The last major Confederate invasion of the North was an attempt to seize Washington, D.C.

The attack was instigated when Gen. John A. E. Early, commander of all Confederate forces, ordered simultaneous attacks against Federal forces throughout the South in May 1864.

President Lincoln, George H. Meade’s Army of the Potomac toward Richmond, Gen. Benjamin F. Butler led the Army of the James toward Petersburg, and Gen. David Hunter marched south into the Shenandoah Valley.


Lee, meanwhile, fought numerically reduced his army by a quarter in Confederate hands. He was on the defensive, and ordered Gen. Jubal A. Early’s cavalry to attack from Petersburg, where he stopped the encroaching Federal forces at the Monocacy River and ordered Jubal to clean up the area before Early could attack.

In the south, the Confederate infantry attacked Union’s line. When they hit the Union center, the defenders counter attacked in a small bayonet fight.

The Confederates had driven the Union troops into a great defensive position. Falling to deliver a blow from the Union right flank, Jubal’s Confederates exploited the Union right flank. The Federals pulled away from the river, a crucial advantage that the Confederates exploited.

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Ransoms


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To divert Union forces away from the Shenandoah Valley, Lee ordered Gen. Jubal A. Early’s division to march south into the Shenandoah Valley

Fort Stevens was one of the 68 forts around Washington, D.C.

While the men at the junction fell back across the field, the faltering soldiers made him delay the attack until the next morning.

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