

# \* CORINTH \*

## *A Post-Battle Report*

by  
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Game: *The Battle of Corinth* (SPI), regimental-level ACW

Time / location: Oct. 3-4, 1862 / Corinth, Mississippi

PBM features: multi-player / refereed / hidden movement / messages via aide-de-camps

Completed: 5-1/2 years (January 1994 to August 1999)

Background:

Corinth Mississippi was a vital junction for two important Confederate rail lines: the Mobile & Ohio and the Memphis & Charleston. In June of 1862, two months after the battle of Shiloh, Union troops occupied the town and settled in to wait while their commanders wrangled over where to advance next.

Over the summer the Confederates gathered their scattered forces and by August they were ready to move. Two separate Confederate armies under Kirby Smith and Braxton Bragg began steadily pushing into Kentucky. In late September,

Bragg requested that Major Earl Van Dorn tie down the forces of U.S. Grant in Mississippi so they couldn't reinforce Federal troops in Kentucky. However instead of using indirect maneuver to distract Grant, Van Dorn decided to lead his 20,000 Confederates in an attack on Corinth, thereby hoping to regain control of the town, the rail junction and restore his tarnished military career by winning a major victory.

The terrain north and northwest of Corinth is heavily wooded with only occasional breaks or clearings. To the east is swamp, making an attack from that direction difficult. Only to the immediate west is the ground relatively open. Earlier that year, the Confederates had built crude fortifications and felled a line of timber (referred to as the outer works) three miles north of the town. After the town's capture, Union troops had augmented these defenses by erecting a series of unconnected earthen battery redans just outside the town limits and by felling more timber.

In the early hours of October 3rd, after several days of preliminary feints, Van Dorn formed his army into line of battle and advanced upon Corinth.

The Commanders:

### Confederate

<i>VAN DORN / MAURY</i>	Frederick Kraus	USA
<i>HEBERT</i>	Bob McRae	Canada
<i>LOVELL</i>	Jonas Nordstrom*	Sweden

\* (through Turn 8, then commanded by Fred Kraus)

### Union

<i>ROSECRANS</i>	Niklas Krog	Sweden
<i>MCKEAN</i>	Dick Boyes	USA

Van Dorn was responsible for planning and coordinating the Confederate attack. He also controlled Maury's Division. The Confederates fielded a total of 21,000 men.

Rosecrans was the overall Union commander and controlled the divisions of Hamilton and Stanley plus Mizner's Cavalry, giving him a total of 9,700 men. McKean controlled his own division and that of Davies, giving him 8,500 men plus the artillery park and the six battery redans nearest Corinth. The Union fielded an army of 18,200 men.

The game begins with the Confederates off-map. We used the Free Set-Up Scenario which allows the rebels much greater leeway in deciding where they wish to enter. There are seven Assault Areas arranged in a semi-circle around the north and west map edges. Some areas like "G", directly west of and closest to Corinth, take as many as five turns to reach before a unit can actually enter the mapboard.

The rebels could choose to bring all three of their divisions in at once (one per area) or delay their arrival in order to get them closer to the town...or to simply confuse the enemy as to their whereabouts.

The Union players were told the Assault Area of one Confederate division on Game-turn 1. Then they positioned their brigades as desired except that three of their eleven brigades had to form a reserve near the Tishomingo Hotel, just outside Corinth. These would be released four turns (2 hours) after the first combat occurred.

\* \* \* \* \*

### CONFEDERATE TURN 1 (10:00am)

**Lovell-** His division enters Area E in line of battle. Lovell's cavalry scouts make contact with part of Sullivan's brigade and 6 Wisc Artillery astride Chewalla Rd but quickly withdraw before the Federals can fire at them.

### **UNION TURN 1** (10:00am)

- no movement -

### **CONFEDERATE TURN 2** (10:30am)

**Lovell-** Launches a major assault against part of Sullivan's brigade (Rosecrans) and Crocker's brigade (McKean), inadvertently striking at the seam between the two Union wings. Four of Lovell's regiments are immediately routed by Union fire straight back into the densely packed ranks of Hebert's infantry coming up behind them.

Despite this setback, Lovell's men rout two of Sullivan's regiments along Chewalla Road and capture four 12 lb'er Napoleons from 6 Wisc Artillery. Half of Crocker's brigade is thrown back almost 700yds and Crocker's left is turned by Bowen's hard-charging Confederates.

**Hebert-** Enters Area E, marching directly behind Lovell's Division. Hebert's men have little room to maneuver and when 39 Miss routs into their ranks, three of Hebert's regiments also panic and rout. Only by the strenuous efforts of brigadiers Green and Colbert are these units rallied and formed into line again.

### **UNION TURN 2** (10:30pm)

**Rosecrans-** Reacts to Lovell's attack by shifting two of Sullivan's regiments southward and extending his line 300yds northeast from Chewalla Rd. Rosecrans himself rides forward to observe the battle and arrives just in time to rally 10 Iowa and E/24 Mo along the main road.

**McKean-** Brings up McArthur's brigade to form on Crocker's left near the Memphis & Charleston rail line. Crocker extricates two regiments from the onrushing rebels (though one is routed in the process) and rallies the rest several hundred yards behind his original position.

### **CONFEDERATE TURN 3** (11:00am)

**Lovell-** Makes a well-coordinated attack with all four of his brigades, massing his infantry against several isolated Union regiments and overrunning a second Union battery posted on Chewalla Rd. By sheer weight of numbers and momentum Lovell steadily pushes the Union line back.

**Hebert-** Begins shifting his division laterally to the right in order to fill the gap between Lovell and Maury (whose division is just entering Area F). Hebert is only lightly engaged at present as most of his division is still marching in column through the woods. Gates' brigade reaches the tree-line fronting the outer Federal battery redans and finds itself taking artillery fire from Battery Redan F.

**Maury-** His division enters through Area F near Smith's Bridge Road with all three of his infantry brigades arrayed in line of battle. They edge close to the tree-line, preparatory to making a charge against Battery Redan E.

### UNION TURN 3 (11:00am)

**Rosecrans-** Makes only a slight adjustment to his line by ordering 10 Mo (Sullivan) to counterattack part of Rust's brigade which has just crossed over the outer works.

**McKean-** Receives a message from Rosecrans informing him of Lovell's attack on his left and that all is quiet yet north of Corinth. McKean also makes only minor adjustments to his dispositions.

*\* During an exchange of fire between 17 Wisc and 22 Miss, Confederate Brigadier General John Bowen is severely wounded, leaving his brigade temporarily leaderless at a critical time. His units cannot fire Offensively or melee and may only move one hex per turn until a replacement officer is appointed in the next CSA command phase. This is the first leader loss for either side.*

### CONFEDERATE TURN 4 (11:30am)

**Lovell-** Sends Rust's and Villepigue's brigades crashing into the Union line, completely routing Sullivan's command and routing two of Crocker's regiments as well.

**Hebert-** Only the brigades of Gates and Green are fully deployed, just to the right of Lovell's Division. Colbert and Martin are still coming up in column. A half-mile gap exists between Hebert and Maury. Hebert's men come under light long-range fire from Oliver's brigade defending Battery Redan F.

**Maury-** His 5,800-man division comes boiling out of the woods in a compact mass, heading straight for its first objective. "Like some kind of modern Roman phalanx," commented one awe-struck Union officer. Using Moore's brigade to shield his open left flank, Maury guides Cabell's men in quickly overrunning Battery Redan E, capturing the four 12 lb'er howitzers sited there.

Phifer's brigade clears the woodline to the right of the redan by routing away one of Oglesby's regiments and driving another back down Smith's Bridge Rd.

One of Maury's two cavalry detachments probes a gap between the outer Federal redans and nearly captures the ammo wagons of Davies' Division. But the wagon guards fight off the rebel troopers and hastily withdraw their wagons towards Corinth and to safety.

### UNION TURN 4 (11:30am)

**Rosecrans-** Gives orders to immediately release the three Union reserve brigades (Mower, Hackleman and Baldwin) posted near Corinth.

Puts Buford's and Fuller's brigades in column and begins moving them towards the center of his position. Two regiments of Mizner's cavalry are left to guard the northern approaches to Corinth but the bulk of Mizner's troopers (1,200 strong) fall in behind Fuller's column.

An aide from McKean arrives informing Rosecrans of Crocker's collapse and his reinforcement by McArthur's brigade nearby.

Only three of Rosecrans' regiments are in actual contact with an equal number of Confederate regiments. Both sides fire ineffectually at each other in the woods.

*\* At this point, Rosecrans remains unaware that Hebert's and Maury's divisions are already on the mapboard. In a normal FTF game, he'd have no trouble seeing where the main Confederate effort will fall. But the use of hidden movement greatly heightens the fog-of-war and Rosecrans cannot be certain the other two rebel divisions won't enter through one of the northern areas, hence the cavalry pickets.*

**McKean-** Quickly brings Baldwin's brigade up to block Smith's bridge Road west of Corinth. Hackleman's men form column and follow the Memphis & Charleston rail line towards Oliver's position around Battery Redan F.

Oglesby's brigade pulls back into the woods, out of sight from Maury's oncoming rebel hordes. This gives McKean's men a needed respite as there is only desultory long-range fire along the rest of his front.

McArthur and Crocker rally two regiments and re-form a respectable line of battle in the woods just north of Battery Redan F.

*\* McKean has four of his six brigades thinly spread across a frontage 2 miles long, running from Chewalla Rd in the north to Kossuth Rd directly west of Corinth, an impossibly overextended line to defend. Rosecrans needs to extend his own line farther south, allowing McKean to consolidate his position and create a defense in depth. As it stands, McKean currently has no reserve available to counter a rebel breakthrough.*

#### **CONFEDERATE TURN 5** (noon)

**Lovell-** Advances all three of his infantry brigades along both sides of Chewalla Rd to strike at Sullivan's and Crocker's brigades. Sullivan's men are again shoved back and, when 10 Iowa routs, they pass through 17 Iowa, touching off a panic in that regiment too. Rosecrans himself is carried away in the disorderly flight that follows. Cursing at them to stand and rally, he is seen swinging the flat of his sword at any soldier running past him.

**Hebert-** Colonel Gates, running his felt hat through his sword tip and holding it high shouts, "Forward you rebels, forward!" as he leads 5 Mo against Battery Redan E. Scrambling over the dirt parapet, 400 screaming Confederates pitch themselves headlong amongst the battery crew and the hundred or so Union infantrymen guarding them. After a short and brutal fight, the Union infantry surrenders while the battery crew and Colonel Oliver slip away in the confused fighting. Gates' men proudly take possession of four 12 lb'er Napoleons.

Over on Hebert's left, Green's brigade and part of Gates' completely collapse McArthur's line, capturing 200 Federals and leaving Crocker's brigade again outflanked.

**Maury-** Re-aligns his ranks and leads his men onto the high ground near Battery Redan E. The only brigade in his path is Oglesby's and Maury attacks both ends of his line. Part of Phifer's brigade smashes into 12 Ill, capturing 100 Federals and routing the others nearly 700yds back.

On the left, 2 Tex from Moore's brigade engages 9 Ill in a viciously fought melee. All of this leaves 22 Ohio in the middle badly outflanked and likely compelled to withdraw or risk complete encirclement.

### UNION TURN 5 (noon)

**Rosecrans-** Diverts Mizner's Cavalry to cover his right flank along the outer works. Fuller's brigade begins deploying just to the right of Chewalla Rd, behind Sullivan. Both Mower's and Buford's brigades are also headed for Chewalla Rd. Only one regiment in Rosecrans' command, the routed 7 Ill Cav, is currently in contact with the rebels.

*\* Rosecrans' frontage is under 2/3 of a mile as opposed to the 2 mile long line McKean is attempting to defend.*

**McKean-** Deploys Baldwin's brigade astride Smith's Bridge Rd and pulls Oglesby's and Oliver's brigades farther back into the woods. On McKean's far right, two of Crocker's regiments are thrown back and routed. Of the seven regiments comprising Crocker's and McArthur's commands, four remain routed despite the best efforts of their commanders to rally them.

### CONFEDERATE TURN 6 (12:30pm)

**Lovell-** Continues driving forward up Chewalla Rd, outflanking two of Sullivan's regiments and routing away a third. Bowen slashes at Crocker's brigade leaving 3/4 of it routed.

**Hebert-** Green's, Gates' and part of Colbert's brigades attack on a broad front, wrecking McArthur's brigade and leaving all three of his regiments routed. In fact, of the eight Union regiments defending this area, seven of them are routed!

*\* McArthur's brigade is the first on either side to lose BCE (Brigade Combat Effectiveness). This occurs when a brigade's casualties reach 50% of its original strength. Offensive capability is greatly reduced (cannot initiate melee, reduced fire combat rating) and it makes the brigade very fragile on defense (lowered morale and the possibility the entire brigade may spontaneously retreat and even rout entirely).*

*Hebert's left is solidly linked with Lovell's Division but a 500yd gap still exists between Hebert's right flank and Maury's left.*

**Maury-** Advances all three of his infantry brigades into the woods NW of Corinth. Phifer's brigade engages Baldwin's men along Smith's Bridge Road but is pinned down by accurate Union musketry.

Moore pushes part of Oglesby's brigade back but Hackleman's column is now at hand to bolster the Federal line here.

### UNION TURN 6 (12:30pm)

**McKean-** On McKean's far right, near Chewalla Rd, half of Crocker's brigade is again thrown back in confusion when 16 Iowa, disengaging from 6 Mo, routs and panics 11 Iowa as well. "A complete shambles," wrote one Union officer after the battle. "Everywhere men wild-eyed and slack-mouthed, looking only to save themselves from the horrors fast engulfing them. One hardly knew where to begin rallying such a dispossessed mob of humanity."

Near McKean's center, Hackleman's 1,400-man brigade forms line and immediately runs into Moore's rebel brigade in the woods. Despite a tremendous expenditure of ammo at close range, neither side gains an advantage.

Along Smith's Bridge Rd, on McKean's far left, Colonel Baldwin is wounded and the regiment he was leading routs back towards Corinth. Fortunately the division commander, Gen. Davies, is nearby to help rally the men and appoint a new brigade leader. Davies orders several batteries brought forward to assist in stemming the rebel advance.

**Rosecrans-** Brings two fresh brigades (Buford's and Mower's) into the line. Mower's brigade turns onto Chewalla Rd to replace Sullivan's faltering command. Rosecrans then makes a decision that may have far-reaching consequences later in the battle when he reverses Buford's planned march toward the Union center and instead directs the brigade back to the Union far right to reinforce Mizner's Cavalry.

*\* This leaves the majority of Union troops (nearly 15,000 out of 18,000 present) concentrated farthest from Corinth at a time when the rebels are heavily pressuring the Union left. The town is therefore vulnerable to early capture and Rosecrans' entire army could be outflanked and driven from the field.*

An aide from McKean arrives reporting that "massive Confederate forces have overrun Battery E".

*\* Rosecrans' first indication since the battle began that at least one other rebel division has entered the mapboard.*

Losses: End of Turn 6 (12:30pm)

	<u>Killed &amp; Wounded</u>	<u>Captured</u>	<u>Total Casualties</u>	<u>Guns Lost</u>	<u>Leader Losses</u>
CONFEDERATE	2100	300	2400	1	1 (w)
UNION	1700	900	2600	16	1 (w)

### CONFEDERATE TURN 7 (1:00pm)

**Maury-** Cabell's brigade succeeds (though he doesn't realize it because of the woods to his front) in punching a large hole in McKean's left. Oglesby's Union brigade loses 500 men in twenty minutes of fighting and is scattered to the winds. Only 200 men remain from an original complement of 1,000. Two of Baldwin's three regiments also rout. Maury's Division is now poised for a direct push towards Corinth against a weak and increasingly disorganized Union defense.

**Hebert-** Receives an angry note from Van Dorn saying, "Get your attack going immediately. You are far behind the other divisions. It is imperative you move now and cover Maury's and Lovell's flanks." In fact, by the time Van Dorn's message arrives, Hebert has already done just that.

*\* Van Dorn's outburst is prompted by a complaint from Maury that his left flank still has no contact with Hebert's Division. Rather than ride over to see for himself, Van Dorn assumed Hebert must be lagging and reprimands him accordingly. Maury would later bring formal charges against Hebert for his alleged "dilatatory arrival" but a post-battle board of inquiry showed that Hebert's rate of advance was perfectly in keeping with the distance, terrain and enemy opposition his division had to negotiate.*

Though only a handful of Hebert's regiments are currently engaged, the bulk of his division is now in line and it is unwittingly aimed right at the gap between the divisions of Davies and McKean. Only Oliver's brigade of 1,100 men stands in the way and they are ill-prepared to stop a determined assault as one regiment is still coming up, one is ammo depleted and one is already engaged in a melee with 500 rebel troops.

**Lovell-** Rust's and Villapigue's brigades run into several Union batteries firing double loads of canister and are dealt a bloody repulse. Bowen's men, however, have better success, capturing 200 Federals and wrecking Sullivan's brigade.

#### **UNION TURN 7** (1:00pm)

**Rosecrans-** Countermarches Mower's fresh veteran brigade back towards the Union center (inadvertently placing it exactly where it is most needed) and transfers it to McKean's control. In exchange, he takes away Crocker's brigade, already heavily engaged on McKean's extreme right near Chewalla Rd.

Rosecrans also initiates an attack against the Confederate left using Mizner's Cavalry and part of Buford's brigade. Along Chewalla Rd he deploys a formidable array of sixteen guns to blunt Lovell's advancing rebel infantry.

*\* Rosecrans should be disengaging from Lovell and falling back on Corinth per his original plan. This would shorten the Union lines and make defending the town easier. Instead, he has committed his two divisions to stopping Lovell and holding essentially worthless ground (no VPs), thereby leaving McKean on his own in trying to fend off 2/3 of Van Dorn's army.*

**McKean-** With his line suddenly in tatters, McKean frantically shifts Hackleman southward to cover the hole left when Maury's hard-charging rebels shattered Oglesby's brigade. McKean's brigade leaders manage to rally nine Union regiments routed in the last half hour's fighting.

#### **CONFEDERATE TURN 8** (1:30pm)

**Maury-** Delivers another devastating blow against Davies' Division by capturing 400 Federals in a series of fierce melees. Cabell and Moore catch Hackleman's brigade in a vise and scatter it. Hackleman himself is left in the trap with 52 Ill (400 men) and will have to try and cut his way out.

The only trouble for Maury so far is on his far right flank near Battery Redan D. Armstrong's dismounted cavalry troopers, untrained in fighting as infantry, are having a tough time with the Union's 14 Mo Sharpshooters who are armed with Henry repeating rifles!

**Hebert-** The last of Hebert's brigades, led by Colonel Martin, deploys into line leaving Hebert's flanks neatly aligned with Maury on the right and Lovell on the left. Three regiments are pinned by Union fire and the rebels' return fire is largely ineffectual but, like Maury, Hebert's troops are massed at the point of contact and in two successive charges they capture 300 Federals for the loss of only 100 of their own men.

Green's brigade on Hebert's left drives back parts of Crocker's and McArthur's brigades. All three of McArthur's regiments are routed and flee in panic towards Corinth.

Hebert gets a note from Maury asking him again to advance his division to cover Maury's left. This will doubtless add to Hebert's irritation since his division has already done so!

**Lovell-** Reacts to Mizner's cavalry attack by refusing his left and shifting part of Rust's brigade to strengthen this area. Hudson's Battery deploys in support. Meantime Lovell continues pressing his attack using Bowen's and Villapigue's brigades; they capture 200 Union infantry and rout several other regiments.

Lovell gets a note from Van Dorn extolling Maury's progress on the Confederate right but delivering a scathing assessment of Hebert who, he writes, "...is dragging his feet; has not even attacked yet!"

*\* A complete misperception on Van Dorn's part as, by the time the message was penned (12:30pm), Hebert's men had already overrun Battery F and wrecked McArthur's brigade.*

#### **UNION TURN 8** (1:30pm)

**Rosecrans-** Shifts Buford's brigade back towards the center and counterattacks with his right using 1,000 of Mizner's cavalry troopers and 700 infantry from Sullivan. Half the attackers are routed away by rebel fire but Mizner manages to lead 7 Kans Cav and 26 Mo in forcing 600 Confederate infantry back down Chewalla Rd and driving a wedge between Rust's and Villepigue's brigades.

**McKean-** Deploys Mower's 1,700-man brigade in the woods between Smith's Bridge Rd and Chewalla Rd, squarely in the path of Hebert's oncoming division. Oliver's three regiments are thinly spread to cover a half mile of ground along a stream to Mower's right. Hackleman extricates 52 Ill without loss while McArthur, with McKean's energetic assistance, rallies his entire brigade.

Rosecrans tells McKean to meet him in the large clearing just NW of the town to assess the situation.

*\* The Union still maintains a continuous line running from the outer works in the north (Area C) to Kossuth Rd directly west of Corinth, a distance of 2-1/2 miles. But they are stretched precariously thin and, now that Mower and Buford are committed, no reserves exist to plug any gaps. McKean remains dangerously overextended as the Confederates continue hammering him at selected points, rapidly eroding his fighting strength.*

#### **CONFEDERATE TURN 9** (2:00pm)

**Maury-** Five regiments from Moore and Cabell again nearly surround Hackleman and 52 Ill. After a heavy exchange of fire, the Union regiment is routed away.

Maury gets a message from Hebert detailing his progress and asking for information about Lovell.

**Hebert-** Continues making good progress against the Union center. His men make three separate infantry charges, capturing 200 Federals and routing two enemy regiments.

The division makes contact with Maury on the Confederate right but loses it with Lovell over on the left.

**Lovell-** (his units remain in place pending take-over of command by Fred Kraus)

#### **UNION TURN 9** (2:00pm)

**Rosecrans-** Seems at last to be making an effort to shift his divisions southward and sends a tentative jab in Hebert's direction. He places Crocker's brigade and two batteries of artillery along Chewalla Rd on his far left. He also brings a mix of regiments from Fuller, Buford and Sullivan into line on Crocker's right, backed by several batteries.

By the same token, however, Rosecrans renews his attack on Lovell's left, attempting to widen the breach created by Mizner's Cavalry. Half the assaulting infantry is routed away and Mizner's dismounted cavalry is pinned but 4 Minn overruns 7 Ky and plants itself squarely on the flank of Hudson's Battery and 9 Ark.

Crocker, meanwhile, leads 500 men forward to probe Hebert's left flank. He tangles with 400 rebels of Martin Green's brigade and drives them back several hundred yards.

**McKean-** Oglesby and Hackleman re-form their brigades in the cut timber fronting Battery Phillips. Baldwin's brigade of three regiments, supported by two batteries of guns, still holds the high ground west of Corinth. Mower holds the right-center in the woods NW of town, the only fresh brigade McKean has available. McArthur and Oliver are posted on the far right in contact with Rosecrans' troops along Chewalla Rd.

McKean meets with Rosecrans in the clearing and quickly outlines his brigade positions to him. He points out Hebert's thrust along the Memphis & Charleston rail line and tells the general that, "reinforcements near Battery Williams are urgently needed." He also informs Rosecrans that four of his brigades are "badly battered and nearly routed".

### **CONFEDERATE TURN 10** (2:30pm)

**Maury-** Pauses to realign his front ranks and rally several routed units. There is little or no action in this area except for a cautious advance by Armstrong's dismounted cavalry and half of Phifer's brigade to try and outflank Battery D.

*\* Battery D was abandoned by the Union over an hour ago but, because of the intervening woods, Maury is not aware of this.*

**Lovell-** Attempting to provide close artillery support for his infantry, Lovell orders McClung's Battery unlimbered within 75yds of 4 Minn (Buford) and 7 Kans Cav (Mizner). But before they can even deploy, the rebel gunners are decimated by Union fire and half of them are killed or wounded.

Lovell sends Villepigue's and Bowen's brigades in a right hook against the Chewalla Rd line. They run into two concentrations of Union artillery in the woods and quickly lose 300 men under a murderous fire of canister and grapeshot. Braving this storm of fire, Bowen's replacement leads 700 men in a charge against two Union batteries protected by infantry. An ongoing melee erupts over control of the guns.

Lovell also counterattacks Mizner's Cavalry on the Confederate far left, routing two enemy regiments away.

**Hebert-** With Lovell's advance obviously lagging, Hebert makes a fateful decision to break contact on his left in order to press on with his own attack. Green's brigade therefore sidesteps Crocker's men defending along Chewalla Rd and hurries forward to catch up with the rest of the division.

Hebert's three other brigades again sweep forward, engaging both McArthur's and Mower's brigades head-on, driving two Union regiments back and capturing 200 Federals.

*\* In choosing to ignore his open left flank and maintain the pace of his own advance, Hebert is taking a calculated risk that his division will reach the outskirts of Corinth before Rosecrans can react in time.*

### **UNION TURN 10** (2:30pm)

**McKean-** As McArthur tries to extricate 21 Mo from being enveloped by Colbert's brigade, the regiment is fired upon by three rebel units, routing it 400yds back. Upon seeing this, the rest of McArthur's brigade spontaneously retreats, with 16 Wisc and 17 Wisc eventually routing into the clearing NW of Corinth and carrying 21 Mo (Oliver) away with them. McKean's entire right flank simply dissolves, opening a 400yd gap in the Union center between Rosecrans' left and McKean's right.

Elsewhere, Mower's brigade recovers from being pushed back and re-aligns itself in the woods fronting Battery Robinett. McKean orders Baldwin to pull his brigade back from the high ground and into the cut timber just below the crest so they are protected from rebel artillery fire. Left to defend the position are two batteries posted along Kossuth Rd and the 14 Mo Sharpshooter regiment armed with Henry repeating rifles.

**Rosecrans-** Witnesses the complete rout of McArthur's brigade into the clearing behind him, a total of four regiments (one from Oliver). Thoroughly alarmed, Rosecrans hurriedly tells McKean he will send Crocker's brigade in his direction and also tells him he will counterattack SW towards the rail line (where he presumes Hebert's left flank rests).

Meantime, the fight with Lovell's Division continues unabated. Fuller's and Buford's brigade curl in behind Bowen's right flank, forcing 15 Miss to retreat. A few hundred yards further north, however, the Federals lose four artillery pieces despite heavily reinforcing the melee that swirled around the two batteries.

*\* With the collapse of McArthur's brigade, the two wings of the Union army are now separated and Hebert's Division is unwittingly widening that gap. Neither side is aware of it though because of the densely wooded terrain. In hindsight, this will be the turning point of the game.*

### **CONFEDERATE TURN 11** (3:00pm)

**Maury-** Cabell and Moore advance their brigades to the tree-line, only a mile west of Corinth. Cabell himself leads 600 men into the cut timber near Battery Phillips and engages two Union regiments. The Federals are driven back but the rebels take 200 casualties and Cabell is badly wounded.

**Hebert-** Continues pushing straight ahead, meleeing and routing several Union regiments. Colonel Colbert is killed during one of these melees. Hebert orders the entire division to execute a right wheel but because Green's brigade is furthest from the "pivot", they are left trailing far behind the rest of the division where a half-mile gap has now opened up between Lovell's right flank and Hebert's left.

Hebert dashes off a note to Van Dorn, voicing his growing doubts that he can take his objectives before nightfall. He asks if he should switch to a more attainable goal. He also asks where Maury is and when his division will attack. Frustrated over a lack of information, Hebert complains that, "Neither officer (*Lovell and Maury*) has communicated to me his progress nor his intentions."

*\* Hebert expected Maury to have already cleared the high ground west of Corinth. When Hebert's cavalry reported this position still held by the enemy, Hebert worried that Maury's Division was lagging.*

Hebert receives a message from Van Dorn re-assuring him that his left flank is covered and urging him to "keep driving forward."

**Lovell-** Lovell's men rout away most of Mizner's cavalry on the left but suffer yet another repulse (this time Bowen's brigade) on the right. Bowen and two regiments totaling 700 men (39 Miss and 6 Miss) are left dangerously isolated four hundred yards ahead of the rest of the brigade and could easily be surrounded and captured en masse.

### **UNION TURN 11** (3:00pm)

**McKean-** With four of his six brigades now wrecked, McKean must increasingly rely on the Union battery redans (representing Corinth's last line of defense) to stem the rebel advance. They quickly make their presence felt by concentrating their fire on 21 Ark as it struggles through the cut timber near Battery Phillips.

**Rosecrans-** Assembles 3,000 men from the brigades of Crocker, Sullivan, Fuller and Buford but the promised attack on Hebert's left flank fails to come off. Instead of simply advancing SW in straight-forward fashion, Crocker's brigade (whose 1,400 men make up the bulk of the assaulting force) engages in time-wasting behind-the-lines maneuvering. Only two regiments from Fuller's brigade actually advance: a mere 130yds beyond the start-line! No contact is made with any of Hebert's troops.

*\* It's difficult to understand Rosecrans' hesitation here. He may have wanted to wait for all his troops to reach their assigned jump-off positions before advancing. Or he may have had doubts about the assaulting column's offensive abilities. Sullivan's brigade is already wrecked and Fuller's nearly so, making them both unsuitable for an aggressive attack. Rosecrans' best brigade (Buford's 1,800 men) is unblooded but still partially embroiled with Lovell's Division over on the Union right.*

Buford's brigade deals Bowen's men a final repulse by destroying one rebel regiment and scattering another.

Rosecrans receives a note from McKean recommending he send Crocker's brigade to a position just west of Corinth (a march of almost two miles!). He also states that, "Your southwesterly attack should take some pressure off my units."

### **CONFEDERATE TURN 12** (3:30pm)

**Lovell-** Pulls his left back and realigns his brigades. He extends Villepigue to cover the center and deploys Watson's Battery on the right to prop up Bowen's shattered brigade. None of Lovell's men are currently in contact with the enemy.

**Maury-** Leads Cabell's and Moore's brigades into the cut timber near Battery Phillips to attack Hackleman and Oglesby. Moore orders a charge against 2 Iowa, capturing the remainder of the regiment. Cabell's brigade, however, is repulsed and two of its regiments are routed back into the woods.

Phifer's brigade strikes at McKean's extreme left along Kossuth Rd, driving off 14 Mo Sharpshooters.

Armstrong's dismounted cavalry advances through the woods against Battery D only to discover it already abandoned by the Federals.

**Hebert-** Colbert, Martin and Green surge forward again to engage McKean (due to a lapse in command control, four of Gates' five regiments are left behind). Two of Green's regiments run into some of Crocker's men and two batteries of guns posted along Chewalla Rd and both Confederate regiments are quickly routed away after taking 100 casualties.

Hebert gets a note from Lovell (the first he has heard from him since noon) telling him he is "unable to cover your northern flank. Will try and catch up. Heavy fighting. Many casualties."

### **UNION TURN 12** (3:30pm)

**Rosecrans-** Without a single regiment in contact with the Confederates, Rosecrans has complete freedom of action. But again he hesitates and the brigades of Crocker, Sullivan and Fuller essentially remain in place. Only Buford's brigade moves forward with 4 Minn bumping into some of Lovell's men near Chewalla Rd. The Federals fix bayonets and charge but both sides suffer a repulse.

*\* Even had Rosecrans' counterattack stepped off in the direction he intends (SW towards the rail line) it would have been left "swinging at air" because Hebert's division has already pushed beyond Rosecrans' left flank. Rosecrans would now have to strike directly south which would put him in the rear of Hebert's brigades. Almost certainly the sudden*

*appearance of strong Union forces behind Hebert's battle line would cause him to either halt or significantly weaken his advance against McKean but the time necessary to accomplish such a move is fast running out.*

**McKean-** Tries to re-form McArthur's and Oliver's brigades in the clearing NW of Corinth but they are both driven back into the woods by rebel fire. McArthur's brigade is again completely routed though he eventually succeeds in rallying everyone.

On the positive side, heavy fire from the Union battery redans is slowing the rebel attack, pinning or routing away most of Moore's and Cabell's Confederate regiments in the cut timber.

On the extreme left, 14 Mo Sharpshooters drive off half of Phifer's small brigade leaving it wrecked and incapable of further offensive action.

### **CONFEDERATE TURN 13** (4:00pm)

**Maury-** Pulls almost all of his infantry back into the sheltering woods and away from the Union artillery fire which routs two regiments and inflicts 100 casualties on another. Maury's five artillery batteries engage the Federal guns but their counter-battery fire is ineffective.

**Hebert-** Green's and Martin's brigades race across the clearing NW of Corinth, rapidly taking ground and closing within a half mile of the town. They rout Oliver's brigade but an attempt to overrun 17 Wisc (McArthur) is repulsed and Colonel Martin is taken prisoner.

Hebert's divisional right wheel is nearly complete and his men have just about reached the inner line of cut timber just outside Corinth. The gap between Hebert's left and Lovell's right is now a mile and a third wide and still both the Federals and the Confederates are unaware of it!

**Lovell-** His men get a much-needed rest as no Federal troops are in contact with them anywhere along the line.

### **UNION TURN 13** (4:00pm)

**Rosecrans-** Using Mizner's Cavalry to screen his right, Rosecrans at last begins moving his infantry ponderously forward. Too late, though. Hebert has already passed beyond the Federal line of advance and Rosecrans' men find the woods empty of rebels. A single regiment (48 Ind/Buford) stumbles into contact with some of Bowen's infantry and is quickly routed away by rebel artillery fire.

*\* Rosecrans is moving blindly through the woods with no clear idea of Hebert's whereabouts. He has not scouted his left nor attempted to link back up with McKean's right flank. Were he to send a cavalry unit southward down Chewalla Rd, back towards Corinth, it would quickly run into Hebert's supply wagons only a half-mile distant.*

**McKean-** McArthur's and Hackleman's brigades are routed away by Confederate fire (*both undergo Brigade Retreat*). McKean pulls Mower back to defend the immediate approaches to Corinth. The battery redans must largely fend for themselves as they are left virtually devoid of infantry support by the retreat of Hackleman.

*\* With five of his 6 brigades BCE'd, McKean is finding it nearly impossible to maintain a stable line. His only hope lies in Rosecrans' promised counterattack or the arrival of nightfall, still an hour and a half away.*

Total Losses after Turn 13 (4:00pm)

	<u>Killed &amp; Wounded</u>	<u>Captured</u>	<u>Total Casualties</u>	<u>Guns Lost</u>	<u>Leader Losses</u>
CONFEDERATE	5,900	600	6,500	3	2 (k) 2 (w) 1 (c)
UNION	5,400	3,100	8,500	26	1 (w)

#### CONFEDERATE TURN 14 (4:30pm)

**Maury-** Personally leads five regiments from Moore's and Cabell's brigades into the cut timber fronting Batteries Williams and Phillips. Unlike his earlier well-executed attacks, however, this one is fragmented and badly handled. Of the 2,800 infantry available in the two brigades, only 1,200 emerge from the woods into the open ground. The other 1,600 are left straggling through the woods or sheltering behind the high ground near Smith's Bridge Rd.

The cut timber greatly hinders the advancing five regiments, leaving them half way between the woods and the battery redans. Every Federal battery within range opens fire on the hapless Confederates and, in the storm of fire that follows, 300 men are killed and Cabell's replacement is wounded. Two of Moore's regiments end up 300yds beyond the main line of battle, leaving them dangerously exposed and isolated.

**Lovell-** Rust's and Villapigue's brigades move forward to probe Rosecrans' right. Rust's men advance over 700yds before running into Mizner's dismounted cavalry deployed along a stream bank. The two sides exchange fire with negligible results.

**Hebert-** Turns his division southward to attack the Union battery redans. Green's and Martin's brigades reach the Mobile & Ohio rail line and deploy to protect Hebert's left flank, only 650yds from Corinth. Battle is soon joined and, in a furious exchange of fire, Union Brigadier General John McArthur is killed.

But the Federals aren't ready to cave in just yet. Martin's brigade is quickly wrecked by Union fire and executes a general retreat. Two of his regiments break and rout into the clearing behind them. Two of Green's regiments soon follow suit, leaving Hebert's entire left in shambles.

Hebert has better success on his right where the brigades of Colbert and Gates come flooding out of the woods, making a dash towards Battery Robinett. Colbert's replacement orders the 400 men of 3 La to fix bayonets. Pointing his sword at the earthen ramparts less than 100yds away, he yells at the men to charge at the double-quick. In minutes they are clambering up and over the redan walls. After a brief hand-to-hand fight with the Federal artillerists, the rebels prevail and all three battery guns are captured intact.

#### UNION TURN 14 (4:30pm)

**Rosecrans-** Against no opposition, Crocker and Sullivan lead 2,400 men southwest and reach the Memphis & Charleston rail line. But the Union attack is badly split when Fuller and Buford veer northwest with their 1,900 men and again run into Lovell's extreme right.

Though Buford is wounded in the ensuing fight, the Federals rout 15 Miss and outflank Bowen's line, compelling the entire brigade to retreat. Two of Bowen's regiments then rout and the rest are thrown back nearly 700yds.

Over on Buford's right, a hundred of Mizner's dismounted cavalry troopers manage to rout two of Villepigue's infantry regiments posted astride Chewalla Rd. This, combined with Bowen's retreat, collapses Lovell's entire right flank. Only Watson's six-gun battery is left to try and hold the Federals back.

*\* Because of the heavily wooded terrain, Rosecrans can't see the complete disarray his attack on Lovell has caused.*

**McKean-** Tries to re-form McArthur's and Oliver's brigades in the clearing NW of Corinth. Mower's brigade retreats en masse away from Battery Robinett. Meantime, three batteries (including Battery Phillips) pour fire upon 23 Ark and 35 Miss, routing them both back into the cut timber.

### **CONFEDERATE TURN 15** (5:00pm)

**Maury-** Aside from lobbing artillery shells at the Union battery redans, Maury makes no further effort to assist Hebert's attack. Nor does he attempt to put any pressure on the Union far right flank, despite the fact that only 200 Federals currently occupy the high ground near Smith's Bridge Road.

**Lovell-** Attempts to rally his shattered right flank. Watson's Battery wheels its guns about and delivers a devastating volley of double-shotted canister against Buford's 59 Ind. 200 of 500 attacking Federals are left dead or wounded and the rest are routed away. 4 Minn is caught in the stampede, gives ground, then routs too. Rust's men continue sparring with Mizner's dismounted Federal cavalry troopers but neither side gains any advantage.

**Hebert-** With half of Green's brigade still lagging and Martin's brigade wrecked, Hebert has only Gates' and Colbert's brigades to continue the assault against the Union battery redans. He sends a diversionary attack in against Battery Phillips but his real goal is Battery Williams in the center of the Union line.

Hebert himself takes sword in hand and leads 3 Mo forward. Major General Sterling "Pap" Price also finally reaches the front line, goaded by Hebert into leading 2 Mo in a charge against a lone Union howitzer; the howitzer is sited on a hilltop adjacent to Battery Williams where it is delivering an effective harassing fire. In the ensuing fight, Price is felled from his horse and severely wounded by artillery shrapnel. He will survive but his military career is ended at Corinth.

Hebert and his men are pinned down in front of Battery Williams while two more of Gates' regiments are routed away from Battery Phillips. Only 2 Mo manages to clamber up the slope and at least capture the Union howitzer.

Colbert's men succeed in clearing the area to the left of Battery Williams, forcing Hackleman's brigade to retreat en masse. When the smoke clears, 1,700 rebels are still left surrounding Battery Williams, whose three 30lb'er Parrott guns are likely doomed to capture.

### **UNION TURN 15** (5:00pm)

**Rosecrans-** Stung by Buford's sudden repulse, Rosecrans orders Crocker's and Sullivan's brigades to halt their flanking advance and puts Fuller's and Buford's brigades into defensive postures. This leaves Mizner's dismounted cavalry, on the far right, as his only units still in contact with Lovell's infantry.

*\* Lovell is down to 4,400 effectives versus Rosecrans' 6,300.*

One of Rosecrans' aides returns, having failed to reach McKean. He tells the general that Purdy Rd, just north of Corinth, has been cut by rebel cavalry. An aide from McKean also arrives with a short message clearly outlining McKean's desperate situation around Corinth: "*Reinforcements needed. My units are nearly decimated.*"

But there is only another half hour of daylight left and therefore no possibility of Rosecrans' men reaching McKean's positions in time to help.

**McKean-** Both Oliver's brigade, defending just north of Corinth, and Hackleman's brigade (near the Tishomingo Hotel) break and flee for the rear under a hail of rebel musketry.

The climax of the day's battle centers around the three 30lb'er Parrott guns of Battery Williams sited on a hilltop 1,000yds west of the town. Clustered within 50yds of the earthen parapet are 1,700 Confederates from the brigades of Colbert and Gates with General Hebert himself leading them.

Behind the hilltop, 57 Ill of Baldwin's brigade, 1 Mo Art. and Battery Williams itself open up a deadly fusilade against the mass of rebel troops and within twenty minutes the ground is carpeted with the bodies of 400 rebels.

Over on the far right, near Battery Powell, accurate Union artillery fire eases the threat to McKean's flank by routing all four of Confederate General Martin's regiments and leaving that brigade utterly wrecked.

*\* On paper, the Confederates have two divisions (Maury's and Hebert's) totaling 8,700 men facing McKean's 2,700 Federals around Corinth, odds of 3:1 numerically. In real terms, however, Maury's reluctance to venture beyond the woodline has essentially removed his division from the battle, leaving Hebert's 5,000 men to carry on the fight alone. With Green's 1,600-man brigade still lagging, Hebert is actually attacking with just 3,400 men, making the odds much nearer 1:1.*

*This is partly why McKean has been able to conduct such an able defense of the town despite five of his six brigades being wrecked. That, plus the powerful Union battery redans, has gone far to offset the tattered condition of McKean's command.*

#### **CONFEDERATE TURN 16** (5:30pm)

**Lovell-** With Bowen's brigade rallied, Lovell orders it forward again to re-form his right flank and protect Watson's Battery. Villepigue occupies the center astride Chewalla Rd while Rust continues "entertaining" Mizner's dismounted Federal cavalry on the left.

**Maury-** His artillery pours a heavy fire into Battery Williams, wrecking one of its 30lb'er Parrott guns. Meantime, some of Moore's infantry, firing from the tree-line, rout a Union battery crew positioned near Battery Phillips. But Maury's brigades make no effort to advance against the redans.

**Hebert-** Orders eight guns brought up to defend the newly won Battery Robinett and protect the left flank of his main assault column. Adams' Cavalry works its way behind Battery Powell north of Corinth, drives off the battery crew after a brief melee and occupies the redan, capturing four guns.

Hebert himself, putting his hat through his sword and swinging it over his head, leads 400 men from 3 Mo in a wild last-ditch charge against Battery Williams. Yipping and screaming like wild animals, the rebels swarm over the earthen redan and quickly capture the two remaining guns and their crews.

To the right of Hebert, Brigadier General Gates leads another 400 men from 1 Mo Cav in an attack on Battery Phillips. The crew is compelled to surrender, giving up a huge 8-inch howitzer intact.

Green's 1,600-man brigade has at last come up but, with nightfall imminent, it won't have time to deploy and exploit the gains already made by Gates' and Colbert's men. No matter. The Confederates have achieved their primary objectives and it is now probable that Union forces must withdraw during the night, leaving the field to the rebels.

*In less than 30 minutes, Hebert has secured the capture of three more Union redans, completely overrunning the inner defenses around Corinth and leaving the town open to easy capture. A triumph for Southern arms.*

## **UNION TURN 16** (5:30pm)

**Rosecrans-** Crocker's and Buford's brigades continue probing southwest and west through the woods, still hoping to make contact with rebel forces but there are none to be found. Mizner's Cavalry again skirmishes with Rust's brigade.

Along Purdy Road, a mile east of Rosecrans' position, 2 Iowa Cav runs into a Confederate cavalry patrol and captures it. This belated effort by Rosecrans to scout the Union left towards Corinth comes far too late in the day, however.

**McKean-** Baldwin's brigade is BCE'd when 7 Ill takes 100 casualties while withdrawing from their position near Battery Phillips. All six of McKean's brigades are now wrecked.

Too weak to counterattack and retake the lost battery redans, McKean must content himself with pulling back his battered commands into a loose perimeter around Corinth and wait for nightfall.

*\* A tally of Victory Points indicates the rebels have won a decisive victory.*

## **AFTERMATH** (purely speculative)

**Rosecrans-** Is removed from command following the battle and offered a lesser administrative post in Washington. Feeling betrayed by his military peers and weary of political intrigue, Rosecrans chooses to resign instead and returns to private life where he goes on to become a successful author and novelist.

**McKean-** Despite being on the losing side, McKean receives praise for his tenacious defense of Corinth in the face of heavy odds. He is eventually promoted to major general and fights with distinction at the battles of Chattanooga and Nashville. He serves in the Union Army til war's end, later moving out West and becoming a schoolteacher.

\* \* \* \* \*

**Van Dorn-** Emboldened by his success at Corinth, the ever-impetuous Van Dorn makes an ill-advised pursuit of Rosecrans' defeated army. When informed that Grant has already sent the newly appointed General Ord strong reinforcements by rail, Van Dorn retorts, "I would fight them if the Devil himself was leading them!" He is felled by a sniper's bullet at the Battle of Selmer's Creek on October 25, 1862 where his Army of the West suffers a crushing defeat.

**Maury-** Comes under harsh criticism from Hebert for his failure to support the afternoon assault against the Union battery redans. Despite this, his reputation as a tough resourceful leader remains untarnished. He later joins Bragg's Army of the Tennessee and fights under Hood during the battles around Atlanta. Following the war, he purchases land in California and establishes a profitable ranching venture.

**Hebert-** Argues after the battle that many of his men were needlessly slaughtered due to Maury's deliberate inaction during the afternoon fighting. A board of inquiry investigates his accusation but the issue is quietly dropped when President Davis, a close friend of Maury's, personally intervenes. Hebert emigrates to Canada after the war to pursue his interest in the fledgling art of landscape photography. His soaring and majestic photographic portraits of the Canadian wilderness are much sought after by collectors today.

**Lovell-** Though he does not receive the same adulation as Hebert for his role in the battle, Lovell's contribution to victory does not go unnoticed. Lovell continues serving the Confederacy in a variety of roles until the final surrender at Appomattox Courthouse. Disillusioned with life in a defeated South, he travels extensively in Europe after the war, finally settling in Sweden where he lives the remainder of his life.

## ***FINAL COMMENTARY***

### **THE FEDERALS**

**Rosecrans-** Began the battle with a good plan, intending a slow fighting withdrawal towards the town, but failed to adhere to it once the shooting started. Instead, he allowed himself to become embroiled with Lovell's Division, fighting for many hours over ground of no real consequence to either side.

He did successfully stop Lovell's advance but, in doing so, allowed the other two Confederate divisions to concentrate against McKean and eventually capture their prime objective: Corinth and the rail junction. That was where the majority of Victory Point hexes lay and it was up to Rosecrans to coordinate the two wings of his army to ensure they remained in Union control.

When Rosecrans correctly guessed the rebels were bypassing his position (a suspicion he openly voiced on Turn 13), he should have immediately disengaged from Lovell and withdrawn towards Corinth or turned south and struck vigorously at Hebert's exposed flank. The latter action almost certainly would have forced Hebert to recoil from his advance, thereby taking a great deal of pressure off McKean. Possibly enough to force the rebels into a second day of fighting.

But Rosecrans was a cautious and deliberate tactician. He waited too long to initiate such a move and by the time he finally got his troops assembled and moving, the opportunity for decisive action had passed.

**McKean-** Conducted a skillful defense of the Union left and center right up until the very end. One can argue he should have contracted his over-extended lines sooner, but that would have required Rosecrans to fill the resulting vacuum, a move that never occurred even after the Confederates forcibly separated the two Union wings. McKean therefore had to labor with too few men for too long of a front and the result was a steady erosion of his fighting strength until all his brigades were completely wrecked.

He struggled doggedly throughout the battle to maintain a cohesive defense, frantically patching holes and trying to anticipate his opponents' next move. When he realized the rebels weren't putting any pressure against his extreme left, he wisely pulled Baldwin's brigade back from its exposed position on the high ground west of Corinth, leaving the defense of that area to a single regiment of sharpshooters and two batteries of artillery (echoes of Lee at Antietam).

In the end, McKean's exhausted divisions were unable to hold the ground they fought so hard to defend. But it was not for lack of trying.

## THE CONFEDERATES

**Van Dorn-** Devised a straightforward plan of attack that worked well after a near-disastrous start. Van Dorn benefited from having three able and aggressive division commanders who didn't lack for initiative and needed little or no guidance once the fighting began. Van Dorn may have remained a bit too aloof, however. He spent most of the battle near Maury's headquarters and this often left him out of touch with events occurring on the Confederate left and center. Later in the day, he failed to prod Maury into making a more determined attack against the Union left at a time when Confederate fortunes hung precariously in the balance. This omission of command might have resulted in a costly setback had events not gone quite as well as they did.

**Lovell-** His aggressive opening attack at the battle's outset contributed greatly to the final outcome. By pinning the Union right wing for several crucial hours, Lovell enabled Hebert and Maury to bypass Rosecrans and engage McKean's over-extended command at superior odds. Even after his division was worn down by casualties, Lovell continued making aggressive probes where possible, thereby keeping Rosecrans off-balance and even more prone to caution than he might otherwise have been.

**Hebert-** Despite the delay caused when some of Lovell's troops routed into his lines and touched off a brief panic among his own troops, Hebert efficiently shifted his division to Lovell's right as planned and quickly captured his first objective. Maury accused him of "having the slows", but an examination of battlefield movement shows that Hebert placed his division exactly where it was supposed to be. Once Hebert got all of his brigades deployed, he became an implacable force on the battlefield, driving McKean's men steadily back towards Corinth and widening the gap that opened up between the two Union wings.

Hebert's decision to break from Lovell and press on towards Corinth (thereafter ignoring his exposed left flank) was a bold choice and paved the way to victory for the Confederates. It was a choice fraught with danger, however. Against more competent Union leadership it might have led to disaster. That it didn't was largely due to Rosecrans' fixation on containing Lovell's Division and his failure to promptly strike at Hebert's flank.

Once Hebert reached the open ground just northwest of Corinth, he determinedly flung his available brigades against the powerful Union battery redans, showing flashes of tactical elan by arranging feints to draw off Union fire so his other regiments could mass against a particular gun position and overrun it. Certainly no one could question his courage after personally leading two separate charges against Battery Williams. His able handling of the division ultimately clinched a first-day victory for the Confederates.

**Maury-** Fought extremely well in the early going, effectively massing his troops at key points and delivering a series of punishing assaults against McKean. But he faltered at the end, failing to press home an attack against the Union battery redans with the two relatively fresh brigades he had available.

Having borne the brunt of the early fighting and taken considerable casualties, Maury waited impatiently for Hebert's troops to make their presence felt on the battlefield. By the time they did, however, Maury decided he'd done enough and after leading a brief uncoordinated foray against the inner redans, he seemed content to watch as Hebert's men carried the attack in the waning hours of the afternoon.

An advance by Maury's brigades across the high ground west of Corinth would have greatly supported Hebert's Division by threatening McKean's weak left flank and might even have collapsed the Union line sooner had such an attack been vigorously pressed.

As it was, Maury's growing disinterest and inaction allowed McKean to concentrate his brigades against Hebert's oncoming troops in a last-ditch attempt to save the Union battery redans from capture. Had they succeeded, the Confederates might well have faced a second day of brutal combat under the scorching Mississippi sun.

**\* Corinth \***  
Confederate Victory Points  
(after Union Turn 16)

Control of:

Battery D	1 VP
Battery E	1 VP
Battery F	1 VP
Battery Phillips	3 VPs
Battery Powell	3 VPs
Battery Robinett	3 VPs

Battery Williams	3 VPs	
<i>Gen. Price</i> (wounded)	-1 VP	
Union batteries lost	7 VPs	
CSA batteries lost	-1 VP	
Union brigades BCE'd	11 VPs	( 8 brigades )
CSA brigades BCE'd	-6 VPs	( 4 brigades )
Fewer CSA casualties	<u>3 VPs</u>	
Total VPs, First Day	28 VPs	(minimum 20 VPs needed for First Day victory)

\* CORINTH CASUALTIES \*

CONFEDERATE:	<u>Killed &amp; Wounded</u>		<u>Captured</u>		<u>Guns Lost</u>	
	(Inf.)	(Cav.)	(Inf.)	(Cav.)	(Dest.)	(Capt.)
<b>Hebert's Division</b>	2,100	100	300	100	1	-
<b>Lovell's Division</b>	3,000	100	300	100	-	-
<b>Maury's Division</b>	<u>1,800</u>	<u>200</u>	-	-	<u>2</u>	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	6,900	400	600	200	3	-

TOTAL LOSSES: 8,100

UNION:	<u>Killed &amp; Wounded</u>	<u>Captured</u>	<u>Guns Lost</u>
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	(Inf.)	(Cav.)	(Inf.)	(Cav.)	(Dest.)	(Capt.)
Davies' Division	1,400	-	1,200	-	1	5
McKean's Division	2,500	-	900	100	2	20
Hamilton's Division	900	-	400	-	-	10
Stanley's Division	800	100	500	-	-	6
Mizner's Cavalry	-	<u>500</u>	-	<u>100</u>	-	-
<b>TOTALS</b>	5,600	600	3,000	200	3	41

**TOTAL LOSSES: 9,400 men**

**\* CORINTH CASUALTIES \***

**% DIVISION LOSS**

<b>CONFEDERATE:</b>	<b><u>TOTAL MEN</u></b>	<b><u>CASUALTIES</u></b>	<b><u>% LOSS</u></b>
Hebert's Division	7,500	2,600	34.7%
Lovell's Division	7,800	3,500	44.9%
Maury's Division	<u>5,800</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>34.5%</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	21,100	8,100	38.4%

**% DIVISION LOSS**

<b>UNION:</b>	<b><u>TOTAL MEN</u></b>	<b><u>CASUALTIES</u></b>	<b><u>% LOSS</u></b>
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Davies' Division	3,600	2,600	72.2%
McKean's Division	4,900	3,500	71.4%
Hamilton's Division	3,900	1,300	33.3%
Stanley's Division	3,700	1,400	37.8%
Mizner's Cavalry	<u>2,100</u>	<u>600</u>	<u>28.6%</u>
TOTALS	18,200	9,400	51.6%

<u>LEADER LOSSES</u>	<u>Killed</u>	<u>Wounded</u>	<u>Captured</u>
CONFEDERATE:	( 2 )	( 4 )	( 1 )
UNION:	( 1 )	( 2 )	( - )