



Gettysburg: Day 1

July 1st, 1863:

Buford resisted the Confederate attacks while awaiting the arrival of reinforcements from General John F. Reynolds' I Corp. Putting his cavalry soldiers on McPherson's Ridge and ordering a skirmish line to take position on the banks of Willoughby Run, Buford's men awaited the advance of Confederate General A.P. Hill's soldiers on the Chambersburg Pike. The Confederates fought hard, but Buford's soldiers fought until I Corp reinforcements under the command of General John F. Reynolds arrived.

By noon, more Confederate reinforcements arrived on the battlefield from the Mummasburg, Carlisle and Harrisburg Roads to the north. Union forces could no longer hold the ground north of town. By dusk, fighting against almost the entire Army of Northern Virginia's III Corp, the Union army retreated through Gettysburg, to the fields and hills south of town, to wait for reinforcements. During the night General Winfield Scott Hancock arrived to reconnoiter the position. Acting in place of General Meade, General Hancock thought the Union position at the end of the first day of battle was strong and immediately began putting soldiers on the on the hills north and south of town.