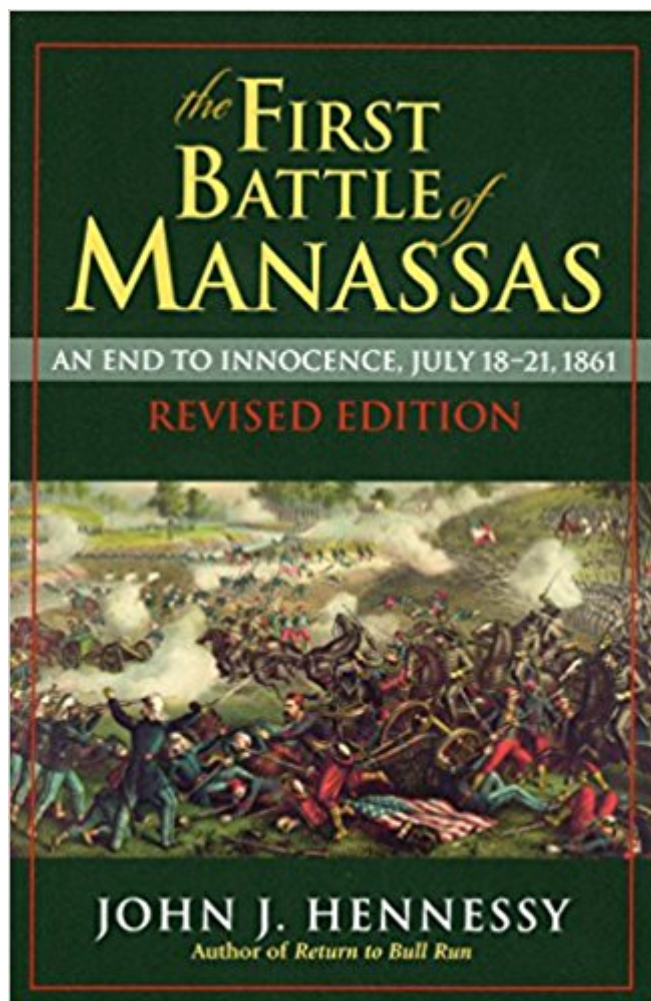


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# The First Battle Of Manassas: An End To Innocence, July 18-21, 1861



## Synopsis

Unmatched in its description of the battle's tactics and actual fighting.--Ethan Rafuse, author of McClellan's War  
On July 21, 1861, near a Virginia railroad junction twenty-five miles from Washington, DC, the Union and Confederate armies clashed in the first major battle of the Civil War. This revised edition of Hennessy's classic is the premier tactical account of First Manassas/Bull Run. Combines narrative, analysis, and interpretation into a clear, easy-to-follow account of the battle's unfolding. Features commanders who would later become legendary, such as William T. Sherman and Thomas J. Jackson, who earned his "Stonewall" nickname at First Manassas

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"If you're into First Bull Run (or even if you're not, particularly), this is a must have. In my opinion, if you only have one First Bull Run book, this is the one you should have." (Bull Runnings 2015-12-03)

John J. Hennessy is one of the leading Civil War battle historians of his generation and author of the definitive book on the Battle of Second Manassas, *Return to Bull Run* (978-0-8061-3187-0). He previously served as a ranger at the Manassas battlefield and is currently chief historian at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park. He lives in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

I have been visiting the Bull Run battlefield since I've been 6 years old and have been fascinated with the battles fought there during the Civil War. I own Hennessy's *Second Bull Run* book and loved it, so I had high expectations for this one. While it is a short book at around 200 pages the maps and

narrative of the battle are excellent. I never knew that Bull Run was the bloodiest battle in U.S. history at that time. While *The Early Morning of War* is the definitive book on the battle, this one is still excellent and informative and a must read if you are interested in Civil War battles.

Great overview of the battle itself. No lengthy strategic or operational level overview. Just the battle at the tactical level. Well done.

This book is the shortest one in total pages that I have read on the First Battle of Manassas (165 pages total/129 pages main) but it is the best of the bunch in my opinion for the following reasons:1. This is the only volume I have read on the battle that can truly be considered a microtactical history of the events down to the regimental, battalion, battery, company, and section level. This is all laid out in an easy to follow fluid manner that allows the reader to keep track as the battle unfolds. But as shown earlier due to the short length of the book the reader does not get bogged down in details.2. Maps! Even this book could have used more, but it has 11 functional representations of the combat areas along Bull Run that make it easy to follow the action and keep track of events as they unfold. My only complaint about the maps is that the only terrain feature not represented on them is elevations. These are named so you know where they are located, (Matthews Hill, Henry Hill, Buck Hill, Dogan Ridge, Chinn Ridge, etc.) but you are unable to see the actual outline of the terrain feature. But with eleven good maps this book blows away all the others on this battle. The book does not have a theater map, and this makes it hard to follow the troop movements upto the beginning of hostilities at Blackburn's Ford, but the book only has one chapter on the events leading upto the battle so starting in chapter two your there on the banks of Bull Run following the action, so it is really not that much of a problem.3. The author, John J. Hennessy. He is the former National Park Service Historian at the battlefield and everyone knows his other book about the Civil War in the Manassas area, "Return to Bull Run", but it does not seem like that many people know about this one? It is a shame, because all the elements that everybody raves about in their reviews of that publication can be found between the covers of this book!The book has 13 pictures and illustrations, an Order of Battle with casualties per regiment, battery and brigade, and the endnotes contained some good information also.This was my first exposure to "The Virginia Civil War Battles and Leaders Series" and it wont be my last. It is a great looking little hardback volume at a good price, and if you look online at all the titles that are in this series, I believe anyone who is interested in the Civil War in Virginia will find a few other volumes to read.Check this one out!

John Hennessy writes an outstanding overview of the First Battle of Manassas. I bought this book to gain insight into this battle before touring the actual battlefield. The maps were easy to follow, the basic battle strategy was very simple to understand. A brief overview of each leader was given. If you are looking for a book to cover the entire battle in 200 pages or so then this is your book. This book also led me to do additional research based on the information at the back of the book. Do not miss out on this excellent read. Thank You John J. Hennessy!

I wrote a longer review of Hennessy's books under the title of his second book 'Return to Bull Run.' This, his first book, was so superb it is why I got the second book to begin with.

Mr. Hennessy is the best! I could not put this book down and would read it again and again

good read

great read

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