

[Download] Civil War Soldiers

## Civil War Soldiers

*Reid Mitchell*

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**Reid Mitchell : Civil War Soldiers** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Civil War Soldiers:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Such an incredIble bookBy Promise UfomaduThis is such a great book that broadens your perception on the civil war. It let's you see the real gruesome details that occurred, which was omitted in the history books. I will recommend this as a. Must read for history fanatics1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I loved this bookBy NathanI loved this book. One of the best I've read on Civil War soldiers to date. I would even rank it as one of the best Civil War books, period. Also check out Mitchell's other major work, "The Vacant Chair: the Northern Soldier Leaves Home"1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Excellent analysis of eyewitness accountsBy AradorCivil War Soldiers provides an excellent overview into the beliefs and mindsets of both Northern and Confederate soldiers. This book includes excerpts and snippets from soldier's primary sources, mostly letters and journals. Mitchell follows events from the motivations for men to enlist and the initial excitement and conviction of going to war through the Emancipation Proclamation, then through to the surrender of Lee and Lincoln's assassination. The reader really gets a feel for the soldier's conflicting justifications and complex emotional reactions to battle, looting, and experiences with civilians and African Americans. The hardships and deprivations that soldiers experienced are told from their own voices; the thrill of battle and the rage felt at fighting guerrilla forces. Glimpses are seen of prisons, pillaging, and civil interactions between enemies. Being a soldier in the Civil War was an emotional and mentally trying experience; Mitchell shows the complexity through the voices of those who fought in the war.

Drawing from unpublished letters and journals of soldiers, Reid Mitchell creates a rich social portrait of the Americans who fought in the Civil War and how their conviction, hopes, and prejudices were often starkly belied by the unseemly, contradictory reality of war.

From Publishers Weekly This noteworthy addition to the literature of the Civil War presents a starkly realistic picture, mostly from the lower ranks, that is reminiscent of the outlook of GIs in more recent wars. The prevailing image of the enemy: an uncivilized fanatic. Civilians of the opposing side were regarded as primitive, ignorant and generally contemptible. Based on unpublished letters and diaries, Mitchell's study follows Union troops into the South (Sherman in Georgia, for instance) and the Confederate army in the North (Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania), showing that the men of both armies were offended by the behavior of noncombatant civilians, that medical support was abominable, that blacks suffered brutality from soldiers of both armies and that the temptation to desert was strong. Among the themes explored by Mitchell are the individual's reasons for volunteering, his reaction to combat, his perception of the similarity between soldiering and slavery, the morale-sustaining comfort of Christian faith, and the bravery and endurance of the Confederate soldier in particular. Mitchell teaches American history at Princeton. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal With a "post-Vietnam" sensitivity to how combat and military discipline transform common folk into soldiers, Mitchell (American history, Princeton) offers the most original reading of Civil War soldiers since Bell Wiley's classics *The Life of Johnny Reb* (Bobbs, 1943) and *The Life of Billy Yank* (Bobbs, 1952). Mitchell finds a higher degree of ideological commitment by both Rebs and Yanks than have other scholars, but his main contribution is showing how soldiers' reactions to such aspects as drill and death and land revealed a common American heritage and values shared by both sides, even as the war continued. This book makes all those statues in town squares come alive. Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.