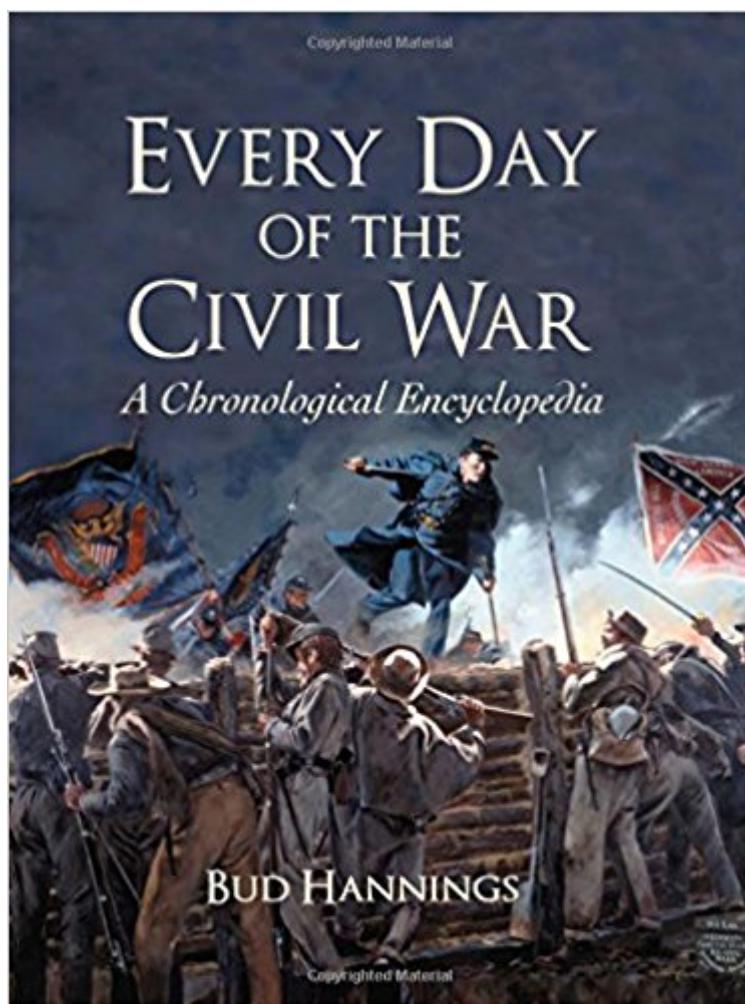


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Every Day Of The Civil War: A Chronological Encyclopedia



Synopsis

From the early seizure of government property during the latter part of 1860 to the final Confederate surrender in 1865, this book provides a day-to-day account of the U.S. Civil War. Although the book provides a daily chronicle of the combat, it is written in narrative form to give readers some continuity as they move from skirmish to skirmish. During the course of the saga, the book also chronicles the life spans of more than 600 Union and Confederate vessels, documenting when possible the time of each vessel's acquisition, commissioning, major engagements, and decommissioning. Seven appendices provide lists of prominent Union and Confederate officers, primary naval actions, and Medal of Honor recipients from 1863 to 1865.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"A well-organized narrative resource...will be popular with researchers as well as Civil War buffs. Recommended." --Booklist/RBB "Superbly presented...indispensable." --Midwest Book Review "This book provides a unique, chronological perspective of every day in the War between the North and the South. The author is uniquely qualified to compile this tome...a detailed account...a labor of love for the author, and his expertise and knowledge of the American Civil War clearly shine through...an essential research volume." --Reference Reviews

Bud Hannings oversees Seniram Publishing Incorporated, a company specializing in U.S. military history, and has written several major reference books for McFarland. He lives in Glenside, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hannings' Chronological Encyclopedia is in many ways very detailed and thorough, but suffers from severe and chronic errors of fact and confusion in writing which ends up undermining his otherwise fine efforts. His chronology starts in 1850 and is to be commended for its thoroughness and balance. Given the topic of the Civil War and its origins, it would be easy for a writer to try and avoid controversy by ignoring certain events or points of view or to include them but just offer one perspective; Hannings makes a real effort to present "the facts" and does so, I think, in a balanced fashion. But these excellent attempts at thoroughness and fairness are fundamentally crushed by the lack of consistently coherent writing and the constant errors of simple fact. On just the second page of the chronology, the reader is told that "The First U.S. Cavalry Regiment is authorized by Congress It is called the Second Cavalry." What? Congress authorized the creating of both the 1st and 2nd Cavalry regiments, but what's presented in the book doesn't make sense.) That's just the start. Skip to just the coverage of a few days in December 1860, and one begins to feel that this \$125 book was really just a first, very rough, draft. On page 10, after a fine description of the situation at Fort Sumter, Hannings mentions the accusation that Sec. of War Floyd had distributed 100,000 rifles to Southern states; but he asserts that this was a "claim by Floyd" denounced by President Buchanan "who insists that Floyd had fabricated the story." That makes no sense at all since it was a claim AGAINST Floyd who denied the charges. The next day, according to the author, South Carolina state forces seized Fort Moultrie (which they did) and that "Meanwhile, at Fort Moultrie, Major Anderson hoists Old Glory." Huh? Obviously, the author meant For Sumter, and so that would be a typo, except that had just described the flag-raising ceremony at Sumter in detail in the previous day's chronology! And in the next paragraph, Hannings announces that "the Confederates" seized a revenue cutter from "Captain Coste, U.S. Navy." First, the Confederacy wouldn't exist for another 5 weeks, and second Coste wasn't in the U.S. Navy. Probably what is particularly aggravating about these obvious errors is the excellence of other sections. There will be several paragraphs of excellent writing with well-made points followed by several paragraphs of frustrating gobbledegook. There's a paragraph that summarizes the President's meeting with three representatives of SC on Dec. 28 immediately followed by the bizarre statement that "A meeting between the commissioners and the president had initially been schedule for 27 December." Um, why are you saying that after already said it -- and "President" is capitalized. And then the next paragraph claims that Gen. Winfield Scott had "a different opinion than" Sec. of State J. S. Black over holding Fort Sumter, when that wasn't true at all; they both wanted to support and reinforce the Fort. They both disagreed with Sec. of War Floyd, whom Hanning says, in the Dec. 28 entry, "had

resigned . . . on the previous day" but in the next day's entry says that Floyd resigned on Dec. 29th. Did no one proofread this book? Ultimately, I get the idea that Mr. Hannings has no background in the historical study of the Civil War and is working from secondary and tertiary sources that he does not always understand. Nevertheless, I hope that Mr. Hannings will get a chance to rescue his book by running it through a few more drafts for the Kindle edition and save what is worth saving from the flood of ridiculous errors and nonsense.

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