



**THE BATTLE OF  
BLACKBURN'S FORD**

**JULY 18, 1861**

# History of the Battle

In July of 1861, President Abraham Lincoln determined that it was time to put an end to the rebellion. McDowell, the general in charge of Union forces in Washington, insisted that the men needed more time and more training. Lincoln did not have that luxury. Many of the volunteers had signed up for three month enlistments, which were running out soon. “You are green, that is true,” Lincoln said, “but they are green as well. You are all green alike.”

With that, McDowell marched his Army of Northeastern Virginia, 35,000 strong, southward toward a railroad hub called Manassas, where a line of 20,000 Confederates waited behind a deep, winding creek known as Bull Run, under the command of P.G.T. Beauregard. Outnumbered and outgunned, Beauregard was counting on General Joseph E. Johnston to get there by rail with his 12,000 men.

McDowell camped his men at Centerville, a town several miles northeast of Manassas, where he studied the situation. He determined to probe the enemy defenses by sending General Daniel Tyler southwest, directly toward Manassas, with two brigades to reconnoiter the two fords known as Blackburn and Mitchell’s. His orders were to demonstrate, and report back what he found.

When Tyler arrived at long clearing before the fords, he found what appeared to be an opening, and if he could cross at Blackburn’s Ford, he would be on the flank of the enemy. As a result, Tyler pressed forward with both his brigades.

But the Confederate army had a surprise waiting for him. At both crossings they had a hidden brigade ready to fire on them in ambush, and another brigade was on its way.

*“The enemy has assailed my outposts in heavy force. I have fallen back on the line of Bull Run and will make a stand at Mitchell’s Ford.”*  
- General P.G.T. Beauregard, July 17, 1861

## SET-UP

Use the map on the next page to set up the table using your terrain. The entire board should be approximately four feet by three feet, but can be a little larger or smaller, depending on available space.

Place the listed brigades where they are pictured. The Confederate units are in line formation, and the Union units are in march column formation along the roads. The Confederate artillery is unlimbered and placed with either brigade, or anywhere in between them. The Union artillery is limbered, and on either road with either brigade. Tyler and Beauregard can be placed with either of their brigades, or anywhere directly in between them.

Early’s brigade will enter in march column along the road on turn 5.

**Game End:** The game ends at the end of turn 10.

# ORDER OF BATTLE

## UNION

### FIRST DIVISION

General Daniel Tyler

Initiative: 1

Leadership: 2

1st Brigade: L.B. Richardson  
4 Infantry stands - Green

2nd Brigade: R.C. Schenck  
4 Infantry stands - Green

3rd Brigade: W.T. Sherman  
4 Infantry stands - Standard

Artillery: H.J. Hunt  
2 Rifled - Standard  
2 Smoothbore - Green

## Confederate

### FIRST DIVISION

General PGT Beauregard

Initiative: 2

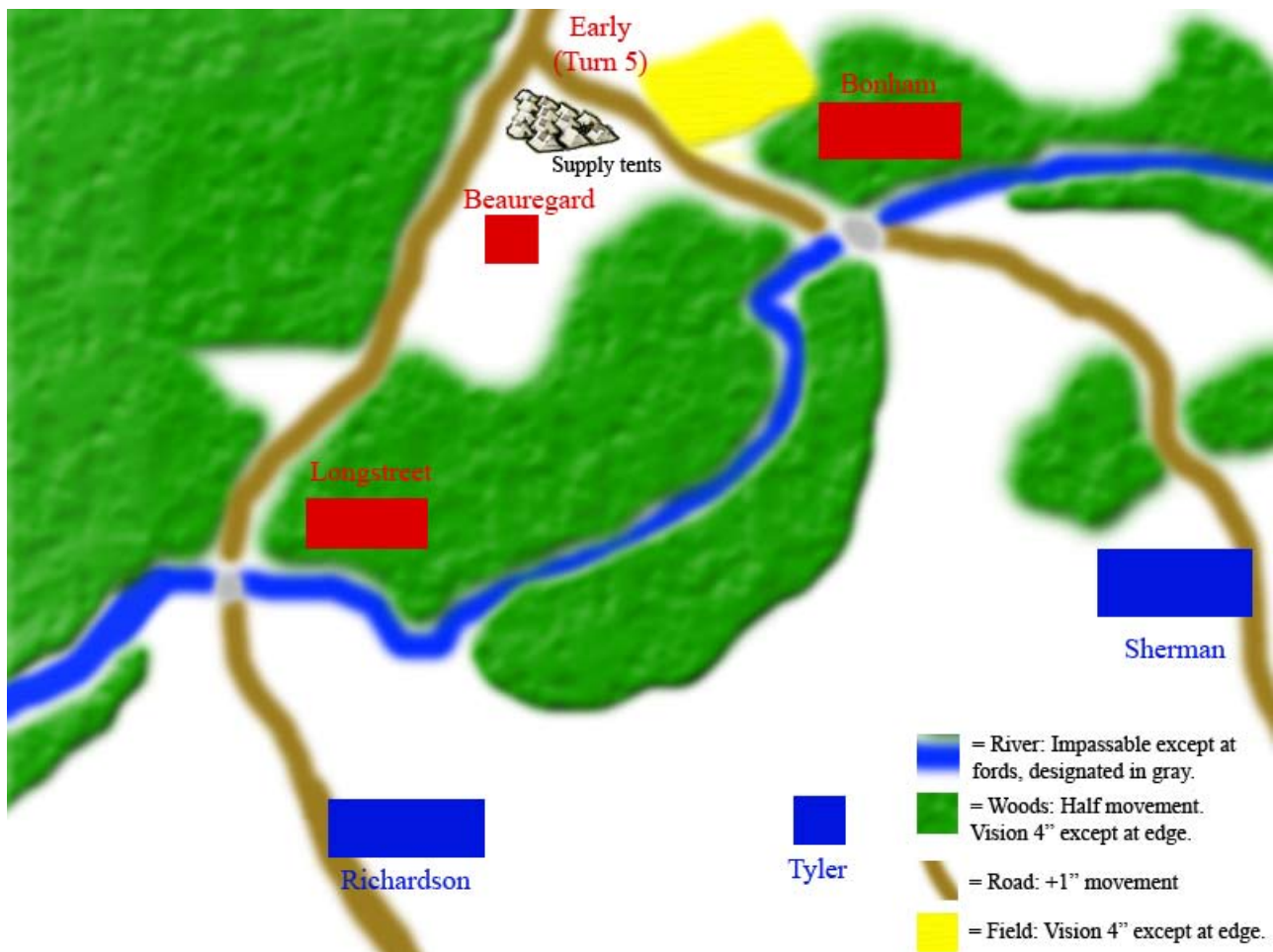
Leadership: 3

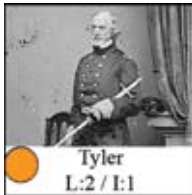








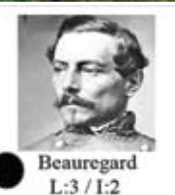









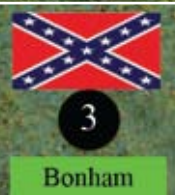



1st Brigade: James Longstreet  
5 Infantry stands - Standard















2nd Brigade: Jubal Early  
4 Infantry stands - Green

3rd Brigade: Bonham  
4 Infantry stands - Green

Artillery - Shields  
1 Rifled - Green  
2 Smoothbore - Green



|  |   |  |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| <br>Tyler<br>L:2 / I:1 | <br>1<br>Richardson |                              |                      |   | <br>2<br>Sherman |   |
|                       |                    | <br>Beauregard<br>L:3 / I:2 | <br>1<br>Longstreet |  |                 |  |
|                       | <br>2<br>Early     |                             |                     |  | <br>3<br>Bonham |  |
|                       |                    | Attack   | Attack   | Attack   | Attack   | Attack  |
| Defend   | Defend  | Defend   | Defend   | Defend   | Maneuver   | Maneuver  |

|   |   |   |   |  |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| Maneuver  | Maneuver  | Maneuver  | Ammo  | Ammo   | Ammo  | Ammo  |
| Ammo  | Ammo  | Ammo  | Ammo  | Ammo   | Ammo  | Low Ammo  |
| Low Ammo  | Low Ammo  | Low Ammo  | Low Ammo  | Low Ammo   | Low Ammo  | Low Ammo  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



