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## Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher

*Rod Gragg*

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#644594 in Books 1991-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.50 x 6.50 x 1.40l, #File Name: 0060160969343 pages | File size: 17.Mb

**Rod Gragg : Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Confederate Goliath: The Battle of Fort Fisher:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perfect book for anybody with an interest in the Civil ...By S. HARDISON Perfect book for anybody with an interest in the Civil War or military history I purchased this just before a trip to Wilmington, NC as I had driven by the fort a number of times but knew very little about the battle. Story: This is a very well-researched and fascinating story about one of the most important battles of the late war. It follows some of the major figures who participated and really gives insight into their individual motivations and experiences during that time. Writing Style: I don't think I've come across a military historian whose writing style I enjoyed this much since Shelby Foote. It tends to read like a novel with a natural flow to it. Rod Gragg really paints a picture of the events and almost makes you feel like you've witnessed them firsthand (sounds cheesy, but it's really that good). He makes the subject accessible even to those who are fairly new to the civil war, but also doesn't dumb things down for those looking for an in-depth analysis of the battle. Overall: I have personally recommended this book to friends (and loaned them my copy) with the general consensus being that it is one of the most interesting and well-written books out there about the Civil War. Looking forward to reading more from this author. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Good Book on a Little Known Civil War Battle By D Anderton While not as comprehensive as "The Wilimington Campaign" by Fonvielle, Gragg has written a fine book focusing on the Union assault on Fort Fisher in Decemeber 1864 and January 1865. The coordination of this amphibious assault with over 50 ships and nearly 10,000

union soldiers, marines and sailors was not surpassed until the Normandy invasion in 1944. Gragg does a wonderful job of portraying the personalities of the key commanders: union and confederate: William Lamb who painstakingly improved the fort's defenses over a period of two and one half years prior to the battles--ultimately constructing what was referred to as the "Gibraltar of the South". William Whiting--district commander of Wilmington--a promising West Point graduate who returned to the south following the attack on Fort Sumter and chose to be present at the fort during the assault. Braxton Bragg--the man who more than anyone else assured the Union victory by refusing to attack the Union rear. Benjamin ("the beast") Butler--relieved of command after preemptively aborting the first Battle of Fort Fisher. Admiral David Porter--convinced that an ad hoc attack by sailors and marines could rush the ramparts of the fort before the Union Army could get organized. A conviction, while untrue, materially aided the ultimate outcome at a terrible personal cost. Adelbert Ames--an overly cautious commander who did become the last surviving general officer of the Civil War (living to 1933). Martin Curtis--Brigade commander who clashed with Ames to push through to victory. Galusha Pennypacker--The youngest man ever commissioned as a general in the US Army. Alfred Terry--who a decade later would have the displeasure of reporting to Washington the massacre of Custer at the Little Big Horn. and MANY more..... This is a fine read with many photographs, maps, etc., to aid the reader in visualizing the fort and the battle. I had to buy a second copy -- gave my first copy to a family member. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. BEST EVER. By Mckendree Long I grew up in Wilmington NC and have been visiting Fort Fisher since 1955. My wife's 16 year old 2G grandfather was wounded and captured there in the final assault. This book is by far the best history of that final period of the Confederacy I've read. The detail is amazing, and yet it flows and kept my interest like a great novel. I think any WBTS student will love this book and benefit from it.

P>The only comprehensive account of the Battle of Fort Fisher and the basis for the television documentary Confederate Goliath, Rod Gragg's award-winning book chronicles in detail one of the most dramatic events of the American Civil War. Known as "the Gibraltar of the South," Fort Fisher was the largest, most formidable coastal fortification in the Confederacy, by late 1864 protecting its lone remaining seaport -- Wilmington, North Carolina. Gragg's powerful, fast-paced narrative recounts the military actions, politicking, and personality clashes involved in this unprecedented land and sea battle. It vividly describes the greatest naval bombardment of the war and shows how the fort's capture in January 1865 hastened the South's surrender three months later. In his foreword, historian Edward G. Longacre surveys Gragg's work in the context of Civil War history and literature, citing Confederate Goliath as "the finest book-length account of a significant but largely forgotten episode in our nation's most critical conflict."

From Publishers Weekly Late in the Civil War, Wilmington, N.C., was the sole remaining seaport supplying Lee's army at Petersburg, Va., with rations and munitions. In this dramatic account, Gragg describes the two-phase campaign by which Union forces captured the fort that guarded Wilmington and the subsequent occupation of the city itself--a victory that virtually doomed the Confederacy. In the initial phase in December 1864, General Ben Butler and Admiral David Porter directed an unsuccessful amphibious assault against Fort Fisher that included the war's heaviest artillery bombardment. The second try in January '65 brought General Alfred Terry's 9000-man army against 1500 ill-equipped defenders, climaxing in a bloody hand-to-hand struggle inside the bastion and an overwhelming Union victory. Although historians tend to downplay the event, it was nevertheless as strategically decisive as the earlier fall of either Vicksburg or Atlanta. Gragg ( The Illustrated Confederate Reader ) has done a fine job in restoring this important campaign to public attention. Photos. Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal Given the popularity of the recent PBS series on the Civil War, this account should do well. Gragg ( The Civil War Quiz and Fact Book , LJ 6/15/85) writes crisply about an engaging cast of scoundrels and heroes, intraservice and personality rivalries, and a massive fort that stood as a marvel of engineering. By late 1864, as Sherman crunched through the Carolinas after the fall of Charleston and Savannah, the town of Wilmington, North Carolina, remained the only hole in the Union blockade, the one hope for the Confederacy. Gragg recounts the two attempts to blow up and storm Fort Fisher, which guarded the town, but rather than a battle narrative he gives us insight into a place and a people. Recommended for Civil War collections and college libraries. -Randall Miller, St. Joseph's Univ., Philadelphia Copyright 1990 Reed Business Information, Inc. From the Back Cover Rod Gragg's Confederate Goliath is the first comprehensive account of the battle for Fort Fisher. Drawing from his thoroughgoing research in official records as well as numerous first-person accounts in diaries, memoirs, and letters, Gragg has constructed a powerful, fast-paced narrative that describes in detail the individuals and events associated with that dramatic passage in America's Civil War.