



1ST BULL RUN (FIRST MANASSAS)

FIRST MAJOR BATTLE OF THE CIVIL WAR JULY 21, 1861



Brigs Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, Army of the Shenandoah, and G.T. Beauregard, Army of the Potomac

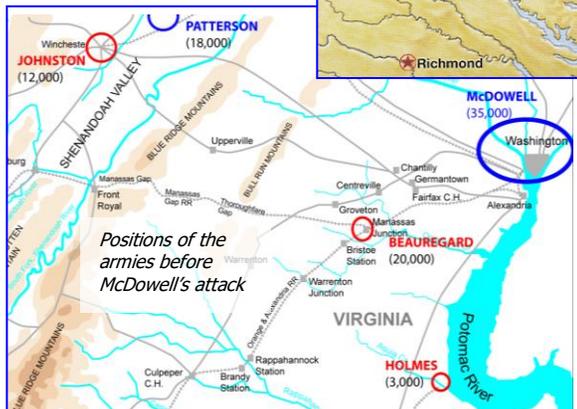
Gen. Irvin McDowell, Army of Northeast Virginia

| Confederate Army | Union Army |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Strength: 32,500 | Strength: 35,000 |
| Casualties: 1,982 | Casualties: 2,896 |

The Build-Up

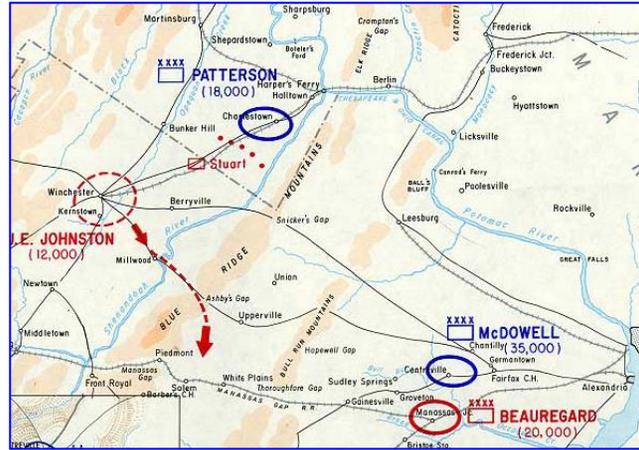
- **General McDowell** was 43 at 1st Bull Run, and had never commanded troops in combat before the battle.
- **Brig. Gen. Johnston** was 54; he was the most senior officer to leave the U.S. Army and join the Confederacy.
- **Brig Gen. Beauregard** was 43, and had overseen the start of the war by firing on Fort Sumter.
- The Bull Run campaign began when McDowell came under political pressure to strike a quick victory.

The Confederate base in Virginia was only 25 miles from Washington; McDowell was ordered to push it back to Richmond.

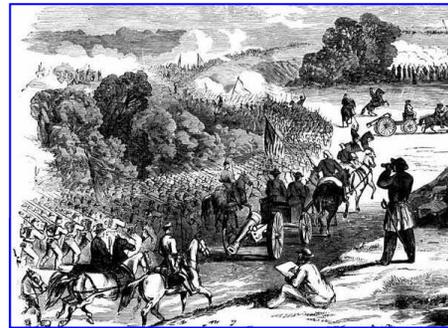


July 16-21: The Armies Move

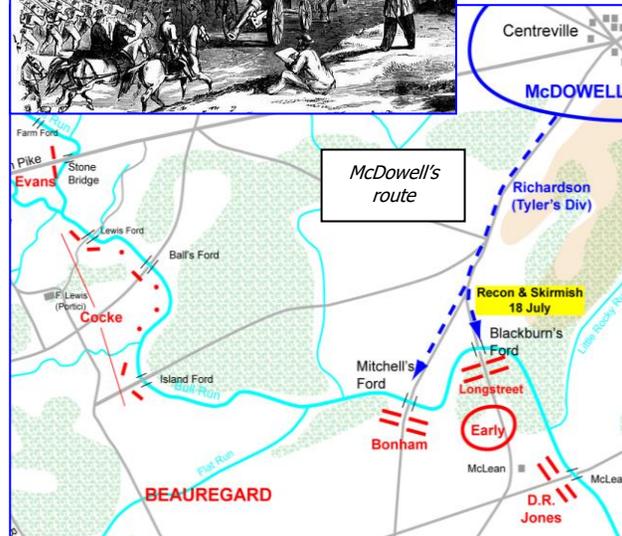
- On July 16th spies in Washington alerted Confederate commanders that McDowell would advance the next day with 36,000 men to Manassas Junction -- a distance of 20 miles.
- The report triggered an immediate march to the east by Johnston to unite with Beauregard.



Union General McDowell moved from Washington towards the opening between Generals Beauregard and Johnston.

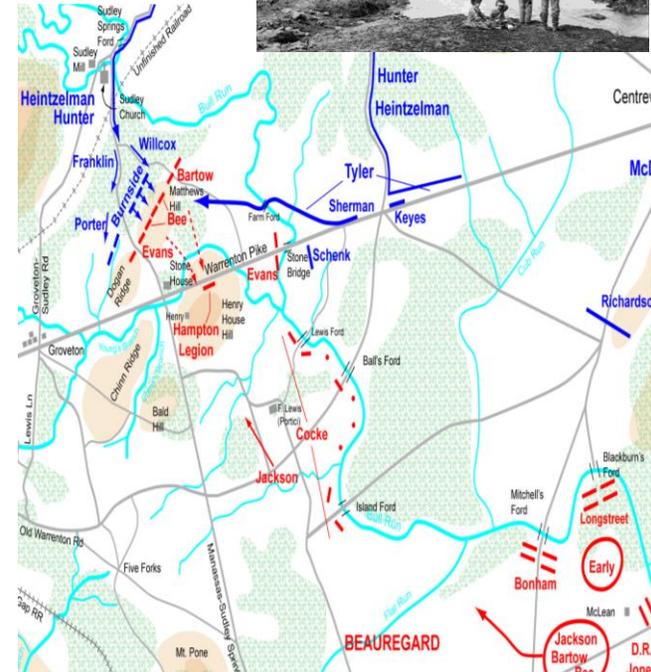


The Federal Army marches towards Beauregard

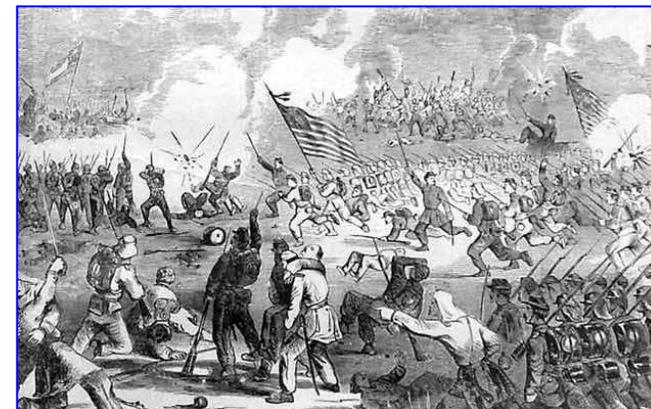


July 21 a.m.: Surprise Crossing

Federal cavalry at Sudley Springs, where the bulk of the Union Army crossed Bull Run. They surprised the left flank of the Confederate forces.



- McDowell crossed Bull Run on July 21 and attacked the Confederate left flank, which was almost unguarded.
- The Confederates rallied a small force at Mathews Hill.
- Union Col. William Sherman crossed an unguarded ford and shattered the Confederate right, sending them scrambling to a new line on Henry House Hill.

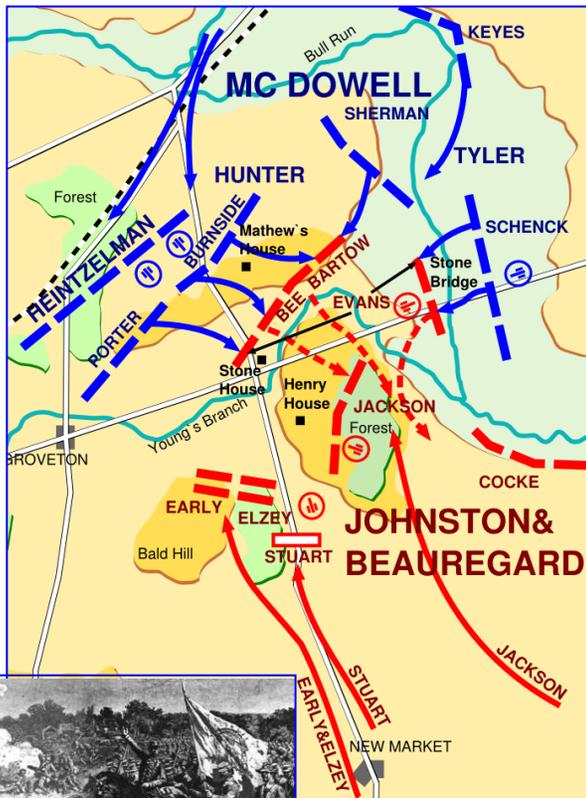


July 21 Noon : Attack on Henry House



Remains of Judith Henry's house after the battle; the 85-year-old invalid was unable to leave and died after a shell inflicted injuries. She was buried nearby.

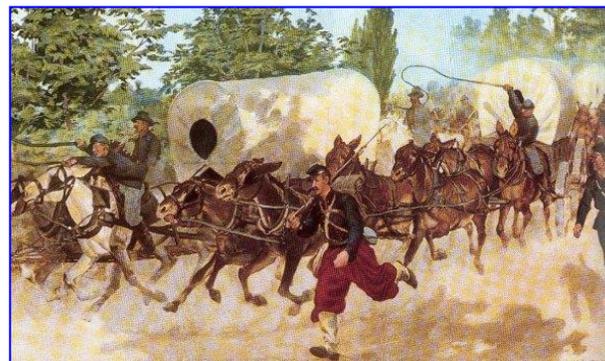
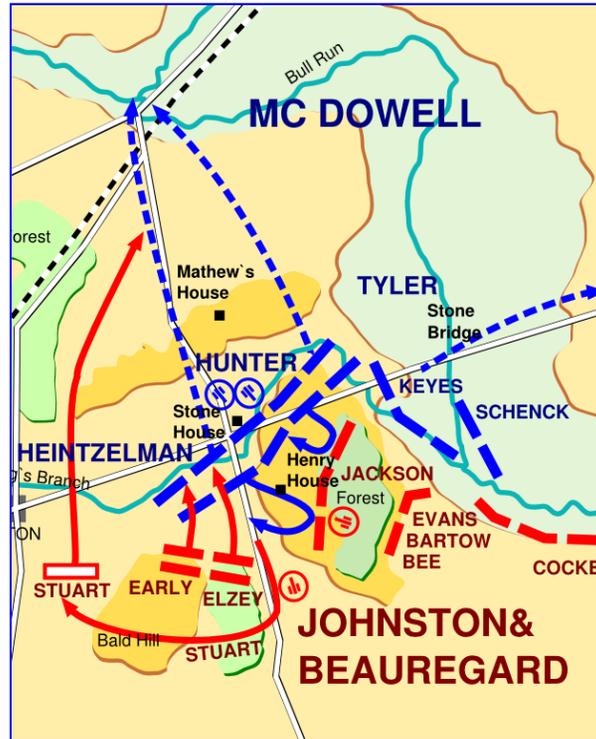
- McDowell did not immediately attack Henry House Hill, giving Col. Jackson's Virginia Brigade time to assemble on the reverse side of the hill.
- Jackson's men held "like a stone wall", giving rise to his nickname: 'Stonewall Jackson'.



Confederates rally behind Robinson House

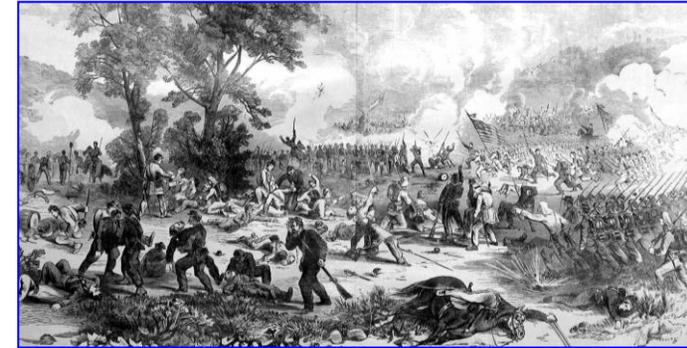
July 21 300 p.m.: The Wrong Blue

- McDowell's artillery moved up on the right to catch the Confederates in a flanking fire.
- Union troops let the rebel 33rd Virginia move up to them, because the 33rd was wearing blue uniforms.
- A close range volley from the 33rd, and a cavalry attack, smashed the Union line, which began to retreat.
- The retreat turned to rout when a blocked bridge incited panic in the Union soldiers.



"The great skedaddle" Panic sets in as the Union retreat is blocked by a broken bridge

Consequences



- The Confederates did not press their advantage, as their men were very disorganized and an effective artillery brigade covered the retreat.
- In one of the first uses of 'air power', a Union balloonist informed Washington that the Confederates were not advancing.
- If the Union had won, the Confederacy might have ended in its first year.
- The continuation of the war led to increasingly revolutionary measures by the Federal Government, including a centralization of powers and the emancipation of the slaves.



First photograph of a religious service in the U.S. Army: Mass for the 69th New York Regiment prior to Bull Run.

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