The Maps of Second Bull Run

An Atlas of the Second Bull Run (Manassas) Campaign from the Formation of the Army of Virginia Through Chantilly, June 26–September 1, 1862

Bradley M. Gottfried



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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Gottfried, Bradley M., author. | Savas Beatie, publisher. Title: The Maps of Second Bull Run: An Atlas of the Second Bull Run/Manassas Campaign from the Formation of the Army of Virginia Through Chantilly, June 26-September 1, 1862 / Bradley M. Gottfried. Description: El Dorado Hills: Savas Beatie, [2025] | Series: Savas Beatie military atlas series | Includes bibliographical references and index. | Summary: "This work continues Bradley M. Gottfried's efforts to study and illustrate the major campaigns of the Civil War's Eastern Theater. This is his tenth book in the ongoing Savas Beatie Military Atlas Series. It breaks down the entire campaign into sixteen map sets or "action sections," enriched with 122 detailed full-page color maps. This is a seminal work that belongs on the bookshelf of every serious and casual student of the battle."-- Provided by publisher. Identifiers: LCCN 2024022379 | ISBN 9781611217087 (hardcover) | ISBN 9781611217094 (ebook) Subjects: LCSH: Bull Run, 2nd Battle of, Va., 1862--Maps. | Manassas (Va.)—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Maps. | LCGFT: Atlases. Classification: LCC G1294.M25S5 G6 2024 | DDC 973.7/320223-dc23/eng20240522 LC record available at https://lccn.loc.gov/2024022379

SB

Savas Beatie LLC 989 Governor Drive, Suite 102 El Dorado Hills, CA 95762 916-941-6896 Sales@savasbeatie.com www.savasbeatie.com

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The tenth volume of The Savas Beatie Military Atlas™ Series To Dr. William Overlease & Sr. Helen Joseph, for teaching me how to believe in myself and making everything possible.

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Preface

he Maps of Second Bull Run is the tenth book in the Savas Beatie Military Atlas Series. Several more are in development and will hopefully be published within the next few years. This long but rewarding publishing journey is now in its seventeenth year.

I began the overall project with *The Maps of Gettysburg* in 2007. It continued in 2009 with two more installments: *The Maps of Chickamauga* (by David Powell and David Friedrichs) and my own *The Maps of First Bull Run*. I continued the series with *The Maps of Antietam* (2012), *The Maps of Bristoe Station and Mine Run* (2013), *The Maps of the Wilderness* (2016), *The Maps of Fredericksburg* (2018), *The Maps of the Cavalry in the Gettysburg Campaign* (2020), and most recently, *The Maps of Spotsylvania and Cold Harbor* (2023). Most of these titles have been reprinted at least once (and several many times). All of them remain in print to this day.

This series uses maps and precise facing-page text to visualize the action and thus better explain and understand a military campaign. There is no better way to understand military actions, and no singe traditional campaign or battle book can contain enough maps. Coverage is intended to be neutral. As anyone who is familiar with this series will attest, its purpose is to offer a broad and full understanding of the subject matter rather than a micro-history of a particular event or day.

Before this latest entry I began work on *The Maps of Petersburg and Appomattox*, but decided to put it aside around the time of the pandemic to pursue other research. When it came time to return to the map series, I opted to leave the Petersburg/Appomattox volume for the time being and address the Second Bull Run Campaign. This volume begins in the aftermath of the Seven Days' Battles outside Richmond and carries the armies in the Eastern Theater into early September, ending on the eve of the invasion of Maryland, which of course picks up with *The Maps of Antietam*. There are surprisingly few studies of Second Bull Run (Manassas). The finest remains John Hennessy's *Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas*, which is now more than 30 years old. As good as it is, the number of maps therein are inadequate to explain the complex actions. This series in general, and this book in particular, rectifies this shortcoming by offering cartography in a different form that unlocks what others have written.

I am currently at work completing the series through 1862 with *The Maps of the Peninsula Campaign* (which includes the Seven Days' Battles). When that volume is completed, readers will be able to move effortlessly from the First Bull Run Campaign through Fredericksburg. Plans are in the works for a volume on the Chancellorsville Campaign. When that is completed, the Civil War in the Eastern Theater will be mapped from the beginning of the war through 1863. The Shenandoah Valley Campaigns of 1862 and 1864 will be addressed in separate volumes.

These map books are not the last word or definitive treatment of these topics, the various engagements, or any part thereof—nor did I intend them to be. Given space and time considerations, I covered the major events of these campaigns and combats, with smaller transition sections to flesh out the full story of those bloody and critical years. Original research

was intentionally kept to a minimum. My primary reliance was on readily accessible firsthand accounts and battle reports, followed by quality secondary scholarship. There are no new theories or evaluations within these pages of why the campaign or battles unfolded as they did. I am familiar with the terrain on these battlefields and have visited them many times. Whenever a book uses short chapters or sections, as this one does, there will inevitably be some narrative redundancy. I have tried to minimize this as much as possible. Sources can and often do conflict on many points, including numbers engaged, who moved when and where and why, what time a specific event unfolded, and of course, casualties. No one knows the exact location of every unit at all times, and in many cases I have pieced the evidence together to reach an educated conclusion. Much of this will be found in the lengthy endnotes. Some of my conclusions may be hotly debated, but they represent my best effort to get them right. It is also important to realize that the time a particular action occurred is always approximate. Not only did various participants disagree, but watches were not synchronized, and memories are inherently unreliable. It is common to be confronted with multiple recollections of when events occurred, even by those who were present making the history we so enjoy reading about today.

Inevitably, a study like this makes it likely that mistakes of one variety or another end up in the final text or on a map, despite endless hours of proofreading. I apologize in advance for any errors and I assume full responsibility for them. Pass along any mistakes you find and they will be fixed in subsequent printings.

* * *

This book (and series) could not have come to fruition without the help of many people. Theodore P. "Ted" Savas has always been a strong proponent of the series and a font of inspiration and support. Once again he did a masterful job of editing this complex account. These volumes could never be completed without him. Ted assigned Joel Manuel to help with the first round of developmental editing. Joel did a great job and also caught many errors in the maps along the way.

Ranger Jim Burgess of the Manassas National Military Park allowed frequent access to the vertical files brimming with primary and secondary sources. The outstanding map set of the Battle of Second Bull Run by John Hennessey/National Park Service was an indispensable resource. I cannot thank Jim enough for his help on this project and *The Maps of First Bull Run*. He and Ranger Anthony Trusso read the manuscript and provided useful perspectives and suggestions. I always appreciated their patience as I asked a myriad of questions. John Hennessey and Scott Patchen also helped orient me as I tried to understand some of the nuisances of this campaign.

Finally, my wife, Linda, continues to support my endeavors with love, grace, and patience.

Bradley M. Gottfried Fayetteville, Pennsylvania

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Map 16.3: Kearny Continues Attacking Jackson's Left Flank (5:00 – 6:00 p.m.)

The regiment that suffered the worst losses was not part of Robinson's brigade. Col. Stephen G. Champlin's 3rd Michigan had pushed forward to reinforce the line and settled in near the right flank of Robinson's brigade (No. 1). It apparently lost contact with the regiments on either side and fought alone. Champlin's men initially drove back the enemy, but the Rebels were reinforced and shoved back the Maine men, who were probably hit in the front and left flank by Gregg's men and on its right by Branch's 7th and 37th North Carolina, and possibly the 33rd North Carolina (No. 2). According to Col. James Lane, when Gregg requested support because the left of his brigade was being driven in, Branch's three "regiments swept the enemy back in almost the twinkling of an eye, regaining the ground lost by General Gregg and reestablishing our line at that point. The enemy made six distinct attacks on this point, with as many fresh columns," claimed Lane, "but did not succeed in breaking it." The rest of Branch's brigade was sent to reinforce the front line farther to the right.12

Casualty figures help tell the story of Robinson's failed attack. The 63rd Pennsylvania lost 120 men during its multiple assaults on Gregg's brigade. The 3rd Michigan pushed on without support and was forced to withdraw. According to one soldier, the 139 men it lost during the short fight, Champlin included, represented two-thirds of the number it carried into the afternoon combat. The lower casualties suffered by the 105th Pennsylvania (52) and 20th Indiana (45) suggest they were not as heavily engaged as the two other regiments. The modern historian of the 105th Pennsylvania believed the men probably took refuge in the unfinished railroad cut to avoid the bullets and shells and did not make a serious attempt similar to the regiments flanking it. The commander of the 20th Indiana was killed early in the movement, which may have frozen the regiment in place.¹³

Following on the heels of Schurz's assault, Kearny's attack pushed Gregg's brigade to the limit. "The woods swarmed with them, recalled the brigade's historian. "They close in upon us from front and right and left, pressing up with an enemy never before witnessed by us and certainly never surpassed since . . . line after line of theirs was hurled upon our single one, [which] was already fearfully thinned." A South Carolina officer reported "a semicircle of flame and smoke extending at least half round our devoted hill." Both sides of Gregg's command were pushed back, as was Thomas's brigade, which had reformed on the right side of the South Carolinians. When Hill asked Gregg if he could hold much longer, the embattled brigadier replied that "his ammunition was about expended, but he still had the bayonet."

Pender's brigade was also used up by its fights with the enemy and at least one subsequent dash after them. Pender rode rearward, found Archer, and asked if his mixed brigade of Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia boys could replace him on the front line. When A. P. Hill consented to the move, Archer moved his men forward (No. 3). Hill was committing his last reserve to the fight. Brig. Jubal Early's brigade (Lawton's division), also in reserve, had already received a desperate plea from Hill to come to his assistance, as "one of his brigades, whose ammunition was nearly exhausted, was being very heavily pressed." Early complied without awaiting orders (No. 4). He encountered the 8th Louisiana of Forno's brigade, which had been sent to guard the wagon train but was now returning to the front. He also collected the 13th Georgia (Douglass's brigade) and continued heading east. Jackson's left flank would now be manned by Branch's, Early's, and Archer's brigades. The latter two were fresh and ready for action.14

The 40th and 101st New York were now in position and Birney ordered the troops to hug the earth until ordered into the fight (No. 5). The adjutant of the 101st, Theodore Dodge, wrote how Union infantry (probably Grover) "came skedaddling out of the woods in disgraceful style, the Rebels having driven them back." When they saw these retreating soldiers exiting "the woods in such disorder, a groan, half sorrowful and half derisive, rose from our ranks." Kearny, who was on hand, simply told them, "Now boys, do your duty!"¹⁵

