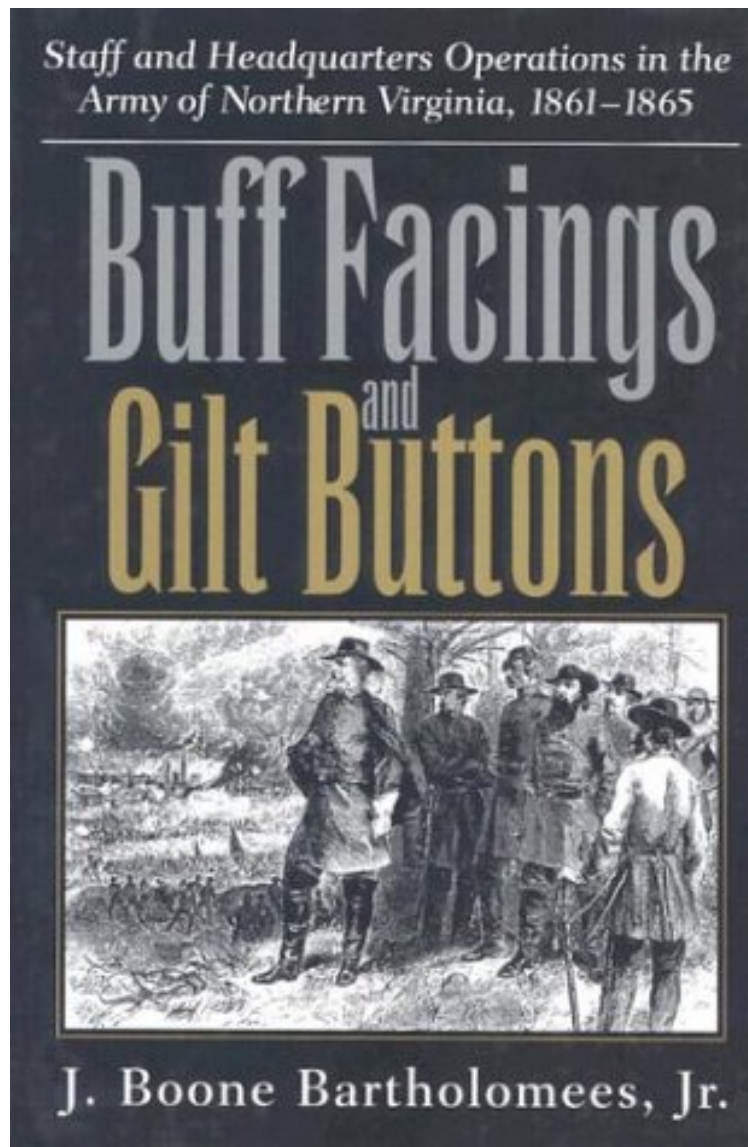


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Buff Facings and Gilt Buttons: Staff and Headquarters Operations in the Army of Northern Virginia, 1861-1865

J. Boone Bartholomees, James B. Bartholomees
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J. Boone Bartholomees, James B. Bartholomees : Buff Facings and Gilt Buttons: Staff and Headquarters Operations in the Army of Northern Virginia, 1861-1865 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Buff Facings and Gilt Buttons: Staff and Headquarters Operations in the Army of Northern Virginia, 1861-1865:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Buff Facings and Gilt ButtonsBy Louis B. LeeThe book is a must for the Civil War buff who wants to understand the Headquarter Operations of the Army of Northern Virginia, lead by the famous and beloved General Robert E. Lee.0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Anecdotes humanize complex survey of CSA staff operationsBy Bill PeschelThe history of the Civil War is more than recounting the movements of armies and the fighting of battles. Someone has to gather the information and send the messages that brought the armies together in the first place. That is the focus of this detailed history of staff work in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. When the war began, the Confederacy found itself having to build everything from scratch, and their army was no different. Although they borrowed heavily from the U.S. Army's way of doing things, it eventually became clear that innovations would have to be made, both to account for the maneuvering of growing armies, but also to deal with the expanded technology -- railroads, telegraphs and the use of longer and more accurate weapons -- rarely seen before by fighting men. "Buff Facings" is a detailed account of how Lee and his generals coped. While the depth of detail may discourage the general reader, Bartholomees offers a generous selection of anecdotes that allow for bursts of humanity to show. In the middle of an account of the development of the Signal Corps, he relates how Major General Stephen Ramseur received a vitally important message just before the Battle of Cedar Creek: "The crisis is over and all is well." It announced the birth of his daughter.6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. excellent addition to Civil War scholarshipBy Charles R. Bowery Jr.A book on Confederate staff work was definitely needed, and this book fits the bill nicely. The first half of the book offers very thorough descriptions of the various staff positions and agencies. The author does a good job of explaining how these positions came into being, how they were manned, and how (if at all) staff officers were trained. Also interesting to read the author's relation of these 19th c. staff positions to their modern counterparts. If I have any criticism, it may be that the text relies a little too much on three individual staff officers- Walter Taylor, Henry Kyd Douglas, and Heros Von Borcke. I wonder if there are other memoirs out there that would expand on their accounts. Overall an outstanding book. Very logical and readable. Fascinating treatment of a neglected topic.

The staff system of the Army of Northern Virginia demonstrates one of the peculiar traits of the Civil War. That war occurred on a cusp of military history - it had elements both ancient and modern, and it reflected the struggle of soldiers trying to reconcile the two. Civil War military institutions had their roots firmly planted in the traditions and doctrine of the past while they confronted modern problems. The story of the disconnection between linear tactics that would have been recognizable to either Alexander or Frederick the Great and deadly rifled muskets is familiar. The story of ill-trained and ill-prepared staffs trying to coordinate all the intricate details of a vast, semimodern army operating in a huge theater of war with doctrine and procedures that would soon be if they were not already outmoded is less familiar. That is the story of staff work in the Army of Northern Virginia.

"This first substantive study of Civil War staff work... is a truly original and worthwhile addition to the literature, one that we hope will spur further scholarship on the inner workings of the Union and Confederate armies." - Journal of American History"From the Inside Flap"J. Boone Bartholomees has produced a comprehensive and highly readable study of the Army of Northern Virginia's staff and its headquarters' operations throughout the entire war."--Civil War News"This first substantive study of Civil War staff work . . . is a truly original and worthwhile addition to the literature, one that we hope will spur further scholarship on the inner workings of the Union and Confederate armies."--Journal of American History"Bartholomees's detailed, informative book is worth the attention of every historian of the Civil War era."--North Carolina Historical About the AuthorJ. Boone Bartholomees, Jr., is a professor of military history at the United States Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and the author of U.S. Army War College Guide to National Security Policy and Strategy.