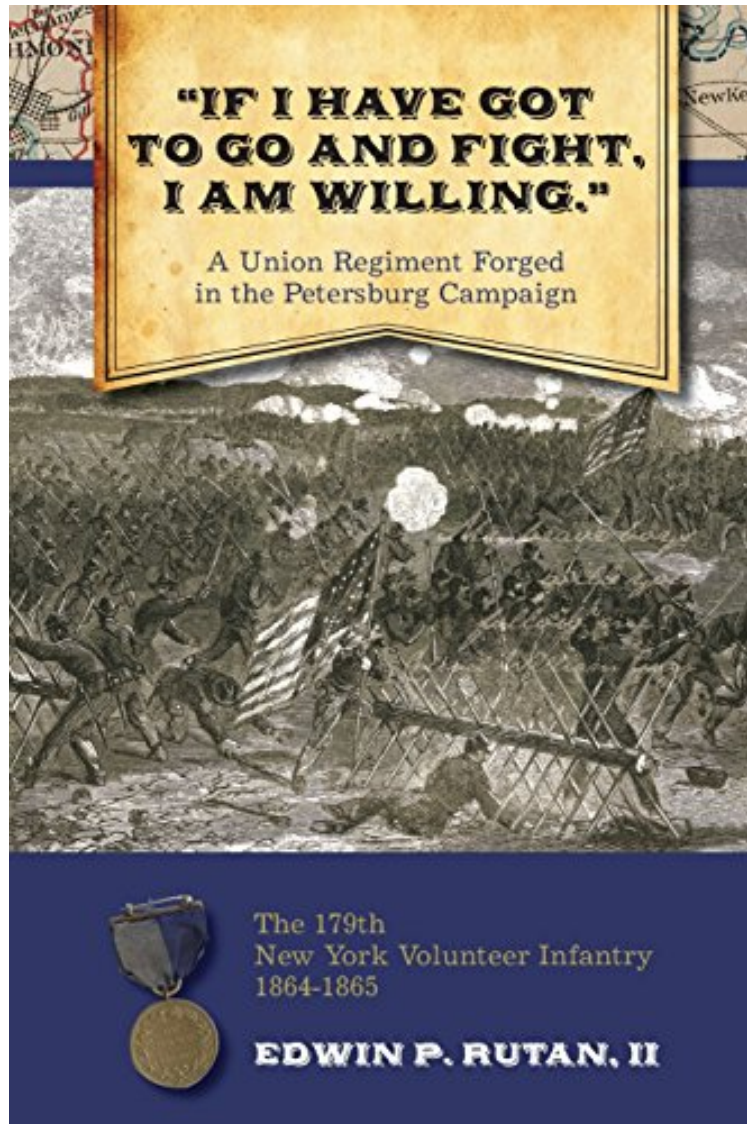


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## "If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing:" A Union Regiment Forged in the Pe

*Mr. Edwin P. Rutan II*  
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#2835093 in Books Rutan II MR Edwin P 2015-12-08Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x 1.32 x 6.00l, 1.68 #File Name: 0986272221526 pagesIf I Have Got to Go and Fight I Am Willing A Union Regiment Forged in the Pe | File size: 47.Mb

**Mr. Edwin P. Rutan II :** "If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing:" A Union Regiment Forged in the Pe before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised "If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing:" A Union Regiment Forged in the Pe:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. What was it like to be a Union soldier?By DBThe 179th New York

Volunteer Infantry was not a storied regiment of the Union Army. It did not fight at Antietam or Gettysburg. It experienced trench warfare around Petersburg and fought in four battles in which, fairly viewed, its performance was uneven. No monument to the 179th exists on any battlefield. The 179th was in fact a "high number regiment," formed late in the war and recruited through high bounties offered by cities and towns seeking to avoid conscription. It lost men not only to battle, and in greater numbers to sickness, but also to desertion and to the horrors of prison camps. The 179th was in fact a group of ordinary men placed in extraordinary circumstances. Ed Rutan's *If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I am Willing*, meticulously researched and documented, answers the question: What was it like to be a Union soldier in 1864 and 1865? What was the world like from which the soldier came and to which, if he was lucky, he returned? With chapters covering subjects as diverse as the concept of a "good death," court martials, prison camps, home towns, and life for surviving veterans when the war was over, Rutan's comprehensive book is a delight to read and gives one a sense of a world now long past. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By davethis was a great book could not put it down 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Worthwhile read and quite informative. By David Marshall The 179th New York Volunteer Infantry was raised in the spring of 1864. This late war regiment was initially with the 1X Corps' and the Army of the Potomac and fought from Cold Harbor to Petersburg and was at Appomattox on April 9, 1863 when the Army of Northern Virginia surrendered. This unit fought six battles at Petersburg including the Battle of the Crater, and the battles of Poplar Spring Church, Weldon Railroad and Burgess' Mill. The main purpose of "If I Have Got to Go And Fight, I Am Willing" is to examine in depth aspects of the citizen-soldier's experiences and to understand what they endured. Edwin Rutan also stresses subjects that have been under-emphasized by other historians and soldiers in regimental histories in the past, while providing a more complete history of individuals in the 179th New York Volunteers. This writer has uncovered many anecdotes from numerous soldiers from his great-great grandfathers regiment which have never been used in other studies. This is the first complete regimental history of these common men from New York. Rutan has provided a valuable service that will allow many academics and students of the Civil War to learn from and enjoy. This history of the 179th New York Volunteers is a comprehensive presentation that is groundbreaking in its analysis, well written, and easy to read. RTD Publications of Park City, Utah has published an affective work that explains these Americans circumstances in dealing with their home towns, reasons for enlisting late in the war, health issues, desertion, prisoner of war camps, religious beliefs, the election of 1864 and post war issues. A personal and accessible narrative that tells a remarkable story yet is grounded in scholarship. This reviewer recommends this title.

Taking a broad view of the Union soldiers' experience in the Petersburg campaign, "If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing" covers in depth not just the battles, but also subjects such as motivations for enlistment, ties with home, medical care, religious faith, citizen-soldiers, the 1864 election, prisoners of war, desertion, the post-war lives of the soldiers, and even the weather. A fighting regiment, the 179th New York Volunteers served in the Petersburg campaign from start to finish. The 179th New York was in the first wave at the Battle of the Crater and in the Ninth Corps' final assault on April 2, 1865. The 179th also fought at Petersburg in the June 17, 1864 assault and at Weldon Railroad, Poplar Spring Church and Burgess Mill. Earl J. Hess, author of fifteen books about the Civil War, "highly recommends" "If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing" for "all Civil War students and historians." He writes that: "Edwin Rutan has produced a labor of love in this history of the 179th New York, a late war regiment that experienced the worst of campaigning and battle while serving with the Ninth Corps during the Petersburg campaign. Digging deeply into the personal records and papers of its members, Rutan's social history of the regiment that his great-great grandfather served in pays rich dividends for those interested in the experiences of Civil War soldiers caught up in the last grueling year of the conflict. ... "If I Have Got to Go and Fight I Am Willing" is highly recommended for all Civil War students and historians." (Earl J. Hess, author of *Into the Crater: The Mine Attack at Petersburg*) Lesley J. Gordon, author of "A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War," concludes that: "This study provides a wealth of information and thoughtful analysis throughout." Gordon writes that: "The 179th New York was not a typical unit--raised late in the war and riddled with desertion and high casualty numbers, it was a regiment often overlooked and discredited as less committed to the war than the first wave of Union volunteers. However, Rutan's painstakingly researched book follows the regiment's history carefully, exploring who made up the ranks and why, the challenges men faced and in his words 'the reality of the soldier experience.' Their reality matched that of most common soldiers only it was condensed into a shorter amount of time, with perhaps greater challenges. Rutan examines their home communities, their complicated motivations to enlist, struggles with demoralization, disease, imprisonment and brutal combat. There is little romanticized here, yet Rutan demonstrates that for the 179th NY survivors, as was true for most all Civil War veterans, their military service came to be the defining experience of their lives. This study provides a wealth of information and thoughtful analysis throughout." (Lesley J. Gordon, author of "A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War" (Louisiana State University Press 2015) Mark Dunkelman, author of "War's Relentless Hand: Twelve Tales of Civil War Soldiers," says that "If I Have Got to Go and Fight, I Am Willing" is "a unique regimental history."

About the Author During his senior year at Columbia forty-five years ago, Ed Rutan was torn between going to law school or to graduate school in history. He chose law school, but resolved that some day he would write a publishable work of American History. Now after a rewarding career as a lawyer, he has retired and is returning to American History. Rutan served as the City Attorney for Salt Lake City from 2002 to 2013. He received the Distinguished Service Award from the Utah Chapter of The American Society for Public Administration in 2013. He previously worked in ATT's law department, including assignments in Brussels as regional counsel and Dallas as a regional Law and Government Affairs Vice President. He began his legal career at a major New York City law firm after graduating cum laude from Harvard Law School. Rutan and his wife Lynne live in Park City, Utah where they enjoy skiing, hiking and traveling.