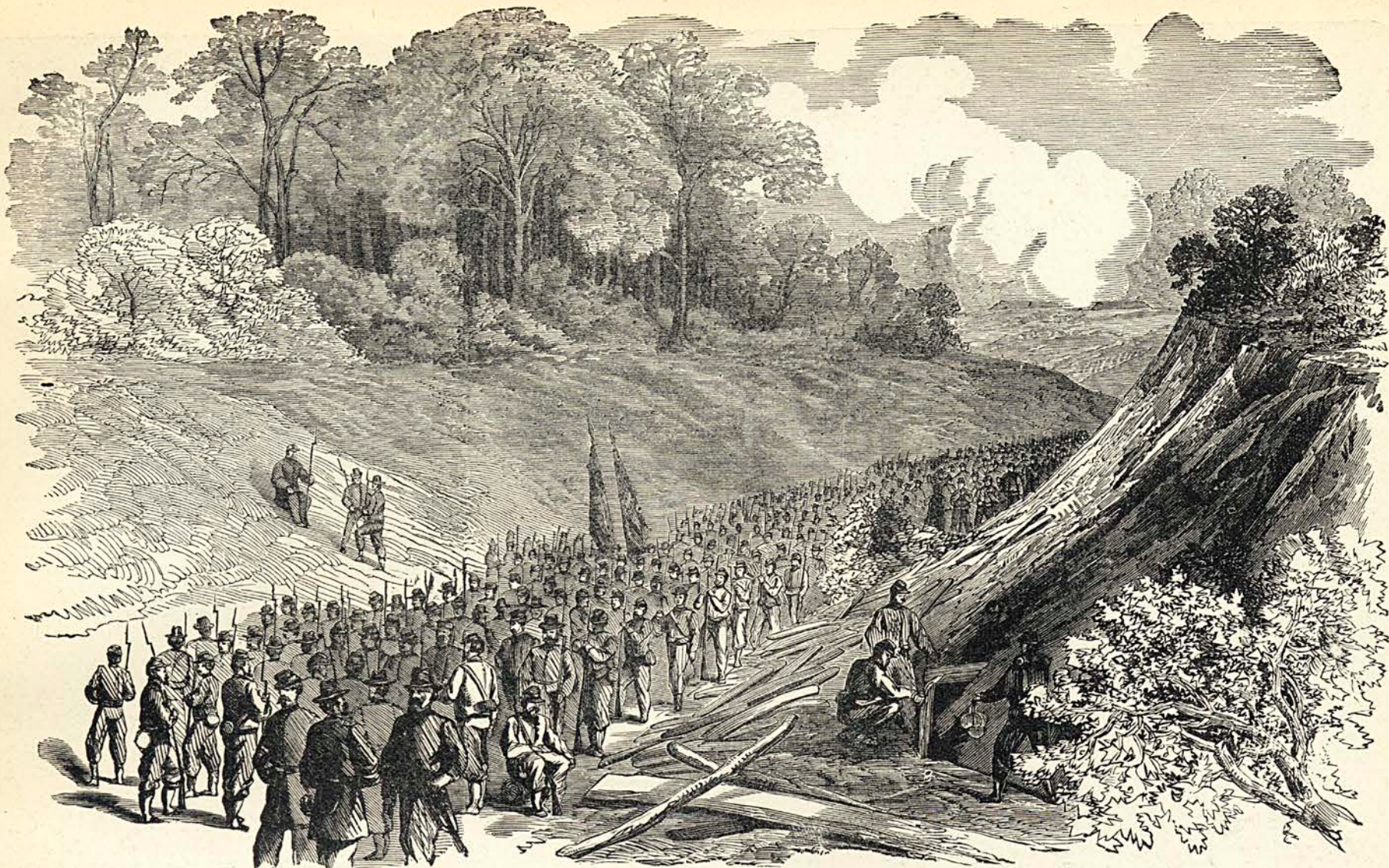




THE FIFTH ARMY CORPS AWAITING THE ORDER TO ADVANCE, AFTER THE EXPLOSION OF THE MINE, PETERSBURG, JULY 30, 1864.



THE FORTY-EIGHTH PENNSYLVANIA, COLONEL PLEASANTS, MINING THE CONFEDERATE WORKS IN FRONT OF PETERSBURG, JULY 15-20, 1864.

The famous mine which was exploded before Petersburg July 30, 1864, was the work of a Pennsylvania regiment that included a large number of miners. Beginning in a little ravine where bushes hid them from the enemy, they dug a tunnel 500 feet long to a point under a salient of the Confederate works, and then a cross-gallery 70 feet long. In this gallery they placed 8000 pounds of powder with slow matches. The work occupied nearly a month. When the mine was exploded it sent the fort with its guns and men and great masses of earth 200 feet into the air, producing a crater 30 feet deep and 200 feet long. Every arrangement for taking advantage of the explosion seems to have been wholly mismanaged. The worst possible troops were chosen to lead the assault, and instead of going round the crater they simply precipitated themselves into it, where they became the easy target for musketry and hand grenades, as soon as the Confederates had recovered from their panic.