Nov. 1 - Cavalry action around Harpers Ferry, Snickers Gap and Thoroughfare Gap, west of Washington, leads to a report that a major engagement is imminent, but a Union Army balloonist, after making an ascension from Bolivar Heights, reports he could see Confederates only in detached bodies.

Nov. 2 - The brig Baron de Castine of Castine, Maine, arrives at Boston with a report of her capture, as well as that of seven other vessels, by the Confederate raider, Raphael Semmes, in the Alabama. Six of the eight prizes were said to have been burned, the other two bonded.

Nov. 3 - The C.S.S. Cotton, aided by shore batteries, engages a Union fleet of four vessels in close and spirited action in Berwick Bay, Louisiana, causing considerable damage to the enemy squadron. As she retires after her ammunition has been exhausted, the pant's legs of her crew are cut off and used as improvised cartridge bags to fire parting shots.

Nov. 7 - In a surprise move, President Lincoln replaces Gen. George C. McClellan with Gen. Ambrose Burnside as head of the Army of the Potomac. Comments one newspaper editor: “The country breathes freer... There is no other instance on military record of such prolonged inactivity when the means were so ample and the stakes so great.”

Nov. 9 - Greenville, N.C., is surrendered to a joint Union Army-Navy landing force.

Nov. 12 - Yellow fever is reported to be raging at Charleston, S.C. Meanwhile, the British consul taken away by freighter to escape the disease, reports one ironclad vessel has been launched there and two more are ready for plating.

Nov. 15 - Lincoln, Secretaries Seward and Chase, and Admiral Dahlgren escape injury when an experimental Hyde rocket they are viewing accidentally explodes at the Washington Navy Yard.

Nov. 15 - The Northern public weighs numerous rumors concerning the whereabouts of Confederate Generals Lee and Jackson, reports placing them in three or more places at the same time.

Nov. 15 - Burnside divides his army into three divisions, commanded respectively by Gens. Sumner, Franklin and Hooker.

Nov. 18 - Announcement is made that the Union Army is on its way to a new base at Fredericksburg, en route to Richmond. The bulk of Lee's army is reported at Gordonsville, with a small force on duty to dispute the passage of the Rappahannock at Fredericksburg.

Nov. 23 - The U.S.S. Ellis, commanded by Lt. Wm. B. Cushing, grounds while attacking Jacksonville, N.C., and is set afire by her crew to prevent her capture.

Nov. 28 - The New York Times announces: “Fredericksburg is not occupied by the enemy in force, merely a picket guard is there on duty. Business is totally suspended. The only flag visible is a British one, floating from a private residence.”

Nov. 29 - Burnside, arriving in Washington during the night, spends much of the forenoon in consultation with Lincoln. An extra Cabinet meeting follows.

Nov. 30 - Union batteries on the left wing at Fredericksburg throw shells at Confederates busy building fortifications.

THE CIVIL WAR WILL GO NORTH officially next May 22-24, to a land well out of the battle echoes of a century ago but where the feats of the nation's forefathers are studied just as closely as they are elsewhere.

On these three May days the National Civil War Centennial Commission will hold its sixth annual assembly at the Parker House in Boston, Mass. The place of meeting was decided recently by the full membership of the agency.

It has been nearly five years since the Commission held its first annual assembly here in Washington. Since then it has held similar conclaves at Richmond, Va., St. Louis, Mo., Charleston, S.C., and Columbus, Ohio. And since then many of the names and events of the war that brought the nation together have been memorialized.
The 1963 assembly will be somewhat similar to that of 1962. Its program will revolve around panel discussions, a procedure indorsed by popular approval.

The theme for next year's meeting will be "The Far-Reaching War." The exact program has not yet been worked out, but it is known now that the panel discussions will concern the Civil War in New England, as well as such subjects as medicine, foreign relations, and the work of the various state commissions.

"We are very appreciative of the invitation of the people in Boston and Massachusetts," said James I. Robertson, executive director of the Commission, "and we feel it fitting and proper that a national assembly be held in the 'Deep North.' We are striving to make this meeting as informative and entertaining as possible. We will welcome suggestions concerning our program from any interested student of the Civil War."

The executive director plans to go to Boston the latter part of this month to set the wheels in motion. Local authorities have promised several side attractions for those who attend. In addition, Boston College will hold a Civil War symposium, scheduling it to start immediately after the adjournment of the assembly and continuing through the week-end.

AN EXHIBIT ON VIRGINIA'S MILITIA DURING THE CIVIL WAR is now open to the public at the Centennial Center in Richmond and will remain there one month.

Eight National Guard units in that state date back as far as the Civil War. Their uniforms, flags, battle streamers, and other relics, including a piece of the rope used to hang John Brown, are included in the exhibit.

FAR CRY!

These two vessels have something in common. One is the C.S.S. David, early torpedo boat used by the Confederates to sink the U.S.S. New Ironsides in Charleston Harbor Oct. 5, 1863. The other is the U.S.S. Bainbridge, launched this year as the world's first nuclear powered destroyer type.

The U.S. Navy's destroyer, recognized as the "workhorse of the fleet," has a background that dates back to the stirring days of the Civil War when the torpedo and the torpedo boat, such as the David, were taking their toll. The story is told in a new, well illustrated, 40-page booklet just published by the Naval History Division of the Department of the Navy.

The first true destroyer, according to this publication, was commissioned on Nov. 11, 1902. She, too, was named Bainbridge, but she had nowhere near the striking power of her 1962 namesake.
HAVE YOU NEWS FOR '100 YEARS AFTER'?

This letter, published monthly by the National Commission, is intended to keep the nation informed of what is happening in the way of Centennial activities throughout the country. Its columns are open to news from all areas, depending upon its fitness and timeliness.

If there is activity in your area you consider of national interest, please pass it along to the newsletter editor, V. C. Jones, in care of the National Commission at 700 Jackson Place N.W., Washington 25, D. C., as soon as possible.

A POSTHUMOUS AWARD FOR COMMANDER WILLIAM E. CUSHING, proposed in a bill (H. R. 3477) introduced in the 87th Congress by Rep. John Brademas, Democrat of Indiana, has run into rough sledding.

Referred to the Armed Services Committee, it received an unfavorable report from the Department of Defense. No action has been taken or scheduled since.

Specifically, the award would be made "in recognition of Cushing's skill and gallantry" in the destruction of the Confederate ironclad steamer Albemarle at Plymouth, N. C., on the night of Oct. 27, 1864.

A CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE organized within the Virginia State Prison has drawn praise from the Richmond Round Table, several of whose members have filled speaking engagements there.

The Richmond unit's monthly newsletter recently had this to say about the prison unit's membership: "Most of these men would show up well in Civil War study groups in the country, and we hope that they will affiliate themselves with Round Tables in the respective communities to which they return when they leave the institution."

Newsletters from other Round Tables, as well as books, magazines and pamphlets, are sought for the prison group. They should be sent to Stewart Newsom, Secretary, CWRT, Education Department, J. F. Featherston, 500 Spring Street, Richmond 19, Va.

MUSICIANS' SIDE OF ASSASSINATION

Matt Dennis (right), nationally known composer-entertainer, shown here with Congressman Fred Schwengel, vice chairman of the National Centennial Commission, is trying to resurrect Lincoln's assassination as it was seen by the orchestra playing at Ford's Theater the night it occurred.

For months he has been searching for the musical history of Ford's Theater, information on Lincoln's musical and cultural tastes, and the wartime musical activities of the orchestra leader and composer, Prof. Wm. Withers, Jr., about whom he is writing a biography. Recently he discovered the manuscript of the song, "Honor to Our Soldiers," written by Withers especially as a tribute to Lincoln's appearance at the theater.

Both the entertainer and Congressman Schwengel have been working closely with Lincoln Museum authorities and others engaged in a project to restore the theater as nearly as possible to the way it was the night of the assassination.
IRON BRIGADE MARKERS ERECTED

This action picture was made recently when the Wisconsin Civil War Commission, through its chairman, Donald Gerlinger, presented the Manassas National Battlefield Park with two guns, two carriages and a limber as a memorial to Gibbon's Iron Brigade and Campbell's Battery. Federal units that wrote their names indelibly in history during the battle of Brawner's Farm (also called Gainesville and Groveton) on August 28, 1862.

The gift represented two years of planning following the acceptance of an idea originated by Francis F. Wilshin, superintendent of the park, on a visit to the Chicago Civil War Round Table in 1960.

These guns mark the first trailside exhibit in an area expected to develop into one of the most heavily visited sections of the battlefield. Near by stand three aluminum markers, planned and erected by the park, that tell the story of the battle and the units involved. Farther out on the nose of this same rise will be mounted guns to represent the Confederate batteries of Chapman and Reilly, rushed up by Longstreet on August 30 to break Porter's assault on Jackson's line at "Deep Cut" in the second battle of Manassas.

THE SONS OF UNION VETERANS, through its National Civil War Centennial and Grand Army History Committee, has launched a drive to uncover additional records on the war. In a new call, its members have been asked to search out and forward records to Ernest G. Wells, committee chairman, at 247 Columbia Road, Dorchester 21, Mass., especially national and departmental G.A.R. encampment proceedings.

WHAT IS LEFT OF LIBBY PRISON, once a warehouse on the banks of the James River at Richmond, now is pointed out by a marker recently erected in LaPorte County, Indiana.

This marker, sponsored by the Richmond Civil War Centennial Committee in cooperation with the LaPorte County Historical Society and the Indiana Centennial Commission, stands beside an old barn constructed from the wooden remains of the prison after it had been exhibited at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893. Some of the beams visible in the barn still show the carvings and inscriptions left by the prison inmates.

KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THE 'ALABAMIAN'?

Whatever her story, the vessel finally came to rest off Diamond Island at Shiloh.

A sand and gravel dredge recently struck her bulk and immediately stopped operations around that particular area for fear of striking live ammunition. And with reason, as shown here by some of the artifacts displayed by Harold Damsgard of Sheffield, Ala. One shell brought to the surface had to be deactivated at a local arsenal.

Frank G. Rankin, Chairman of the Louisville, Ky., Centennial Commemoration, P.O. Box 1861, writes that it is presumed the Alabamian was sunk during the battle of Shiloh.