

# THE BATTLE

OF

# SMYRNA

DURING  
THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN

THE UNION  
ARMY

HAD  
105,000 SOLDIERS

DURING  
THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN

THE CONFEDERATE  
ARMY

HAD  
65,000 SOLDIERS

## THE ATLANTA CAMPAIGN

At the outset of the Atlanta campaign, both sides foresaw advance and retreat would be along the Western and Atlantic Railroad that ran through Smyrna.

Throughout the campaign, Confederates systematically destroyed railroad tracks as they retreated, but Union troops replaced ties and rails almost as fast as they advanced.

## FOCUS ON SMYRNA

- At the time Smyrna was only a few buildings around **Ruff's Siding**, a depot on the railroad.
- The station was located near a Methodist meeting place named **Smyrna Campground**.
- Union army Chief Engineer Orlando Poe described the **Smyrna Line** as being "well built, consisting of good infantry parapets, connecting salients, in which were placed a large number of pieces of field artillery in embrasure."

## LIFELINE



The railroad was critical to both armies. It extended **473 miles** from Sherman's supply base at Nashville to Chattanooga and then directly to Atlanta.

At the time, much of Georgia was a wilderness connected only with poorly constructed dirt roads that turned into muddy quagmires with each rain making control of the railroad vitally important.

## THE BATTLE

JUNE 27, 1864

After costly Federal assaults at the Kennesaw Mountain Line, Sherman reverted to his effective flanking maneuvers.

JULY 4, 1864

Sherman's forces closed on the entrenched Confederates.

Two localized Federal infantry assaults, one against the Confederate center and the other in the vicinity of Ruff's Mill, failed to achieve significant results.

While the Federals did not break through, two divisions of the Seventeenth Corps advanced south from the Mable House to Widow Mitchell's house, where they turned east and drove back an outnumbered Confederate force of two cavalry brigades under General "Red" Jackson and General G.W. Smith's division of Georgia Militia.

Kennesaw Mt.

JULY 2, 1864

General Johnston ordered that the Confederates abandon the Kennesaw Line and fall back to partially prepared earthworks at Smyrna.

Smyrna

Chattahoochee River

JULY 4-5, 1864

Upon learning of these movements, Johnston ordered a retreat to the well-prepared Chattahoochee Line.

Chattahoochee Line