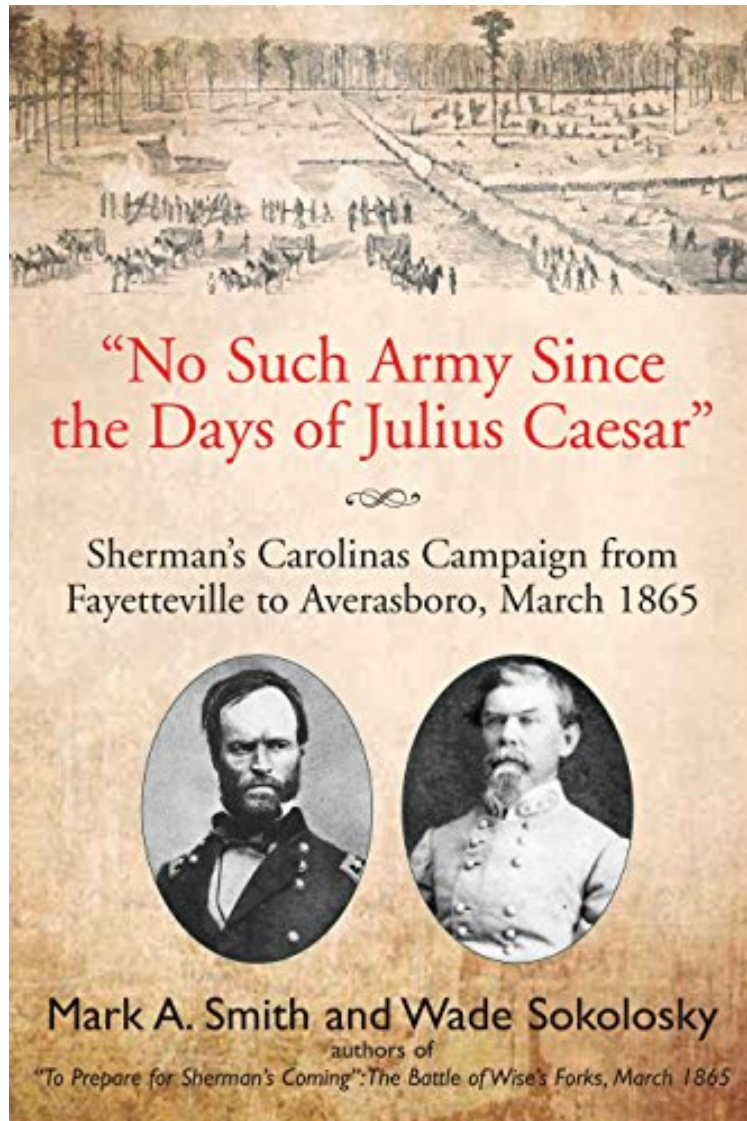


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## "No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar": Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro, March 1865

Mark A. Smith, Wade Sokolosky  
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Mark A. Smith, Wade Sokolosky : "No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar": Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro, March 1865 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar": Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro, March 1865:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Ronald DupreeA great book.3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book by two wonderful authorsBy CustomerExcellent book by two wonderful authors. A detailed account of Sherman's Carolina's Campaign from men that have studied the ground where these battles were fought.5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An Outstanding Book that should be read by all students of Sherman's Carolinas Campaign and an almost forgotten battle.By David MarshallWhile the Battle of Averasboro has been over since 1865, Mark Smith and Wade Sokolosky have brought it to life with their revised volume. Originally published by Ironclad Publishing in 2006, Savas-Beatie has published a completely revised and updated version of No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Shermans Carolina's Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro, March 1865. This title includes 19 outstanding maps and 75 helpful images. This fabulous publisher of many outstanding Civil War books are well known for including quality maps. Cartographer Hal Jespersen once again has produced superior maps that makes it easier for readers to understand the movement of the armies involved in this wonderful study. Added to this revised treatment is an accommodating self-tour from the Museum of Cape Fear at Fayetteville to the Averasboro Battlefield providing trampers with a great opportunity to gain from the experience to visualize the fighting of the campaign and the battle.The book opens with a look at both armies and the military situation at the end of 1864. The March to the Sea was over and Savannah became a Christmas gift to President Abraham Lincoln. Following communications with General Ulysses Grant, Sherman started on his movement up the coast to help end all Southern resistance and bring the fighting to an end. Uncle Billys men were able to destroy all resistance in South Carolina, and moved to North Carolina with the goal of reuniting with Grant and terminating Lees forces. In March of 1865, Southern forces prepared to stop this Shermans drive. Hardee was able to line up his men into three lines which successfully slowed Shermans juggernaut, allowing the Union forces to ultimately control the battlefield but allowed his Confederate forces to fight another day.The authors answer many of the questions that have confused academics about the Battle of Averasboro. Besides providing a complete order of the battle, these outstanding authors provide serious students with Shermans preparation for the Carolinas Campaigns, and trace his advancement through South Carolina to Fayetteville. Seven valuable appendices are offered to enhance the understanding of this battle and campaign including informative essays and an enlightening letter from a Southern teenager, Janie Smith that provides intense feelings and understanding of the Southern Cause.Mark Smith and Wade Sokolosky gives readers the infrequent, moment-to-moment glimpses of the battle as it impacted the citizen soldiers who fought it. Far from being tiresome, their description of the fight is gripping and compelling. The writers do not limit this kind of vivid description to only generals and other officers. Students are treated to a number of poignant quotes and scenes involving soldiers in the ranks throughout the text. The greatest contribution this tome offers is its detailed treatment of the Battle of Averasboro and; as the authors note, has been all but lost from history. This campaign and battle helped bring an end to the Confederacy and the Civil War.Exploring a pivotal but often overlooked battle in the Civil War, The Battle of Averasboro is one of the first book-length examination of this end of the war. Well written and well researched, this tapestry offers invaluable descriptions of troop movements and battle actions, as well as important analysis of strategy and how individual battles fit into the larger context of Sherman's Carolinas Campaign. This excellent study builds on Smiths and Sokoloskys earlier work on The Battle of Wises Forks, providing a gripping story in 1865. The volume reflects the author's sure grasp of sources, sharp eye for biographical detail, and ability to evoke the drama and complexity of military events. Anyone interested in the March To The Sea and especially Sherman's final campaign that brought a change in both Union and Confederate national morale in 1864-1865 will read this narrative with profit. As always, these U.S. Army veterans delivers a beautifully-written and thoughtfully-analytical modern Civil War Historiography. They share their unique gift of culling gems from the historical record, bringing to the reader moving personal experiences of the soldiers on the ground. Also, both of them are masterful at lucidly explaining technical characteristics of warfare such as planning, execution of military operations, operation tempo, lessons learned, operation and fields of fire, terrain maneuvering, weaponry, and assessment. This reviewer recommends this title.

The final days of the Confederacy saw a kaleidoscope of action in the east, with most Civil War historians focusing on the imminent demise of the Army of Northern Virginia. However, to both Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant, it was the inexorable advance of the Unions western army up through the Carolinas in the spring of 1865 that dictated their final moves. William Tecumseh Shermans Carolinas campaign has long been overshadowed by the events in Virginia, even as the Confederates themselves recognized it as the crucial, war-winning blow, and pitted a luminous array of their best generalsJohnston, Hardee, Hampton, A.P. Stewart, D.H. Hill, and othersagainst it. In this work, career military officers Mark A. Smith and Wade Sokolosky rectify the oversight with No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar, a careful and impartial examination of Shermans advance up the seaboard. After his largely unopposed March to the Sea, in March 1865 Sherman struck off again north, aiming to unite with Grant and crush Lee between them. But the Confederacy in the Carolinas was not finished yet, and while Sherman rampaged through South Carolina they gathered forces to resist him in its northern neighbor. In North Carolina the Rebels conceded their vast arsenal at Fayetteville, which the Federals destroyed, but under William J. Hardee prepared to receive Shermans host

in the narrow corridor between the Black and Cape Fear rivers at Averasboro. With a number of untried units (former coastal battalions) plus a scattering of veterans in Lafayette McLaws division, and Joe Wheelers cavalry, Hardee created a defense-in-depth, reminiscent of four-score years earlier at the battle of Cowpens. At Averasboro, Shermans spearhead was stopped cold in a two-day battle, which in these pages is described in intimate detail. Arraying his disparate forces into three lines, Hardee forced a full two Union corps to struggle against each one, while saving his true strength for the last. Even then, it was only the fortuitous appearance of Wheelers cavalry that retrieved the second day, when Sherman launched a flank attack. Strategically, along with Braxton Braggs command fighting off a Union thrust from the coast, the battle of Averasboro provided time for Joe Johnston to assemble all of his forces in the Carolinas, and then contest the advance of Sherman once and for all, at Bentonville. This work uncovers a long-overlooked clash in the Civil War, which had consequences beyond the gallant sacrifices of the men, who by then on both sides knew that the war for the Union was approaching its culmination.

Now in a completely revised and updated edition, "No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar": Sherman's Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro, March 1865 details an aspect of General William T. Sherman's service to the Union during the Civil War that has received minimal attention from historians. Yet the Carolinas campaign was undoubtedly a crucial blow... Expertly researched, yet accessible to readers of all backgrounds, "No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar" meticulously reconstructs the entire campaign, enriched with a handful of black-and-white maps and photographs, appendices, and an index for quick and easy reference. Highly recommended, especially for public and college library Civil War collections. (Midwest Book )"Important addition to the library of material on American Civil War battles. Like the Vietnam War, the American Civil War is something I've never paid much attention to. Smith and Sokolosky are military historians with a particular interest in what happened in the Carolina States. What they bring to the table regarding Sherman and Johnston is remarkable, a revelation." (Books Monthly)About the AuthorMajor (Ret) Mark A. Smith, who holds a Masters in Military Studies, is a U.S. Army veteran with 21 years of service. He served in various positions including Scout Platoon Leader, Three Company Commands, Battalion Executive Officer, Brigade and Battalion S-4, and was an Army ROTC Instructor at Virginia Tech. Smith is the co-author (with Wade Sokolosky) of No Such Army Since the Days of Julius Caesar: Shermans Carolinas Campaign from Fayetteville to Averasboro.Colonel (Ret.) Wade Sokolosky is a graduate of East Carolina University and a 25-year veteran of the U.S. Army. Wade is the co-author (with Mark A. Smith) of To Prepare for Shermans Coming: The Battle of Wises Forks, March 1865, and the author of Final Roll Call: Confederate Losses during the Carolinas Campaign. <http://www.civilwarnorthcarolina.com/>