

The Civil War 150 Years ago May 1862

Three major campaigns were underway in this month:

- **Peninsular Campaign**—the Union used their naval superiority to land their army SE of Richmond and move NW to attempt to capture the Confederate capital and thus end the war. Union forces were led by Gen George McClellan. CSA forces were led by Gen J.E. Johnston who would later lead CSA forces at the battle of Kennesaw Mountain, GA.
- **Jackson's Valley Campaign**--CSA Gen Stonewall Jackson conducted a brilliant campaign of maneuver to keep vastly superior Union forces in the Shenandoah Valley, thus they were unable to reinforce McClellan in the Peninsula Campaign.
- **Union Naval Campaign**—action begun by President Lincoln at the start of the war called for blockading the Confederate coast and isolating the Confederate Armies from their supply and troop base by systematically gaining control of the southern river system.

May	5	Battle of Williamsburg, VA. <u>Peninsular Campaign</u> . Holding action by CSA Gen Longstreet allowed Gen Johnston to withdraw his heavy supply trains safely.
May	7	Engagement at West Point (Eltham's Landing), VA. <u>Peninsular Campaign</u> . McClellan's amphibious envelopment was anticipated by Johnston and was thwarted by poor Union execution.
May	8	Battle of McDowell, VA. <u>Valley Campaign</u> . CSA Gen Jackson held the high ground successfully against a Union attack.
May	9	Confederates evacuated Norfolk, VA. <u>Naval Campaign</u> . Union pressure forced the Confederates to evacuate this important port.
May	9	Bombardment of Pensacola, FL. <u>Naval Campaign</u> . Union navy put pressure on another important Confederate port.
May	10	Naval engagement at Plum Bend, AK. <u>Naval Campaign</u> . Confederates defeated the Union navy in one of only two Civil War gunboat fleet engagements on the Mississippi River, ramming and sinking two Union ironclads, Cincinnati and Mound City.
May	15	Battle of Drewrys Bluff, VA. <u>Naval Campaign</u> . Confederate works withstood Union naval bombardment and prevented the Union navy from attacking Richmond.
May	20	Lincoln signed the Homestead Act, designed to encourage Western settlement by giving 160 acres to those who would live on the land.
May	23	Engagement at Front Royal, VA. <u>Valley Campaign</u> . CSA victory.
May	25	Battle of First Winchester, VA. <u>Valley Campaign</u> . CSA victory.
May	26	Skirmish at Calico Rock, AK
May	30	Confederates evacuate Corinth, MS. <u>Naval Campaign</u> .
May	31	Battle of Fair Oaks (Seven Pines), VA. <u>Peninsular Campaign</u> . Gen Longstreet missed an opportunity to defeat McClellan's forces in detail. Gen Johnston is wounded. He is replaced by Gen Robert E. Lee on June 1.