

LOGISTICS

General Sherman wrote, "When a general first estimates the quantity of food needed to feed an army of fifty to one hundred thousand men, he is apt to be dismayed..." Both sides relied on the railroad for supplies.



3 LBS PER DAY

Soldiers needed three pounds of food per day plus ammunition.



20 LBS PER DAY

Horses & Mules needed twenty pounds of forage per day.

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."

THE BATTLE

OF

SMYRNA



At the outset of the Atlanta campaign, both sides foresaw that 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.

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

