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Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign

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Lead: In less than sixty amazing days in the wet spring of 1862, the foot cavalry of General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson transformed the strategy of both North and South in the Civil War.

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

Content: After an initial tactical defeat at Kernstown in March, Jackson re-organized his forces and relieved his best subordinate General Garnett for retreating unbidden when

his brigade had been out-flanked and out of ammunition at Kernstown. This sent a chilling warning through the ranks. Retreat for Stonewall was a tactic to be employed as a prelude to attack. There would be no unauthorized retreat. Jackson also convinced Richmond that he could use re-enforcements and they sent General Richard Ewell's division. In late April, Jackson began to demonstrate his two rules of engagement: Firstly, mystify, mislead and surprise the enemy, and Secondly, find only part, preferably the weakest part of your enemy, and crush it.

On April 30th, Jackson withdrew up the Valley drawing the Federals

with him, he then turned east marched through the Blue Ridge as if he were headed toward Richmond, wheeled around, put his army on trains, took them west to McDowell and fell on the small Union force there. This victory emboldened his troops, which he whipped along marching them so mercilessly and with such speed they soon proudly acquired the nickname “foot cavalry.”

Jackson then moved his whole Army east and then, screened by the Massanutten Mountain spur, north to Front Royal where he began a string of victories, decimating Union forces at Winchester, Cross Keys, and Port Republic. In the course of this

brilliant campaign with a tiny army of about 16,000 men, he tied up as many as 175,000 Federal troops, struck fear in the capital of Washington, took pressure off Richmond, and cleared the Shenandoah Valley of Union threat for nearly two years. Stonewall Jackson's death a year later after The Battle of Chancellorsville was met with deep sorrow in the South and relief but grudging admiration even from his most implacable enemies. He was perhaps the greatest strategist on either side in the Civil War, for a brief time was probably the most famous man in the western hemisphere, and his maneuvers are still examined by military students the world over.

**At the University of Richmond,
this is Dan Roberts.**

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