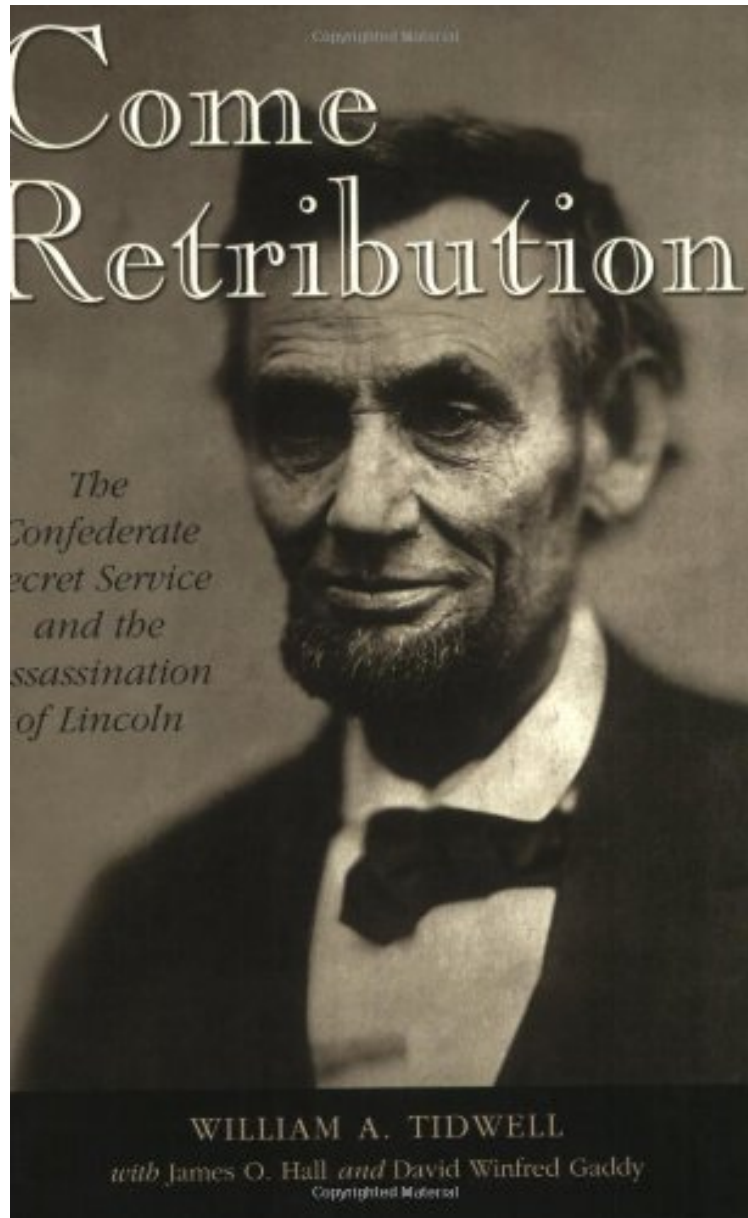


(Free) Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln

## Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln

*William A. Tidwell, James O. Hall, David Winfred Gaddy*  
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**William A. Tidwell, James O. Hall, David Winfred Gaddy : Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Come Retribution: The Confederate Secret Service and the Assassination of Lincoln:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. John Wilkes Booth and His Friends and AlliesBy VIRGINIA KURZWEGThis is an interesting approach to Lincoln's assassination. The writers draw upon a wealth of related material from the time.. There is a great deal about the Confederate Secret Service and some of this is written by a former spy and expert in covert operations. As he says 'the evidence is circumstantial' that the Confederacy had plenty to do with the assassination. However, there is more than circumstantial evidence that the Confederacy had a great deal to do with most of the conspirators and particularly John Wilkes Booth. And there is a large body of circumstantial evidence. It is remarkable to me that so little has been written about these connections. History essentially swept this under the rug after some of the conspirators were caught and punished. I read this before reading 'Blood on the Moon', which was published later and draws extensively upon the evidence and conclusions of this book. Both books are important for a true picture of the Confederacy and Jefferson Davis.1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. CogentBy margotI went back to my laptop's Kindle version of this book recently. I'd just been reading about Errol Morris's new film on the Dr. Jeffrey MacDonald case (a lengthy piece in the Guardian). The MacDonald case is a bit similar to the subject of this book. Both matters have been analyzed to death, but much of the analysis is mere speculation based on misinformation or missing information.The conventional, received version of the Lincoln assassination has never convinced anyone who thought about it for more than ten minutes. In that story it's all about John Wilkes Booth, a half-crazed theatrical ham. He planned the deed and he did it, with a slight assist from his ad hoc gang of misfits and malcontents. Booth was angry-mad; he was livid; his team had lost and now he was going to get revenge.In this book the authors construct an alternative scenario that is much more plausible as well as being better supported by the available evidence. In this version, the planned kidnapping of Lincoln was no harebrained caper, but a carefully arranged intelligence operation, approved and guided by President Davis and General R E Lee. When the scheme failed (because Lincoln didn't show up that day), the operation was converted into an assassination that would coincide with the withdrawal of the Army of Northern Virginia (Lee's army) from Richmond and Petersburg. This was forecast to be about the 14th and 15th of April 1865.A large security detail of cavalry had staked out the planned route from Washington City to Richmond. Originally these troops had been detailed to provide a security cordon for the kidnapping venture in March. Instead they shielded the crippled Booth, permitting him to escape capture for nearly two weeks.Booth's capture on April 26th was not part of the plan, of course. Neither had been Lee's surrender at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9th. Things went awry because too much happened at once. Lee and Davis had both anticipated the evacuation, and were not alarmed when they had to move out early. But Lee could not foresee the breakdown in communications and supply lines that beset his retreat from its very start (partly because of the missing cavalry). And, Davis hadn't planned on Lee surrendering a few days later.Some reviewers and readers balk at the notion that the Confederate government would have backed an assassination plan. They are just being silly. They should reflect upon more recent escapades in American history. Moreover, the Lincoln regime had started the ball rolling when they attempted to assassinate Jefferson Davis in 1864. And most importantly: the prosecutors in the Lincoln Conspiracy trials were absolutely certain that the orders to kill Lincoln led all the way back to Davis. They had circumstantial evidence, and they had motive, but they didn't have clear proof that they could convict on. Which is why they were so vindictive. They didn't care about hanging old Mrs. Surratt, the boarding-house keeper; they wanted to hang Jeff Davis from a sour apple tree. But Jeff Davis had been a superb Secretary of War and he knew a thing or two about military intelligence. He outwitted them all.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The Story behind the StoryBy RustyFantastic. Insights into the hidden part of the Confederacy. This is my second copy, someone borrowed my first and never returned it. I use it as a reference. Clearly written and well-documented by people who understood.

Many Confederates believed that Abraham Lincoln himself was the sponsor of the Union army's heavy destruction of the South. With John Wilkes Booth as its agent, the Confederate Secret Service devised a plan of retribution--to seize President Lincoln, hold him hostage, and bring the war-weary North to capitulation. The code word for this stratagem was "Come Retribution."But when Booth was stymied, the Secret Service took another course. They conspired to bomb the White House during a conference of senior Union officials. But this plot also failed. Next, the Confederates devised for Confederate forces to abandon Richmond and Petersburg and to link up with General Joseph E. Johnston in the South before General Grant's forces were prepared to move. This plan was thwarted, however, when Grant took Richmond. By April 9, 1865, Lee was forced to surrender.Yet the willful, ardent Booth, smarting from the South's loss of the war, took decisive action at Ford's Theater during that spring night in 1865.Investigating the assassination from their perspective as career intelligence officers, William A. Tidwell and David Winfred Gaddy, joined by James O. Hall, one of the leading authorities on the assassination, find and follow the clues, interpret the clandestine evidence, and draw well-founded conclusions. They are the first to explore the Confederate Secret Service's link to the death of Lincoln. In *Come Retribution*, originally published in 1988 and now available again in a paperback edition, they offer startling insights and give a new direction to the well-known and often-told story of Lincoln and Booth. "The facts presented and the inferences drawn are provocative," said Nathan Miller in *The Baltimore Sun*. "Every account of the Lincoln assassination published in the future will have to take account of the arguments presented in this book."

From Publishers Weekly Was the assassination of Lincoln the result of a Confederate conspiracy? The authors (Tidwell and Gaddy are retired U.S. intelligence officers; Hall is a retired U.S. Department of Labor official) introduce sources that they say have never been consulted to reconstruct the covert operations of the Confederate Secret Service, including an elaborate plan to capture Lincoln in March 1865 that involved his eventual assassin John Wilkes Booth. Proposing that, contrary to the normative views of Civil War historians, the South was confident of its strength in 1864 and 1865, the authors speculate that the unexpected successes of Generals Grant and Sherman that forced Lee to surrender in April 1865 did not daunt Booth, who may have reasoned that "all was not lost; there were still Confederate armies in the field. Some dramatic action might yet save the Confederacy, and he was the one to do it." Acting on his own initiative, the authors advance, Booth shot Lincoln, then escaped via the route that would have served in the abduction plot. The evidence is, as the authors admit, circumstantial, the argument highly conjectural, the writing frequently infelicitous (an agent "went in to kill Vice-President Andrew Johnson but his courage was not sufficiently screwed up"). Nevertheless, Civil War and military history buffs will be intrigued by the documentation amassed in this hefty book. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal In the wake of Iran-Contra intrigue, this book, the first detailed look inside Confederate intelligence operations, makes good reading. Though lightly documented, it shows the Confederacy developing a sophisticated network of intelligence gathering and such modern practices as "disinformation." The authors, both former intelligence officers, assert, without proving, that the Confederacy had a well-conceived plan to kill Lincoln and end the war. Students of the Lincoln assassination will do better to rely on William Hanchett's *The Lincoln Murder Conspiracies* (LJ 10/1/83). Randall M. Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From the Inside Flap An astonishing book that reveals the Confederacy's role in the death of Lincoln