Brian Petersen

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Gettysburg Movie Summary – EC

The movie opens to scene revealing the movements of both the Union and Confederate troops as they approach Gettysburg. After the introduction, Robert E Lee is alerted by a spy who spotted a Union cavalry unit. A new Union unit moves into the Gettysburg area and are welcomed by another Union unit. The first Union unit integrates the incoming unit and reminds them of what war is about. The Yankees already in Gettysburg know that they must hold the high ground until the reinforcements come the next day. A small battle begins for the high ground, the Yankees are successful at holding the Rebels, the Yankees already there are welcomed with additional Union forces. General Lee is worried that he has engaged the Yankees prematurely, being unprepared in the fact that he has not told his officers everything necessary. When the Union troops begin to show weakness, Lee wants to take the hill; he knows that the Battle of Gettysburg will be a deciding factor of the war’s result and he wants to proceed aggressively. The fighting of the day ends and Lee prepares for battle in the morning. The next morning, the plan that Lee has formulated begins taking place. A Confederate unit tries to attack the side of the Union formation, but many of the soldiers die and are unable to take hold of the Union camp. The next day, being unable to take the sides of the formation, Lee orders a frontal attack to the center of the Union formation, but that too fails to do so and the result in an incredible loss of life for the Confederate army. After this, Lee accepts that he has made a terrible mistake. A recap of all the previous events is shown. We see the Rebel spy coming in to warn of the Unions presence, we sees all the battles of Gettysburg flashing before our eyes; these battles include horses and solders dying, cannons being fired, and the smoke of the cannons. It ends with a scene of General Lee on the back of his horse admitting defeat.