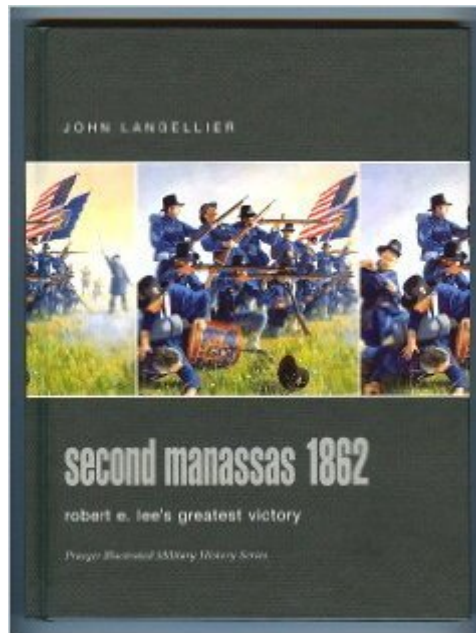


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Second Manassas 1862: Robert E. Lee's Greatest Victory (Praeger Illustrated Military History)



Synopsis

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. Second Manassas established Lee 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 that the South was a power to be reckoned with. There never was such a campaign, not even by Napoleon.' So wrote William Dorsey Pender, a brigadier-general in the Army of Northern Virginia, in the wake of the Second Battle of Manassas. His words were not hollow boasts - the campaign in north Virginia in the late summer of 1862 demonstrated Robert E. Lee's truly great generalship. Although overshadowed by later clashes such as Antietam and Gettysburg, the Second Manassas campaign was a military masterpiece in which Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia came as close as they ever would to exterminating their Federal opponents and ending the war. In so doing Lee confirmed himself as the South's pre-eminent military leader and helped forge his Army into the formidable force it would remain for the rest of the war. The crushing defeat of Federal General John Pope's Army of Virginia provided the springboard for Robert E. Lee's first invasion of the North which would reach it's climax along the banks of Antietam Creek that September.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Second Manassas might have been Robert E. Lee's Greatest Victory as author John Langellier asserts, but it is often neglected in Civil War history as "the other" battle fought at Bull Run rather than as a seminal event. This addition to the Osprey Campaign series is a solid overview of the campaign of Lee versus Pope in the summer of 1862 in north-central Virginia. In accordance with the standard Osprey format, the book begins with a short section on the origins of the campaign and a campaign chronology. In a welcome departure from the short-shrift methods of other recent Osprey campaign titles, Dr. Langellier actually puts some meat on the bone concerning opposing commanders. A full 9 excellent pages are spent discussing Generals Pope, Halleck, Banks, McDowell, Sigel, Lee, Longstreet, and Jackson. The section on opposing plans is a bit short at two pages, but adequate. Likewise, the section on opposing armies is somewhat brief at three pages, but covers aspects specific to the campaign, like Duryee's Zouaves and the Iron Brigade. The campaign narrative begins with two short chapters on the preliminary actions at Cedar Mountain and Brawner's Farm. The actual Battle of Second Manassas is covered in 25 pages, followed by a short postscript and notes on the battlefield today. An excellent order of battle is provided for both armies in the final appendix. There are five 2-D maps (Virginia in July 1862, the Battle of Cedar Mountain, the road to Second Manassas, the Battle of Groveton, and Lee's flanking movement to Chantilly) and three 3-D "Bird's Eye View" maps of the Battle of Second Manassas. Three battle scenes depict the truce at Cedar Mountain, the Iron Brigade at Brawner's Farm and the stand of Starke's Louisiana brigade at the Railroad cut.

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