

Volume 10

Number 029

Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign

-I

Lead: In the annals of the Civil War no name is more renowned than Stonewall. T. J. Jackson earned his reputation as a supreme strategist in the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1862.

Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.

Content: Despite early victories, the prospects for the Confederacy in the Spring of 1862 were exceedingly bleak. New Orleans was in Federal hands as was most of Tennessee.

General George McClellan had landed on the Virginia Peninsula and was pressing Richmond. Union troops in large numbers were moving south down the Shenandoah Valley to remove that breadbasket from rebel hands and come at Richmond from the west. All that stood in their way were 3500 troops thrown together by Major General Thomas Jonathan Jackson, an austere, rather eccentric former professor at the Virginia Military Academy, whose firmness in the face of Union assault at the First Battle of Manassas in June 1861 had earned him the nickname Stonewall.

The Valley of Virginia lies like a double-headed javelin between spines of the Appalachian Mountains. It

runs southwest to northeast pointing either to the heartland of North or South. Whoever controlled that long rich, strategic valley could command a powerful land bridge for troop movement as well as the abundant output of its thousands of fertile farms. Jackson had two tasks: 1) keep the Valley in Confederate hands and, 2) keep as many Union troops as possible away from the eastern Virginia theater. He began with characteristic Jackson boldness. Union forces under former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, General Nathaniel Banks, in early March moved south to Winchester. Discovering no Confederate resistance, he confidently sent most of his army east over the Blue Ridge to

join McClellan's efforts before Richmond. Jackson attacked toward Winchester at Kernstown. He lost this first engagement. Or did he? Next time: witchery in a name.

At the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.

Resources

- Allan, William.** *History of the Campaign of Gen. T.J. (Stonewall) Jackson in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. From November 4, 1861 to June 17, 1862.* Dayton, Ohio: Morningside Bookshop, 1974.
- Jones, Archer.** *Civil War Command and Strategy: The Process of victory and Defeat.* New York and Toronto: Maxwell Macmillan and Free Press, 1992.
- Krick, Robert K.** "Stonewall Jackson's Deadly Calm," *American Heritage* 47 (8, December , 1996): 56-69.
- Lang, Walter P., Jr., J. Frank Hennessee, and William E. Bush, Jr.** "Jackson's Valley Campaign and the Operational Level of War." *Parameters, Journal of the U.S. Army War College* 15 (4, Winter, 1985): 48-58.
- Robertson, James I., Jr.** "Stonewall in the Shenandoah: The Valley Campaign of 1862." *Civil War Times Illustrated* 11(2, May 1972): 4-49.
- Tanner, Robert G.** *Stonewall in the Valley: Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign Spring 1862.* Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1976.
- Wert, Jeffry D.** "The Valley Campaign of 1862: Part I." *Virginia Cavalcade* 34 (4, Spring 1985): 150-161.