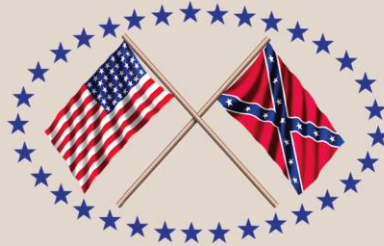
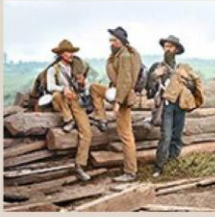


Sumter to Appomattox



American Civil War Round Table of Australia (New South Wales Chapter)
www.americancivilwar.asn.au Patron: Prof the Hon Bob Carr

President's Message

I am not much in favour of repeating an action and expecting a different result. The Magpies Club at Waitara has not worked as well as we had hoped in several ways. I went without dinner at the last meeting for the sake of allowing the meeting to proceed, notwithstanding that many people had not yet received their meal. So, I decided then that we needed to again investigate an alternative venue. I was delighted to discover that our committee members had unanimously reached the same conclusion. I did not have to mount an argument after all.

So, we have decided to give the **Chatswood Club** a try. It is in **Help Street in Chatswood, not far from the Chatswood Station** for those who, like me, depend on getting there by train. There is also **parking for 50 cars**, which should be more than ample.

We will have to try a different system for ordering and paying for our meals, but it sounds like it will work for us provided enough people want dinner. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for an explanation of the new system. Thank you in advance for giving it a go and making it work for us.

Also look elsewhere in this newsletter for an indication of the program. The year 1862 certainly was momentous, both for military and political events.

Past President Bruce is relieved that the book raffle system worked and that he got some books out of his garage, but never fear. There are many more! Please bring a \$5 or \$10 note for the book raffle. We will draw out five raffle tickets at the end of the meeting. It seemed to work remarkably well last time.

Ian McIntyre
1 August 2024

Number 125 June – July 2024

Our Next Meeting

Monday 19th August at 6pm

At the **Chatswood Club**,
11 Help Street, Chatswood
- Includes a buffet meal

Please register **before Tuesday 13th** so that the club is aware of numbers – with the link below:

www.trybooking.com/CUBBW

or scan the QR code –



If anyone has another brief (5 min) item they would like to present, please contact John Morrison.

As usual, we are keen to hear from our membership so if you have a particular subject, please get in touch with Program Director John Morrison.

On our **Website** you will always find the date of our next meeting. Our Facebook page is also from www.americancivilwar.asn.au

Our Last Meeting

TOPICS FOR OUR NEXT MEETING John Morrison

Our recent meetings have looked at the progress during the first half of 1862. In the Western Theatre, in the Mississippi Valley and along the coast, it was a period of unbridled success for the Union. But in the East, it was a different story.

McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, which had started with such promise, had failed - largely due to the brilliance of Jackson's Valley Campaign and Lee's Seven Days Campaign.

The defeat of John Pope's Army of Virginia at Second Manassas added to the growing feeling that things were grim in the East. There were even more far-reaching events to come. The closing stages of 1862 would witness two of the most outstanding developments.

Firstly, we will discuss Lee's Maryland Campaign – the South would "invade" the North, bring the Union Army to battle and possibly bring about foreign recognition and independence for the new Confederate States of America.

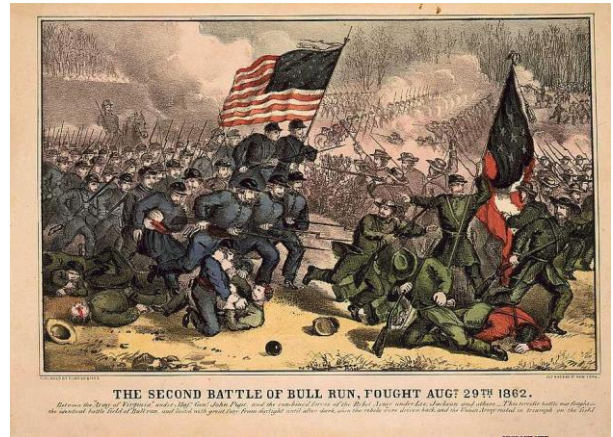
This campaign culminated in the darkest and bloodiest day in American history - **the Battle of Antietam**.

But there were changes afoot for Lincoln and the Union as well. Despite the strenuous and consistent pledge by the Lincoln Administration that their war aim was to preserve the Union and not to abolish slavery, the year's end would see President Lincoln issue the **preliminary Emancipation Proclamation**.

The war would be forever changed. We will look at how this came about and the implications of the proclamation - then and now.

The Battle of Second Manassas 28-30 August 1862 by Peter Zacharatos

Peter began the evening with a very informative presentation on this battle, which was very well-received.



In the light of the Union frustration after the unsuccessful campaign to take Richmond, and then the Seven Days campaign, which repelled the Army of the Potomac, the North's military powers surrendered something that they would deeply regret – *the Strategic Initiative*. What Robert E Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia did with it caused in a dramatic turnaround in the Eastern Theatre. The War now returns to ground through which runs a stream which locals call 'Bull Run'. This is the story of Second Manassas.

In July 1862, there was dissension and mistrust within the Army of the Potomac. Only a month before, the Union Army stood within sight of Richmond, but then Lee's Seven Days campaign hammered them back to the James River. Despite suffering over 20,000 casualties in that effort, Lee was embraced as a deliverer. Simultaneously, 100 miles to the North, up in Washington city, Abraham Lincoln had to suffer General McClellan's frustration, bombarded with 'Little Mac's' incessant requests for reinforcements.

Lincoln visits McClellan

The President decided to visit the commander down on the James River at Harrison's Landing on 7 July. The man who had retreated from Richmond, who still believed himself to be outnumbered, now wanted to take the offensive. Lincoln asked him how he would do so, but found that McClellan, other than wanting more troops, had no concrete plans for how he would conduct said offensive.



Four days after his visit, still harbouring doubts about McClellan's command abilities, Lincoln acted. He named Major General Henry Halleck as his new General-in-Chief and, on 26 July, he gave command of the newly created Army of Virginia to an officer who had enjoyed success in the Western Theatre, John Pope. As a fellow Republican, Lincoln was sure Pope would be a healer in the troubled Eastern Theatre, but sadly he was not.



Pope was known as an aggressive and brash general, almost the antithesis of the cautious McClellan. Pope saw himself as the Union's saviour, boasting that he had "come from out of the West where his men had only seen the backs of his enemies". This arrogant attitude saw him labelled as an 'ass' by one Union Brigadier General to a more colourful comment by Samuel Sturges – *"I don't care for John Pope one pinch of owl dung!"*

Undaunted, Pope announced that his armies would live off the land, They began requisitioning food and supplies from the Virginian farms and towns they passed. To Confederate leaders, this approach to war was vile and dishonourable. Upon hearing of Pope's methods, Lee called Pope a 'miscreant' and declared that *"he must be suppressed"*. Ever bombastic, Pope believed he must always be on the offence and even ordered his armies to abolish all logistic plans for retreating, thinking that having these procedures in place was cowardly. Pope even boasted that his headquarters would be in the saddle. Upon hearing this, Confederate leadership commented, *"That's odd – that's where his hindquarters belong"*.

Pope's new Army

Pope's new Army of the Virginia was made up of all of the armies that had been turned inside out by Stonewall Jackson during his Shenandoah campaign. Pope's first core was under command of German American Franz Segel; the second was commanded by former speaker of the House, Nathaniel Banks, both of whom had been roughly handled by Jackson in the Valley. It gets worse: Pope's third core was commanded by Irvin McDowell who, after his defeat at first Bull Run, was believed by his men to be a 'jinx'.

John Pope's Subordinates



General Nathaniel Banks



Franz Sigel



Irvin McDowell

Suffice to say, this mediocre cast of characters did not inspire confidence, which is exactly what the Confederates had in Lee. So despised was Pope by his men that, when word spread that he had once been thrown by his mount, soldiers gave "three cheers for the horse!"

The Battle of Cedar Mountain

Pope's mission was to fulfill two basic objectives: protect Washington and the Shenandoah Valley; and draw Confederate forces away from McClellan at Harrison's Landing.

In order to counter Pope's initial movements in Central Virginia, Lee sent Jackson with 24,000 men to Gordonsville where, at the battle of Cedar Mountain on 9 August, Jackson scored a narrow victory over the vanguard of Pope's army, led by his old friend from the Valley Campaign, Nathaniel Banks.

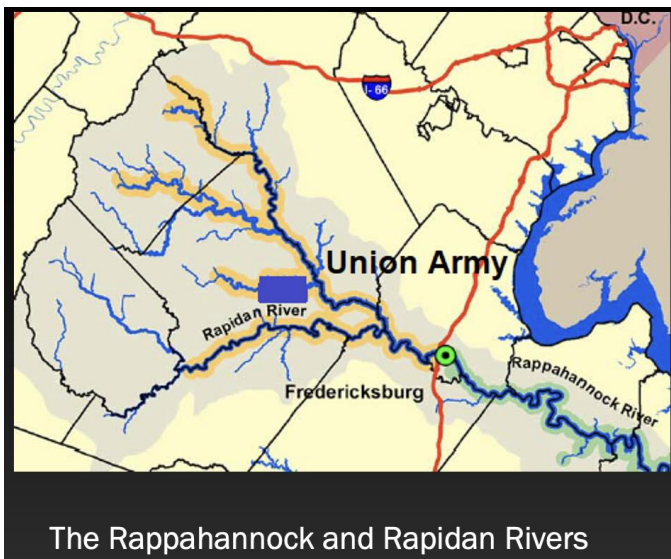


The narrow victory spooked both Lincoln and Stanton, still traumatised from the Jackson's Valley campaign that they pulled the plug on

McClellan's half-baked plan to return to Richmond and, instead, ordered him and the army of the Potomac to retreat from the Peninsula to come to Virginia to unite with Pope's forces, swelling the Union forces to over 130,000 men.



Pope's Army, at that moment consisting of a 62,000-man army, was at an angle forced by the Rappahannock and Rapidan rivers, as shown on the slide below, and was supplied via the Alexandria and Orange railroad.



In need of good fortune, Pope got some from, interestingly enough, Confederate cavalryman JEB Stuart.

On the evening of 18 August, under Lee's direction, Stuart rode to a house near Verdierville to rendezvous with his lieutenant, leaving his gloves, gear and plumed hat on the porch. A tired Stuart went inside to sleep. The next morning, using the cover of mist, Union cavalry descended upon them.

Stuart escaped, but his pride took a hit as his gear was captured, which included his iconic plumed hat and a haversack containing Lee's plans to entrap Pope's forces between the Rapidan and the Rappahannock. With this information Pope retreated north and out of immediate danger.



Stuart's ego took a bruising from this whole affair, and he was further angered when Confederate infantry jeered him with "Sir, where's your hat?". Angry and embarrassed, Stuart burned to get even. He would soon get the opportunity when, after capturing a small band of Union soldiers, a captured African-American servant revealed he knew the exact location of Pope's personal baggage train.

The Confederate cavaliers found this opportunity too tempting to ignore, Stuart declared, "I am going after my damn hat!" Moving 60 miles in 26 hours, his men cut the telegraph lines, descended on Catlett's Station and overran a Union camp on 22 August, capturing \$500,000 in cash, \$20,000 in gold, 300 prisoners, Pope's staff and also his dress uniform.

A pleased Stuart sent a note to Pope: "General, you have my hat and plume, I have your coat. I have the honour to propose a cartel for an exchange of prisoners". Sadly, Stuart received no reply. Whilst this raid was flashy and insignificant, Stuart captured papers that would inform Lee that several of McClellan's corps had landed north near Alexandria and were on their way to link up with Pope.

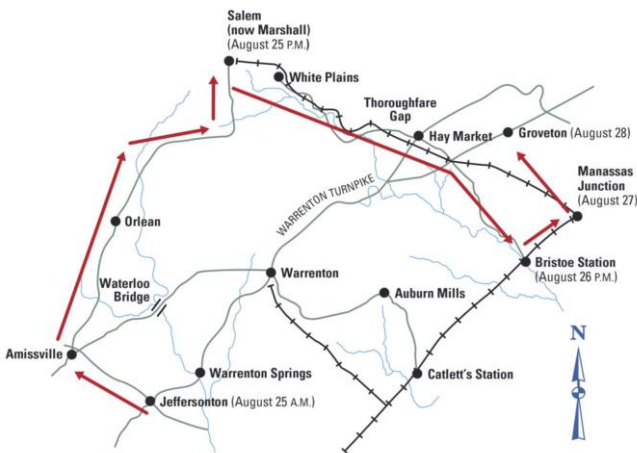
Lee knew that he needed to engage Pope immediately or else the Union forces would overwhelmingly outnumber him. Now, there is a military maxim: "Never divide your force in the face of superior numbers", yet that is exactly what Lee did.

Manassas Station

On 24 August, orders were sent to Stonewall Jackson to move his 24,000 men westward and circle around Pope's force to the north. Anxious to make up for his dismal performance at the Seven Days, Jackson commented "I shall move within an hour". Longstreet's 30,000 men were to hold Pope's army in place by demonstrating in front of him and then following Jackson the next day. Lee hoped that his opponent, fearing encirclement, would retreat and, at that point, Lee would be able to fall upon an off-balanced federal force.

By 8 am the next day, Pope was aware of the rebel moves, but, by misreading their intent, Pope believed Jackson was moving west, heading for the Shenandoah Valley, but as shown on the slide at Salem Virginia, Jackson turned his army east and made his way to the Thoroughfare Gap, which passed through the Bull Run mountains.

At mid-morning on the 26th, Jackson turned towards Gainesville Virginia, then southeast to Bristoe Station. His foot cavalry had covered 56 miles in two days and was now a full 20 miles in Pope's rear.



Jackson's raid on Manassas Station (24-28 August 1862)

Before daybreak on 27 August, Jackson's forces moved four miles to the north and descended on the massive Union supply depot at Manassas rail junction. This was a huge depot that covered nearly a square mile. Many of the starving Confederates, who had been living off foraged fruit, gorged themselves and ate like kings at Manassas Union supplies.

Realising that Jackson had cut off his supply routes, a furious Pope ordered his army to retreat to Manassas. When Union columns were spotted in the distance, the Confederates lit fire to whatever they couldn't eat and destroyed the station.

which had thick trees for the Southerners to conceal themselves whilst providing a view of the Warrenton Turnpike, the likely avenue of advance of Union army. In doing so, each of Jackson's three divisions used three different routes, all of which was reported to Pope.

Stunned with anger with the loss of his supplies and trains, and now dealing with reports of Confederate activity all over the countryside, Pope ordered his scattered units to unite around Centreville, just outside of Manassas Junction, and begin searching for Jackson. Once found, Pope was certain he would box in an isolated Jackson, and so confident was Pope that he exclaimed "*We shall bag the whole crowd*".

Pursuing the elusive Jackson

In his fixation on the legendary Jackson, Pope ignored his intelligence reports of Confederate activity near the Thoroughfare Gap, the very route that Lee and Longstreet planned to use to join up with Jackson.

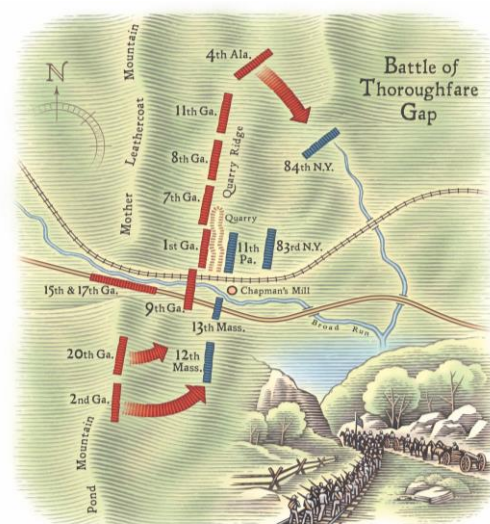


The Battle of Thoroughfare Gap – 28 August 1862

On 28 August, as Pope's forces marched north to Centreville in pursuit of the elusive Jackson, 30,000 Confederates streamed through the Thoroughfare Gap. Only facing one Union division, the Confederate numbers were too great, and they overwhelmed the meagre Union defences.



Jackson then pulled his force together and retreated 7 miles north of Manassas to a place behind an unfinished railroad known as Stoney Ridge, a few miles West from the First Bull Run Battlefield. It was a solid defensive position,

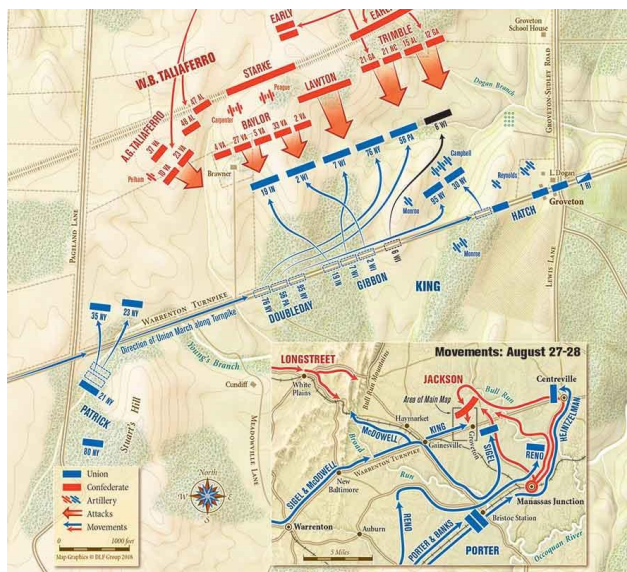


On the same evening, a Union division, under the command of Brigadier General Rufus King, was probing for Jackson along the Warrenton Turnpike just in front of Jackson's defensive positions. Now King was believed to be alcoholic, but he in fact suffered from epilepsy. Unfortunately, King started suffering an epileptic seizure, causing his stretched division to go into confusion as they became leaderless, and many federals unknowingly walked right in front of Jackson's men at Stony Ridge. Even though King's men were probing for Jackson, it would be Jackson who found them.

At about 6 pm on 28 August, just off the Turnpike, a lone horseman appeared from the cover of the woods. It was none other than Jackson, and although he should have waited for the arrival of Longstreet's wing, Jackson could not resist the sight of a stretched out and confused enemy before him. Jackson slipped back into the woods and gave the calm order "Bring up your men gentlemen".

The Battle of Second Manassas begins

Amongst the unsuspecting Union division, there was savvy veteran, Brigadier General John Gibbon with his 2100 men – all from the west – the famed black hat Iron Brigade. Gibbon saw the lone horseman, and considered firing on him, but decided to watch him disappear, thinking it was a local farmer. Gibbons' military alarm went off when he saw multiple horsemen in the wood swinging in unison and, as an artilleryman, Gibbon recognised the manoeuvre of bringing guns into line. He immediately organised his brigade for battle along a hill near Brawner Farm in order to prepare for a Confederate onslaught. The battle of second Manassas had begun.



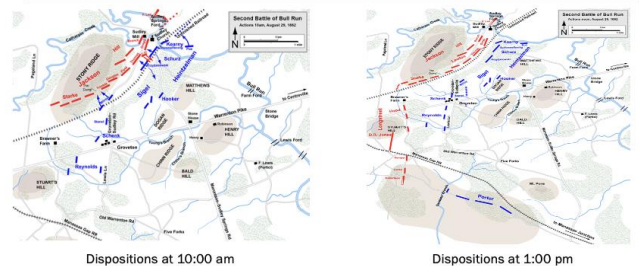
The Skirmish at Brawner Farm August 1862

Gibbons' men faced an immediate Confederate artillery volley; the Union formed up their artillery and responded in kind. Neither side truly advanced nor retreated and both sides poured lead into each other until it was too dark to continue. This skirmish had revealed Jackson's positions along Stony Ridge. By the time the fight ended there were about 1300 casualties from both sides.

In an unusual development, though Jackson had revealed himself, King's men were bound by their orders and vacated the field to join Pope's main body further south at Centreville.

Pope, ignoring all reports of Lee and Longstreet's successful passage through the Thoroughfare Gap, decided he wanted to focus on crushing Jackson's isolated wing. Pope's fixation on Jackson at this point was almost obsessive.

Battle of Second Manassas – 29 August 1862 – Morning to Midday



As the sun rose on 29 August, the Union troops closest to Jackson made piecemeal attacks on the Confederate positions. All the while, unbeknownst to Pope, Longstreet's division arrived at 10 am that morning and fell in on Jackson's right. The divided army of Lee was now finally united in a defensive mile some four miles long on high ground with four batteries of artillery.

At 1 pm, Pope arrived on the old Bull Run battlefield, completely unaware that Longstreet's 30,000 men were completely astride the exposed Union left flank. That should have become obvious when he ordered Major-General Fitz John Porter to strike Jackson's right and Porter replied he could not because he was blocked by a 'large body of rebels' blocking his way.

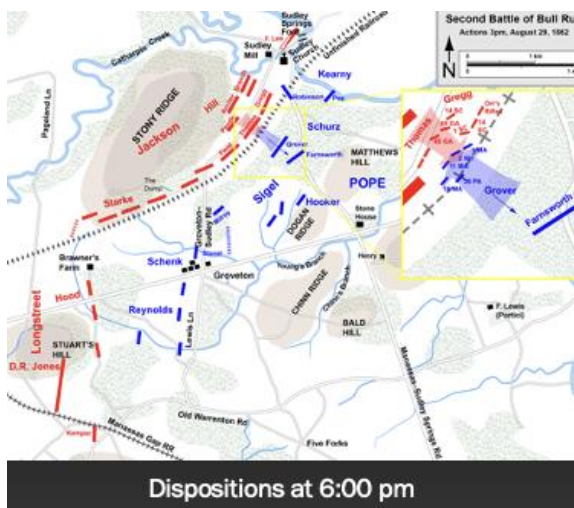
Porter decided to wait until he had more information about who and what was in front of him before attacking.

Around 2:30pm, while impatiently waiting for Porter to attack, Pope ordered Brigadier General Reynolds' division forward to attack. They too reported they could not move forward due to a large Confederate presence. Pope

ignored this, as his mind was still fixated on Jackson, desperately wanting to be the man to best the infamous Stonewall.

That afternoon Pope ordered wave after wave of unsupported Union attack against Jackson's lines on Stony Ridge, hoping these attacks would serve as a distraction for Porter's final big attack. The Confederates, hunkered in around the unfinished rail line, cut down the advancing Union soldiers. There were some almost-breakthroughs, but as these Union attacks were unsupported, and Jackson was able to plug any gaps created in his lines with ease. Around 5 pm, a frustrated Pope gave Porter an immediate order to attack with no room for discussion.

It must be noted that, at this point, Lee was also frustrated because he could not get Longstreet to attack. The pressure on Jackson's front, as the afternoon wore on, increased dramatically as his far left was subject to a particularly intense attack. At one point, at around 6 pm, Jackson's men were almost driven out of their defensive positions behind the railroad.



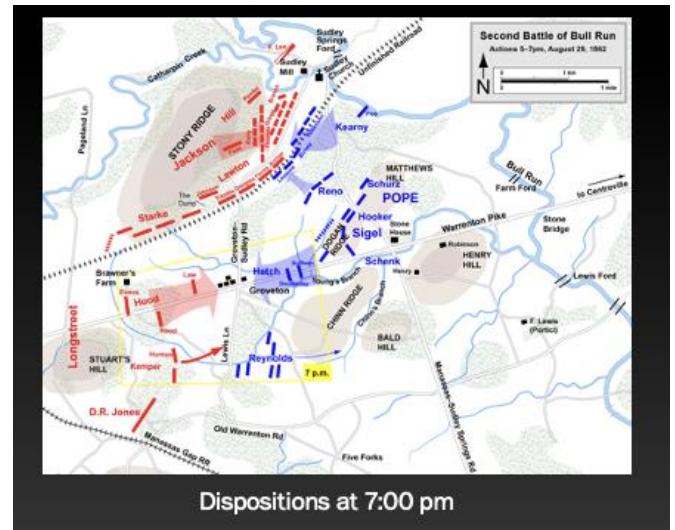
Dispositions at 6:00 pm

However, Jackson brought in timely reinforcements led by Jubal Early. Early's counterattack saved the day though the fighting was desperate.

One South Carolinian regiment reported they were down to 24 cartridges amongst all of them. Throughout the afternoon, still unaware of Longstreet's presence, Pope continued his piecemeal attack strategy of trying to destroy Jackson.

Very late in the day, there was still one more card to play. In the rear, Pope received word of a breakthrough, although it was a merely a temporary one. Pope, believing he was on the cusp of victory, ordered a brigade to advance west along the Warrenton Turnpike, hoping to pursue a what he believed was a retreating

Jackson. The unfortunate Union brigade crashed into Hood's Texans, who were part of Longstreet's wing and the fiery Texans unleashed on the Union boys. They collided around 7pm and, within 30 minutes, the Union pursuit had become a rout. An hour later darkness fell on the battlefield and ended the fighting.



Dispositions at 7:00 pm

That night, both armies shifted lines and orders were distributed for the next day. As the sun rose on 30 August, the battered and weary men under Jackson – the men who had weathered so many attacks the day before – wondered if, and when, Longstreet would throw in his considerable weight. In truth, so did Lee.

Expecting renewed federal attacks, some of Jackson's men went to the rear to replenish ammunition. Enough did so that reports reached John Pope that Jackson was leaving the field. Believing himself finally victorious over Jackson, where so many Union generals before him had failed, Pope essentially ordered his entire army up to be led by Porter, at the valley turnpike, to pursue Jackson, leaving only a single brigade under the command of Reynolds facing Longstreet.

Despite all warnings of a great Confederate host to the West from Porter, Pope believed this was simply an excuse to do nothing and pressed on with the attack.

At 1:30 pm, Reynolds came face to face with the obvious reality of Longstreet's presence. Fully aware of impending disaster, he got on horseback, rode for half a mile and informed Pope "Sir, the enemy is turning our left".

Clouded, confused and ever fixated on Jackson, Pope answered "Oh, I guess not". Instead, Reynolds was ordered to join the Union army's pursuit of the supposedly

retreating Jackson, leaving a light picket facing Longstreet's bubbling volcano.

Around 3 pm, the Union began its pursuit and they quickly learned that Jackson had not gone anywhere.

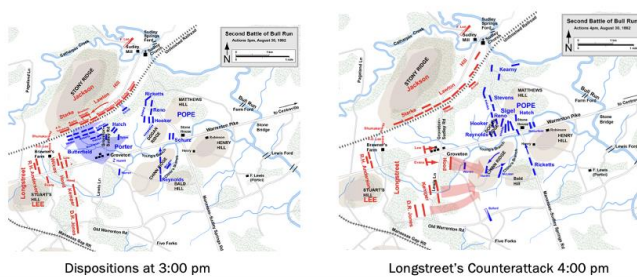


Unsupported Union charges on Jackson's lines – Battle of Second Manassas – 30 August 1862

Exhausted and low on ammunition, Jackson's men were just barely hanging on, but Lee expected Jackson to live up to his nickname 'Stonewall'. In fact, Lee was waiting until the Union was fully engaged, exposing their left flank. Tactically it made sense, but to Jackson, the Union attack must have had considerable weight to it. One of his Confederate regiments was so short of ammunition, they literally resorted to throwing rocks but, luckily, the Confederate artillery helped blow the Union assault apart.

Finally, at around 4 pm, Longstreet, who had arrived on the battlefield the day before, signalled that he was ready to attack.

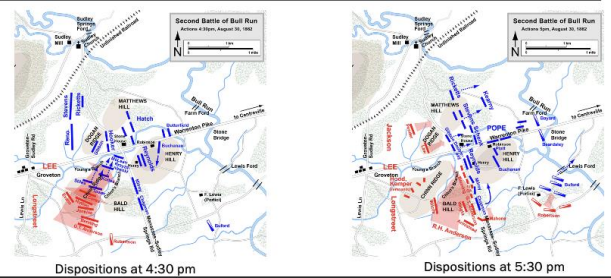
Battle of Second Manassas – 30 August 1862 – Afternoon



What happened next was cataclysmic. A wave of grey – one and a half miles long – appeared over the hill near Brawner's Farm and smashed Pope's exposed left. It would be the largest simultaneous mass counterattack of the war. Confederate bullets were so thick that one participant mentioned it sounded like an immense train of cartridges were heading their way, Union men were cut down in droves; the field ran red with blood and federal bodies

dammed up the creek. The 5th New York suffered 95% casualties, being reduced from 980 men to 60 men within 30 minutes. It was the largest and fastest loss of life of the entire war.

Battle of Second Manassas – 30 August 1862 – Afternoon



Although the Confederate army washed through the battlefield, they did not move as one. The Federals finally caught a break as Jackson's exhausted forces did not move forward until 6pm.

During that 2-hour lull, some 7000-8000 federals were shifted from Jackson's front to Longstreet's, which bought time for Pope to realign. Still though, by the time of Jackson's attack, Longstreet's wing had driven out 5 of 6 Union Brigades.

Pope's lifeline was the Warrington turnpike and, if Longstreet's men could get across the Manassas, Sudley Church Road, and overrun Henry House Hill – yes, the same hill that had been the cockpit of action a little over a year earlier – then Pope's line of retreat would be cut off. The Deep Cut, Sudley Church Road was held by two Union brigades in strong defensive positions.

Longstreet's men reached this road at about 5:30 in the afternoon but, by then, the Confederates were running out of steam, and they did not have the offensive weight to drive across to Henry House Hill. Yet the damage was done.

At 8 pm, a light rain began to fall and, amidst fatigue and darkness, Pope chose to withdraw. The withdrawal was chaotic, thanks to Pope's earlier decision to abandon all retreating doctrine. Once again, on the plains of Manassas, Confederate forces had been victorious with Lee's control of the battlefield, and many Union wounded and their surgeons were left behind.

Back at his headquarters at Centreville, Pope sat in a chair against a wall, hands laced behind his head, his eyes staring blankly ahead, focused on no one, focused on nothing – the

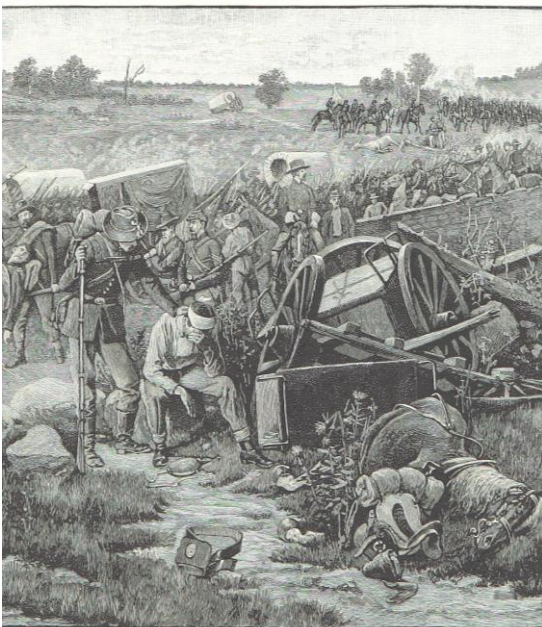
battle of Second Manassas was essentially over. Throughout the battle, Pope had only seen through his own eyes and never through his opponents'. He had come from out of the West and found that Lee, Jackson and Longstreet were nothing like the Confederate officers he had faced along the Mississippi.

Two days later, on 1 September, Jackson gave pursuit to Pope's retreating army, and engaged Pope at the nasty skirmish at Chantilly. This inconclusive battle was fought during a violent thunderstorm, during which the torrential rain wet the gunpowder of both sides. Union and Confederate men resorted to clubbing each other with their rifles.



Union Retreat & the Battle of Chantilly

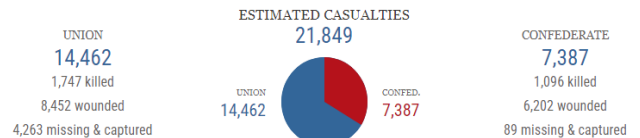
The three days of fighting at second Manassas claimed over 20,000 total casualties – 7,387 Confederates in victory and over 14,462 Federals in defeat.



THE RETREAT OVER THE STONE BRIDGE, SATURDAY EVENING, AUGUST 30TH. ☆

Strategically the Confederate victory was significant. In early May, McClellan were only 3 miles outside of Richmond. Three months later, Lee and his army were 20 miles outside the gates of Washington DC.

Second Manassas cleared the strategic table in Virginia like no other. It trumpeted a Confederate command chemistry that the North could only dream about. It highlighted Jackson's ability to find opportunities and yes, whilst Longstreet was cautious, no one threw a mightier counterpunch. Lee was seen as the architect who masterminded it all. Despite the scale of the victory, it has cost the Confederates dearly in men and supplies, and many troops were exhausted, and their stomachs were empty. Despite this, morale remained high, and the rebels were emboldened.



AFTERMATH OF SECOND MANASSAS

Second Manassas undid Pope. He tried his best to shift the blame, including having Porter court marshalled for his reluctance to attack on the first day of the battle, and, sadly, this was successful, with Porter being dismissed from the army. Porter fought the verdict his whole life and it was only overturned in 1878.

Most of the blame for the defeat, however, truly rests with Pope, for his obsession on Jackson and his ignoring of his subordinates and his own intelligence. After only 74 days in command Pope was reassigned to the North-West and would put down the bloody Sioux uprising. Although I doubt its veracity, legend has it that, out west, Pope once was seen wearing none other than Stuart's missing hat as a minor consolation prize.

Responsibility



John Pope



Fitz John Porter



George B. McClellan

Some blame for the defeat should be levelled at none other than General McClellan. Throughout the lead up to the battle, and the battle itself, McClellan and 20,000 troops were stationed at Alexandria, just outside of Washington, only 15 miles from Manassas.

Despite desperate pleas from Stanton and Lincoln to send some divisions to support Pope

and being easily within distance, McClellan would not budge and gave a number of weak excuses.

We can speculate as to his motives, but the popular theory is that he wanted Pope to fail so he could get his job back, which, if true, is highly dishonourable. This was Lincoln's view and he considered McClellan's conduct to be "shocking" and "atrocious".

However, at this point in time, Union morale was as low as the Confederates was high, and the Union desperately needed a commander. With no one else, a deflated Lincoln and Halleck had to turn to McClellan to once again lead the Union forces.

Lincoln mentioned to another cabinet member that "*McClellan has acted badly in this matter, but we must use what tools we have*". As the broken and dusty Union army entered Washington and word got around that McClellan was back in charge, there was a widespread celebration with soldiers chanting "*Little Mac is back!*"

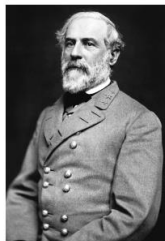
Military historian Hennessy described Second Manassas as Lee's greatest campaign – the "*happiest marriage of strategy and tactics he would ever attain*". Indeed, most of central and northern Virginia had been cleared of Union forces. Rather than surrender the initiative, Lee decided to head north and invade Maryland. On 3 September, Confederate troops splashed across the Potomac, beginning Lee's first incursion into the North and a bid for foreign intervention on behalf of the Confederacy.

One final point to consider: in invading Maryland, Lee did the one thing that could re-energise the demoralized Union army. One can't help but wonder what might have happened had the Union defeat – and all the political drama surrounding it – been allowed to fester. Alas, events moved so swiftly and spectacularly that by the time the armies clashed on Antietam Creek two weeks later, Second Manassas would seem a distant memory to much of the nation.

Conclusion – the Dream Team?



Thomas J Jackson (Stonewall)



Robert E Lee



James Longstreet

John Pope

(16 Mar 1822 – 23 Sep 1892)

by Ian McIntyre



John Pope was born in Louisville, Kentucky, the son of Nathaniel Pope, a prominent Federal judge in Illinois Territory and friend of lawyer Abraham Lawyer. After graduating from West Point in 1842, John Pope was appointed to the Corps of Topographical Engineers serving in Florida and helping survey the northeastern US and Canada border. He fought bravely in the Mexican War in the Battles of Monterrey and Buena Vista under Zackary Taylor and, as a result, was breveted to Captain.

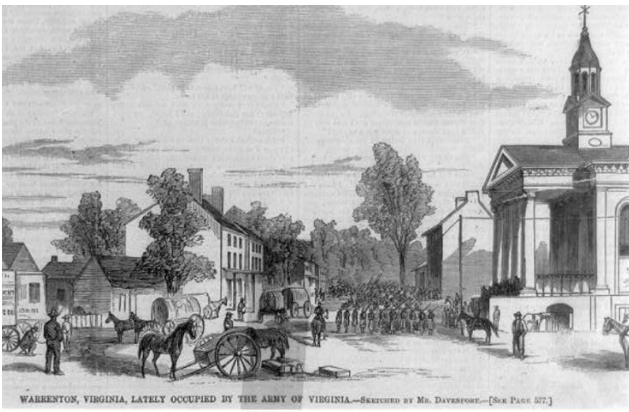
Prior to the Civil War, Pope was a career soldier and engineer in Minnesota and New Mexico. He also surveyed the route for the Pacific Railroad. Two months after the start of the War, in June 1861, he was appointed Brigadier General of volunteers by President Lincoln. He began this task in the Western Department as commander of the District pf North and Central Missouri. In 1862, after success at Blackwater, Missouri, General Halleck appointed him commander of the Army of the Mississippi with orders to clear the Mississippi River for ease of Union movement.

On 14th March, Pope captured New Madrid, Missouri. On April 7, he captured the heavily fortified Island No. 10, a small island at a double bend on the Missouri River, which was strongly fortified by 12,000 men and 58 guns. In preparation for the capture of the island, engineers cut a channel to bypass the island. Supported by the gunboats of Captain Andrew Foote, Pope then landed on the opposite shore, isolating the defenders.



As a result, the Confederate garrison surrendered on 7 April. This opened up large portions of the Mississippi for the Union as far south as Memphis. After this, Pope was promoted to Major General.

After this, Pope was summoned east by Lincoln. McClellan's Peninsula Campaign had collapsed, and Pope was appointed to command of the Army of Virginia, consisting of forces in the Shenandoah Valley and Northern Virginia. This promotion infuriated Frémont, who resigned his commission.



Warrenton, Virginia, lately occupied by the Army of Virginia

Pope's Army of Virginia increased to 70,000 men. However, despite his confidence and self-assurance, which was offensive to eastern soldiers, Pope was indecisive. This indecisiveness was sensed by Lee who, as a result, split his smaller (55,000-man) army, sending Jackson with 24,000 men as a diversion to Cedar Mountain, where Jackson defeated Pope's subordinate, Nathaniel Banks.

As Lee advanced on Pope with the remainder of his army, Jackson swung around to the north, capturing Pope's main supply base at Manassas Station. Pope, confused and unable to locate the main Confederate force, walking into a trap – the Second Battle of Bull Run.

Pope was relieved of command on 12 September 1862. His army was merged into the Army of the Potomac under McClellan. Pope spent the remainder of the war in the

Department of the Northwest in Minnesota, dealing with the Dakota War of 1862. In January 1865, he was assigned to command the Military Division of the Missouri. He became Brevet Major General in the regular army.

In his post war service, in April 1867, he was appointed Governor of the Reconstruction Third Military District. Later, from January 1868 to April 1870, he became Head of the Department of the Lakes, based in Detroit, Michigan. During Grant's presidency, he was Commander of the Department of the Missouri until 1883. He also served with distinction in the Apache Wars.

In 1879, a Board of Inquiry called by President Hayes and led by General John Schofield concluded that General Fitz John Porter had been unfairly convicted of cowardice and disobedience at the Second Battle of Bull Run. The Schofield report concluded that Pope bore most of the responsibility for the Union loss. It characterised Pope as being reckless and dangerously uninformed about events during the battle. It also criticised General Irvin McDowell. It also credited Porter's perceived disobedience with saving the Union army from complete ruin.

In 1862, Pope was promoted to Major General of the Regular Army in 1862. He commanded the Military Division of the Pacific from 1883 until his retirement in 1886. He died on 23 September 1892.

Henry Wager Halleck "Old Brains" (16 January 1815 – 9 January 1872) by Ian McIntyre



Ian's second subject for discussion was Henry Halleck.

Henry was born in January 1815 on the family farm in Oneida County, NY, the third of 14 children. Despising farm work, he ran away from home, ending up living with an uncle who steered him into a military education.

At West Point, he was a favourite student of the esteemed theorist Dennis Hart Mahan, graduating 3rd in the class of 1839. Appointed to the elite Corps of Engineers as a Lieutenant, he helped improve the defences of NY harbour. During this time, he travelled to France and learnt about European fortifications. On his return, he delivered a series of lectures in Boston which were published in 1846 as *Elements of Military Art and Science*, considered one of the first instances of American military professionalism, and which earned him the nickname "Old Brains".

When the Mexican War broke out in 1846, Halleck set sail for California. En route, he translated Antoine-Henri Jomini's *Vie Politique et Militaire de Napoleon (Political and Military Life of Napoleon)*, further enhancing his reputation as a military scholar. Every major Civil War commander on both sides read it. In 1847, he saw combat at Mazatlán in 1847 and was Brevetted to Captain, although he was mostly engaged in administrative functions. However, he also found time to pass the Bar.

In newly annexed California, as Secretary of State, Halleck helped draft the state's constitution in 1849 and was nominated to represent California in the United States Senate but did not receive sufficient votes. In 1854, he established a law firm in San Francisco and married Alexander Hamilton's granddaughter Elizabeth Hamilton. Resigning from the army, he devoted himself full-time to his legal practice, Halleck, Peachy and Billings, which was one of the most prominent law firms in the state. He also added to his personal fortune through land speculation and as president of the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad. In 1861, he was appointed Major General of the California Militia.

Civil War Service

In 1861, Halleck offered his services to the Union, and he was promptly made a full Major General by Lincoln. In November of that year, he was sent to St Louis to replace the disastrous command of Frémont. Within a few months, his administration had restored order and important Union victories in his department followed: Pea Ridge; Island No. 10; Fort Donelson; and Shiloh. Halleck's organisational work had helped even though he had not personally led the troops. He did, however, receive much of the credit.

There was, however, criticism of his ponderous and methodical style and for allowing Confederate forces under Beauregard to pull out of Corinth, Miss., unmolested. Even so, in July 1862, he was appointed General-in-Chief of all Union forces by Lincoln. It can be argued that he succeeded as an organiser but utterly failed as a strategist.



His period as General-in-Chief was defined by his inability to get along with his subordinates and have his orders followed by them. McClellan characterised him as "the most hopelessly stupid of all men in high position". His superiors were also not happy with him, with Lincoln commenting that he was "little more than a first-rate clerk".

In the spring of 1864, Grant became General-in-Chief of all Union forces and Halleck was demoted to chief of staff. He served out the rest of the war ensuring that the Northern Armies were properly equipped, fed and reinforced, which he did exceedingly well.



After Appomattox and the war's end, Halleck was transferred back to San Francisco to command the Military Division of the Pacific. In 1869, he was reassigned to the Division of the South, headquartered at Louisville, Kentucky. He died in 1872, and was buried at Greenwood Cemetery, Brooklyn NY.

Evaluation

History has not been kind to Halleck. He soured his relationships with other leaders of the time and his military promise, displayed so brilliantly on paper, never came to fruition in the field. He was a highly effective theorist, staff officer and administrator, and discharged the position of Chief of Staff with great effect.



Our members at the cross-road



Corinth – The Crossroads of the Confederacy 29 April – 30 May 1862
by *John Morrison*



Corinth, Mississippi, was founded in 1854 at the junction of two of the most important railroads in the South:

1. Memphis and Charlestown – the only direct line from the Mississippi to the Atlantic Coast
2. Mobile and Ohio – running from Kentucky and Tennessee to the Gulf of Mexico

Control of these rail lines meant access to the Confederate heartland, as well as a means to reach its coastal ports, so the defence of Corinth was a priority for western commanders.

After the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson, Union forces began to advance towards Corinth. At the same time, Confederates marched 22 miles to the north-east to surprise them at Pittsburgh Landing.

Following the Battle of Shiloh, Confederate General Beauregard retreated to Corinth. Union Army General Henry W. Halleck assumed command of three Union armies – the Army of the Tennessee, the Army of the Ohio and the Army of the Mississippi. Grant was sidelined as Second in Command to Halleck. Despite Grant's urging to advance rapidly, Halleck advanced cautiously, laying siege to Corinth.

The opposing forces were as follows:

Opposing Forces


Union Forces, Department of the Mississippi - 120,000
 Commander - Gen Henry W. Halleck

- Army of The Mississippi (Left Wing) 21,500 - Maj. Gen. John Pope
- Army of The Ohio (Centre Wing) 48,000 - Maj. Gen. Don Carlos Buell
- Army of The Mississippi (Right Wing) 50,500 - Maj. Gen. George Thomas





Opposing Commanders

Union Forces

Henry W Halleck



Ulysses S Grant **John Pope** **Don Carlos Buell** **George Thomas**

Opposing Forces

Confederate Forces at Corinth - 65,000
 Commander - Gen P.G.T. Beauregard
 Army of the Mississippi 45,500 - Gen P.G.T. Beauregard

- I Corps - Maj. Gen. Leonidas Polk,
- II Corps - Maj. Gen. Braxton Bragg (divisions of Gen. Benjamin F. Cheatham and Jones M. Withers)
- III Corps, - Maj. Gen. William J. Hardee (brigades of Robert G. Shaver, Patrick Cleburne, S. A. M. Wood, and John S. Marmaduke)
- The Reserve Corps - Brig. Gen. John C. Breckinridge.

Army of the West 13,000 - Maj. Gen. Earl Van Dorn,
 • divisions of Samuel Jones, Sterling Price, and John P. McCown

Opposing Commanders

Confederate Forces



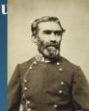
P.G.T. Beauregard



Earl Van Dorn



Leonidas Polk



Braxton Bragg



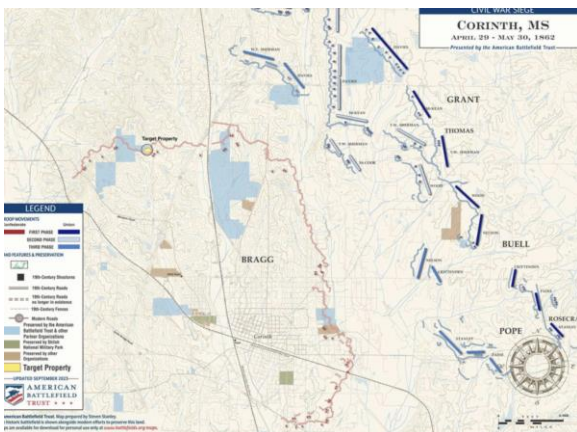
William Hardee



John Breckinridge

Halleck's Advance – The Siege of Corinth

Halleck's advance was a tedious campaign of offensive entrenchment, fortifying after each advance so that it barely moved five miles in three weeks. On 25th May 1862, Halleck was in position to lay siege of the town. At that point, Confederate morale was low. They were outnumbered 2 to 1, the water was bad and typhoid and dysentery had felled thousands of men. As a result, Confederate commanders concluded that they could not hold the railroad crossover as sickness had claimed as many lives as the loss at Shiloh.



Beauregard's Deception

With the Federal army preparing to lay siege to the town, a Confederate council of war decided to retreat. Beauregard then saved his army by a deception. His men were given three days' rations and ordered to prepare for an attack. As expected, one or two went over the Union with that news. The preliminary bombardment began, and Union forces maneuvered for position.

During the night of 29th May, the Confederate army moved out, using the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to carry the sick and wounded, heavy artillery and tons of supplies. When the train arrived, the troops cheered as though reinforcements were arriving. Dummy Quaker Guns were set up along the defensive earthworks, campfires were kept burning and buglers and drummers played. During this, the Confederate army slipped away undetected and withdrew to Tupelo, Mississippi.

When Union patrols entered Corinth on 30th May, the Confederate troops were gone. Union forces then took control and made Corinth their base for operations to seize control of the Mississippi Valley, especially the Confederate stronghold of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

A Lost Opportunity

In General Pope's memoir, he wrote "Halleck's cautious campaign failed to take full advantage of a glittering array of talented Union officers, including Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Thomas, McPherson, Logan, Buell, Rosecrans and many others I might mention".

General William Rosecrans was also sent to Corinth. Union Forces were concentrated in the city.

The Second Battle of Corinth took place 3 – 4 October 1862 when Confederate General Earl Van Dorn attempted to take the city. General Rosecrans had the opportunity to crush rebel forces during the battle but he failed to follow up his victory, allowing Van Dorn's army to escape destruction.

Corinth ultimately led to the operations that opened the Mississippi Rive valley: "The opening of the Mississippi will be to us of more advantage than the capture of forty Richmonds", General Halleck said.

It ultimately also became a destination for refugees from slavery, called contrabands, and was "widely regarded as a 'model' camp".

