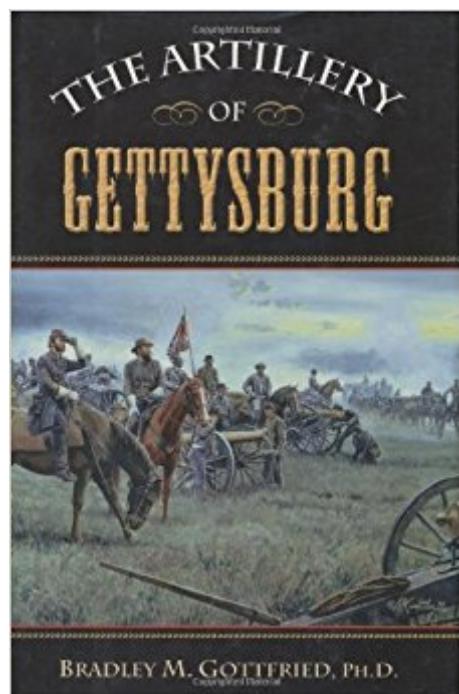


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The Artillery Of Gettysburg



Synopsis

The battle of Gettysburg in July 1863 marked the turning point of the American Civil War. The apex of the Confederacy's final major invasion of the North, the devastating defeat also marked the end of the South's offensive strategy against the North. From this battle until the end of the war, the Confederate armies largely remained defensive. *The Artillery of Gettysburg* is a thoughtful look at the role of the artillery during the July 1-3, 1863 conflict. Bradley M. Gottfried provides insight into how the two armies employed their artillery, how the different kinds of weapons functioned in battle, and the strategies for using each of them. He shows how artillery affected the ebb and flow of battle for both armies and thus provides a unique way of understanding the strategies of the Federal and Union commanders.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Bradley M. Gottfried is president of Sussex County Community College in New Jersey. He is the author of *Brigades of Gettysburg, Kearny's Own: The History of the First New Jersey Brigade in the Civil War*, *The Roads to Gettysburg, Stopping Pickett: The History of the Philadelphia Brigade*, and *The Battle of Gettysburg*. A frequent contributor to *Gettysburg Magazine* and *Civil War Times*, he has made numerous appearances on The History Channel. He lives in La Plata, Maryland.

Good read on the artillery aspects, as the title says. Gives you a fuller knowledge of their views often passed by quickly in other books. A lot of information.

Gottfried has done what no other author has done - provided a detailed compilation of all the artillery used in the Battle of Gettysburg. This book is an excellent research / source book and is a further excellent companion to his Brigades at Gettysburg book. All batteries at the Battle are represented and locations and movements of same are meticulously detailed in this book. A must for serious students / buffs of the Battle.

Author does exactly what the title says- describes in detail the movements and actions of the arty at Gettysburg. A good reference for everything to do with that very specific subject. Pretty much everything you want to know- in one book. Well done.

I recently got this digital book and am really enjoying the information and maps. It really helps me get a grasp of who was involved and what took place. It is a wonderfull resource when going to gettysburg and on to the battlefield.

Bradley Gottfried's "The Artillery of Gettysburg" is a solid account of the part that artillery, both Union and Confederate, played during the Battle of Gettysburg. The story of the battle is narrated in a straightforward chronological fashion, with the role of each artillery unit described in turn, detailing how each battery acted and reacted to the avalanche of events during the three days of fighting. If the book has any weakness, it is that the focus is on the tactical experience of artillery batteries in this single battle, without extensive discussion of the technical or organizational aspects of that arm. But, the detailed history, accompanied by numerous maps, allows the interested reader to clearly grasp the vital successes and disappointing failures of Northern and Southern artillery in what is usually considered the greatest battle of the American Civil War.

Artillery played a large role in the battle at Gettysburg. This book outlines the role played by the Confederate versus the Union artillery. The book does a nice job of comparing command structure between the two sides with respect to artillery. Also considered are the nature of weapons used by both sides, the quality of fuses and ammunition, and so on. A nice exploration of the "long arm" at Gettysburg. Some pluses. . . . Plenty of maps to give a sense of the battle and the positioning of artillery. Some photographs to give a closer view of different types of artillery and pictures of some of the leading artillery officers on both sides of the battlefield. But the heart of the book is the day-to-day battlefield contributions of artillery. On Day # 1, July 1st, 1863, we begin with the

placement of Calaf's battery to support General John Buford's cavalry. As the two armies collide, we see more and more artillery on both sides joining the action. The two chapters on the first day show where artillery contributed and where it ran into problems. Day # 2 is covered in 3 1/2 chapters (one chapter, focusing on Cemetery Hill and Culp's Hill, covers action on both Days # 2 and # 3). This section begins with artillery preparation on both Union and Confederate sides, and then the playing out of action in battle. On Day # 2, the artillery's role is described at a number of locations--Devil's Den, the Wheatfield, and Little Round Top), the Peach Orchard, and the Union effort to stem the breakthrough of the Third Corps line with a stand by the artillery. And, then, to Day # 3. The great gathering of Confederate artillery, slated to begin a massive bombardment on the Union Center. Henry Hunt, the Union artillery chief, responded. The preparation of artillery on both sides is nicely described. Then, the start of the great Confederate barrage--and why it had less than hoped for effect. "Pickett's Charge" and the damage created by Union artillery as the forces of Pettigrew, Trimble, and Pickett advanced. The last chapter deals with cavalry action at the end of the third day. If you are interested in a detailed examination of artillery at Gettysburg, this will do the trick. The book is functionally--if not elegantly--written.

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