, you are retracing the attack Confederates made on this same hillside nine months later in the Battle of Fort Stedman.*

**Retrace your steps back towards the parking lot and follow the trail to Fort Stedman.**

17. According to the wayside, up to how many cannons and infantrymen were inside of Fort Stedman?

18. As you look directly past the cannons, Confederate soldiers were dug in along the tree line in the distance. How far apart were the Confederate soldiers in Colquitt's Salient from the Union lines?

*Here, General Lee in a last attempt to relieve the pressure that General Grant has put on Confederate forces at Petersburg, loses 3600 men that he cannot replace. One week later, Lee evacuates Petersburg. Two weeks later, he surrenders to Grant at Appomattox Court House.*

**Return to the Park Tour Road and take a right. Follow the Park Tour Road a short distance. Take the yellow trail across the tour road from Union Battery XII. Follow the Birney Trail a short distance to a crossroads. Turn right onto the yellow trail (Encampment Trail). Stay on this long trail to the Park Tour Road and then take a right to Stop #7.**

19. How did Maj. Gen. Burnside choose who lead the assault at the Crater, when his choice of using the United States Colored Troops was overruled?

20. How many cannons were crowded into the earthworks at the Taylor House ruins?

*As you look through the open area between the trees, you can see the site of the Crater in the distance. Union forces placed cannons on this hillside to diminish their Confederate counterparts in the fort, Elliot's Salient, that would be the subject of the Union mine attack. The cannons lining this ridge played an integral role in the the Union assault during the Battle of the Crater. Travel to Stop #8 to learn about this fight on July 30, 1864.*

**Return down the Park Tour Road from the direction you just traveled and cross the bridge to Stop #8. Follow the Crater Trail, via the tunnel.**

21. What was the objective of the mine construction?

22. Who was in charge of the tunnel and the mine construction?

23. How many pounds of powder did the Federals pack into the subterranean magazines?

24. How long was the tunnel?

25. How did the miners get fresh air into the mine for the workers?

26. How large was the hole / crater that was created?

27. How many Confederate casualties were involved in the explosion?

28. Even though the explosion was successful, General Grant called the episode a “stupendous failure.” Why were the Union soldiers unsuccessful in capturing Petersburg after the explosion?

29. For whom does the large monument behind the Crater honor and where was he from?

**From Stop #8, return to the Park Tour Road follow it back across the bridge. Turn left onto the yellow trail, Poor Creek Trail. Veer right onto the yellow trail, following Haskell Trail a short distance to the Park Tour Road. Turn left to enter Stop #6, Fort Haskell.**

30. Did Fort Haskell belong to the Union or Confederate army?

31. Why did Union soldiers fire upon Fort Haskell during the Battle of Fort Stedman?

**From Stop #6, head back onto the Park Tour Road from the direction you just came a very short distance. Turn left onto the yellow trail, Taylor's Creek Trail. Turn right onto the yellow trail, Birney Trail, bear left at the Harrison Creek Trail, turn right onto the red trail (Water Line Trail). Follow the Water Line Trail and turn left onto the red trail to Stop #3.**

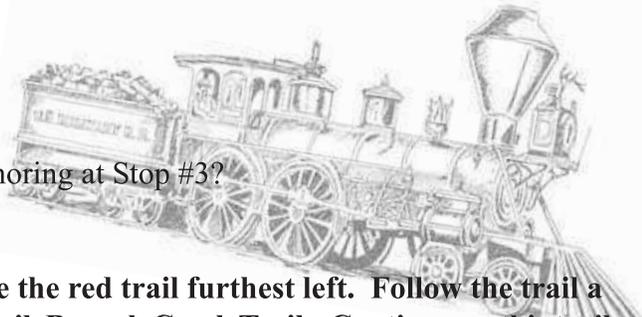
32. What did the U.S. Colored Troops capture the evening of June 15, 1864?

*Meade Station Trail marker.*

*In front of you, a third of a mile down the trail to the right (Prince George Court House), is the location of Meade Station. The United States Military Railroad Construction Corps (USMRR) built this rail line that was critical in supplying the Union soldiers during the siege of Petersburg. From the waterfront at City Point (8 miles away) more than 100,000 Union troops and more than 65,000 horses and mules were supplied with food and equipment transported by rail lines and wagons to the front. Tons of supplies traveling on 15 trains per day were delivered to the soldiers fighting in this stretch of trenches. So effective was this supply system that a Union soldier serving in the front lines here could receive a warm piece of bread from a bakery eight miles away.*

33. List two tasks of a soldier in camp.

34. What group of soldiers is the monument honoring at Stop #3?



**From Stop #3, as you face the monument, take the red trail furthest left. Follow the trail a short distance and turn left onto the next red trail, Branch Creek Trail. Continue on this trail and bear left at each crossroads until you hit the Park Tour Road. Travel left, about 100 yards up the hill on the Park Tour Road and you will arrive at Stop #2.**

35. By the morning of June 16, 1864, which Confederate batteries had Union soldiers captured?

36. What Federal regiments captured Battery #8?

**Retrace your steps back down the Park Tour Road to the red trail (Branch Creek Trail) and return to the first Y in the trail. Bear left onto the red trail and follow it a short distance, turning left, onto the yellow trail (Battery 7). Follow this trail until you hit the Park Tour Road. Turn right and walk back over the bridge to the Visitor Center.**

**Congratulations on completing your hike!**

**Return to the Visitor Center to obtain the  
Petersburg National Battlefield BSA Historic Trail Patch**