

0. BULL RUN - Story Preface

**1. BULL RUN**

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This image depicts the battlefield of First Bull Run (also known as First Manassas) where the first battle of America's Civil War took place during July of 1861. The photo is part of a group of photographs compiled by Hirst D. Milhollen and Donald H. Mugridge and is maintained by the Library of Congress. Click on the image for a full-page view.

Scarcely more than three months after Lincoln's recruitment order, federal troops invaded Virginia (which had, by then, also seceded from the Union).

Thousands of people, oblivious to the horrors of war, gathered to watch a spectacle near Manassas Junction as the first land battle of the Civil War - near the tree-clogged Bull Run Creek - took place on 21 July 1861.

Early in the afternoon of July 21st, despite Confederate fortifications on the battlefield, General Barnard Bee's troops were retreating in disorder. Thomas Jonathon Jackson, who a few months before was professor of artillery tactics at Virginia Military Institute, came to Bee's aid.

With a battery of his men, Jackson advanced to the ridge behind the Robinson House. Fearlessly, the former professor stood his ground.

Amazed at the Virginian's fortitude, Bee was able to rally his own troops when he told a remnant of the Fourth Alabama:

*Yonder stands Jackson like a stone wall. Let's go to his assistance.*

Not long thereafter, Bee was dead of a federal bullet. But Jackson's men (who sustained massive losses and, that day, earned the nickname "The Stonewall Brigade") stopped the Union assault on Henry House Hill. Judith Henry, the bedridden widow who refused to leave her house during the battle, also died.

Men from both sides, who had never been fired at before, showed remarkable courage during the Civil War's first battle. But as the day wore on, exhausted Union soldiers (who had signed up for ninety days and were near the end of their term) panicked and fled when General Beauregard's reinforcements commenced a counterattack.

Yankee soldiers had heard Beauregard's men scream what would soon be known as "the rebel yell." Described after the war by a northern veteran, it was a wail that never ceased to strike fear whenever it was heard:

*There is nothing like it on this side of the infernal region. The peculiar corkscrew sensation that it sends down your backbone under these circumstances can never be told. You have to feel it. (Battle Cry of Freedom, James M. McPherson, page 344.)*

Congressmen, who had come to watch the fighting, tried to stop the fleeing Union soldiers. But their efforts were fruitless. When the battle of Bull Run was over, the Confederates had won the day.

Union Colonel Adelbert Ames, who was promoted to Brig. General in 1863, showed great courage in the first battle at Bull Run. Although federal troops did not prevail in that fight (or in the subsequent battle for Fredericksburg in which Ames also demonstrated extraordinary skill with his 20th Maine unit), Ames was eventually awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery in battle.

He was the oldest surviving general officer of the war when he died, aged ninety-seven, in 1933.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:  
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/BULL-RUN-Gods-and-Generals>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:  
<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/BULL-RUN-Gods-and-Generals>

## Media Stream

### First Bull Run - View of Battlefield

Library of Congress; photo part of a compilation by Hirst D. Milhollen and Donald H. Mugridge.

Additional notes, at the Library of Congress, about this photo:

- *Civil War photographs, 1861-1865 / compiled by Hirst D. Milhollen and Donald H. Mugridge, Washington, D.C. : Library of Congress, 1977. No. 0005*

- *Title from Milhollen and Mugridge.*

- *Two plates form left (LC-B811-1046B) and right (LC-B811-1046A) halves of a stereograph pair.*

- *Corresponding print is in LOT 4167-E.*

- *Forms part of Civil War glass negative collection (Library of Congress).*

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/First-Bull-Run-View-of-Battlefield0>



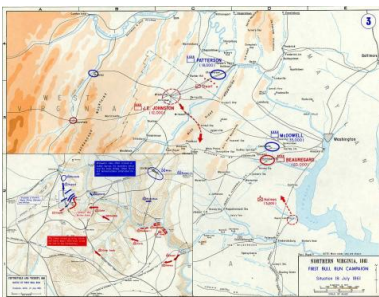
### Manassas Junction - Scene of Bull Run Battle

U.S. National Archives, image 4/2/04-0157a.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Manassas-Junction-Scene-of-Bull-Run-Battle>



### Bull Run Battle Map

Image online, courtesy U.S. Military Academy Atlas Collection.

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### Bull Run Creek

Image, American Memory Collection at the Library of Congress.

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### Pontoon Bridge - Bull Run

U.S. National Archives, image 111-B-68.

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### Confederate Fortifications - Manassas

Photographed by George N. Barnard and James F. Gibson.

U.S. National Archives, image 165-SB-11.

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### Henry House - After the Battle

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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### General P. G. T. Beauregard - Portrait

Online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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### Colonel Adelbert Ames - Portrait

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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