

WAR OFFICE DISPATCHES '65 - 1

WAR OFFICE DISPATCH #24



MAR. 4, 1865

Headline: Lincoln promises no malice at second inaugural

Supporting details:

1. As President Lincoln took his oath at inaugural ceremonies in front of the Capitol building Saturday, he held out the olive branch to Confederates.
2. His second inaugural speech had several very memorable phrases in it. He said, "With malice toward none; with charity for all...let us strive on to finish the work we are in; to bind up the Nation's wounds."

Result: A forgiving leader hoping to restore the Union, Lincoln takes office for the second time.

WAR OFFICE DISPATCH #25



APR. 3, 1865

Headline: Federals take Petersburg; occupy Richmond

Supporting details:

1. Under the tenacious leadership of U.S. Grant, Union armies have finally beaten Rebel forces under R.E. Lee and captured the region around Petersburg and Richmond, the rebel capital.
2. The nine-month siege of Petersburg cost 60,000 Union troops in the first month and came just after the gritty slugfest at Cold Harbor.
3. On Monday, April 3, 1865, Union troops entered and occupied the Confederate capital. The war is just about over.

Result: Grant beat Lee at Petersburg and occupies the Rebel capital.

WAR OFFICE DISPATCH #26



APR. 9, 1865

Headline: Lee surrenders to Grant

Supporting details:

1. Confederate General Robert E. Lee has officially surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Union General Ulysses S. Grant.
2. The three-hour meeting, ending with the surrender, took place on Palm Sunday in Appomattox Court House, VA.
3. Terms included surrender of the Confederate Army, and turning over of Rebel arms and supplies. The Rebels were allowed to keep their private horses and arms. Lee did not give up his sword.

Result: The surrender at Appomattox by Lee ends organized Confederate fighting.

WAR OFFICE DISPATCHES '65 - 2

WAR OFFICE DISPATCH #27

Headline: Assassin's bullet kills President Lincoln



APR. 15, 1865

Supporting details:

1. News has spread throughout the nation that President Lincoln, the architect of the Union victory, was shot and killed as he attended a play at Ford's Theater in the Capital last night.
2. The deed was done at about 10:20 p.m. on April 14 during a performance of "Our American Cousin." Lincoln was in the company of his wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and a young couple, Major H.R. Rathbone and Miss Clara Harris. The assassin appears to be actor John Wilkes Booth, who fired one pistol shot at close range into Lincoln's skull while the president sat in a special box above the stage.

Result: The nation mourns the death of its beloved president, who died at 7:22 a.m. on April 15.

WAR OFFICE DISPATCH #28

Headline: Lincoln's assassin captured and killed



APR. 26, 1865

Supporting details:

1. John Wilkes Booth, the alleged assassin of President Lincoln 12 days ago, was killed early today by Federal troops. Booth was shot when he rushed out of a burning barn.
2. The barn was set ablaze when a defiant and ranting Booth refused to come out.
3. Without orders, Sergeant Boston Corbett, who was almost as unstable as Booth, shot and killed the fugitive actor.
4. David Herold, one of Booth's fellow conspirators, had earlier come out before the barn was set on fire.

Result: Booth, Lincoln's alleged assassin, is dead. His last words: "Tell mother that I died for my country."