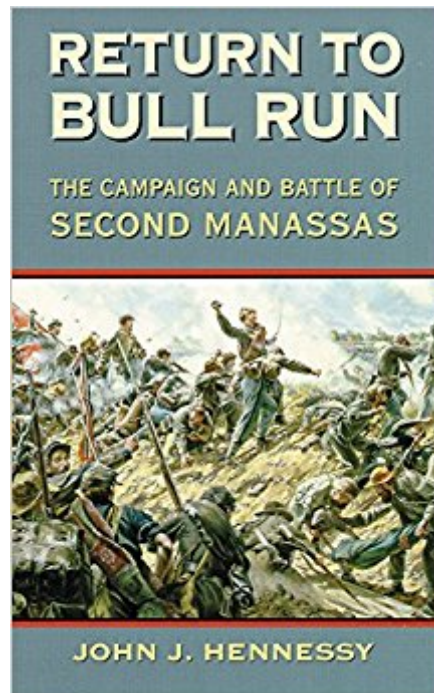




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# **Return To Bull Run: The Campaign And Battle Of Second Manassas**



## Synopsis

"This comprehensively researched, well-written book represents the definitive account of Robert E. Lee's triumph over Union leader John Pope in the summer of 1862. . . . Lee's strategic skills, and the capabilities of his principal subordinates James Longstreet and Stonewall Jackson, brought the Confederates onto the field of Second Manassas at the right places and times against a Union army that knew how to fight, but not yet how to win." — Publishers Weekly

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## Customer Reviews

This comprehensively researched, well-written book represents the definitive account of Robert E. Lee's triumph over Union leader John Pope in the summer of 1862. While Pope, supported by President Lincoln, sought to bring the war home to Virginia, Lee proposed to carry the war to the North. Lee befuddled, then defeated Pope in a campaign of masterful maneuvering that rivaled Chancellorsville as the Army of Northern Virginia's greatest achievement. Hennessey, a National Park Service historian, expertly depicts the horror and confusion of battle, highlighting the difficulties of controlling a Civil War battle once it had begun. Lee's strategic skills, and the capabilities of his principal subordinates James Longstreet and Stonewall Jackson, brought the Confederates onto the field of Second Manassas at the right places and times against a Union army that knew how to fight, but not yet how to win. History Book Club dual main selection. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book's rather unimaginative title cloaks a fascinating look at a very important topic: the Second Battle of Bull Run. The battle, fought in August 1862, was a disastrous punctuation to the Union's summer threat to Richmond and facilitated Robert E. Lee's first northern invasion in the fall. Hennessy tells the story well for both scholar and general reader; unfortunately, the battle has been neglected, and such a good book on it is doubly welcome. Particularly interesting are the author's untanglings of the Union Army's egregious performance, orchestrated by its commander, John Pope, a supercilious braggart, and his singularly insubordinate subordinates. This fine book belongs in all libraries. History Book Club main selection.- Fritz Buckallew, Univ. of Central Oklahoma Lib., Edmond

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This, the second book on the Manassas battles, is a superb piece of work. I simply cannot imagine any better books written on either First Manassas or Second Manassas. Hennessy does an excellent job describing the chess game/cat and mouse moves which led the the forces meeting once again at Manassas. I am a very frequent visitor to the Battlefield as I do not live far away. I dare say I have explored more of that Battlefield than most people ever have - to include getting off the paths and trekking through woods and over fields. With Hennessy's books under my belt I can now actually imagine having been there on both occasions (minus the personal danger of course). And my respect level for the soldiers of both sides has gone up immensely.

Hennessy has written an excellent account of one of the Civil War's bloodiest yet often overlooked battles. While 2nd Bull Run was easily one of the war's largest battles, the engagement is often seen as the prelude to Antietam and is forgotten when one reads of Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Petersburg, etc. While a Southerner, I respect and admire leaders of both sides South - Lee, Cleburne, Jackson, A.P. Hill, Longstreet, Johnston; North - Grant, Thomas, Sherman, Chamberlain, Sheridan). However, I can honestly say that the blundering John Pope of the Northern army got his just due. Pompous (bragged about his military "exploits" in the West), foul-mouthed (used the Lord's name in vain when referring to McDowell), and impatient (Phil Kearney, an able Northern general, tired of Pope's orders for impetuous and fruitless marches that only served to tire the troops). Hennessy is fair with leaders, both North and South and his narrative is excellent - while, he is obviously a learned man with a deep knowlege of the battle, the author does not bore the reader with tedious details and dry narrative. The only complaint I have with the book are the maps. While they are of good quality, there could have been more (the book contains about 15 maps and could

have had at least 5 more). Additionally, some of the maps only went to the brigade level and in some cases made following troop dispositions difficult when describing specific regiments. Complaint aside, this book is one of the best Civil War titles I have read and is the definitive resource for the events of August 1862. Recommended.

I've been a living historian at Manassas National battlefield for over a decade. Return to Bull Run is not only the book most often referenced by the Rangers and Volunteers at the battlefield, but also one of the most thorough, readable, and entertaining battle studies I've experienced. With apologies to Chancellorsville, if you want to discover the battle in which Robert E. Lee ACTUALLY came closest to destroying a Union army, then read Return to Bull Run.

I enjoyed the detail along with the coverage of the whole of the campaign.

A great book by a superb historian and storyteller. Best book out there on the Second Bull Run campaign.

John Hennessy has produced a rich, fast-read of an often overlooked episode of the American Civil War. Unmatched scholarship by one of America's first-class historians contrasting the chaos erupting from a crisis of leadership (that of Union General John C. Pope's) with the spectacular success that an army can achieve when a true operational genius (Confederate General Robert E. Lee) is calling the shots. Throw this superb narrative into your haversack as you march off to view Civil War sites in northern Virginia.

Excellent work on the Second Manassas campaign. Hennessy's writing is clear and easy to follow. He points out the major aspects of the battle, and its long term implications for the Confederacy, at that point in the war. Also, the short sightedness of the approach of Jackson in this particular battle is brought out as well. I would recommend this book with no reservations.

I had only a general understanding of the campaign before I read this book. Now I have an understanding of the key players and events. I look forward to touring the actual battlefield. Maps could have been more interactive and frequent. I would recommend to others.

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