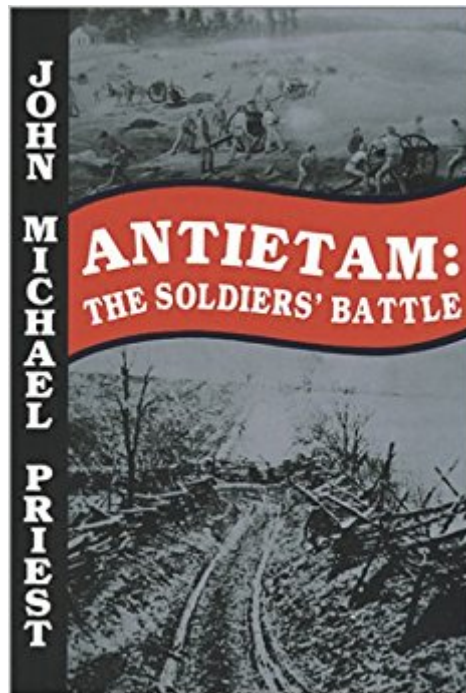




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Antietam : The Soldiers' Battle



Synopsis

A historian tells of this bloody Civil War battle from an entirely new point of view: that of the common enlisted man. Seventy-two detailed maps describe the battle in both hourly and quarter-hourly formats. 37 rare photos.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Probably more raw material (letters, diaries, unit histories) about the Civil War battle of Antietam has been crammed into this volume than any other book on the subject. Unfortunately, the author, a Maryland high-school teacher, offers the barest minimum of analysis or interpretation. Presented in chronological order, these excerpts reduce the confrontation between Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and McClellan's Army of the Potomac on September 16-18, 1862, to a clotted mass of vignettes that provides vivid individual glimpses of the fighting but adds up to an unintentional exemplification of the "fog of war." There are 72 maps of the action included, but the absence of a master map renders them all but useless. Such familiar topographical features as the Cornfield, Bloody Lane, Burnside's Bride and the Maryland village of Sharpsburg are shown on certain of the maps, but their location in relation to each other is not. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc.

"Priest has admirably fulfilled the goal of his book Antietam by giving us a vivid portrait of the individuals who fought at Antietam, their combat, heroism, and death. No one who wants to know more about Civil War combat and the enlisted man can afford to miss this new study. This

well-researched, well-written study is highly recommended to all students of the Civil War."--The Journal of American History"A very successful treatment of Antietam from the soldiers' eyeview. As such it will take its place along with the more conventional works of Murfin and Sears as one of the indispensable references on the battle."--Military History"If you only buy one Civil War book this year...this is the book to buy....This volume will grab you and keep you enthralled until the final shots are fired. Don't miss it."--Military Images"From dawn to dusk, individuals in blue and gray--nearly 200 of them--run, limp, shout, and cry across Priest's stage, each delivering a personal soliloquy from a diary, a letter, or other recollection. The audience is spellbound, mesmerized by tale after tale....Today melts into 1862, and you experience the soldiers' stories of torture and trauma on September 17....A wonderful companion on the battlefield."--Blue and Gray"Written in a style that reminds me of John Keegan's The Face of Battle, the author takes you down to the common soldier's level with all the dirt, blood, horror, confusion, cowardice, and heroics....As vivid a portrait of 1860s warfare as I've ever read....An excellent account of a pivotal battle and I highly recommend it."--Confederate Veteran"Filled with heroism and cowardice, death, pain, and humor....[Among the] fine works of military history....Has some of the best maps this reviewer has seen on the 12-hour battle."--Roanoke Times and World News"The best battlefield first-person compilation I have read....Here, in 316 well-illustrated pages, is the closest I have ever come to feeling Civil War combat....Here it all is--the tactics, the movement, the truth about warfare."--The Civil War Times"An interesting and personal view of the fight....Useful and fascinating....The book is also graced with a splendid introduction by Jay Luvaas, who perhaps knows more about the Civil War than any man alive."--The Washington Times"Priest has presented the fight at Antietam in a new, refreshing, human, and long-overdue manner....Priest has done a first-rate job of research and a dedicated job of writing."--Richmond News-Leader"Under Priest's skilled hands, soldiers come to life--and death--in this outstanding piece of work."--Inside Books --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Excellent book. Having lived very close to the battlefield I've spent many days walking those hallowed fields. Mr Priest's book is very detailed as to what the soldiers experienced on that horrible day. Makes you feel as if you were right there hearing the shells whistle, the whine of the bullets and the screams of the men and horses. I heartily recommend this book if you are interested in what it must have been like to be there.

Priest is the best author writing about the civil war battlefield environment today. The author takes

the battle and relates what happened from eyewitness accounts to tell the whole messy story of ACW combat. No nonsense, no axes to grind or favorites to play.

Epic must read for anyone interested in the Battle of Antietam. Well researched and excellent maps to help follow the various phases of the battle. Priest's book is on the level of Sears' and Murfin's epic works on the battle.

The definitive account of Antietam from the soldiers viewpoint. Cannot recommend this book to highly...Grab it and Frassinito's Antietam photography book and you will see the battlefield like never before. Mike Priest is THE Bard of the Civil War Soldier...what he is doing for the future is on par with Foote, Catton, and Wiley.

I am not an expert on the Civil War much less on the battle of Antietam but as a read about the substance of battle for the musket-holding soldier in any Civil War engagement, Priest's book is about as good as is available. The wealth of primary sources-letters, diaries, newspaper articles, anything that illuminates this battle from the viewpoint of the average soldier, is brought into his examination. The result is a compilation of incidents that gives essence to the terror and, in modern view, numbing bravery of the action's soldiers were ordered to undertake as a matter of course-not as something only asked under extraordinary circumstances. The reader must ponder the nature of the glue that bound men to do things that any sane person would find impossible-yet the impossible was normally asked and just as normally undertaken. Antietam: A Soldier's Battle should be read by any person unfamiliar with the Civil War as the first book they read because it will give the reader a grasp of the nature of the conflict from the receiving end of musket volleys and cannonballs in full sight bouncing along the ground ready to shatter any living creature in its path. I had not encountered any book from any period of history that cast any light on the subject of animals in war-specifically the horses that pulled the artillery or provided transport for officers. Again, Priest's book was very illuminating in these dark corners of often forgotten history. Read this book-you will not regret it.

As advertised, this book tells of Antietam from the soldier's point of view. If that is all you want, you will probably enjoy it. Unfortunately, I wanted some discussion of strategy and outcomes, of which there is none.

I "fought" (and won :) the battle of Antietam in junior high as part of my American history class so this battle has always been particularly interesting to me. It is a shame that it is usually lost among some of the more famous battles of the Civil War (like nearby Gettysburg) in most histories because it wasn't strategically important. It was the bloodiest single day of the war and this book brings home the true horror of battle and the incredible heroism of the combatants in a very well researched, hour by hour account of the fighting. This book is put together from the individual accounts of the soldiers on the ground placed into the framework of the overall battle. In reading this book I was constantly amazed at the bravery and stamina exhibited by the farmboys and shop clerks on both sides throughout the course of the battle. This isn't a casual read. The author is long on detail and lets the accounts of the soldiers provide the drama. Oh, and if you are ever out in western Maryland go see the battlefield (and take this book). There is no development out there and the area isn't much changed from 150 years ago. If you see it after reading this book I can guarantee that you will get chills up your spine looking out over the cornfield and realizing that you could walk its length by only stepping on the bodies of the fallen.

I enjoyed this author's other book 'Before Antietam: The Battle of South Mountain' so much that I had to read this book as well and I was not disappointed. I found it hard to compare this book with Stephen Sear's book 'Landscape turned Red' as I enjoyed that book just as much if not more. The two authors present this battle in their own way and I would not say one book was better than the other, I'd leave that to the individual to decide. This is still a well researched and well written book, the narrative flowed along gracefully with numerous maps to assist the reader in locating each action and the flow of the battle. The only criticism which I found in this book as well as his other was the standard of his maps, I think they could have been better. Other than that this is a great book of a terrible battle, buy it and enjoy!

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