

The 2nd Battle of Bull Run

By Darrell Osburn c-1994

[pic of Lee]

In the middle of 1862, General Robert E. Lee's outnumbered Southern army had managed to stop

[pic of McClellan]

General George B. McClellan's Union army from taking the Confederate capital of Richmond, Virginia.

[pic of Stonewall Jackson-graphic Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson]

Confederate General Stonewall Jackson had defeated 3 small Union armies in his brilliant Shenandoah Valley campaign.

[US marchby]

The remains of these 3 armies were concentrated together to form a single army of 75,000 men.

[pic of Pope]

General John Pope was put in command of this force.

[US marchby]

Gen. Pope had had some success in the western theater of the war. But when he went east to take charge of the Union forces in the Washington D.C. area, he made some stupid statements that infuriated his men. He said,

[SPEAKING PART-Gen. Pope to his Union officers]:

"Let us understand each other. I come to you from the west, where we have always seen the backs of our enemies."

[U.S. officers look at each other in dismay]

General Pope liked to boast about what he would do to the enemy. He said,

[SPEAKING PART-Pope]

“From now on, my headquarters will be in the saddle.”

When the Southerners heard about this declaration, it tickled them.

[SPEAKING PART-a southern soldier to his friends]:

“I hear tell Gen. Pope says from now on his headquarters would be in the saddle. Ain’t that where most folks put their hindquarters?”

[chuckles from the rebs]

[US officers discuss with Pope]

Pope’s Generals tried to warn him that his opponents, Jackson and Lee, were both dangerous and unpredictable. But Pope did not listen. He was sure that his Generals were just plain scared to fight. Pope was certain that he could easily whip the Confederates.

[map]

He planned a move south, toward Richmond.

[pic of Lincoln]

U.S. president Abraham Lincoln ordered McClellan and his army to leave Richmond by water, to join Pope’s forces.

[US marchby]

Altogether, the Federals would have 130,000 men

[CS marchby]

against Lee’s 56,000. It was therefore critical for Lee to try to destroy Pope’s force before McClellan could arrive, which was expected to be about 5 days.

McClellan believed Lee had double or triple the numbers of soldiers he actually had. But Lee knew the true situation and was worried about it.

[pan CS troops ready and formed for battle]

Lee had also left thousands of his troops under the command of

[pic of Longstreet]

General James Longstreet, in Richmond, until it was clear that the Union forces were really pulling out of the area.

[CS marchby, double-quick]

Lee then sent Jackson's famous "foot-cavalry" and A.P. Hill's corp, altogether about 24,000 men, to try to hold Pope in place and not let him retreat and join McClellan.

[US marchby, double-quick, CS marchby, double-quick]

It became a race between Lee and McClellan to see who could get to Pope first.

[Lee with his officers]

Of all the Union Generals Lee fought in the Civil War, Lee had the least respect for John Pope. Lee thought Pope was a self-important braggart and Lee wanted to whip him badly to shut him up.

[CS double-quick marchby]

General Jackson tried to maneuver between Pope and Washington, D.C. But he had to abandon that idea because the Yankees got lucky.

[gleeful Yankees with plans]

On August 18th, the Federals captured copies of Lee's battle plans.

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Lee then did a very risky thing. He divided his already outnumbered army and sent Jackson's men on a long march around Pope. Jackson's foot cavalry covered 62 miles in about 2 days. Pope thought Jackson was scared and running away until he discovered that Jackson had captured his massive supply depot in Manassas Junction.

[Rebs come swarming toward the supplies, are about to eat, when they are ordered back into ranks]

The ragged and starving rebels descended on the supplies but before they could eat, they were ordered back into ranks. They had to march away to fight another battle. The Confederates were disappointed and angry but they formed up, marched off and defeated a small force of Federals.

[happy rebels loot the supplies, eat]

When they returned, to the Junction, they had the feast of their dreams. Ragged soldiers who, for weeks, had eaten nothing except green corn and apples, found themselves eating lobster salad, champagne, and every imaginable delicacy that was intended for the Union generals.

[Rebs burn the remainder of supplies, carrying away what they can]

The Southerners torched everything they could not eat or carry, then waited in the woods for Pope's main force to come storming in.

[US scouts go out]

Curious about the exact position of Jackson's force, scouts were sent out to look.

[Scouts are shot, some captured]

Since none of them returned, Pope figured the rebels must be close.

[US marchby]

When Pope realized that Jackson was behind him, he began to back up toward Washington D.C.

[CS marchby]

Lee then ordered Longstreet's men to march to join Jackson.

[US officers planning]

Pope had made a major miscalculation in thinking that Jackson was retreating. Pope's men could not locate Jackson, though Pope's men had tried their best.

Worse than that, Pope seemed to be completely unaware that Longstreet's corp was even a factor.

[CS attack]

Although Jackson was outnumbered 3 to 1, he attacked Pope's forces near Grovetown, Virginia.

[CS double-quick march]

Jackson's move occupied Pope's attention and held him in place until Longstreet arrived.

[US officers meeting]

Pope had already sent messages to Washington D.C. proclaiming he had already forced Jackson to retreat south. His officers tried to warn him that Longstreet was getting close. But Pope refused to listen to them. The Confederates had won the race to get to Pope.

[big US attack formation, US advancing in battle lines]

On August 29th, 1862, General Pope launched about 60,000 soldiers against Jackson's 20,000.

[US attack, then are driven back]

Time after time the Union forces charged but each time, were forced to fall back.

[US officer with binoculars]

One Union officer made note that his troops were not advancing much. Then he spotted smoke coming from the trees, which could only mean one thing: rebel sharpshooters.

[US cannons fire at sharpshooters in the trees, hitting some]

This officer ordered cannon fire into the trees to destroy the sharpshooters, to make it easier for his men to advance on the main rebel line.

[That officer is shot]

Just as he was issuing orders for a second round of cannon fire, he was shot down by a rebel sharpshooter.

[rebel sharpshooters]

The Union cannons had failed to destroy the sharpshooters.

[US attack gets close to rebs]

The Union forces moved to within 20 feet, when Jackson's men ran out of ammunition.

[rebels throw rocks at yanks]

The Rebels drove the Yankee attacks back with rocks.

[more rebs form up on the Union left flank]

Just as it seemed the next attack would succeed, Longstreet's force arrived and once again, the Union troops were repulsed.

[NIGHT SHOT-US cannons fire into the woods, rebels retreat]

On the night of the 29th, Union artillery shelled the woods as Jackson's men fell back to consolidate their lines. This further encouraged Pope to believe that Jackson was retreating.

[DAY SHOT-Big US attack]

On August 30th, the blue troops again charged Jackson's lines.

[CS artillery fire]

Confederate artillery blew big holes in the Union lines.

[Big Rebel attack from front and left flank with a loud rebel yell. Yankees run for their lives]

Jackson's men, in front of the Yankees, and Longstreet's men, who had formed on the Federals' left flank, all swept forward in a massive attack that routed the Union troops.

[US troops on a hill fight back]

Pope's army would likely have been completely annihilated if not for some solid resistance by some brave Yankees on Henry House Hill. These soldiers bought enough time for most of Pope's men to escape.

[rebels being held back]

Lee tried to pursue but discovered that the Union soldiers could fight better than their general.

[Union army at the double-quick]

The bulk of Pope's army escaped to Washington D.C. and joined up with McClellan.

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Pope was removed from command and was sent to Minnesota to quell an uprising of Native Americans. All of the Northerners wanted Pope to be sent far away.

[Confederate officers planning]

Lee knew that he could not remain close to Washington D.C. Soon, the Federals would send their massive armies against him. Lee also did not wish to retreat further into Virginia and he did not have the strength to attack Washington.

[CS marchby]

But daring as always, Lee gambled big on winning the war. Lee decided to move north to invade Maryland.

[CS dead and wounded –with nurses?]

In the Battle of 2nd Bull Run, also known as the 2nd Manasses, the southerners lost about 9,000 men, killed wounded, captured or missing.

[US dead]

The Federal casualties amounted to about 16,000 men.

The Battle of 2nd Bull Run was the biggest battle in the Eastern theater, up until that time. Even though Lee's victory was not complete, Pope had been beaten worse by a smaller army, than just about any general in history ever was.

[WIDE SHOT of dead]

But the frightful casualties on both sides brought the realization to the people of both north and south, the true meaning of the devastation and misery of war.