

History 225

Re: Notes w/ Confederate Victories--Bull Run to Second Manassas

Point: Opening stages of the War--from First Bull Run in July 1861 to Second Manassas in August 182--the South enjoyed a marked military success in the East. The story was different in the West however.

Two points to be made about this period of the conflict:

(1) No army victorious in the field was ever able or willing to pursue the defeated force;

(2) That, in the South's case, she was never able to therefore ring up decisive victories by destroying Union armies in the field. Same was case with Union, but it was critical for the CSA in order to lure England into intervening in the war.

1. Bull Run(July 21, 1861)--the Summer Lark was over.

Lincoln sent a "green" army under McDowell to clear out the Confederates and take Richmond. The sentiment on both sides was that it would be a cake walk. This one big battle would settle the dispute.

Battle had a festive air about it. Northerners poured out of Washington to picnic and watch the fireworks.

After initial Union successes the Southerners rushed in fresh troops by railroad line--advantage of interior lines and carried the day.

The legend of "Stonewall" Jackson was created here.

What started out as a Union victory turned into a Union route. It was called "The Great Skee-daddle" Casualties were higher than anyone expected: 1200 KIAs and over 3000 wounded.

While the South repelled a larger Union force they were not prepared to take advantage of the victory in the field and move on and take Washington.

History 225

Page two

Re: Notes: Confederate Victories--Bull Run to Second Manassas.

Southern victories in the East could not neutralize Union advances in the West. I think the consensus is that these Western victories--while they did not attract the same attention in the press and among the populace in the North--were the more critical in terms of weakening the South.

CSA lost Ft. Henry / Donaldson / New Orleans in the early stages of the war. This was part of the campaign to take over the Mississippi and cut the Confederacy in half. And give the Union advantage over the river routes for future campaigns.

With the loss of Fts. Henry and Donaldson it meant that CSA would have to give up hopes of bringing Kentucky into the Confederacy.

Shiloh (Pittsburgh Landing) on the Tennessee. Battle took place over two days--April 6, 7, 1862.

This was a Union victory. But the import also is that Shiloh was a carnage; a bloodbath. It was an unexpected battle; it came out of nowhere. But the results were shattering.

3 20,000 dead and wounded in 36 hrs of fighting
More than ~~10,000~~ deaths from both sides. The losses were greater than all the other losses of Americans in all of our wars to date. More died at Shiloh than at Waterloo. And before the war was over there would at least 20 more Shiloh's in terms of combat deaths.

"What are we in for?"

Out of the Western Campaign came US Grant. Or "Unconditional" Grant. A fighter.

After Shiloh came more Southern victories in the East.

Union General McClellan was repelled from siege of Richmond in the Seven Days Campaign. Completely outgeneralled by Lee and Jackson. The South was able to repulse his efforts to lay siege to the Confederate Capitol.

This was followed by a second Union drubbing at Manassas again in August 1863.

Note: Second Manassas gave Lee the idea that North might be vulnerable to an invasion.