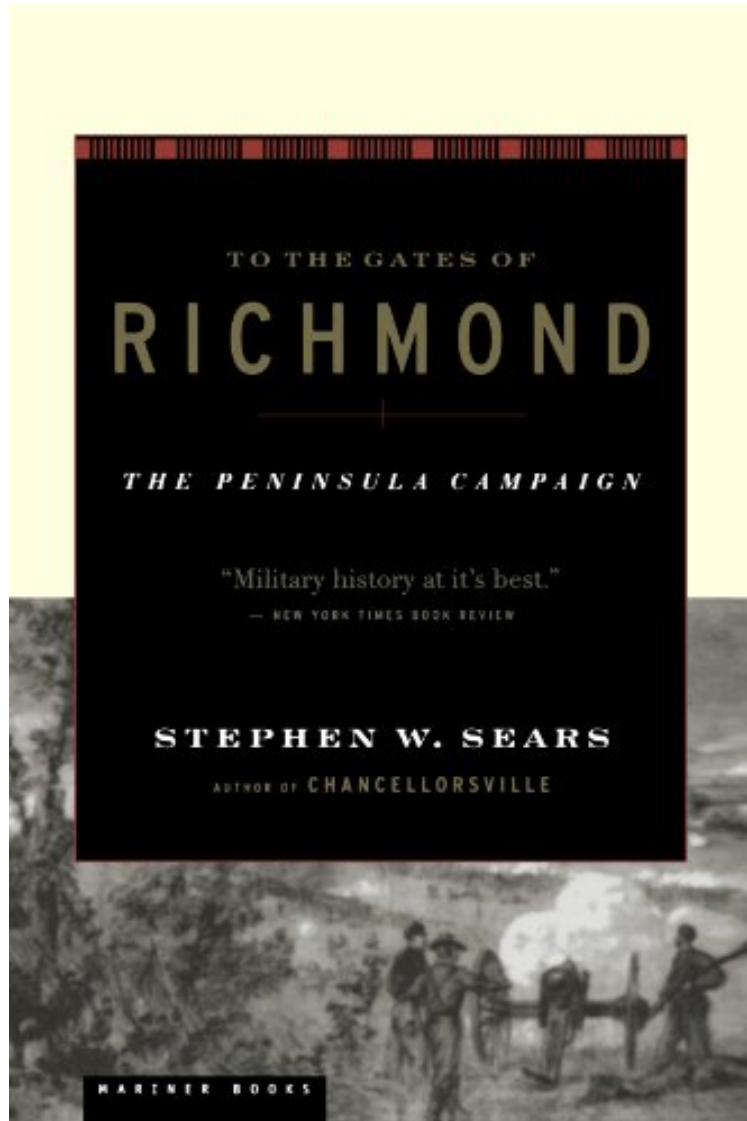


[Read download] To The Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign

To The Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign

Stephen W. Sears

*DOC | *audiobook | ebooks | Download PDF | ePub*



[Download](#)

[Read Online](#)

#123351 in Books Mariner Books 2001-05-01 2001-05-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.00 x 1.19 x 6.00, 1.70 #File Name: 0618127135512 pages | File size: 64.Mb

Stephen W. Sears : To The Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To The Gates of Richmond: The Peninsula Campaign:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Well written and absorbing account of campaign that made the AOP and ANV By Ipy In my opinion, Sears is one of the masters of the one volume battle/campaign study. While his best is his account of the lead up to and battle of Sharpsburg, his Gettysburg and Chancellorsville books are also top notch. This one is a step below those three, but still an excellent work. The book covers the strategy behind the shift to the

Peninsula, the siege of Yorktown, battle of Seven Pines, and the climactic Seven Days battles for Richmond. The narrative of each battle is excellent and, as always, Sears is a master at keeping the reader oriented in the chaos of battle. He also makes extensive use of diaries and letters from soldiers engaged, noting that more soldiers wrote about the Peninsula campaign than any later battle of the war. For many it was their first taste of combat and it comes across in this work. The analysis of the campaign is thoughtful and it makes clear the operational failings that plagued both sides, particularly the ANV after Lee took command and embarked on a very ambitious campaign. His judgements on McClellan are harsh, though in my opinion deserved. I do not concur with some reviews that accuse Sears of having the theme of bashing McClellan in this book. Sears is critical because frankly there is a lot to be critical of, but in my opinion he is fair. In fact, he wrote an excellent biography of McClellan, which I highly recommend, that while also critical is hardly a hatchet job. While I have some sympathy for McClellan, the fact is he was unsuited to field command and proved it repeatedly in this campaign. Where the book falls terribly short is in its maps. They are not nearly as good as those in his later works, or even in the earlier "Landscape Turned Red." There is one map for each battle and they are, at best, adequate. They cram all the movements throughout the battle on one very basic map. Unlike some of his other maps, they give little detail on terrain and are almost useless for touring a battlefield. Most shockingly, there is NO map of the whole Peninsula showing the army's advance. Unless you are familiar with the area, you will need to pull out a map. In a major campaign study, I find this shocking and unacceptable. I seriously considered dropping it to 3 stars over this, but the writing is so good I could not do so. Despite the map issues, I do recommend the book to anyone interested in this important, and under appreciated, campaign. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. so I can forget about holding this awesome book - and by chance drop it By mbI could not put this down. In fact, I'm still holding it, two years after finishing it. Will someone please yell, "Squirrel", so I can forget about holding this awesome book - and by chance drop it. It is tough to bring in groceries when I'm holding a book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I thought this was a great read, kept me interested By HI thought this was a great read, kept me interested. Poor Li'l Mac, such a grand plan he failed to follow through. Poor Lee, if not for the sloth of some of his commanders.. we could be a different nation right now.

To the Gates of Richmond charts the Peninsula Campaign of 1862, General George McClellan's grand scheme to march up the Virginia Peninsula and take the Confederate capital. For three months McClellan battled his way toward Richmond, but then Robert E. Lee took command of the Confederate forces. In seven days, Lee drove the cautious McClellan out, thereby changing the course of the war. Intelligent and well researched, To the Gates of Richmond vividly recounts one of the bloodiest battles of the Civil War.

From Publishers Weekly Sears complements his 1988 biography of George McClellan with this definitive analysis of the general's principal campaign. McClellan's grand plan was to land an army at Yorktown, move up the Virginia peninsula toward Richmond, and fight a decisive battle somewhere near the Confederate capital, thereby ending the Civil War while it was still a rebellion instead of a revolution. The strategy failed in part because of McClellan's persistent exaggerations of Confederate strength, but also because under his command the Federals fought piecemeal. The Confederates were only marginally more successful at concentrating their forces, but Sears credits their leaders, especially Lee, as better able to learn from experience. Confederate victory on the Peninsula meant the Civil War would continue. The campaign's heavy casualties indicated the kind of war it would be. Illustrations not seen by PW. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal This companion to Landscape Turned Red: The Battle of Antietam (LJ 5/15/83) continues the author's narrative of the fortunes of the Army of the Potomac and its leader, General George B. McClellan. Sears's compelling Civil War chronicles rival those of the late Bruce Catton, and this work resonates with authority derived from a thorough knowledge of McClellan and his adversaries and immediacy achieved by extensive use of eyewitness accounts gleaned from the reminiscences of combatants on both sides. Lucid maps, accurate tables of command, and a comprehensive bibliography all contribute to the book's usefulness. Those reading it may also want to consult Richard Wheeler's Sword over Richmond (LJ 4/1/86) for other eyewitness accounts and William C. Davis's The Guns of '62 (LJ 2/15/82) for a superb photographic record of the campaign. Recommended for most libraries. Previewed in Prepub Alert, LJ 5/1/92. -Lawrence E. Ellis, Broward Community Coll. Lib., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus s In George B. McClellan (1988) and his work editing the papers of the Union general, Sears established himself as the critical but indispensable authority on flawed "Little Mac." Now, in a stirring prequel to Landscape Turned Red (1983), his superb account of the Battle of Antietam, the author reaffirms his mastery of historical narrative. In March 1862, the egotistical but timorous McClellan was prodded by Lincoln into finally launching the first major offensive by the Army of the Potomac. Instead of marching directly overland from Washington, McClellan used Federal sea power to advance on Richmond by way of the peninsula between the York and James Rivers. The "Grand Campaign," however, soon belied its creator's Napoleonic pretensions by becoming a three-and-a-half-month nightmare of feints and pitched battles, ultimately engaging up to a combined quarter-million men on both sides and leaving one of every four men dead, wounded, or missing. Using hundreds of eyewitness accounts, Sears demonstrates how the most

creative use of military technology (ironclad warships, 200-pounder rifled cannon, battlefield telegraph, and aerial reconnaissance) existed side by side with the most appalling mismanagement (Stonewall Jackson's uncharacteristic lethargy; McClellan's mistaken belief that the numerically inferior rebels possessed a two-to-one manpower advantage; out-of-sync attacks by both Confederate and Union generals). Above all, though, Sears casts the campaign as a clash of wits and wills between McClellan--whom he accuses of losing "the courage to command"--and Robert E. Lee--who, upon succeeding the wounded Joseph E. Johnson as head of the Army of Northern Virginia, seized the initiative, repulsed the assault in the series of "Seven Days" battles, and began his long journey into legend. An authoritative, ironic, and stirring addition to Civil War annals. (Two 16-page bw photo inserts.) -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.