Aug. 2 – The tariff and direct tax bill passes both houses of Congress, imposing tax of 3 per cent on incomes over $800 and of 2 cents a pound on sugar, 3½ cents on coffee and 15 cents on tea.

Aug. 5 – Gen. McClellan follows a busy schedule in Washington. The press reports that he is "quietly but effectively progressing with the reorganization of his army, but there is so much secrecy observed in all his movements that very little of the details is permitted to leak out."

Aug. 10 – The South ridicules the blockade as inefficient, and a list of 15 Rebel privateers already at sea is published in Northern papers.

Aug. 12 – The press of the nation publishes flaming headlines and maps telling of the battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri on the 10th.

Aug. 13 – The New York Fire Zouaves, their ranks greatly reduced by desertions, strike tents at Alexandria, Va., and head for home preparatory to reorganizing.

Aug. 13 – La Mountain, balloonist, makes two ascensions to 3,000 feet for the Union Army at Fort Monroe and finds a Rebel camp.

Aug. 14 – Washington gets news of a terrible battle at Springfield, Mo., with many dead on both sides.

Aug. 15 – Insubordination breaks out in the 79th New York (Highland) Regiment and a number are arrested and brought into Washington.

Aug. 16 – Lincoln issues a proclamation ending commercial intercourse with the seceded states.

Aug. 18 – President Jefferson Davis is reputed to have issued a proclamation ordering all residents of the Confederate States who do not recognize the Confederacy to depart within 40 days.

Aug. 20 – Newspapers begin to carry headline stories of captures by the Confederate ship Sumter under command of Raphael Semmes.

Aug. 27 – Captain Andrew H. Foote is ordered, according to the press, to command Union naval forces on the Mississippi, Missouri and Ohio Rivers.

Aug. 28 – Newspapers announce start of a naval expedition from Fort Monroe without identifying its destination.

Aug. 31 – Reports, three days late, are published of a Union victory conducted by a joint Army-Navy expedition at Hatteras Inlet, N. C.

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION'S HIGHEST ACCOLADE, the Centennial Gold Medallion, will be presented to its first honorary chairman, former President Eisenhower, at special ceremonies at Hagerstown, Md., Sept. 3.

The presentation will take place on the public square at noon. All members of State Commissions and the Advisory Council are invited to attend.

A parade and other highlights will mark the ceremony. At the close of the program, General Eisenhower will rededicate a Confederate cemetery there that has been given special attention by the Maryland Centennial Commission as a part of its commemorative activity.

In other ceremonies, the National Commission recently awarded a Medallion to the Virginia Civil War Commission. The presentation was made at a luncheon program at Richmond attended by Maj. Gen. U. S. Grant, 3rd, chairman, Executive Director Karl S. Betts and V. C. Jones, liaison officer. This citation was especially made to the Virginia group for "sponsoring the publication of selected wartime papers of General Robert E. Lee; for its other useful publications stimulating interest in the Centennial; and for the erection of a splendid Civil War Centennial Center in Richmond where graphic displays perpetuate the heroism and sacrifice made by Americans for the unity of their nation."

Another Medallion recently was awarded the CIVIL WAR HISTORY magazine in ceremonies at National Headquarters. This was in recognition of "its publication of scholarly and informative articles comprising a broad field of Civil War topics; for the stimulation of interest in the study of the conflict, reviews of Civil War literature, and its editor's generous preparation of selected lists of current works on that subject for periodic publication in the Commission's news letter." The editor, Dr. James L. Robertson, was present from the University of Iowa to receive the award.
The thousands of persons who attended the recent reenactment of the battle of First Manassas were given an opportunity to view an island-type exhibit prepared by the United States Army for display throughout the nation.

The exhibit began its national tour on July 7. It was first opened to the public in the Civil War Workshop at Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, W. Va., July 10 – 15.

A similar exhibit to be conveyed about the nation in vans also is planned and will soon be ready. Di-oramas will be included.

Groups interested in arranging for the exhibits to be brought to their communities should contact the Army Exhibits Unit, Cameron Station, Alexandria, Va.

THE CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL already is beginning to demonstrate beyond dispute its effect upon National Park Service battlefield areas and historic sites. Figures newly compiled for the first six months of this year reveal that 5,492,718 visitors have been recorded for the period, compared with 4,769,405 for the identical period last year.

With the heavy travel months still ahead, this year’s attendance is expected to run well above the 10,535,513 recorded for 1960.

UTAH DOES HAVE A CENTENNIAL COMMISSION! Somehow or other, the National Commission has failed to credit this state with the creation of such a group. It was done several months ago, and Franklin Riter of Salt Lake City, member of Utah’s Advisory Council, wrote to set the record straight. Its chairman is Maj. Gen. Max E. Rich, Adjutant General.

This leaves only five states – North Dakota, Idaho, Nevada, Alaska and Hawaii – without commissions, according to information available at National Headquarters. The first three of these have appointed liaison representatives to cooperate in Centennial planning.

A MILITARY MEDICINE EXHIBIT, complete with both variety and rarity, now is open to the public without charge at the Richmond Academy of Medicine, 1200 East Clay Street, Richmond, Va., directly across the street from the White House of the Confederacy. All aspects of medical care are depicted, including a review of the fatal wounding of Generals Stonewall Jackson and Stuart and General Lee’s heart condition.

MATTOON, ILLINOIS, where General U. S. Grant first met his command on June 15, 1861, recently commemorated the occasion by sending a piece of wood from the flagpole that stood in front of his tent to his grandson, the National Commission chairman. The pole now stands in front of the U. S. Grant Hotel there.

MISSOURI'S LEGISLATURE has passed a bill appropriating $350,000 for the purchase of the Wilson’s Creek battlefield site. A commemoration ceremony will be held at Springfield August 9–10, the exact centennial date of the battle.

THE NATIONAL ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN sponsored by the Sinclair Oil Company to call attention to the Centennial has brought an increase of 1,000 per cent in letters asking for tour information the first month after the initial advertisement appeared. So much mail was stimulated, Sinclair reports, that outside help had to be employed to answer it. It came from all parts of the world.

A FILM SHOWING THE EXTRA SESSION OF THE MARYLAND LEGISLATURE in 1861 has been prepared through the joint sponsorship of the Frederick County Civil War Centennial, Inc., and the National Brewing Company of Baltimore, Md. A 20-minute color and sound movie, it can be obtained by groups for showing without charge. Also available through the Chamber of Commerce, Winchester Hall, Frederick, Md., at 75 cents each, are about 200 copies of a publication concerning the extra session.

CASS COUNTY, NEBR., paid full honors recently to the memory of Company A, First Nebraska Volunteer Infantry, the initial unit from that state to take part in the war. This was done with a program at Plattsmouth that included a flag-raising ceremony, band concert, pre-muster ceremonies, and a drill team exhibition.

PREPARED AND DISTRIBUTED AT CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS
MAJOR GENERAL U. S. GRANT 3D, CHAIRMAN; KARL S. BETTS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.