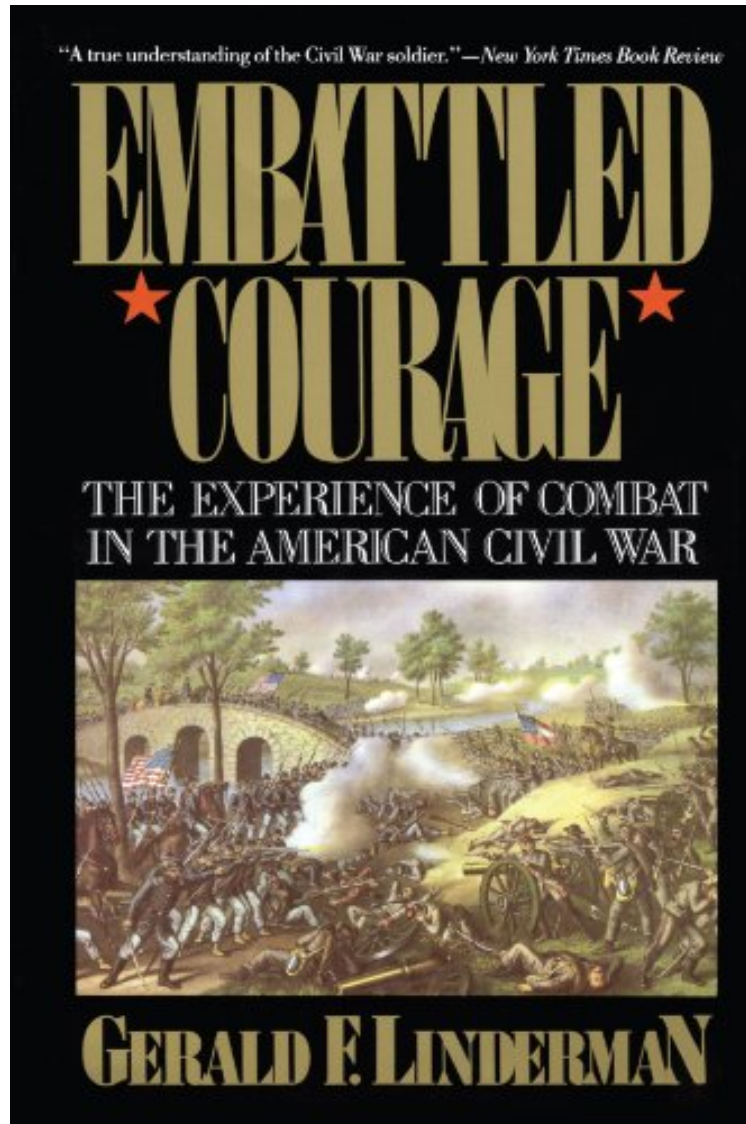


[Ebook pdf] Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War

# Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War

Gerald Linderman

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#1001073 in Books Gerald F Linderman 1989-04-17 1989-04-17Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .90 x 6.00l, 1.37 #File Name: 0029197619368 pagesISBN13: 9780029197615Condition: NewNotes: BRAND NEW FROM PUBLISHER! 100% Satisfaction Guarantee. Tracking provided on most orders. Buy with Confidence! Millions of books sold! | File size: 26.Mb

**Gerald Linderman : Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War:

13 of 17 people found the following review helpful. *Courage and the Civil War Soldier* By C. Ellen Connally  
The inability to understand the mind set and motivation of another generation is the challenge facing those who attempt to look at the past and particularly those who take a bottoms up approach to the study of history. Gerald Linderman faces this challenge in *EMBATTLE COURAGE*. Primarily through the use of letters and diaries, Linderman allows the reader to probe the psychological motivation of Civil War soldiers and attempts to answer the question: what led soldiers to fight. As soldiers lost their connection to the civilian world and suffered from hunger, deprivation and the cruelty of war, they abandoned earlier concepts of respect for the property of fallen comrades and opponents. Foraging gave way to looting and looting gave way to destruction of private property. Civilians who watched as spectators during early battles and were considered separate and apart from the military effort were eventually encompassed into the term enemy. The discussion of civilian involvement and attacks on the civilian population reminded me of discussions during the Vietnam war of attacks by the United States military on civilian villages and the military justification that was provided. Linderman admits in his introduction that he does not include the 180,000 blacks who fought in the Civil War. He does include women through the use of letters and reflections on their support on the home front. According to Linderman, women strongly supported the concept of courage throughout the war even after soldiers had abandoned it. However, such statements as "Women in both North and South set themselves staunchly against desertion" (P. 91) seems extremely general and assumes that women were totally accepting of the hardships they were forced to endure. This depiction of their continuing opposition to desertions during the entire war depicts women as static and unaffected by the circumstances of life while one of the themes of the book is the changes of attitude and perception that men experienced. The long casualty lists, service in hospitals, keeping family farms and plantations operating without fathers, brothers and husbands surely affected the attitudes of women regarding desertions and continuation of the war, a point that Linderman fails to consider. The Civil War soldier marched off to the unknown. He brought with him pieces of home, such as homemade quilts lovingly made by mothers, sisters and wives. He also brought with him their shared dreams and social values. Like the homemade quilts, those dreams and social values were left by the side of the road early in the war. The burden of carrying them in the face of combat and death was too heavy. The horrors of war and advances in the technology of fighting changed the soldiers and forced a separation between them and their communities, a relationship that has been open to much historical debate. The war changed the soldiers and they also changed the nation. Gone was the innocence of an earlier age. As America experienced its second revolution, it changed like the soldiers who fought in it. Bell Irvin Wiley set the standard for the conventional wisdom on the motivation of Civil War soldiers in his 1943 and 1953 works. Based on his research, Wiley concludes that men enlisted primarily out of economic need and because their communities pressured them. They stayed and fought largely for the sake of their friends. James W. McPherson, takes a different view. While not dismissing the findings of Wiley and Linderman, McPherson concludes that Union and Confederate soldiers possessed deeply held political and ideological convictions, which were the major reason they enlisted, remained in the ranks and fought. Confederate soldiers acted largely out of the conviction that there were defending rights and liberty and Union soldiers believed that self government and their own freedom depended upon upholding the Republic against division and anarchy. Emphasizing duty and honor, McPherson finds a strong reliance on obligations of duty and pride. Linderman looks first at the conception of war held by American soldiers and civilians during the Civil War and then at motivation. He focuses on volunteers of 1861 and 1862, both North and South, and shows how the values held by these soldiers and their home communities evolved, changed and eventually bifurcated under the stresses of camp life, combat, military hospitals and physical deprivation as the war progressed. In Linderman's views, the core motivation of Civil War soldiers was courage. However, courage must be seen in light of the companion virtues of manliness, Godliness, duty, honor and knightliness, all of which were shared with those on the home front. This concept of courage coupled with religious faith was so strong early in the war that soldiers believed that it protected them from physical harm. And indeed it did protect them as long as both sides held the same standard. Soldiers on opposing sides sometimes withheld fire on an officer or man who demonstrated extraordinary valor in combat. This early war, as described by Linderman, was a war in which men had no respect for sharpshooters and guerilla fighters and withheld fire when men were answering to the call of nature. The cessation of combat by virtue of an informal truce, trading between the lines and withholding firing on pickets was common. Relying on the letters of literate middle class soldiers, it is interesting to speculate whether or not Linderman would have reached the same conclusions relying on the now silent voices of the generally illiterate lower classes.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Straight from the horse's mouth!* By Sergeant Rock  
A must read for anyone calling one's self a Civil War history student! This treasure contains direct quotes from both north and south about combat in the Civil War.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. *Cool* By Tor-dizzle  
I bought and read this for a class I was taking and actually ended up liking it. I found it to be interesting and informative.

Linderman traces each soldier's path from the exhilaration of enlistment to the disillusionment of battle to postwar

alienation. He provides a rare glimpse of the personal battle that raged within soldiers then and now.