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MM01 Antietam (Burnside Bridge) – September 17, 1862

(Scenario Mark McGilchrist)

Historical Overview

The action moved to the southern end of the battlefield. McClellan's plan called for Maj. Gen. Ambrose Burnside and the IX Corps to conduct a diversionary attack in support of Hooker's I Corps, hoping to draw Confederate attention away from the intended main attack in the north. However, Burnside was instructed to wait for explicit orders before launching his attack, and those orders did not reach him until 10 a.m.
Burnside had four divisions (12,500 troops) and 50 guns east of Antietam Creek. Facing him was a force that had been greatly depleted by Lee's movement of units to bolster the Confederate left flank. At dawn, the divisions of Brig. Gens. David R. Jones and John G. Walker stood in defense, but by 10 a.m. all of Walker's men and Col. George T. Anderson's Georgia brigade had been removed. Jones had only about 3,000 men and 12 guns available to meet Burnside. Four thin brigades guarded the ridges near Sharpsburg, primarily a low plateau known as Cemetery Hill.
The remaining 400 men—the 2nd and 20th Georgia regiments, under the command of Brig. Gen. Robert Toombs, with two artillery batteries-defended Rohrbach's Bridge, a three-span, 125- foot (38 m) stone structure that was the southernmost crossing of the Antietam. It would become known to history as Burnside's Bridge because of the notoriety of the coming battle.

The stage is set, the battle lines are drawn, and you are in command.
The rest is history.

Staffing Notes

Union: Ambrose Burnside
4 Command cards
Move first

Confederate: James Longstreet
4 Command cards

Victory Conditions:
5 VP

Special Rules:

Antietam Creek waterways are impassable except at the Bridge.

Burnside Bridge is worth 1 Victory for the Union if a Union unit enters the Bridge.