

ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

Army of the Ohio

By **Gerald J. Prokopowicz**, East Carolina University

Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Prokopowicz, Gerald J.	<i>All for the Regiment: The Army of the Ohio, 1861-1862</i> . Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2014.

Books and Articles

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year. “Title,” in <i>Journal</i> ##, no. # (Date): #.
Bradley, George C. and Richard L Dahlen	<i>From Conciliation to Conquest: The Sack of Athens & the Court-Martial of Colonel John B. Turchin</i> . Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2006.
Buell, Don Carlos	<i>Statement of Major General Buell, in Review of the Evidence Before the Military Commission, Appointed by the War Department in November, 1862, Campaign in Kentucky, Tennessee, Northern Mississippi and North Alabama in 1861 and 1862</i> . no place, no date, 1863.
Cist, Henry M.	<i>The Army of the Cumberland</i> . New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1882, 1-102.
Daniel, Larry J.	<i>Days of Glory. the Army of the Cumberland, 1861-1865</i> . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2006, Ch. 1-10.

Fitch, John	<i>Annals of the Army of the Cumberland.</i> Philadelphia, PA: J. B. Lippincott & Co., 1864.
Fry, James B.	<i>Operations of the Army Under Buell From June 10th to October 30th, 1862, and the "Buell Commission".</i> New York: D. Van Nostrand, 1884.
Hess, Earl J.	<i>Banners to the Breeze: The Kentucky Campaign, Corinth, and Stones River.</i> Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2010.
Jones, Evan & Wiley Sword, eds.	<i>Gateway to the Confederacy: New Perspectives on the Chickamauga and Chattanooga Campaigns, 1862-1863.</i> Baton Rouge: University of Louisiana Press, 2014, Ch 2, Gerald J. Prokopowicz, "Last Chance for a Short War: Don Carlos Buell and the Chattanooga Campaign of 1862".
Lambert, Dean W.	<i>When the Ripe Pears Fell: The Battle of Richmond, Kentucky..</i> Edwardsville, IL: Madison County Historical Society, 1996.
McDonough, James Lee	<i>War In Kentucky: Shiloh To Perryville.</i> Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1994.
Noe, Kenneth W.	<i>Perryville: This Grand Havoc of Battle.</i> Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2001.
Van Horne, Thomas B.	<i>History of the Army of the Cumberland: Its Organization, Campaigns, and Battles, Written at the Request of Major General George H. Thomas.</i> 3 vols. Cincinnati, OH: Robert Clarke & Co., 1875, 1: Ch. 1-16.

Organizations

Web Resources

Other Sources

Name	Description, Contact information including address, email
<p>Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument</p>	<p>The Mill Springs Museum and battlefield park.</p> <p>Their address is: Mill Springs Battlefield National Monument 9020 West Highway 80 Nancy, KY 42544 606 636 4045</p> <p>Their website is: https://www.nps.gov/misp/index.htm</p>
<p>Shiloh National Military Park</p>	<p>The Shiloh Museum, archive, battlefield park, and national cemetery.</p> <p>Their address is: 1055 Pittsburg Landing Road Shiloh, TN 38376 731 689 5696</p> <p>Their website is: https://www.nps.gov/shil/index.htm</p>
<p>Perryville Battlefield State Historic Site</p>	<p>Perryville Museum, archive, and battlefield park.</p> <p>Their address is: 1825 Battlefield Rd Perryville KKY 40468 859 332 8631</p> <p>Their website is: https://parks.ky.gov/explore/perryville-battlefield-state-historic-site-7804</p>

Scholars

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Topic Précis

The original Army of the Ohio consisted of all Federal forces in Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Tennessee, and the portion of Kentucky east of the Cumberland River, from November 9, 1861, to October 24, 1862. It was led by Major General Don Carlos Buell, under whom it fought in two major battles in 1862, at Shiloh in April and Perryville in October. After the battle of Perryville, Buell was replaced and the army was renamed and reorganized, later becoming known as the Army of the Cumberland. In its brief but significant history, the Army of the Ohio was given two strategic goals. It achieved the first of these, to secure Kentucky for the Union, but it failed to accomplish its second mission, which was to capture Chattanooga and bring relief to the loyal population of eastern Tennessee. Of the two goals the most important was to keep Kentucky, a state where slavery was legal, from becoming part of the Confederacy. “Kentucky gone, we can not hold Missouri, nor, as I think, Maryland,” Abraham Lincoln wrote on September 22. “These all against us, and the job on our hands is too large for us.” Upon his appointment Buell began reorganizing the 50,000 men in dozens of regiments into an army of brigades, divisions and corps. Subordinate commanders, except for George Thomas, were poor commanders but the Army of the Ohio won important battles at Rowlett’s Station in December 1861 and Logan’s Crossroads in January 1862. In March 1862 the army was ordered to join Grant, then camped at Pittsburg Landing on the Tennessee River. Buell’s progress was slow and he only took half the army with him, the rest left in various garrisons, and neither Grant nor Buell thought there was a need for speed. In the event Buell arrived at Pittsburg Landing on April 6, after the first day’s fighting at Shiloh had seen the Union forces pushed back. On April 7 both Grant and Buell drove the Confederates off and Shiloh was a Union victory. By this time the soldiers had developed a negative opinion of Buell who was seen to be soft on Southerners, putting protection of their property and slaves ahead of the safety of the men. Buell reciprocated seeing the volunteers as mere civilians in uniform and not like the real soldiers of the Regular Army. In the late summer and autumn of 1862 two Confederate forces under Edmund Kirby-Smith and Braxton Bragg invaded Kentucky. Buell set off in pursuit of Bragg using forced marches which severely taxed his army. On October 8 a portion of Buell’s army encountered part of Bragg’s force at the Battle of Perryville. The fighting ended when the Confederates retreated, a tactical draw. Perryville revealed the depth of the dysfunction running through the army’s command system. Buell, whose mobility was limited by a painful leg injury suffered a few days earlier, had spent most of the battle in his headquarters unaware that a battle was even taking place. McCook had left his command strung out in a road column where it could be taken by surprise when the Confederates attacked. Gilbert had exercised no initiative and was apparently prepared

to see McCook's corps swept from the field without doing anything to help. George Thomas, who would demonstrate at Chickamauga his ability to stand strong in the face of disaster, had no troops under his command and was powerless to redeem the situation. What saved the army from defeat at Perryville were the actions of its regimental commanders and their men. Perryville was a tactical draw but a strategic victory as it ended the Confederate invasion of Kentucky. Both Bragg and Kirby-Smith retreated from Kentucky to Tennessee, but Buell took no action to exploit his victory. His failure to pursue a defeated enemy was the last straw and he was replaced as head of the Army of the Ohio by Major General Rosecrans on October 24, a decision greeted with cheers by the army's rank and file. The orders that appointed Rosecrans also changed the name of the Army of the Ohio to the "XIV Army Corps" and created a new Department of the Cumberland encompassing the territory where it operated. The army would soon become much better known as the Army of the Cumberland, the title it bore for the rest of the Civil War.
