

LONGEST NIGHT

A MILITARY HISTORY OF THE CIVIL WAR

David J. Eicher

With a Foreword by James M. McPherson

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Longest Night A Military History Of The Civil War

Hal Jespersen, James R. Knight, Dana Lombardy

Longest Night A Military History Of The Civil War:

The Longest Night David J Eicher, 2002-03-30 A riveting indispensable history of the Civil War told chronologically from the first shots fired at Fort Sumter to the surrender in the summer of 1865 a conflict that James McPherson in the Foreword calls the most dramatic violent and fateful experience in American history In this compelling account of the American Civil War noted historian David Eicher gives us an authoritative history of battle from the first shots at Fort Sumter to Lee s surrender at Appomattox As a strictly military history The Longest Night covers hundreds of engagements both well known and obscure including the oft neglected Western theater and naval actions along the coasts and rivers The result is a gripping popular history that will fascinate anyone just learning about the Civil War while offering more than a few surprises for longtime students Drawing on hundreds of sources and excerpts from correspondence by those who fought the war The Longest Night conveys a real sense of life and death on the battlefield In addition Eicher analyzes each side s evolving strategy examines the tactics of Lee Grant Johnston and Sherman and discusses significant topics such as prisons railroads shipbuilding clandestine operations and the role of African Americans in the war This is an definitive chronicle of the war that as the author writes like no other conflict in our history casts a long shadow onto modern America The History of the <u>Civil War</u> Charles River Editors, 2025-05-02 Americans have long been fascinated by the Civil War marveling at the size of the battles the leadership of the generals and the courage of the soldiers Since the war s start over 150 years ago the battles have been subjected to endless debate among historians and the generals themselves The Civil War was the deadliest conflict in American history and had the two sides realized it would take 4 years and inflict over a million casualties it might not have been fought Since it did however historians and history buffs alike have been studying and analyzing the biggest battles ever since The secession of the South was one of the seminal events in American history but it also remains one of the most controversial The election of Abraham Lincoln was the impetus for secession but that was merely one of many events that led up to the formation of the Confederacy and the start of the Civil War On December 20 a little more than a month after Lincoln had been elected the 16th president a convention met in Charleston and passed the first ordinance of secession by one of the United States declaring We the people of the State of South Carolina in convention assembled do declare and ordain that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and other States under the name of the United States of America is hereby dissolved In January 1861 Mississippi Florida Alabama Georgia Louisiana and Kansas followed South Carolina's lead and the Confederate States of America was formed on February 4 in Montgomery Alabama with former Secretary of War Jefferson Davis inaugurated as its President A few weeks later Texas joined The Confederacy s hope of being let go in peace ended at 4 30 a m on the morning of April 12 1861 when Confederate Brigadier General P G T Beauregard ordered the first shots to be fired at the federal garrison defending Fort Sumter in the Charleston Harbor effectively igniting the Civil War For nearly 36 hours Beauregard's Confederates unleashed a general bombardment from 43

guns and mortars positioned at various points across the Harbor Unable to effectively reply or defend themselves Major Robert Anderson raised the white flag early in the afternoon of April 13 bringing the first battle of the Civil War to a close No casualties were suffered on either side during the dueling bombardments across Charleston Harbor but ironically two U S Army soldiers were killed by an accidental explosion during the surrender ceremonies After Fort Sumter the Lincoln Administration pushed for a guick invasion of Virginia with the intent of defeating Confederate forces and marching toward the Confederate capitol of Richmond Lincoln pressed Irvin McDowell to push forward Despite the fact that McDowell knew his troops were inexperienced and unready pressure from the Washington politicians forced him to launch a premature offensive against Confederate forces in Northern Virginia Almanac of American Military History Spencer C. Tucker, 2012-11-21 This almanac provides a comprehensive chronological overview of all American military history serving as the standard reference work of its type Almanac of American Military History is yet another reference work from acclaimed historian Dr Spencer C Tucker and ABC CLIO offering an unprecedented resource for a wide range of students and researchers A comprehensive four volume title this almanac traces all of American military history from the European voyages of discovery through 2011 chronicling the pivotal moments that have shaped the United States into the country it is today In addition to documenting key events this title presents biographies of more than 250 key individuals and provides information on more than 250 historically significant technologies and weapons systems A detailed glossary is included as are discussions of ranks and military awards and decorations Divided into conflict periods each chapter includes a detailed chronology reference entry sidebars statistical information primary source documents and a bibliography Military History Daniel K. Blewett, 2008-12-30 In this companion volume to his 1995 bibliography of the same title Daniel Blewett continues his foray into the vast literature of military studies As did its predecessor it covers land air and naval forces primarily but not exclusively from a U S perspective with the welcome emergence of small wars from publishing obscurity In addition to identifying relevant organizations and associations Blewett has gathered together the very best in chronologies bibliographies biographical dictionaries indexes journals abstracts glossaries and encyclopedias each accompanied by a brief descriptive annotation This work remains a pertinent addition to the general reference collections of public and academic libraries as well as special libraries government documents collections military and intelligence agency The Routledge Handbook of American Military and Diplomatic History libraries and historical societies and museums Christos G. Frentzos, Antonio S. Thompson, 2014-09-15 The Routledge Handbook of American Military and Diplomatic History provides a comprehensive analysis of the major events conflicts and personalities that have defined and shaped the military history of the United States This volume The Colonial Period to 1877 illuminates the early period of American history from the colonial warfare of the 17th century through the tribulations of Reconstruction The chronologically organized sections each begin with an introductory chapter that provides a concise narrative of the period and highlights the scholarly debates

and interpretive schools of thought in the historiography followed by topical chapters on issues in the period Topics covered include colonial encounters and warfare the French and Indian War the American Revolution diplomacy in the early American republic the War of 1812 westward expansion and conquest the Mexican American War the Civil War and Reconstruction With authoritative and vividly written chapters by both leading scholars and new talent this state of the field handbook will be a go to reference for every American history scholar s bookshelf The Civil War in 1862 Charles River Editors, 2025-05-02 After Union General Ulysses S Grant captured Fort Henry and Fort Donelson in early 1862 Confederate General Albert Sidney Johnston widely considered the Confederacy s best general concentrated his forces in northern Georgia and prepared for a major offensive that culminated with the biggest battle of the war to that point the Battle of Shiloh On the morning of April 6 Johnston directed an all out attack on Grant's army around Shiloh Church and though Grant s men had been encamped there they had failed to create defensive fortifications or earthworks They were also badly caught by surprise With nearly 45 000 Confederates attacking Johnston's army began to steadily push Grant's men back toward the river As fate would have it the Confederates may have been undone by friendly fire at Shiloh Johnston advanced out ahead of his men on horseback while directing a charge near a peach orchard when he was hit in the lower leg by a bullet that historians now widely believe was fired by his own men Nobody thought the wound was serious including Johnston who continued to aggressively lead his men and even sent his personal physician to treat wounded Union soldiers taken captive But the bullet had clipped an artery and shortly after being wounded Johnston began to feel faint in the saddle With blood filling up his boot Johnston unwittingly bled to death The delay caused by his death and the transfer of command to subordinate P G T Beauregard bought the Union defenders critical time on April 6 and the following day Grant's reinforced army struck back and pushed the Confederate army off the field The Battle of Shiloh lasted two days but the battle over the battle had just begun Grant's army had just won the biggest battle in the history of North America with nearly 24 000 combined casualties among the Union and Confederate forces Usually the winner of a major battle is hailed as a hero but Grant was hardly a winner at Shiloh The Battle of Shiloh took place before costlier battles at places like Antietam and Gettysburg so the extent of the casualties at Shiloh shocked the nation Moreover at Shiloh the casualties were viewed as needless Grant was pilloried for allowing the Confederates to take his forces by surprise as well as the failure to build defensive earthworks and fortifications which nearly resulted in a rout of his army Speculation again arose that Grant had a drinking problem and some even assumed he was drunk during the battle Though the Union won it was largely viewed that their success owed to the heroics of General Sherman in rallying the men and Don Carlos Buell arriving with his army and General Buell was happy to receive the credit at Grant's expense As a result of the Battle of Shiloh Grant was demoted to second in command of all armies in his department an utterly powerless position And when word of what many considered a colossal blunder reached Washington several congressmen insisted that Lincoln replace Grant in the field Lincoln famously

defended Grant telling critics I can t spare this man He fights The Civil War in 1862 explains the campaign and events that led up to the decisive battle what went right and wrong on both sides and the aftermath of the battle Accounts of the battle by important leaders like Sherman Grant and Braxton Bragg are included along with analysis of the generals and fighting Along with maps of the battle and pictures of important people places and events you will learn about the Battle of Shiloh like vou never have before **Punitive War** Clay Mountcastle, 2009 This book examines the querilla experience and then traces its progresion from the Western Theater in 1861 to its apogee in the East in the last two years of the war Pg 5 Davis Infobase Holdings, Inc., 2009 Traces the life of the president of the Confederacy from his childhood through his rise in Southern politics and to his role as leader of the South during the Civil War **Grant Rising** Hal Jespersen, James R. Knight, Dana Lombardy, 2015-11-19 Grant Rising is an inspired one volume summary in maps and text of Ulysses S Grant s famous battles in 1862 including Donelson and Shiloh and also his early life including his frontier and Mexican War service as well as his minor engagement in the Western Theater of the American Civil War Grant Rising features techniques that portray Civil War battles in a new way such as shaded relief topography giving the maps a three dimensional appearance Plus the use of different color tints to represent command relationships makes it easier to determine which brigades reported to which divisions and corps at a glance Using slightly different shades of blue and red also allow for easy differentiation of many units on a single map making the action easier to understand Grant Rising is a truly new type of map reference book as well as a remarkable history of Grant's early life and career through 1862 The Blackstone of Military Law Joshua E. Kastenberg, 2009-04-23 Colonel William Winthrop singularly was the most influential person in developing the military law of the United States A half century ago the Supreme Court tendered to Winthrop the title The Blackstone of Military Law meaning simply that his influence outshone all others He has been cited over 20 times by the highest court and well over a 1 000 times by other federal courts state courts and legal texts In this he surpasses most other legal scholars save Joseph Story John Marshall or Felix Frankfurter But while biographies of each of these Supreme Court Justices have been written there has been none to date on Winthrop The Blackstone of Military Law Colonel William Winthrop is the first biography on this important figure in military and legal history Written in both a chronological and thematic format author Joshua E Kastenberg begins with Winthrop's legal training his involvement in abolitionism his military experiences during the Civil War and his long tenure as a judge advocate This biography provides the necessary context to fully appreciate Winthrop's work its meaning and its continued relevance

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