

GETTYSBURG
THE STORY OF THE BATTLE WITH MAPS

by the Editors of **STACKPOLE BOOKS**



Synopsis

70 color maps and insightful text tell the hour-by-hour story of the 3-day Battle of Gettysburg. Each map shows the same 3 1/2-by-4 1/2-mile view of the battlefield, allowing the reader to visualize the battle as it developed over the entire area, including key engagements, troop movements and positions, and locations of commanders. Sheds new light on important events such as the first clash west of town on July 1, the fighting for Cemetery Hill, the defense of Little Round Top, Pickett's Charge, and more. Crystal-clear maps and narrative make this an ideal introduction for newcomers while the unique approach offers fresh perspectives for those who've read every book on the battle. Perfect companion for battlefield visits and armchair-general debates.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Just as the Battle of Gettysburg sprawls over three days, the Gettysburg battlefield sprawls over 25 square miles, which means that there's no way to understand this climactic conflict without a good set of maps. This book meets people coming to the battlefield just where they are, with concise and uncluttered maps that clearly and accurately lay out the major movements down to brigade level, on an hour-by-hour basis, and with a straightforward and easily followed narrative of each map's actions. Take it in the car, take it on foot, combine it with digital apps, or study it in advance--you will have the Battle of Gettysburg in easy grasp." (Allen C. Guelzo, author of *Gettysburg: The Last Invasion* 2013-03-18)"This map-supported narrative of the Battle of Gettysburg will appeal to neophyte and expert alike. The hour-by-hour maps of the maneuvering and fighting provide the clearest cartographic picture of the battle in existence. Of especial value is

the integration of the cavalry fight east of Gettysburg on July 3 into the main battle story." (James M. McPherson, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Battle Cry of Freedom* 2013-03-05)"*Gettysburg: The Story of the Battle with Maps* is a unique exploration of the battle. The maps are very easy to follow. Each one shows the entire battlefield, making it possible to understand the context of each movement, attack, and counterattack during the three days. The accompanying text brings the battle alive and nicely compliments the maps." (D. Scott Hartwig, author of *To Antietam Creek* 2013-03-19)"Many attempts to depict the course of fighting on America's most iconic battlefield are either so general as to be misleading, or so specific as to be incomprehensible. This cartographic display is a nice compromise. The movements are depicted clearly, and in full color, so that even a complete newcomer to the battle can follow the action easily." (Craig L. Symonds, author of *The American Heritage History of the Battle of Gettysburg* 2013-03-11)

M. David Detweiler graduated from Yale and has worked as a journalist and editor and published short stories and novels. He was the key editor for *Gettysburg: The Story of the Battle with Maps*. Detweiler is an amateur military history buff, composer, and sometime fly angler. President and CEO of Stackpole Inc. for the past quarter century, he lives in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, with his wife and enjoys chasing the unsolvable what-ifs of history.

The maps are very helpful. The prose is at the Eighth Grade level with random use of tenses and the thesaurus: "Where Stuart's Brigade has spent the night, holding their sylvan sliver of Culp's Hill's lower slope, now in the warming dawn a blizzard of screaming shells of deadly variety arcs down. Life ends around you again and again as you praise the Lord and pass the ammunition."

This book is both a great place for anyone to begin learning about Gettysburg and an excellent resource for even the most knowledgeable person, for not only clarifying events and refreshing memory, but also for filling in blanks on everything one could care to know about at the brigade level. For those purposes, at 140 pages this is just the right amount of information for me, i.e., not too much and yet more than adequate. Every other page is a map of the entire battlefield with each map representing chronological developments all over the field, including the relevant generals, brigades, and their movements. There are numerous supplemental inserts on the facing pages filling in details that otherwise would overload the larger maps (or just adding entertaining asides).

It's about as clear and colorful a presentation as I can imagine. The accompanying text is a present tense narrative directed at those looking for good entertainment and is certainly not for the scholarly. In fact I would imagine academics would be quite embarrassed to be caught with this sort of material, as a high school teacher would with a Cliffs Notes. It's very melodramatic, complete with sorrows, triumphs, and exclamation marks. That said, as to facts, the narrator is accurate and informed. And has an infectious enthusiasm. I would think for many people this style would transform what otherwise might be dry material into a memorable story. I also found it reassuring, as far as reliability, that there were no individual author credits (except in a short note on the last page) and the book is simply "by the editors of STACKPOLE BOOKS," a reputable publisher with many Gettysburg histories to it's credit. There was clearly no individual ego spinning history, it instead being a team effort. To give some context to this review, I'm the kind of person who has always used Cliffs Notes without apology. I have a large, diverse collection on Gettysburg. I find this book is terrific as far as putting minute events at Gettysburg into their larger context, such as while I'm reading The Bachelder Papers or OR reports. This book is a great skeleton from which to hang all the blood and guts, etc. (hey, it's almost Halloween).

This is a fascinating new look at the Battle of Gettysburg using detailed maps to track the action. In some cases, the exact position of a unit cannot be determined, but it gives a good detailed description of the ebb and flow of the battle. The book ends at the moment of the failure of Picket's charge on the third day which I think is not the best place to end the narrative. I think it would have been interesting to see the deployment of the troops after the charge has failed and also to see the developments on the fourth and fifth day when the Confederates begin their withdrawal. This does not take away from the narrative and detail given for the three days which is superb. I have read a lot of books on the Battle of Gettysburg over the years since first visiting the battlefield back in the mid 70's at the age of 11. Reading this book has shown me things that I still did not know about the battle even after all these years. It gives a good examination of the controversy over the placement of Sickles's Corps during the second day of the battle. Also examined is what the effects might have been had his Corps not been moved. There is a lot of discussion into the interactions between the generals on both sides and the contrasts shown are quite enlightening. I would recommend this book to anyone who might be interested in the battle. I would recommend having a least a basic understanding of the general timeline of the battle before reading this since the book appears to be talking to audience that is familiar with the general story of the battle. If you are not familiar with the battle before reading this book, you will have a detailed understanding of the battle by the time you

are finished.

I've searched for a book like this for years, clear maps, and lots of them, with unit movements during short periods of the battle. None have come close to this one. I don't think you will find another publication that will help you understand how the battle ebbed and flowed as the various units jockeyed for the upper hand in the woods and fields around this small Pennsylvania town. Hard core students may wish for a little more detail in some of the narrative, but there are plenty of other authors who have penned great descriptions of those three days in July. I look forward to rereading some of the other histories with this as a companion piece. I do hope Stackpole Press continues this fine effort.

This book consists of text on the left page and a full page map on the facing right page. The narrative is first rate. The author not only explains what units are moving where in a very clear manner, but the strengths and weaknesses of the commanders, of their plans and of their execution. The maps are also first rate. They display the action on an hour to hour basis, or perhaps more frequently. For example, it takes 22 page-size and a number of smaller maps to move through the action from the morning through the evening of the first day of the battle. There are other excellent books on Gettysburg, but, because of the maps, I don't think anything is likely to approach the clarity of this book. When I go to Gettysburg in a couple of months, I'll take this book with me as I walk over the battleground.

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