

Stephen Sears, The Landscape Turned Red

Prologue: The pall of fear in Washington after the news of Bull Run reached the capital. Stanton was opening up the arsenals to arm govt. workers in the event the Rebs would try a push on the city.

Limits of Limited War; Bio. sketch of the new Commanding general of the Army of the Potomac.

Deals w/ McClellan's imperious nature; he would brook not criticism even from his c-in-c, Lincoln.

Mac and his intelligence from Pinkerton on Rebel strength. . . .

Mac's politics. . . . Mac's war aim: to end the secession and return to status quo ante. Not to mix the "negro question" with his conservative war aims. . . . He wanted to wage a "soft" Democratic war.

Discussion of Mac's disastrous Peninsula Campaign . . .

## 2. The Confederate Tide

Lee takes over the command of the Army of Northern Virginia. At his request the CSA introduces the first draft in American history in April '62. Discussion of Lee's tactics in the Seven Days campaign. Lee was audacious. . . . leaving the front door of Richmond almost unattended while he went after Mac's flanks on the Peninsula. Note: Lee early on had read pretty clearly his Union adversary.

Lee's masterful strategy in defeat Pope and larger federal armies at Second Bull Run. This was a brilliant victory of Confederate arms.

Lee and his first Maryland campaign. Why invade the North? The usual reasons ascribed to Lee (1) provisioning his army on northern territory; (2) appeal (mistakenly) to pro-Confederate sympathies in Maryland and recruit; (3) keep the Union away from the doors of Richmond once they repaid after the Peninsula Campaign, etc.

Sears says that Lee wanted to entice McClellan and the Army of the Potomac into battle in the north and thereby defeat the North's most highly regarded army. Lee had all the instincts of a riverboat gambler. Moreover, he felt he had the measure of the Union general and could destroy his forces in the field.

His ultimate plan was to capture the city of Harrisburg and destroy the Penna. rr crossing and connection between East and West. After that he could turn his attention toward Baltimore, Phila. or Washington.

Lee never believed that foreign assistance would come to the Rebs. They would be on their own in winning their independence. But a smashing Con. victory in the field, Lee expected, would strengthen the antiwar forces in the North and play havoc w/ the 1862 elections. Lee hoped to parlay

Sears, Landscape Turned Red  
Page two

a great military victory into decisive political dividends. If he could influence critically the war weariness in the North he might be able to force Lincoln's hand to negotiate a peace with the South.

On Thursday, Sept. 4, 1862, the advance units of the AofNV crossed the Potomas at White's Ford . . The bands played "Maryland My Maryland."

3. Will Send You Trophies

The advance into Maryland was accompanied in the West w/ Rebel attacks on Kentucky. The South was on the offensive . . .

The North was in the dumps. Lincoln looked for a general to command the Army of the Potomac. He offered the post to Burnside but B. refused, pleading he was not up to commanding an army. (Burnside was at best a capable commandser at regimental level). In desperation, Lincoln again turned to the Young Napoleon. The rapid advance of Lee's forces gave Lincoln little time to consider. "We must use what tools we have," he told Hay.

Lee's army at Frederick. They had a marvelous week in the city. The Urbana girls academy and the Reb calvalry. . . .

Feds occupy Frederick on Sept. 13. In a meadow outside of town several soldiers found the world's most famous cigars with Special Orders, 191. The Orders revealed that Lee had divided his army(40,000)into five parts. Mac had the Confederate Order of Battle and could move to wipe up Lee's forces before they could ever reassemble into one fighting force. (128/129) Mac total force was about 87,000 men; more than double Lee's total force. Mac had the Rebs battle order and had more than twice the manpower. Instead of moving that evening, Mac waited for 18 hours before Union forces began to move toward South Mountain.

4. Fire on the Mountain

Deals w/ battles of South Mt. Turner's Gap/ Crampton's Gap.

5. We Will Make Our Stand

Lee was confused and surprised at Mac's sudden movements. The Union won victories in South Mountain. Lee decided to pull back and collect all his forces at the town of Sharpsburg and stand to battle. Mac's 60,000 troops reached Sharpsburg on Sept. 15 to confront a part of Lee's forces that were outnumbered by 4 to 1. Jackson and Longstreet were still on their way to Antietam. But Mac did not attack on Sept. 15 afternoon. Mac waited and prepared for attack on Sept. 17th.

*Make N.  
about 87,000  
w/ full  
Reports of Post  
Order appeared  
w/ no. 191.*

The next three or four chapters deal with the 12 hours of Antietam.

The account sheet of Antietam:

Union casualties (dead, wounded, and missing) = 12,401/ 25% of those who saw action that day.

Confederate losses = 10,318; 31% of those on the firing line.

the combined casualties = 22, 719

Sears questions these figures. There were probably more dead among those missing and those wounded who died later.

Mac committed only about 50,000 men leaving 1/3 of his army in reserve.

#### 9. To Nobly Save Or Meanly Lose

Sears argues that w/ Orders 191, Mac had at least six separate occasions to crush Lee's army and the rebellion. The best was on Friday the 13 and on the 18th when Lee abandoned the field and had to cross the Potomac with his army. Mac never made a move on the 18th to follow up w/ a massive attack on the retreating Lee. See pp. 339/340 on Lee's determination to recross the Potomac and force Mac into a final battle; a decisive contest that he came north to provoke in the first place. It was only after a time that he realized that the Army of No. Virginia was fearfully wounded and the spirit had gone out of it that he gave up these plans.

What was won and lost at Antietam? 340/341. Sears's caustic appraisal of Mac as a general. Basic point is that the Union soldier

Sears judges Mac's performance as a commander as a disaster. Mac regarded Antietam campaign as a "victory," in that he forced Lee to retreat from the field.

Discussion of Lincoln's launching of the preliminary EP. His concern about its reception, especially with the Army of the Potomac. Rumors of a coup being discussed by general officers of Mac's command. This was the story Maj. John Key and his removal by Lincoln. pp. 352/354. Mac's resistance to the EP and final weakly worded acceptance.

He remained in camp at Antietam while Lee's Army of No. Virginia rested and regrouped in the Shenandoah Valley. Lincoln's pleas that he move against Lee and take the initiative; that the nation (and the whole world) was watching fell on deaf ears.

Sears, Landscape Turned Red  
Page four

Jeb Stuart;'s large calavalry raid around Mac's Army and raid on Chambersburg, Pa. Stuart went 20 miles north of Mac's encampment and was never confronted. It was not until October 26, 6 weeks after battle of Antietam that the Army of the Potomac crossed the Potomac into Virginia. The war was underway again Mac began to inch his way again toward Richmond.

Epilogue: A Last Farewell

Deals w/ the removal of Young Napoleon from command. It was regarded as a delicate operation by Lincoln/Stanton.