

## *Timetable*

### *Stonewall Jackson's Valley Campaign*

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#### *A Military Classic*

**Saturday, July 27 1861** – Following the debacle at 1<sup>st</sup> Bull Run the command of the Army of the Potomac is turned over to 34 year-old George McClellan replacing McDowell who remains in command of a division.

**Thursday, October 31, 1861** – Lincoln and his cabinet accept the resignation of General Scott as General-in-Chief and appoint George McClellan to take Scott's place as Commander of all Union armies.

**Sunday, December 1, 1861** – Lincoln, being somewhat concerned that little action has taken place, sends a hand written communication to McClellan about the army's movement. Lincoln asks, "How *long* would to require to actually get it in action?"

**Monday, December 2, 1861** – The 37<sup>th</sup> Congress develops criticism of Lincoln's three-fold strategy which is: 1) re-accesion of Tennessee; 2) taking control of the Mississippi River; and 3) focusing on the eastern theater, especially the area between Washington and Richmond.

**Monday, January 27, 1862** – After months of delay and frustration, Lincoln issues *General War Order Number One*: "that the 22<sup>nd</sup> February 1862 be the day for a general movement of the Land and Naval forces of the United States against the insurgent forces."

**Friday, January 31, 1862** -- To supplement his earlier general order, Lincoln issues *Special War Order Number One*: pressing the Army of the Potomac to take possession of "a point upon the railroad south westward of what is known a Manassas Junction."

## *Kernstown*

**February 26, 1862** – McClellan finally orders Banks to cross the Potomac. McClellan had been intending to use Banks to protect Washington.

**March 4, 1862** -- After crossing the Potomac, Banks occupies Harper's Ferry, Martinsburg, and Charles Town with a force of about 35,000 vs fewer than 5,000 effectives for Jackson.

**Saturday, March 8, 1862** – Lincoln and McClellan discuss plans for the Army of the Potomac, with other military advisors concurring with McClellan's desire to enter Virginia by way of the peninsula southeast of Richmond. Lincoln also issues *General War Order Number Two* that provides for certain Union troops to be positioned for the defense of Washington, in effect drawing some troops from McClellan's offensive.

The CSA ironclad *Merrimack* battles with the Union ironclad *Monitor* at Hampton Roads, Virginia, in the war's first major naval battle.

**March 10, 1862** – Federal forces have advanced to within 4 miles of Winchester where Jackson is located.

**Tuesday, March 11, 1862** – Lincoln removes McClellan as general in chief of the Union army but leaves him in command of the Army of the Potomac. Army commanders, including McClellan, are placed under Stanton's direction.

Jackson, with 4,600 soldiers, once again begins to move southward from Winchester, trying to draw Banks into a battle but he discovers his units have marched too far to the south.

**Wednesday, March 12, 1862** – Jackson prepares to lead his men toward Strasburg, 18 miles south of Winchester over the macadamized Valley Turnpike which passes to the west of the Massanutten range. On the same day, the lead Federal brigade enters Winchester.

**Saturday, March 15, 1862** – Jackson moves out of Strasburg to Woodstock, 12 miles.

**Monday, March 17, 1862** – James Shields, (who once had challenged Lincoln to a duel) with 9,000 troops, begins to move south from Winchester while leaving Williams (9,000) at Winchester.

**Wednesday, March 19, 1862** – Jackson reaches Mount Jackson, another 19 miles from Woodstock while on the same day Shields enters Strasburg where he had been sent to reconnoiter.

**Thursday, March 20, 1862** – Shields is ordered to withdraw his division from Strasburg back toward Winchester as part of a general Union clockwise movement toward McClellan.

**Friday, March 21, 1862** – Jackson is informed that Strasburg is being evacuated.

**Saturday, March 22, 1862** – Early the next dawn, a raw, blustery day, Jackson begins a 26 mile march north to Cedar Creek, near Strasburg. Upon being erroneously informed that most Federal regiments have left Winchester, Jackson immediately changes his route toward Winchester. By now Banks has gone east across the Blue Ridge leaving only Shields' division in the Winchester area. Shields intends to follow Williams east.

**Sunday, March 23, 1862** – Jackson's advance unit reaches an area south of Kernstown at about 10 am with the remainder of his army arriving at 1 pm. Meanwhile Shields has not yet reached Winchester. Despite the weariness of his men, and despite the lateness of the day, and despite that it was Sunday, Jackson, with a force of approximately 3,500, attacks across difficult terrain south of Winchester. Jackson decides to move to the Sandy Ridge to his left but is not aware of Tyler's 5 regiments to the Toll Gate. (Cozzins claims that Jackson made the mistake of shifting too many troops to his left.) At about 2:00 pm Tyler deploys on Sandy Ridge to the Union right. Hard fighting ensues with both sides taking heavy casualties while performing admirably. When the Stonewall Brigade runs out of ammo, its line starts to crumble compelling Garnett to order a retreat, much to Jackson's displeasure. Jackson starts his retreat up the Valley at about 7:00 pm via the Middle Road. Kernstown will be the only defeat of Jackson's career.

Although a tactical defeat, Kernstown has strategic significance after Shields – who was not on the field – telegraphs Washington that he had defeated a Rebel army two and half times his army. Accordingly Lincoln on April 3 retains McDowell to protect Washington, and ties up Banks in the Valley.

**March 24, 1862** – In preparation for the McClellan's Peninsula Campaign, Union troops begin disembarking at Fort Monroe at the mouth of the James River.

**Tuesday, April 1, 1862** -- Jackson relieves Garnett of command, files court martial papers, and places him under arrest. (Charges are eventually dropped against Garnett who becomes reassigned to Pickett's division and is killed on July 3, 1863 at Gettysburg.)

**Wednesday, April 2, 1862** – Jackson draws back to Rude's Hill where he establishes his headquarters.

**April 3, 1862** – Lincoln, discovering that McClellan has left fewer than 20,000 men for the defense of Washington, orders the retention of an additional corps to assure the safety of the capital, still leaving McClellan nearly 112,000 men for his siege of Richmond.

**April 6-7, 1862** – The Battle of Shiloh with losses of 13,047 for the prevailing Union forces under Grant's command.

### *Shenandoah Valley: Phase 1*

**Wednesday, April 16, 1862** -- Jefferson Davis approves a Conscription Act.

**Thursday, April 17, 1862** – Coming slowly up the Valley after Jackson, Banks seizes New Market. After Federal cavalry chases Ashby across the bridge protecting Rude's Hill, Jackson is forced back through Harrisonburg, 25 miles north of Staunton. Jackson rides in a brooding, heavy silence.

**Friday, April 18, 1862** – McClellan begins boarding his troops for transport to Fort Monroe.

**Saturday, April 19, 1862** – To avoid the danger of being trapped by Banks to the north and by Fremont – who on March 29 had relieved Rosecrans -- to the west, at Harrisonburg, Jackson turns east, marching 15 miles around the southern end of Massanutten Mountain range to Conrad's Store, where he tucks his army safely into the Elk Run Valley, a position that gives him several options including the ability to outflank Banks.

Jackson meets with Richard S. Ewell who is directed to move to within a one day's march.

**April 25-May 1, 1862** – David Farragut, with 17 Union ships under his command, takes New Orleans, a key port. Ben Butler is installed as military governor of New Orleans.

**April 26, 1862** -- Banks moves southward to occupy the New Market Crossroads together with an outpost at Harrisonburg, approximately 15 miles west of Conrad's Store. Stanton instructs Banks not to advance any further.

**April 29, 1862** – Believing that Jackson has left the Valley, Stanton – based upon Banks' report that there was nothing to be done in the Valley -- orders Banks back to Strasburg.

### **-- McDowell --**

**Wednesday, April 30, 1862** – While Ashby's cavalry feints toward Harrisonburg, Ewell replaces Jackson at Conrad's Store/Swift Run Gap, approximately 20 miles north by northeast of Staunton. Jackson commences a circuitous route to West View where he attaches Allegheny Johnson's division. This is Jackson's first attempt to separate Fremont from the other Union armies.

**Friday, May 2, 1862** – Banks learns that Jackson is headed for Port Republic.

**Saturday, May 3, 1862** -- Jackson leaves the Valley at Port Republic where he crosses the mountains to Mechum River Station, approximately 20 miles east of Staunton, where trains on the Virginia Central Railroad are waiting, facing west.

**Sunday, May 4, 1862** – For the first time. Jackson dons an actual Confederate uniform, one made by the ladies of Staunton.

**May 5, 1862** – Lincoln, along with Stanton and Chase, travel by ship to Fort Monroe, on the north shore of the James River where it flows into the Chesapeake Bay, where they will observe the Federal advance into Virginia.

**Tuesday, May 6, 1862** -- Joining Allegheny Johnson's small command of 3,600 men at Staunton, Jackson pushes west to confront Milroy, Fremont's lead division heading toward Staunton.

**Wednesday, May 7, 1862** – 200 VMI cadets join Jackson's army.

Jackson reaches McDowell, approximately 25 miles west by north west of Staunton. Jackson greatly outnumbers Robert Milroy, Fremont's van.

**Thursday, May 8, 1862** – In a major encounter in the Shenandoah Valley campaign, at McDowell Jackson's army, under Taliferro's leadership after Johnson is wounded, encounters Milroy.

The battle between Milroy's 4 brigades against Jackson's 13 brigades occurs on a ridge running north and south along the eastern side of the Bull Pasture River, 500 feet below. Jackson seized Sitlington's Hill from which he surveys the terrain looking for a way to outflank the Union forces on the far side of the river. However before the Confederates can attack, the Federals unexpectedly launch their assault up the sides of Sitlington's Hill. Unable to break through Confederate lines, Fremont orders Milroy to withdraw his troops across the Bull Pasture River. Milroy claims that the 25<sup>th</sup> OVI was about to break though on its right when Fremont orders the withdrawal; this order to withdraw angers Milroy who starts to lose faith in Fremont.

Despite the Union retreat, Confederate casualties are much higher than those of the Federals.

**Friday, May 9, 1862** – The Confederates enter the village of McDowell to find that Milroy has begun a retreat to Monterey. Jackson has to delay any pursuit because his wagons have not arrived since his quartermaster had not been kept abreast of Jackson's plans.

In his meeting with McClellan, Lincoln admonishes McClellan for his difficulties in maintaining cooperation between himself and his corps commanders.

**Monday, May 12, 1862** -- Jackson pursues Fremont toward Franklin, WV, approximately 25 miles north of McDowell, before beginning to backtrack to the Valley, his lines of communications being overextended while the Federals are falling back on their supplies and reinforcements.

**Wednesday, May 14, 1862** -- Jackson heads back to Harrisonburg, reaching McDowell

**Thursday, May 15, 1862** – Jackson reaches Lebanon Springs where a halt is called to rest the men.

**Friday, May 16, 1862** – The VMI cadets are released.

**-- Front Royal --**

**Sunday, May 18, 1862** – Ewell rides to Mount Solon, 10 miles southwest of Harrisonburg, to confer with Jackson.

**Tuesday, May 20, 1862** -- In an attempt to prevent Banks – who is now dug in at Strasburg -- from moving troops to meet and support McClellan, Jackson darts northward from Harrisonburg down the Valley but at New Market he unexpectedly shifts east to the Luray Valley where Ewell is waiting.

**Thursday, May 22, 1862** – Jackson pushes down the Luray Valley northward nearer Front Royal, a major supply depot in an indefensible position lying between the Blue Ridge and the northern end of the Massanutten, approximately 25 miles south of Winchester. Front Royal is defended by only 1,000 troops commanded by Kenly.

**Friday, May 23, 1862** – Jackson sends his cavalry westward to cut the road, the railroad, and the telegraph wires between Strasburg and Manassas.

Jackson's column has its first halt at Asbury Chapel at about 10:00 am. Concentrating all the rest of his available forces, beginning at about 3 pm almost a mile and half from town, Jackson uses Ewell's division to overrun the Union garrison at Front Royal. The Confederate cavalry does good work, attacking Federal Kenly's rear guard near Cederville, about 4 or 5 miles north of Front Royal, and attacking a large supply depot at Buckton Station, about 8 north of Front Royal.

Kenly had not been able to burn everything, and a vast amount of quartermaster, commissary, and ordnance stores fell into Jackson's hands. Additionally a Federal supply train chugs into the depot during the battle and is promptly captured and looted

Lincoln tells McDowell in Fredericksburg to direct 20,000 troops into the Shenandoah Valley in order to prevent Confederates from moving their forces any

closer to Banks' Army of the Potomac. "Your object will be to capture the forces of Jackson and Ewell."

### **-- Winchester --**

**Saturday, May 24 1862** – In light of the Confederate capture of Front Royal, Banks is compelled to withdraw with his train of 550 wagons from his fortified position at Strasburg to Winchester. Jackson sends Ewell and some cavalry to strike the Valley Turnpike at Middletown about 9 miles south of Winchester while Jackson takes the rest of his command directly north toward Winchester. At Middletown, Jackson makes a mistake thinking that Banks' troops are still south of town; thus he sends Taylor's Tigers south losing valuable time. The Confederate pursuit astride the Valley Turnpike is hampered because of inadequate maps and also because his troops (the crack LA Zouaves and Ashby's troopers) waste time looting a captured Union supply train while his infantry is too tired to continue. In frustration, Jackson tries to mount some infantry troops upon artillery horses.

Lincoln – who has returned to Washington -- issues orders to Fremont to advance eastward against Jackson's forces in the Shenandoah Valley. Because of these orders as well as the orders to McDowell, Lincoln also tells McClellan that an increase in McClellan's strength is impossible.

Moving cautiously and deliberately, McClellan's army moves up the Peninsula to within seven miles of its objective, Richmond.

**Sunday, May 25, 1862** – After a hard, exhausting night march, as soon as the fog lifts Jackson overruns an outmanned Banks and captures the city of Winchester. Banks realizes he cannot beat Jackson but fights to gain time for his wagons to get to Williamsport, 35 miles to the north. Taylor's brigade overruns Bowers' Hill, on the Union left, by 8:30 am. Notwithstanding the failure of Jackson's cavalry to adequately pursue, they still reap a considerable amount of Union arms, supplies, medical supplies, equipment, and cattle and other foodstuffs. The teamsters commence a week's work hauling as much as they could in their wagons.

As Fremont is moving from Franklin on the road to Harrisonburg, as ordered, John Imboden sends 50 men, well armed with long-range guns, to occupy the cliffs above the road to defend the passage "to the last extremity." After allowing the leading cavalry to get well into the gorge, the Confederates poured a couple deadly volleys into the closely packed force that immediately causes Fremont to turn around before taking the road to Moorefield, nearly 40 miles from Strasburg.



Lincoln presses McClellan to “either attack Richmond or give up the job and come to the defense of Washington.”

**Monday, May 26, 1862** – Jackson declares a day of rest but orders religious services to be held.

**Tuesday, May 27, 1862** – Before heading south again, Jackson chases Banks back across the Potomac River at Williamsport.

**Thursday, May 29, 1862** -- After another ineffective pursuit, Jackson concentrates at Halltown, three miles from Harper’s Ferry.

*Shenandoah Valley: Phase II*  
-- Retreat Up the Valley --

**Friday, May 30, 1862** –After Jackson’s quartermasters have been filling their wagons with mountains of captured supplies and arms, and after he has made Ashby head of all his cavalry, the bulk of Jackson’s army starts up the south valley pike, leaving only the Stonewall Brigade at Halltown, 20 miles behind the lead elements of the Valley Army. In an attempt to cut off Jackson’s retreat, McDowell recaptures Front Royal. To the west, Fremont is ordered to close Jackson’s retreat route by retaking Harrisonburg before joining with McDowell at Strasburg.

Upon being informed that some of the booty at Front Royal had been recovered by the Federals, Jackson summarily relieves the commander of the brigade in charge of protecting the booty.

Jackson dispatches Alexander Boteler, a close personal friend from Sheperdsburg, also member of the Confederate Congress and a part time aide to Jackson, to Richmond to ask for reinforcements to enable Jackson to cross into Maryland.

**May 31, 1862** – Jackson abandons his position at Halltown and with 2,200 prisoners starts to slip through the Union vice after Ashby’s cavalry checks Fremont’s advance and an infantry division halts Shields’ division near Front Royal. At this time McDowell, at Front Royal, and Fremont -- with his van at Lebanon Church five miles to the west of Strasburg -- are only 20 miles apart.

Their combined strength greatly exceeds Jackson's army, which is strung out along the turnpike.

The Stonewall Brigade camps at Stephens City. Fremont, with 15,000 men, takes possession of Lebanon Church, west of Strasburg.

**May 31-June 1, 1862** -- At Seven Pines & Fair Oaks Confederate forces, led by Joe Johnston, launch a well-conceived attack upon McClellan's army, which he has divided into two parts. However uncoordinated assaults, coupled with the arrival of Union reinforcements, result in a stalemate. Both sides suffer heavy losses including the serious wounding of Johnston.

**Saturday, June 1, 1862** – By noon Jackson's entire force – 15,000 troops, 2,200 prisoners, and a double train of wagons seven miles long – clears Strasburg, -- the Stonewall Brigade being the last to escape at about 4:00 pm -- evading Federal forces of 40,000.

In a confusing engagement 2 miles south of Strasburg, Northern cavalry encounter Confederate cavalry at the rear of the retreating army. Both sides panic and flee.

From the *Civil War Dictionary* p 742: "Brilliant as Jackson's operations were, their success was due largely to the blunders into which they led the Federal authorities. Steel says of Stanton, by his obstinacy and ignorance of the science of war he probably set back the fall of Richmond and the Confederacy just three years.' (Steel's *American Campaigns*, 229). The important lesson the Federals learned from their failure to trap Jackson was 'unity of command.'"

Failing to trap Jackson at Strasburg, the Federals take an alternative maneuver by having Fremont move up the pike west of the Massanutten Mountain while Shields turns south from Front Royal up the Luray Valley, with the aim of maneuvering around the east side of the mountain and closing on Jackson's rear.

**Sunday, June 2, 1862** – In relief of the injured Johnston, Robert E. Lee assumes command of Confederate troops and renames his new command the Army of Northern Virginia.

Union cavalry attached to Fremont coming up the North Fork catches up with the retreating Confederates between Strasburg and Woodstock and routs their rear

guard. Because one of the Confederate cavalry commanders apparently mishandle the situation, Jackson places Ashby in charge of all the cavalry.

When Shields arrives at Luray he finds the bridges gone making it impossible for him to come to Fremont's aid across the mountain.

**Monday, June 3, 1862** – At Mount Jackson, where a major tributary flows into the North Fork of the Shenandoah, Jackson's army crosses a bridge before burning it.

**Tuesday, June 4, 1864** – To slow Fremont and to allow time for the goods train and prisoner column to get well under way, Jackson orders Ashby to destroy the only bridge, at Mount Jackson, over the now-raging North Fork.

**Wednesday, June 5, 1862** – Jackson's Valley Army marches to Harrisonburg where the bulk of the army leaves the turnpike and turns east while the sick and wounded, the captured Federal loot, and excess baggage continue further south. Farwell, pg 313, raises the question as to why Jackson did not try to attack the vulnerable Fremont at this point.

Lee writes to Davis that while it would be nice to reinforce Jackson, such reinforcements would have to come from somewhere other than Richmond.

**Saturday, June 6, 1862** – Jackson's cavalry, under Turner Ashby, after forming up columns of four abreast, ambushes the Union vanguard, the Pennsylvania Bucktails headed by "Sir" Percy Wyndham, at Chestnut Ridge near Harrisburg but Ashby is killed in the battle.

### **-- Cross Keys and Port Republic --**

**Sunday, June 7, 1862** -- Winning the race by a single day, Jackson occupies Cross Keys, approximately 7 miles southeast of Harrisonburg, as well as Port Republic, further southeast, and controls the bridge between them so that the two Federal commanders could join forces only by way of Port Republic.

**Monday, June 8, 1862** -- At Cross Keys, a rural tavern located 7 miles southeast of Harrisonville and approximately 20 miles north of Staunton, Ewell delays Fremont by placing his division in line astride the Port Republic Road on a high, wooded ridge one mile south of the tavern. After a two hour artillery duel, the battle opens at 9:00 am, Fremont decides to attack Ewell's right flank but is stunned and then thrown back. Late in the afternoon, Fremont withdraws his entire

army to a new defensive line along the Keezletown Road. Ewell, in accordance with Jackson's orders, chooses to break off the action before retreating during the night to march to Port Republic. Upon crossing the South River bridge, Ewell's rear guard burns the bridge thus preventing Fremont from reinforcing Shields in Port Republic.

Meanwhile, at Port Republic, Union cavalry under Shields dashes through to surprise and almost capture the Confederate baggage train while also almost capturing Jackson himself who barely escapes, perhaps because he was wearing his blue VMI coat, over the bridge to the hill above North river where he had posted artillery.

Sam Carroll, 29, who had led the cavalry charge into Port Republic, just misses becoming his country's greatest hero.

Dabney's quick thinking saves the Rebels' wagon train by ordering it to head south as soon as he hears the ruckus.

Jackson decides to try to defeat both Fremont and Tyler the next morning.

**Sunday, June 9, 1862** – Two Union brigades, commanded by BGen Tyler, establish a line anchored on the left at a coaling -- a couple miles north in a mile wide, mostly cleared valley between the river and the thickly vegetated slopes of the Blue Ridge, and anchored on the right by the river. At 7:00 am Jackson launches without waiting for Taylor to arrive, and the Union's six guns on the Coaling are taking a serious toll upon Rebels below. After a vicious battle, Taylor's Louisianians later envelopment on the south through a dense laurel thicket capture the Union tubes on the Coaling, forcing Union brigades to withdraw. Ewell's arrival deters a Union counterattack. Note: Of the 5000 Louisiana soldiers who serve in the Tigers throughout the war, only 219 will remain by the time of Appomattox.

McDowell and Fremont, respectively, prudently withdraw to the north, thus for all intents and purposes ending the Valley campaign.

Realizing that his troops are in no condition to fight another battle, Jackson burns the North river bridge to prevent its capture by Fremont.

**Wednesday, June 12, 1862** -- Jackson pitches camp just below Port Republic and gives his men a much-needed five-day rest.

**Thursday, June 13, 1862** – Jackson asks Boteler to take another letter to Richmond to explain Jackson’s plan to invade the North and to request more troops,

**Sunday, June 16, 1862** – Lee forwards Jackson’s letter to Davis with an endorsement suggesting that Jackson be sent back to Richmond without further delay

**Monday, June 17, 1862** – Lee orders Jackson’s forces back to Richmond.

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