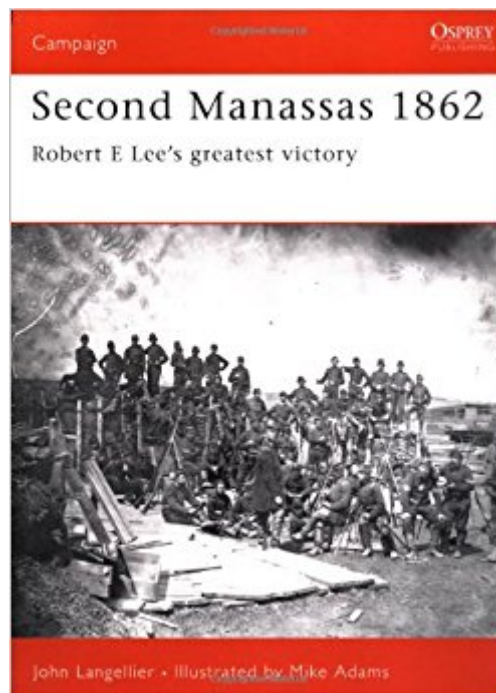




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Second Manassas 1862: Robert E Lee's Greatest Victory (Campaign)



Synopsis

Osprey's examination of the culminating battle of the American Civil War (1861-1865). "There never was such a campaign, not even by Napoleon" wrote Confederate General Pender of the Second Manassas campaign in which the gray-bearded Virginian, Robert E Lee, came as close as he ever would to exterminating his Northern enemies. In so doing, Lee established himself as the South's pre-eminent military commander and the Army of Northern Virginia as its most powerful weapon. The fighting in northern Virginia left Union General John Pope's career in tatters and proved the South was a power to be reckoned with. This book's powerful account demonstrates that during that fateful summer of 1862 Lee's soldiers were fighting for anything but a lost cause.

Book Information

Series: Campaign (Book 95)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing; First edition (February 25, 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 184176230X

ISBN-13: 978-1841762302

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 5.8 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,124,918 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #24 in Books > History >

Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields > Bull Run #11534 in Books >

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Customer Reviews

Highly visual guides to history's greatest conflicts, detailing the command strategies, tactics, and experiences of the opposing forces throughout each campaign, and concluding with a guide to the battlefields today.

John P. Langellier received his bachelor's and master's degrees in History from the University of San Diego and his Ph.D. in Military History from Kansas State University. He is the author of numerous books and monographs, including *Warrior 31 Union Infantryman 1861-65* and *Men-at-Arms 281 US Dragoons 1833-55*.

In the summer of 1862, General Robert E. Lee took command of Confederate forces defending Richmond and succeeded in turning back a large Union Army under General McClellan. Another Union army, forming in northern Virginia under the bombastic General John Pope, threatened Richmond on a second axis. In a daring offensive, Lee took the bulk of his forces north from Richmond to confront Pope. Through a series of well-executed flank movements, Confederate forces repeatedly wrong-footed the Union Army of Virginia, inflicting a painful defeat at the site of the 1861 battlefield at Manassas and opening the way for an invasion of the North. Author John Langellier follows the familiar Osprey Campaign series format, with an introduction and well-written commentary on the opposing commanders, their plans, and their armies. Langellier spends worthwhile time describing the Confederate commanders, including corps commanders Jackson and Longstreet and cavalry commander Stuart, who would constitute the leadership core of Lee's army through Chancellorsville in 1863. Langellier's narrative succeeds in laying out the war of maneuver that led to Second Manassas. In the end, Union army units fought stubbornly and often well, but were let down by a combative commander who never seemed to have a clear idea of where his enemy was. The book includes an excellent collection of photographs, illustrations, maps and diagrams of the combat action. "Second Manassas 1862" is recommended to the general reader as a good introduction to a key Civil War battle.

Book arrived damaged in mail. It was still used at battlefield site.

Informative

As anticipated

Nice book. I'm happy I purchased it.

Lots of maps, photos, and stories give a clear picture of those days in Virginia where my ancestors walked and fought.

Frankly, I'm sorry that I bought this book. And no offense meant to other reviewers who give this book higher marks. I had trouble giving this rather mediocre work a grade of 3 stars; I came close to rating it 2 stars! I've been an avid student & reader of military history for some 55 years. Yeah, I'm an old guy, OK? But after buying & reading this book, with a second summary reading, I'm VERY

DISAPPOINTED in this work! I suppose that this is the kind of product we get from British publishers of American history, who often to me seem to mess up what could be good military history. Here's my brief synopsis of this work:

1. The book has more than a few typos & outright spelling errors. If this was in the content originally submitted by this author, then the author bears some responsibility. However, good editors/copy editors are supposed to catch this stuff. And in this case, the failures speak for themselves. Just one example: On pg 53 of the book, it's stated that Ewell's CSA Division was commanded by "Alexander R. Lawton". Yet on pg 55 of the book, this same CSA Division commander is stated in part as: "...Ewell's Division under Alexander Dawton...". What? Current QWERTY keyboards have the "d/D" placed in the same row but 6 letters left of the "l/L". This is NOT the only example of this within this work, there are many more but this is the most glaring example.
2. The maps are all north oriented, but the "you are there bird's eye views" do NOT follow this same rule. Therefore the reader is at some pains to re-orient his/her thinking to try & follow the action on the battlefield. Further, in several of these cases, major units are left off the view or are incorrectly placed. Sad.
3. There is at least to me, considerable northern bias shown by this author. For example, on pg 54, this author states: "After dawdling for almost two days, Lee now became a dynamo.". I don't find such language in any other book covering the Second Battle of Manassas, including the far better work by Rafuse or Hennessy's very scholarly (and much more detailed) works on this pivotal 1862 battle. Further, looking at this book's bibliography, it appears to me that Dr. Langellier "cherry picks" sources. While citing Hennessy's excellent work as well as that of Krick on the battle of Cedar Mountain, this author uses many more "Federal/Union" oriented sources than those that're neutral or tell the truth about General Lee, his Army of Northern Virginia, or the CSA. One source in particular jumped out at me; that is: Alfred H. Griffith's 1948 work "The Heart of Abraham Lincoln, Man of Kindness and Mercy". What? Lincoln was anything BUT a "man of kindness and mercy when he decided to move to a TOTAL WAR strategy against the CSA! Thereby, Lincoln pivoted from his prior strategy of "quelling a minor rebellion" to one of total DESTRUCTION of the South's infrastructure, economy, agriculture, and civilian population in his orders to his plethora (he changed repeatedly during this unnecessary war) of Federal general officers! In so saying, it appears to me that Dr. Langellier is using as one of the basic works for his research a piece of pure Lincoln propaganda!

In summary, this MIGHT be a good book on this battle for either those with little knowledge of the history of the battle or those interested in touring the battlefield park. However, in both cases, the fine book by Rafuse is far superior. I'm reading Rafuse now & will provide a review upon completion. But, I cannot in all honesty recommend this book to any knowledgeable student of this battle or the war in general.

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