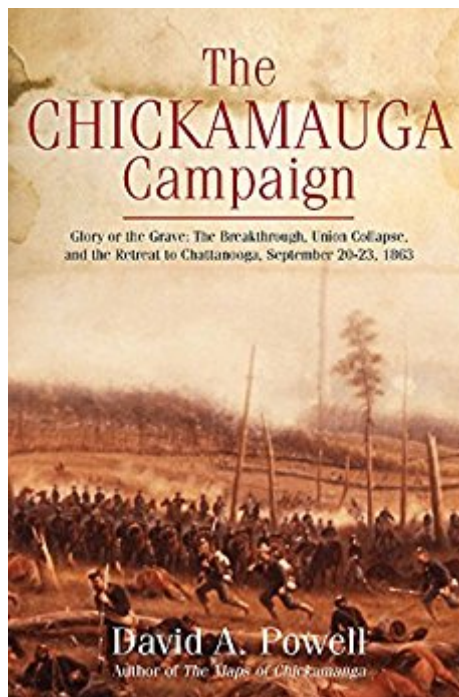




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The Chickamauga Campaign - Glory Or The Grave: The Breakthrough, The Union Collapse, And The Defense Of Horseshoe Ridge, September 20, 1863



Synopsis

David Powell's *The Chickamauga Campaign* • *Glory or the Grave: The Breakthrough, Union Collapse, and the Retreat to Chattanooga, September 20-23, 1863* is the second volume in his magnificent projected three-volume study of this overlooked and largely misunderstood campaign. According to soldier rumor, Chickamauga in Cherokee meant "River of Death." The name lived up to that grim sobriquet in September 1863 when the Union Army of the Cumberland and Confederate Army of Tennessee waged a sprawling bloody combat along the banks of West Chickamauga Creek. This installment of Powell's tour-de-force depicts the final day of battle, when the Confederate army attacked and broke through the Union lines, triggering a massive rout, an incredible defensive stand atop Snodgrass Hill, and a confused retreat and pursuit into Chattanooga. Powell presents all of this with clarity and precision by weaving nearly 2,000 primary accounts with his own cogent analysis. The result is a rich and deep portrait of the fighting and command relationships on a scale never before attempted or accomplished. His upcoming third volume, *Analysis of a Barren Victory*, will conclude the set with careful insight into the fighting and its impact on the war, Powell's detailed research into the strengths and losses of the two armies, and an exhaustive bibliography. Powell's magnum opus, complete with original maps, photos, and illustrations, is the culmination of many years of research and study, coupled with a complete understanding of the battlefield's complex terrain system. For any student of the Civil War in general, or the Western Theater in particular, Powell's trilogy is a must-read.

Book Information

File Size: 48987 KB

Print Length: 745 pages

Publisher: Savas Beatie (September 19, 2015)

Publication Date: October 26, 2015

Sold by: Amazon Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B0176BBMUC

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #30,127 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #8

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Customer Reviews

Following the superb vol. 1, this one provides no surprises. It is equally well-done - writing, analysis, use of terrain, etc. In short, all of the crucial elements of a model operational and tactical study are here, backed up by excellent maps. For example only, the author tackles the 150-year-old controversy over Tom Wood's handling of the "close up" order from Rosecrans directly, thoroughly, and definitively. Even casual students who might on its face find the size of this study daunting will be more than happy if they nonetheless take the plunge and buy it.

While it is certainly a well-written book, you must be a rabid enthusiast of Civil War battle minutiae to really be able to follow the vast details of the people and places involved in the battle. I have visited and worked in the area of Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Ringgold, Flinstone and other surrounding areas, but will have to pay a more extended visit in the near future to the battlefield grounds, so that I can put all of this newly gained knowledge to work identifying the places named in the book. All of this being said, I read the book cover to cover and enjoyed it very much. I will definitely read the entire series after I return from Chickamauga.

Excellent book. I have to reread a number of chapters to keep the principle characters straight but I have learned so very much about the area a few miles North of where I grew up. So many things I did not know about my ancestors.

OK...I'm biased since I roomed with Dave in college, but his ability to put you in the shoes of a regimental or brigade commander is unrivalled. I never knew much about this battle, but after reading his three books, I can now see why the US Army studies this battle so intently. This is a great battle to study if you want to see how lessons learned were either ignored or discovered and how some tactical brilliance saved portions of the army from obliteration.

Very well researched book. One of the best researched books I've read. No stone left unturned. Can be difficult to follow if you don't have a map or knowledge of the area or the battlefield however. I used the book "maps of chickamauga" as a companion to the book as I read and it really helped. A very good read for the military historian and those familiar with the leaders and tactics of napoleonic era warfare

The best account of the Chickamauga Campaign. I have never dreamed there could be this kind of information available, I have a much better understanding of how this fight worked out the way it did. I am reading the last book in this work right now and I am so glad I chose this book. Mr Powell has done such a great job of researching I can't thank him enough. Do read these books.

This is by far the most detailed and informative book written about the Battle of Chickamauga. I've walked the battlefield many times over and found this to be a very confusing battle to understand. Mr. Powell does an excellent job explaining the battle as to where I have a much better understanding of how events unfolded.

For the serious history buff. Lots of detail and sometimes hard to keep the people straight. Good job of explaining a complicated battle. Best to try and read it through consistently without jumping to other books.

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