The Battle of the Crater was a battle of the American Civil War, part of the Siege of Petersburg. It took place on July 30, 1864, between the Confederate Army of Virginia and the Union Army of the Potomac. The battle resulted in the destruction of a major Confederate position and the capture of a key supply line.

The battle began when Union engineers, led by Tom Steedman, began digging a tunnel under the Confederate lines. On July 30, the tunnel was blown open, creating a crater 200 feet wide and 50 feet deep. The Confederate soldiers were caught off guard and suffered heavy losses as they tried to retreat.

The Union forces, led by General Benjamin Butler, advanced into the crater and faced stiff resistance. The battle continued for several hours, with both sides suffering heavy casualties. In the end, the Union forces were able to make some gains, but the battle was costly for both sides.

The Battle of the Crater is remembered as one of the most violent and destructive battles of the Civil War. It is also known as the Battle of the Great Siege of Petersburg, and the battle site is now a National Battlefield.

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