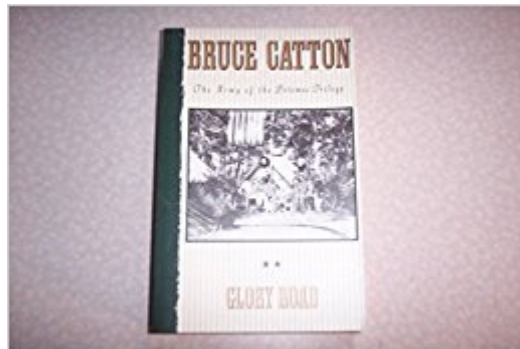


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The Army Of The Potomac: Glory Road



Synopsis

The critical months between the autumn of 1862 and midsummer 1863 is the focus of *Glory Road*. During this time the outcome of the Civil War is determined, as the battles at Fredericksburg, Rappahannock and Chancellorsville set the state for Union victory at Gettysburg.

Book Information

Paperback: 389 pages

Publisher: Doubleday (February 13, 1990)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385041675

ISBN-13: 978-0385041676

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 67 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,030,799 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Regimental Histories](#) #237 in [Books > History > Military > Regiments](#) #1346 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Campaigns & Battlefields](#)

Customer Reviews

This is the second book of author Bruce Catton's trilogy about the Army of the Potomac's Civil War Campaign. "Glory Road" covers the period from November 5, 1862 (after the Battle of Antietam and Lincoln's sacking of Gen. George McClellan) to November 19, 1863 (the date of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address and the dedication of the Gettysburg Soldiers' National Cemetery). Battles of this period include Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg (among other smaller battles). As in the first book ("Mr. Lincoln's Army"), Catton gives the reader tremendous insight into the personalities and capabilities of the commanders, the lives of the ordinary soldiers, the disposition and peculiarities of the various units, and the details and horrors of the fighting. It is a wonderful insight into that time and those events. Mr. Catton's research and citations are superb. His writing is mesmerizing. These books were published between 1951 and 1953. Bruce Catton lived early enough to have listened as a boy to Civil War veterans tell their stories. His primary sources add a great deal of color and detail to his books. Catton won the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Award, and the Presidential Medal of Freedom. He was also the first editor of *American Heritage* magazine. If you have any interest in American history, Bruce Catton should be on your list of authors. Highly

recommended!

Just finished book two (of a three book series) "The Army of the Potomac: Glory Road". I started with book two because it spans the three big battles in the middle of the Civil War (Fredericksburg - Chancellorsville - Gettysburg). The Author, Bruce Catton, reads like Tolkien. The book is rich in detail, and he brings the battles to life. His account of the Union Army's June 1863 pursuit of Lee from Virginia into Pennsylvania is so good, that I felt like I made the march with the soldiers. Also intense, was the account of Third Corp soldiers being decimated at the Peach Orchard and Wheatfield during the second day of Gettysburg! Currently Reading Book One "Mr. Lincoln's Army" is on the way...

Book 2 (Glory Road) has all the charms and felicities of Book 1 (Mr. Lincoln's Army). As with Book 1, Glory Road ends on a cliffhanger (of sorts) and has me hungry for Book 3. We all know how the war turned out, but in the heat of the brilliantly evoked great battles, one nonetheless succumbs to the "fog". I am thankful that I have encountered this history in my 7th decade, because I'm getting full weight from it, but anyone of any age can get joy from Catton's trilogy, whether you come for the history, the battle, the politics or the social analysis.

This volume of all of Bruce Catton is my favorite because of his insight into the most significant outcome of the civil war other than, perhaps, ending slavery: the nationalization of public policy and, in particular, military power. When one realizes the brevity, rather than thinking of the expanse, of time between 1865 and 1933, just a little under 70 years, one can see the effects of Lincoln's war mobilization and, in good part, the deficiency of the old Confederacy states' rights delusion (notwithstanding the seeming push back, since the mid-1960s, driving the recent 2016 national elections). Federalization of the armies reflected in their movement from state to generic federal designations, expansion of the federal reach through the railroads, telecommunications, and higher education, not to mention (by 1867) the second "Louisiana Purchase," that of Alaska. All these movements, daily crisis responses during the war but lasting movements thereafter, underpin the narrative of the incomparable Mr Catton, who was the first writer to tie the civil war and the New Deal together for me. I read this book decades ago and this revisit has been refreshing, and re-orienting to the shifting political world of USA 2017. I think GLORY ROAD is even more important for its political analysis than for its lucid still effective and accurate military history documentation..
Lefty--Righty--Centrist: Read this one.

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