

and enlisted men proving ready for the test. On the last day of the month they took part in the Battle of Fair Oaks, where the gallant Kearney led the 37th against the enemy. Colonel Hayman's report of the fight noted Major Jones' general good conduct and commended his advice on the Confederates' movements.¹⁵ Later during the campaign, the 37th fought again at Glendale (June 30) and Malvern Hill (July 1) during the Seven Days. Following the failure of the Peninsula Campaign, the Irish Rifles were involved in Pope's movement which culminated in Second Bull Run. The regiment suffered few casualties, although at Chantilly on September 1 their popular division commander, General Kearney, was killed.

With the war effort stalled, President Lincoln had issued a call for 300,000 volunteers to serve three years. In Cattaraugus and adjacent Chautauqua Counties, Jones' ex-partner, Addison Rice, had raised a regiment with the understanding that after equipping it and accompanying it to the front he would be relieved of the command by Major Jones. Consequently Jones was commissioned colonel of the 154th New York Volunteers on October 8, 1862. The new commander joined his regiment on November 19 at its encampment near Fairfax Court House, Virginia. One of his first orders established a strict regimen of daily drills, Sunday inspections and recitations in tactics by the company officers to prepare the raw troops for future campaigns.¹⁶

The 154th New York was then a part of Colonel Adolphus Buschbeck's 1st Brigade in Adolph Von Steinwehr's 2nd Division of the 11th Corps. With this command they made the march to Stafford Heights opposite Fredericksburg but were in the reserve during the great battle. After participating in the Mud March, the regiment made several ill-appreciated