FOR YOUR SAFETY

Do not allow your visit to be spoiled by an accident. While every effort has been made to provide for your safety, there are still hazards which require your alertness and vigilance. Exercise common sense and caution.

Pea Ridge National Military Park, which is 16 kilometers (10 miles) northeast of Rogers, Ark., is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Pea Ridge, AR 72751, is in immediate charge. There is a $1 per car entrance fee.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, park and recreation areas, and for the wise use of all those resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
They ran into intensive fire that killed two generals, and the ranking colonel was captured. With their command structure practically destroyed, the Confederates scattered from the field. Some simply deserted. Most, however, regrouped and made their way toward Elkhorn Tavern about 3 kilometers (2 miles) to the east.

The other prong of the attack—Price's Missourians—fared considerably better. Attacking east of the ridge, they slowly but steadily pushed the Federals back until, at nightfall, they held Elkhorn Tavern and the crucial Telegraph and Huntsville Roads. During the night the survivors of the Leetown fight joined them.

On the morning of March 8 Curtis counterattacked in the tavern area. His massed artillery severely punished the Confederates and his concerted infantry and cavalry attacks began to crumple their defenses. Still, the Confederates held. But ammunition was running short. If the wagon train had moved up with the reserve ammunition, Van Dorn might have seized victory. Unaccountably, the wagons turned around and drove away from the battle. Van Dorn disengaged and marched eastward, down the Huntsville Road, away from Elkhorn Tavern. A few hundred stragglers pushed their way down Telegraph Road, and the Federals, believing them to be the main force, pursued them, allowing the bulk of Van Dorn's column to continue an orderly retreat. The battle of Pea Ridge was over. Missouri was safe in Union hands, and most of the Union and Confederate troops moved east of the Mississippi to fight in other campaigns.
Pea Ridge—the battle that saved Missouri for the Union—was a strange battle: one that saw Southern troops attacking from the north, and soldiers from Arkansas and Texas fighting alongside French-speaking Louisianans and Indian regiments serving under their own officers. Moreover, the Missouri State Guardsmen who fought for the Southern cause were not yet officially in the Confederate service. The Union soldiers came from Missouri, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. And many spoke German as their first language.
March 7, 1862

Pea Ridge brought to an end a campaign that began on Christmas Day, 1861. On that day Brig. Gen. Samuel R. Curtis assumed command of the Federal Department of Missouri. And, with more zeal than his predecessors, began pushing Confederate forces out of the State. In mid-February, 1862, the Missouri State Guard, commanded by Maj. Gen. Sterling Price, crossed into Arkansas.

In the Boston Mountains, south of Fayetteville, the Guard began a major push. Brig. Gen. McCulloch's Confederates were forced to retreat from the combined force of 16,000 and on March 4 headed northward, intending to strike into Missouri. His goal. St. Louis. But between that city and Van Dorn were killed near the north boundaries of Little Sugar Creek, Arkansas.

Creek about 3 kilometers (2 miles) to the bluffs overlooking Little Sugar Creek, this spring The site of the old Winton cottage. In 1862, the Winton family lived on this hill overlooking this spring. The Winton house you see now dates from the early 1800's and probably stands on the site of the old Winton cottage. Union troops drew water from the springs.

4. Leetown Battlefield

The thunder of cannon fire and the crash of musketry filled the air in these fields and woods in 1862. Smoke, confusion, and the mingled shouts and curses of the struggling men added to the混乱 scene. Union soldiers at the head of the Union army were digging in on the bluffs overlooking Little Sugar Creek, Arkansas. Gen. Curtis believed that any Confederates attempting to sweep down from the South and destroy the Union army would be met with fresh troops. He was right. The Confederates withdrew to the north and east. Curtis assumed command of the combined force of 16,000 and on March 4 headed northward, intending to strike into Missouri. His goal. St. Louis. But between that city and Van Dorn were killed near the north boundaries of Little Sugar Creek, Arkansas.

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