

# ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM

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## The Campaign for Island No. 10 (February 28, 1862 – April 8, 1862)

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### Resources

If you can read only one book

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Daniel, Larry J. and Lynn N. Bock	<i>Island No. 10: Struggle for the Mississippi Valley</i> . Tuscaloosa and London: The University of Alabama Press, 1996.

### Books and Articles

Author	Title. City: Publisher, Year.
Bissell, Josiah W.	“Sawing out the Channel Above Island Number Ten,” in vol. 1 of Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence C. Buel, eds., <i>Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. Being for the Most Part Contributions by Union and Confederate Officers. Based Upon ” The Century War Series ”</i> , 4 vols. New York: The Century Co. 1884-1888.
Pratt, Fletcher	<i>Civil War on Western Waters</i> . New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1956.
Gosnell, Allen H.	<i>Guns on Western Waters</i> . Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1949.
Milligan, John D.	<i>Gunboats Down the Mississippi</i> . Annapolis, MD: United States Naval Institute, 1965.
Naval History Division of the United States Navy Department	<i>Civil War Chronology 1861-1865</i> . Washington, D. C.: United States Navy, 1971.

Patterson, Benton Rain	<i>The Mississippi River Campaign, 1861-1863: The Struggle for Control of the Western Waters.</i> Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing, 2010.
Walke, Henry	“The Western Flotilla at Fort Donelson, Island Number 10, Fort Pillow and Memphis,” in vol. 1 of Robert Underwood Johnson and Clarence C. Buel, eds., <i>Battles and Leaders of the Civil War. Being for the Most Part Contributions by Union and Confederate Officers. Based Upon “The Century War Series”</i> , 4 vols. New York: The Century Co. 1884-1888.

## Organizations

## Web Resources

URL	Name and description
<a href="https://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/mo012.htm">https://www.nps.gov/abpp/battles/mo012.htm</a>	The Civil War Sites Advisory Commission of the National Park Service publishes Battle Summaries for major Civil War battles. This is the Battle Summary for New Madrid/Island No. 10.
<a href="http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles_island_10.html">http://www.historyofwar.org/articles/battles_island_10.html</a>	This is the summary of the Battle of Island No. 10 from the Military History Encyclopedia on the Web.
<a href="http://www.new-madrid.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=152">http://www.new-madrid.mo.us/index.aspx?NID=152</a>	This website operated by the town of new Madrid includes a summary of the Civil War in New Madrid, including the campaign for Island No. 10.
<a href="http://civilwarhome.com/island10.htm">http://civilwarhome.com/island10.htm</a>	This is an essay and other material on the Island No. 10 Campaign from the Civil War Home website.
<a href="https://civilwar.illinoisgenweb.org/battles/madrid.html">https://civilwar.illinoisgenweb.org/battles/madrid.html</a>	Illinois in the Civil War website includes a section discussing the Illinois Regiments involved in the Campaign against New Madrid and Island No. 10.

## Other Sources

## Scholars

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## Topic Précis

Although time and the shifting currents of the Mississippi River have long ago demolished Island No. 10 (a spit of land a mile long and 450 yards wide, so named because it was the tenth island south of the juncture of the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers), it was the site of the first of three important Union victories that wrested possession of the Mississippi Valley and the nation's most vital waterway from Confederate control. The campaign for the island confronted both sides with significant challenges in assembling and coordinating joint army-navy forces and balancing their sometimes-divergent goals. The Union not only had to assemble armies, they had to design and build an entirely new type of gunboat fleet while the Confederacy had to formulate a strategy and construct defenses able to protect territory stretching from the Appalachian Mountains to the Mississippi River with limited men and material. Attempts to fortify Island No. 10 only really began after General Albert Sydney Johnston's western defensive line collapsed in mid-February 1862. Major General Henry Halleck ordered General John Pope to capture Island No. 10 in February 1862 and Pope assembled the Army of the Mississippi, nearly 25,000 men to do so. At the same time the first Confederate troops arrived at Island No. 10 and began fortifying it. By mid-March the Confederates had mounted 52 canons on the Island and nearby Tennessee shore, The Confederate garrison at New Madrid numbered 3,000 and an improvised Confederate naval squadron took position near the island. Pope took up positions in front of New Madrid and below and opposite Island No. 10 and shelled Confederate positions. The Confederates abandoned New Madrid on March 13 leaving behind significant military materiel. On March 15 a federal ironclad flotilla arrived under the command of Flag Officer Andrew Foote. The flotilla attacked the Island No. 10 batteries in earnest on March 17 with little effect on either side and settled into a siege. This included a labor-intensive attempt to build a canal to circumvent the island. The siege was a stalemate by the beginning of April, so Foote reluctantly agreed to run past the island's batteries at night with one ironclad passing on April 4 and a second on April 6 rendezvousing with Pope's infantry below Island No. 10. On April 7 the two ironclads drove off scattered Confederate forces allowing Pope to transport his infantry to the east bank of the Mississippi. Union gunboats then cut off the Confederate line of retreat as Pope's infantry advanced and captured the fleeing garrison, and on April 8 the remaining Confederates surrendered the island to Foote. Again, considerable military materiel was captured along with 4,500 men while the Federals suffered only a handful of casualties during the entire campaign. Heavy guns and several partially scuttled and damaged Confederate transports were also seized. Federal forces occupied New Madrid and Island No. 10 for the remainder of the war. Painfully evident at Island No. 10 was the Confederacy's inability to build a river navy that could challenge Union vessels for control of the water. Southern hopes that a traditional static

defense consisting of heavy cannon mounted in earthen forts would present an impassible barrier failed as muzzle-loading artillery could not fire with enough accuracy or speed to prevent steam-driven targets from running past. The South could never formulate a strategy to keep federal gunboats from achieving total dominance, and repeatedly sacrificed large garrisons attempting to defend the Mississippi. The surrender of Island No. 10 ended the struggle for control of the upper river. Memphis fell in early June and no southern stronghold remained north of Vicksburg. Island No. 10 was supposed to be the bolt on the door barring Union descent of the Mississippi but once that lock was broken the Confederacy could never close it again. Union victory at Island No. 10 was the harbinger of ultimate Confederate defeat in the Mississippi Valley.

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