John Pope at Second Bull Run

Class One

After the McClellan’s defeat in the Peninsular Campaign, Lincoln replaces him with John Pope. Pope is fresh from his victory at Island No. 10/New Madrid. However, his success in the West will not be duplicated in the East.
These lectures describe the events in the American Civil War.

Some of the material presented may be upsetting and students are cautioned to be aware of this.

Racial descriptions and references to races from letters, field reports and other material from the time period may also be objectionable.

Such material is intended for educational purposes and does in no way reflect the author’s or college’s beliefs and attitudes.

Comments about political parties and figures are intended for educational purposes and are used to contrast the difference between these parties today and their philosophies during and the time of the American Civil War.

The instructor may recommend resources that provide additional content, these recommendations are intended as suggestions and students should use their own discretion in visiting websites, reading blogs, and/or obtaining books or magazines.

The author tries to maintain a balanced perspective relative to Southern and Northern attitudes.

– Allen Mesch
Outline

- Class One – John Pope at Second Bull Run
- Class Two – George McClellan at Antietam
- Class Three – Ambrose Burnside at Fredericksburg
Instructor – Allen Mesch

- Over 40 years in the oil & gas industry
- Adjunct business professor at UTD, TWU & SMU
- Visited over 89 Civil War Battlefields
- Taken over 3,700 pictures
- Created Civil War Journeys web site and blog Salient Points
- Writing biography of Major General C.F. Smith
- Book reviewer for The Civil War Courier
- Married, 2 children & 6 grandkids
- Author of political thriller, The Analyst

Prior SAIL Civil War classes
- The Civil War
- Voices of the Civil War
- Civil War Photography
- From West Point to Fort Sumter
- Civil War Turning Points
- From Springfield to Fort Sumter
- The Armies Clash – First Bull Run and Wilson’s Creek
- Stonewall Jackson’s Valley Campaign
Events of 1862 [1]

- **February 16** - Fort Donelson on the Cumberland River is captured by Ulysses S. Grant under terms of "Unconditional Surrender."
- **February 28-April 8, 1862** - Brig. Gen. John Pope's Union forces take New Madrid/Island No. 10, MO opening the Mississippi to Fort Pillow, TN.
- **March 7-8** - The Battle of Pea Ridge preserves Missouri for the Union.
- **March 8-9** - At the Battle of Hampton Roads, the CSS Virginia battles the USS Monitor to a draw in the first ironclad naval engagement.
- **March 26-28** - The Union victory at Glorieta Pass, NM was the turning point of the war in the New Mexico Territory.
- **April 6-7** - At least 24,000 casualties in the two-day battle at Shiloh, TN.
- **April 10-11** - Union troops overwhelm the defenses of Fort Pulaski, GA.
- **April 12** - James Andrews leads a band of volunteers in a daring attack on the Western & Atlantic Railroad in what becomes “The Great Train Chase.”
- **April 16-28** - Flag-Officer David G. Farragut sent his ships north pass Forts Jackson & St. Phillip, LA and head for New Orleans.
Events of 1862 [2]

- April 26 - Federal rifled cannons force the surrender of Fort Macon, NC and signal the obsolescence of masonry fortifications.
- June 1 - Robert E. Lee assumes command of the Army of Northern Virginia.
- June 25 - July 1 - In the Seven Days battles (Gaines' Mill, VA - June 27, Beaver Dam Creek, VA - June 26, Glendale, VA - June 30, Malvern Hill, VA - July 1), General Robert E. Lee displays his military brilliance as Confederate forces defeat General George B. McClellan's Union troops and save Richmond.
- July 17 – U. S. Grant assumes command of the Union army in the West.
- July 23 - Henry Halleck becomes General-in-Chief of U.S. Army
- August 28-30 - Outnumbered Confederate troops defeat Union forces at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Manassas), VA
John Pope – Before Bull Run

- John Pope (March 16, 1822 – September 23, 1892) was a career United States Army officer and Union general in the American Civil War.
- He had a brief but successful career in the Western Theater, but he is best known for his defeat at the Second Battle of Bull Run (Second Manassas) in the East.
- Pope graduated from the US Military Academy at West Point in 1842.
- He served in the Mexican-American War and had numerous assignments as a topographical engineer and surveyor in Florida, New Mexico, and Minnesota.
- He spent much of the decade before the Civil War surveying possible southern routes for the proposed First Transcontinental Railroad.
▪ He was an early appointee as a Union brigadier general of volunteers and served initially under Maj. Gen. John C. Frémont, with whom he had a stormy relationship.

▪ He achieved initial success against Brig. Gen. Sterling Price in Missouri and then led a successful campaign that captured Island No. 10 on the Mississippi River.

▪ Pope's success in the West inspired the Lincoln administration to bring him to the troubled Eastern Theater to lead the newly formed Army of Virginia.

▪ He initially alienated many of his officers and men by publicly denigrating their record in comparison to his Western command.
“Let us understand each other. I have come from to you from the West, where we have always seen the backs of our enemies; from an army whose business it has been to seek the adversary and to beat him when he was found; whose policy has been attack and not defense.”

“... meantime I desire you to dismiss from your minds certain phrases, which I am sorry to find so much in vogue amongst you.”

“I hear constantly of ‘taking strong positions and holding them,’ of ‘lines of retreat,’ and of ‘base of supplies.’ Let us discard such ideas.”

“The strongest position a soldier should desire to occupy is one from which he can most easily advance against the enemy.”
“Any persons detected in such outrages”

- General Orders No. 5 – July 18, 1862
  - “Hereafter, as far as practicable, the troops of this command will subsist upon the country in which operations are carried on.”
  - “Vouchers will be given to the owners ... payable at the conclusion of the war.”

- General Orders No. 7 – July 10, 1862
  - “The people of the valley of the Shenandoah and throughout the region of operations ... are notified that they will be held responsible for any injury done to the track, line, or road, or for any attacks upon trains or straggling soldiers by bands of guerrillas in their neighborhood.”
  - “... citizens living within 5 miles of the spot shall be turned out in mass to repair the damage.”
  - “If a soldier or legitimate follower of the army be fired upon from any house the house shall be razed to the ground.”
  - “Any persons detected in such outrages, either during the or at any time afterward, shall be shot, without awaiting civil process.”
General Orders No. 11 – July 23, 1862

- “Commanders of army corps, divisions, brigades, and detached commands will proceed immediately to arrest all disloyal male citizens with their lines or within their reach in rear of their respective stations.”
- “Such as are willing to take the oath of allegiance ... shall be permitted to remain at their homes and pursue in good faith their accustomed avocations.”
- “If any person, having taken the oath ... be found to have violated it, he shall be shot, and his property seized...”
Pope’s Offensive Against Lee

- He launched an offensive against the Confederate army of General Robert E. Lee, in which he fell prey to a strategic turning movement into his rear areas by Maj. Gen. Stonewall Jackson.
- At Second Bull Run, he concentrated his attention on attacking Jackson while the other Confederate corps, under Maj. Gen. James Longstreet, executed a devastating assault into his flank, routing his army.
Battlefield maps may be obtained by visiting the Second Bull Run webpage provided by Wikipedia.
The Commanders

John Pope

Robert E. Lee

Fitz John Porter

Irwin McDowell

Thomas Jackson

James Longstreet

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Civil War Journeys

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The Battle of Second Bull Run

- The Second Manassas Campaign – History Animated
- Brawner’s Farm: Toe to Toe
- Second Manassas – Zouaves
  Overrun
- Second Manassas – Fight for the Deep Cut
- Second Bull Run (Manassas), + – Civil War Journeys
“Oh this is a dreadful war”

- “... but before any orders could be given to change position, the balls began to fly from the woods like hail. It was a continual hiss, snap, whizz and slug.”
- “The recruits began to give way and then the whole regiment broke and ran for their lives ... There was no hope but in flight.”
- “I saw the men dropping on all sides, canteens struck and flying to pieces, it was a perfect hail of bullets.”
- “How I escaped I don’t know but I thank God for it.”
- “I can hardly expect to survive another such engagement; if we should be unfortunate enough to get into another, it will wipe us out as a thing of the past.”
- “Oh this is a dreadful war!”
- Alfred Davenport, 5th New York Infantry
Aftermath

- He deflected some of the blame for the defeat by wrongfully accusing **Brig. Gen. Fitz John Porter** of disobeying his orders.
- **Porter** was exonerated in 1879, causing much public embarrassment for **Pope**.
- Following Manassas, **Pope** was banished far from the Eastern Theater to Minnesota, where he commanded U.S. Forces in the Dakota War of 1862.
- He was appointed to command the Department of the Missouri in 1865 and was a prominent and activist commander during Reconstruction in Atlanta.
- For the rest of his military career, he fought in the Indian Wars, particularly against the Apache and Sioux.
Porter was charged with two violations of the Articles of War for his actions during the battle, Article IX, disobeying a lawful order, and Article LII, misbehavior in front of the enemy.

Both charges contained specifications, examples when Porter allegedly committed the offense.

In the first charge, Pope tried to prove that Porter's failing to follow his orders resulted in the situation which gave the Confederates the upper hand on the battlefield.

In the second, Pope accused Porter of cowardice at best, open treason at worst.

Porter plead "not guilty" to all charges.
The Ordeal of Fitz John Porter [2]

- The trial unsettled the public perception of competence in the army and administration.
- In 1879, the Schofield Commission report found Porter guilty of no wrongdoing during the course of action on August 29, 1862, and credited him with saving the Union Army from an even greater defeat.
- The Commission also attributed much of the confusion of the situation and overall loss of the battle to Pope and McDowell.
Actions 10 am, August 29 – Sigel’s Attack
Actions 12 noon, August 29 – Longstreet Arrives. Porter Stalls.
Actions 3 pm, August 29 – Grover’s Attack

[Map of the Second Battle of Bull Run showing military movements and key locations such as Stony Ridge, Jackson, Grover, and Farnsworth.]

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Actions 5-7 pm, August 29 – Kearny’s Attack. Hood vs. Hatch
Actions 4 pm, August 30 – Start of Longstreet’s Attack
Actions 4 pm, August 30 – Start of Longstreet’s Attack
Actions 4:30 pm, August 30- Union Defense of Chinn Ridge
Actions 5 pm, August 30 – Final Confederate Attacks. Union Retreat Begins
The Flags of Second Manassas

Source: The Flags of Second Manassas, Civil War Trust