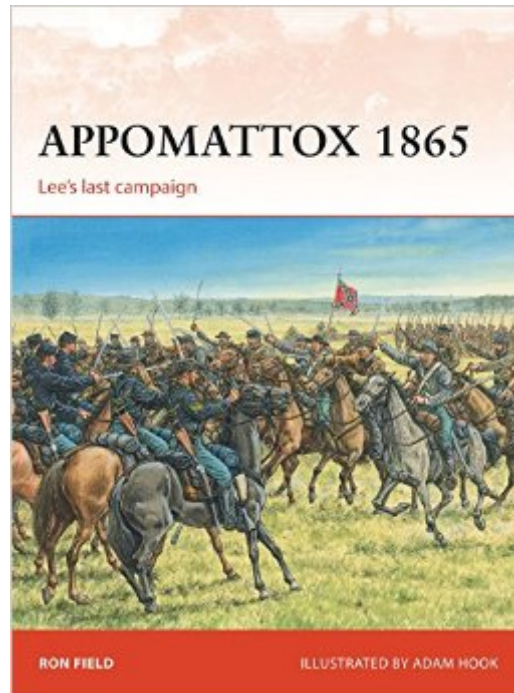


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Appomattox 1865: Lee's Last Campaign



Synopsis

From an internationally renowned expert on US history, this highly illustrated title details the curtain-closing campaign of the Civil War in the East. Ulysses S. Grant's Army of the Potomac and Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia faced up to one another one last time, as Lee conducted a desperate series of withdrawals and retreats down the line of Richmond and Danville Railroad. This book, drawing on the detailed visual aid of bird's eye views and maps, tells the full story of the skirmishes and pursuits that led directly to Lee's surrender, as his frantic efforts to extricate his forces from ever more perilous positions became increasingly untenable.

Book Information

Series: Campaign (Book 279)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing (March 24, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1472807510

ISBN-13: 978-1472807519

Product Dimensions: 7.2 x 0.3 x 9.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (5 customer reviews)

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Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields > Appomattox #3666 in Â Books > History > Military > United States #13847 in Â Books > History > World

Customer Reviews

The final days of the American Civil War does not often get the attention of the big battles, such as Antietam, Shiloh and Gettysburg, but they were equally full of drama. In Ron Field's Appomattox 1865: Lee's Last Campaign, the author manages to capture elements of this dramatic ending of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, but only in part. Like many Civil War histories written of late, there is a growing sterility in the narratives, lacking the pathos that those of us growing up reading Catton and Foote are accustomed to see. As a military campaign, Appomattox was a foregone conclusion â when, not if Grant would run Lee to ground. The real story â and unfortunately missing in these pages â is how the manner in which the surrender occurred affected the post-war building effort. Indeed, I was surprised to see that the author spent virtually the entire volume on the military events leading up to the surrender, but then covered the surrender in just three pages. Only

brief mention is made of Joshua Chamberlain's role in the surrender (in a photo caption) and Lee and Grant come across as almost ciphers. Grant's compassion and understanding of his defeated foe, and Lee's acceptance of the outcome and eschewing of calls for guerrilla warfare, are missing in these pages. Another omission: not all of Lee's troops wanted to surrender and he had to personally order the 1 MD CSA regiment to lay down its arms. Although the author provides an awesomely detailed order of battle, his introductory sections of opposing commanders, forces and plans says very little. In particular, the opposing forces section essentially describes the origin of each of the army corps involved, not really describing their condition.

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