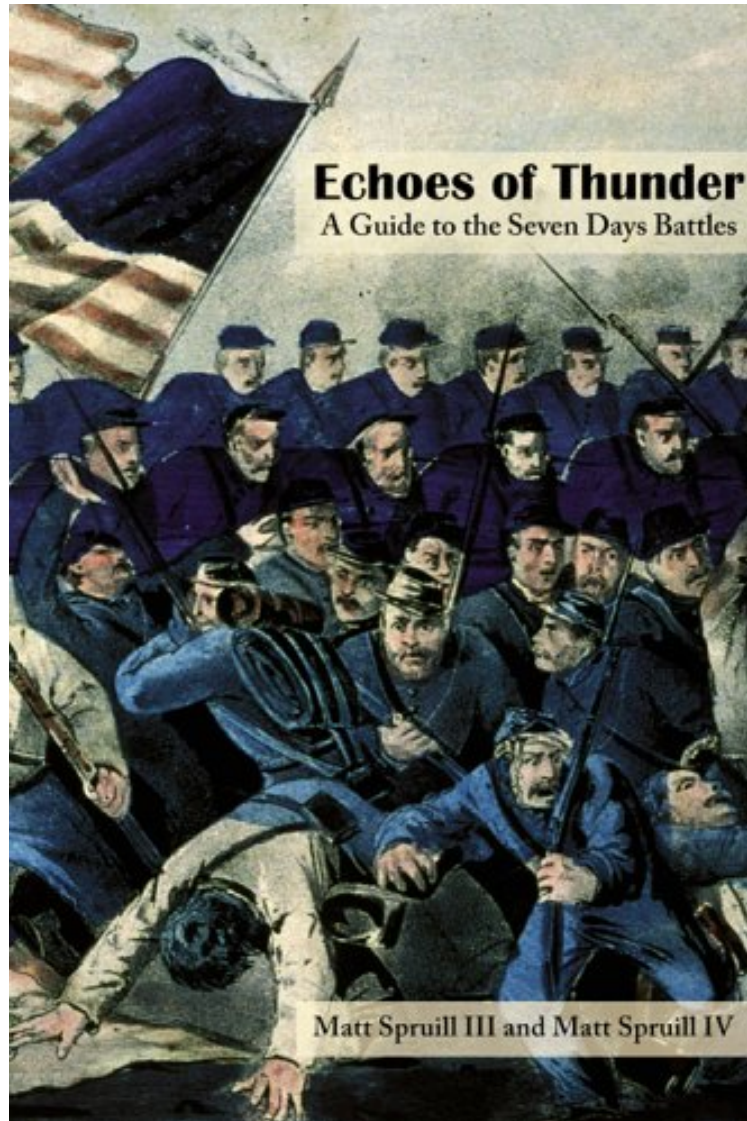


(Download) Echoes of Thunder: A Guide to the Seven Days Battles

Echoes of Thunder: A Guide to the Seven Days Battles

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Matt Spruill III, Matt Spruill IV : Echoes of Thunder: A Guide to the Seven Days Battles before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Echoes of Thunder: A Guide to the Seven Days Battles:

14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Guide By James W. Durney I am a battlefield walker, alone, in a group, with or without a guide. The best walks are in a group with a guide; however, that often is not possible. When a guide and a group are not possible, a good book is the next best thing. The problem is battle histories are not designed to walk you from point to point, outlining what happened and why it is important. Histories, even the

best of them, often do not make a good battlefield guidebook. Starting in 1987, The U.S. Army War College addressed this problem with a series of battlefield guides for military personal and battlefield walkers. The format is a combination of detailed instructions moving you from point to point, commentary in current military language on the action coupled with selections from first person accounts. A map for each stop, an overview map of the field and plenty of illustrations produce a very usable guide that provides a detailed view of the battle then and now. The Seven Days always has been a difficult campaign for me to follow. The continuous movement, switching between the Union line of march and the Confederate fronts, while considering the overall political situation, causes me to lose the terrain details. I can follow Sears or Burton, understand what is happening but never seem to get the grip on the terrain that is possible at Gettysburg or Shiloh. Thanks to Matt Spruill III and IV, that problem is solved. *Echoes of Thunder* is like seeing an old friend. The book uses the War College format, Matt Spruill III is the author of the Chickamauga guide, causing me to settle in for a good informative time. Each battle is a chapter in the book, with detailed instructions on how to move from field to field. For the first time, I started to grasp the movement of the armies while reading these instructions. Each battle is well represented with a number of stops, directions to each stop and a good narration of what we are looking at. The participants tell the story of the action at each stop. These first person accounts tell us more than any author could. Coupled with the author's narration, the two produce a good solid overview of the battle and the campaign, supplementing the study of the field. This is a valuable and welcome addition to this series of battlefield guides. This book will provide you with a guide on the field or it will supplement reading about The Seven Days. In either case, you will have your own guide whenever you need one. I will look for you at one of the stops along the way.

Echoes of Thunder is the only guide to the 1862 Seven Days Battles. Taking the reader over the ground where the five battles were fought between the Union and Confederate armies from June 26 to July 1, 1862, the book is for the Civil War expert as well as the newcomer. For each battlefield the book provides information to orient the reader about where the opposing units were positioned and what happened. Appropriate excerpts from the official records are included, written by commanders whose units were fighting at each stop. This technique of presentation allows the reader to see the development of each battle as the participants and decision makers saw it. A chapter is dedicated to each of the Seven Days Battles: Beaver Dam Creek, Gaines Mill, Savage Station, Glendale, and Malvern Hill. The reader can follow the battles in their entirety from Stop 1 to Stop 30; however, as each chapter is designed to stand alone, the reader can tour the battlefields in any order or visit only selected battlefields. Detailed topographical maps show the battlefield areas as they were in 1862 and are marked with unit locations and movements. Modern day road maps and instructions allow the reader to follow the same routes—from battlefield to battlefield—used by the armies. Operational and planning maps show overall situations and maneuver plans. Because of the detailed maps and orientation information, a reader can use *Echoes of Thunder* effectively even without being on the battlefields, making this a valuable reference work on this important series of battles.

About the Author Matt Spruill III is a retired United States Army colonel and a former Gettysburg licensed battlefield guide. He is also the author of *Storming the Heights* and *Guide to the Battle of Chickamauga*. His son, Matt Spruill IV, is at present a lieutenant colonel in the United States Army.