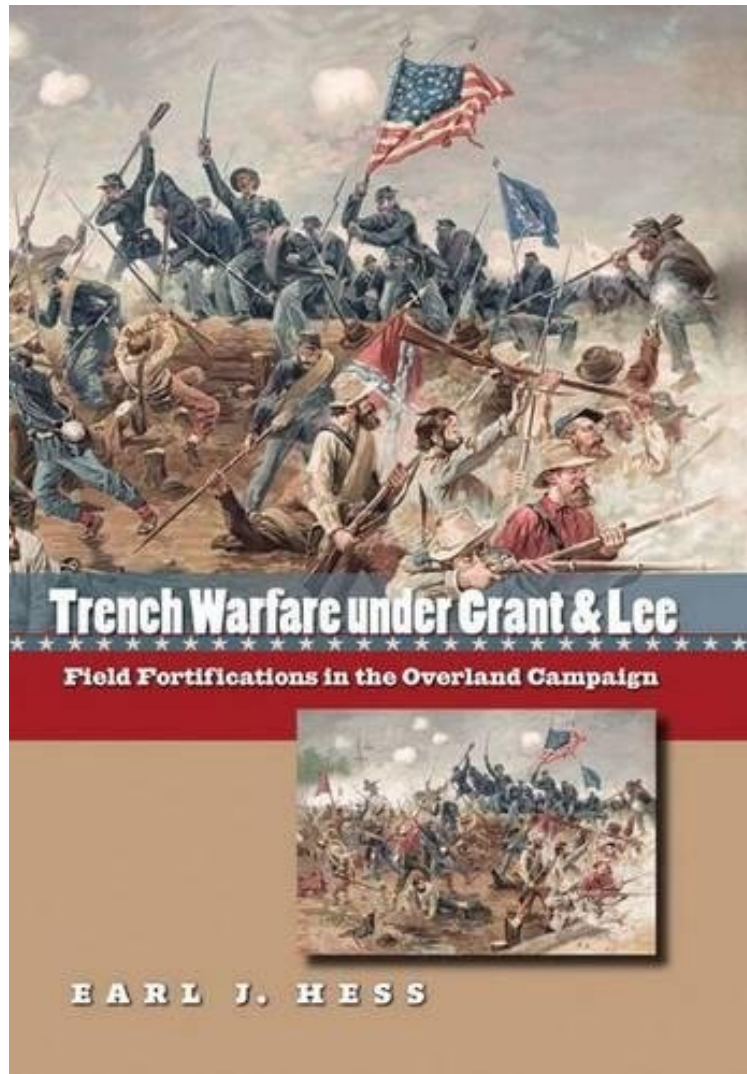


(Read free) Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee: Field Fortifications in the Overland Campaign (Civil War America)

Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee: Field Fortifications in the Overland Campaign (Civil War America)

Earl J. Hess

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Earl J. Hess : Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee: Field Fortifications in the Overland Campaign (Civil War America) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee: Field Fortifications in the Overland Campaign (Civil War America):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great Civil War History ReadBy oldAvnNo student of Grant's overland campaign should forego reading this thoroughly researched study. As the author thoroughly documents, field

fortifications were critical for both sides of that struggle.²⁵ of 27 people found the following review helpful. Important Work of Civil War Scholarship By Bruce Trinque Earl J. Hess's new "Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee: Field Fortifications in the Overland Campaign" is as good a piece of Civil War scholarship as I have read in years. It is at the most fundamental level a narrative history of military operations in the Overland Campaign of May and June, 1864: the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, and Cold Harbor, but it is a narrative history that focuses particularly on how field fortifications evolved over the course of those six weeks of heavy combat and it details how the use of field fortifications influenced the course of that campaign. In his earlier volume, "Field Armies and Fortifications in the Civil War," Hess dispelled the old myths that such entrenchments were a direct consequence of the power of rifled-muskets or that their use suddenly sprang into being in the spring of 1864 (he documented three years of field fortifications, although not on such a scale as became standard by the end of the Overland Campaign) and that these entrenchments were somehow merely the fruit of the teaching of Dennis Hart Mahan at West Point. Or to quote the author: "The use of field fortifications evolved during the Civil War not due to some irrational fear, but due to a real and potent threat: the continued presence of an enemy army within striking distance. Their use was a rational and logical response to that threat." Hess reserves most of the technical details of entrenchment and breastwork design for an appendix, leaving his main narrative fast-moving and compelling. "Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee" is an important contribution to Civil War literature and should find a ready spot on the bookshelves of any serious student of the era. I look forward to his planned third volume, to examine field fortifications during the Petersburg campaign. Inevitably, it must be asked how Hess views the Overland Campaign in balance. Was it a Union or a Confederate success? Although Hess does not absolve Grant of errors in too hastily ordering attacks or in failing to recognize the power of impromptu fieldworks, Hess concludes: "Grant's most significant achievement in the Overland campaign was not in capturing territory, or in positioning his army close to Richmond, or in reducing the fighting strength of the Army of Northern Virginia by 50 percent; rather it lay in robbing Lee of the opportunity to launch large-scale offensives against the Army of the Potomac. In laying claim to the strategic initiative, Grant won an important physical and emotional victory over Lee, and he did it with fewer losses than his predecessors had suffered in attempting the same goal ... Most important, he did not give up the strategic initiative and thereby brought the war to an end. The Overland campaign was as much a watershed in the strategic course of the Civil War as the Seven Days."⁰ of 0 people found the following review helpful. Learn and enjoy By David Marshall Great book from a great academic.

Earl J. Hess's study of armies and fortifications turns to the 1864 Overland Campaign to cover battles from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor. Drawing on meticulous research in primary sources and careful examination of battlefields at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Bermuda Hundred, and Cold Harbor, Hess analyzes Union and Confederate movements and tactics and the new way Grant and Lee employed entrenchments in an evolving style of battle. Hess argues that Grant's relentless and pressing attacks kept the armies always within striking distance, compelling soldiers to dig in for protection.

A significant addition to the military history of the American Civil War and adds an important argument to a topic generally ignored by Civil War historians.--Canadian Journal of History The author covers familiar ground in writing about these battles, but does it in a brisk, informative way, offering his own analysis of command decisions and outcomes. . . . A valued resource.--H-Civil War Hess's understanding of field fortifications is expertly conveyed, as are his explanations of why and how specific trenches were built. Maps and photographs add a visual layer to understanding the campaign. . . . Well-written and researched.--Maryland Historical Magazine Hess tells the story [of trench warfare] with clarity and tactical detail.--Blue Gray Magazine Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee is the second outstanding entry in a multi-volume examination by Earl J. Hess of the role and use of field fortifications in the Eastern Theater. . . . Although its many fine qualities make this a work of value to anyone with an interest in the war, this appendix makes this terrific book one that the legions of 'trench nerds' will particularly enjoy--and want close at hand the next time we find ourselves in Eastern Virginia.--Civil War News A detailed examination of fieldworks. . . . Ideal for any Civil War reference collection. . . . Hess's meticulous attention to detail is enough to warrant his work a place in most military reference collections or on the shelf of a Civil War enthusiast.--North Carolina Historical A most important addition to the literature on this major campaign and [it] has certainly earned a place on the bookshelves of those fascinated by the Civil War and the men who fought.--Virginia Magazine Both compelling and refreshing. . . . Something new for the serious enthusiast.--Civil War Times Grounded in original research and careful inspections of existing archeological remains, Earl J. Hess's Trench Warfare under Grant and Lee is a thoughtful and readable analysis of the evolution of field works during the Overland Campaign of 1864. This pioneering work belongs on the bookshelves of every Civil War buff and everyone interested in the history of modern warfare. I recommend it highly.--Gordon C. Rhea, author of Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26-June 3, 1864 Hundreds of thousands of American soldiers fought behind earthworks in 1864, but until Hess's book no historian had examined the evolution of trench warfare in thorough detail. This fine book covers a significant unexplored topic in gratifying depth.--Robert K. Krick, author of Stonewall Jackson at Cedar Mountain and Civil War Weather in Virginia Intriguing,

important, and authoritative.--Military History of the WestIllumines and educates.--Civil War Book For military specialists and Civil War enthusiasts . . . Those with such a focused interest will be rewarded by reading Hess' intense study.--Journal of Southern HistoryAn important and valuable study of a long neglected subject. . . Illuminating.--Military HistoryKeeps the subject fresh while presenting the nuanced tactical differences in a logical sequential manner.--TOCWOC: A Civil War BlogHess tells the story with clarity and tactical detail.--Blue GrayFrom the Inside FlapEarl J.Hess's study of armies and fortifications turns to the 1864 Overland Campaign to cover battles from the Wilderness to Cold Harbor. Drawing on meticulous research in primary sources and careful examination of battlefields at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna, Bermuda Hundred, and Cold Harbor, Hess analyzes Union and Confederate movements and tactics and the new way Grant and Lee employed entrenchments in an evolving style of battle. Hess argues that Grant's relentless and pressing attacks kept the armies always within striking distance, compelling soldiers to dig in for protection.