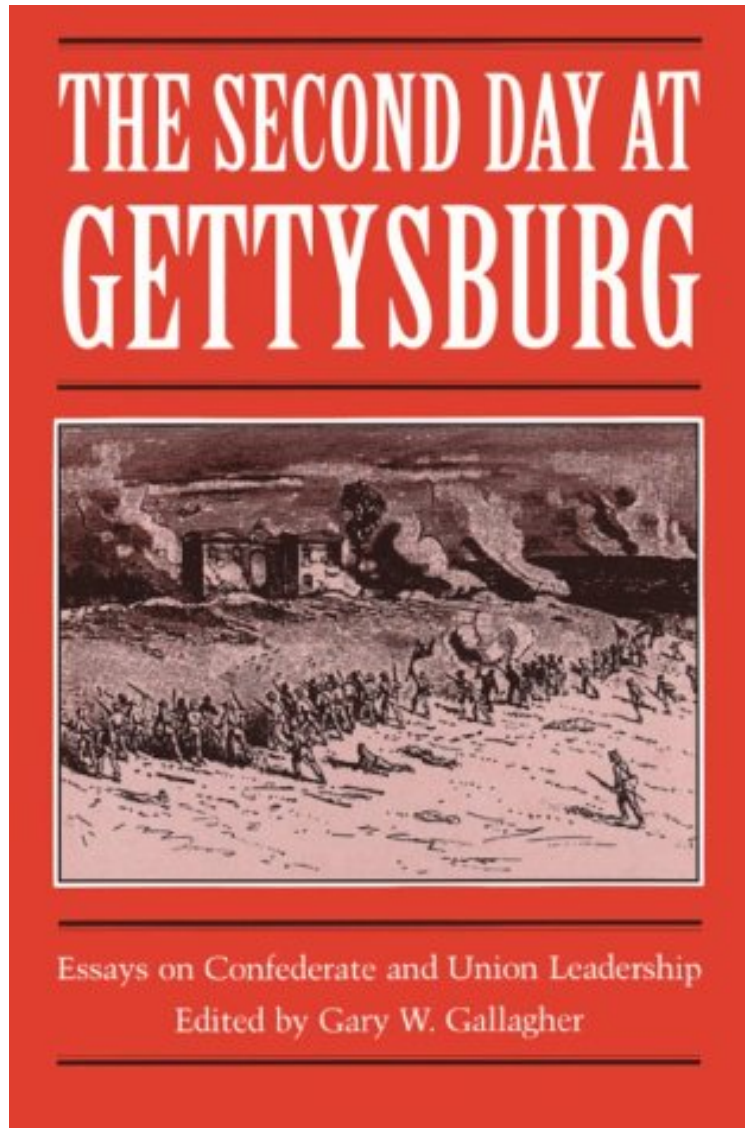


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outcome of the battle of Gettysburg.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Dr. John OliverI love the many perspectives.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Studies of the Second Day at GettysburgBy Robin FriedmanThis book is the second of a three-volume collection of essays edited and introduced by Gary Gallagher that explore leadership and other critical issues during each of the three days of the Battle of Gettysburg, July 1-3, 1863. On the first day of the Battle, elements of the Union and Confederate armies collided to the North and West of Gettysburg with the result that the Union Army was pushed back to a strong position on Cemetery Hill and Cemetery Ridge to the South and East of the town. The five essays in this volume explore important and controversial actions in the following second day of the Battle. The first essay in the volume is by Professor Gallagher himself, "If the Enemy is There, we must attack him." This essay explores an underlying issue of the entire battle -- Confederate commander Robert E. Lee's decision to assume the offensive on July 2 and to attack the powerful Union position. General Lee's decision was opposed at the time and for many years thereafter by General James Longstreet, Lee's primary subordinate. Longstreet favored a movement around the right of the Union army. Other options that Lee might have considered include assuming a defensive posture and awaiting a Union attack. Professor Gallagher explores each of these options and comes to a measured assessment of Lee's decision. The second essay "The Peach Orchard Revisited: Daniel E. Sickles and the Third Corps on July 2, 1863" is by William Robertson, Professor at the Combat Studies Institute, U.S. Army. Professor Robertson examines the decision of Union General Dan Sickles, commander of the Third Corps of the Army, to move his Corps from the position that Union Commander George Meade assigned to it on Cemetery Ridge to a salient about 3/4 mile in front of the Union line. Controversy has raged over the years over the wisdom and effect of Sickles's unauthorized move on the result of the Battle. Professor Robertson makes an excellent attempt to examine this issue afresh. He concludes, probably contrary to the opinion of most students of the Battle, that Sickles's move had a great deal to commend it, even though Professor Robertson is highly critical of Sickles's failure to coordinate his action with Meade. The third essay, "If Longstreet Says so it is most likely not true" by Robert Krick, a biographer of Stonewall Jackson, is polemical in character. It is highly critical of the role Longstreet played in the events of Gettysburg, particularly on the second day. Most of this essay is a discussion of various statements of other Southern leaders critical of Longstreet and a criticism of Longstreet's actions at places other than Gettysburg. A more careful examination of Longstreet's actions during the second day of the Battle itself would have been welcome. The fourth essay, "A Step All-Important and Essential to Victory": Henry W. Slocum and the Twelfth Corps on July 1-2, 1863" is by A. Wilson Greene, executive director of the Association for the Preservation of Civil War Sites. It discusses and assesses the leadership of the Commander of the Union Twelfth Corps, General Slocum, during his tardy march to the Battlefield on July 1 and during the defense of Culp's Hill on the extreme Union right on July 2. Culp's Hill remains a relatively little-known part of the Battle, but it was the scene of furious fighting. The climax of the action on Culp's Hill was General "Pap" Greene's holding of the position with only a single brigade against a force that outnumbered him 3-1 during the evening of July 2. Wilson Greene's essay argues that this aspect of the Battle was, indeed, not of the greatest significance to the ultimate result. He is also critical of Slocum's performance throughout the Battle. The final essay in this collection is by Scott Hartwig, a ranger and historian with the National Park Service at Gettysburg, titled "No troops had done better": John Caldwell's Division in the Wheatfield, July 2, 1863". This essay is unique in the collection in that it examines command at the Division rather than the Corps or Army level. It focuses on the bloody fighting in the Wheatfield which resulted from the position assumed by General Sickles (essay 2). Caldwell's Division was sent to reinforce the position and fought heroically, if ultimately unsuccessfully to hold the Wheatfield. This essay does an excellent job in exploring command under combat conditions featuring lack of knowledge of the position, lack of coordination, and difficulties of communication among the troops. I recently attended an anniversary battle walk at Gettysburg which covered the fighting in the Wheatfield, and Caldwell's role, in great detail. I learned a great deal by following-up with Hartwig's essay. This book presupposes a basic familiarity with the Battle of Gettysburg and with the chief areas of controversy resulting from this great Battle. These essays are thoughtful and provocative and will enhance the student's understanding.

Notable Civil War historians herein continue the evaluation of select commanders begun in *The First Day at Gettysburg: Essays on Confederate and Union Leadership*. Using fresh manuscript sources coupled with a careful consideration of the existing literature, they explore issues such as Robert E. Lee's decision to renew the tactical offensive on July 2; James Longstreet's effectiveness in executing Lee's plan; the origin and impact of Daniel E. Sickles's decision to advance his Third Corps, which formed the infamous "Sickles's Salient"; the little-understood role of Henry W. Slocum and his Union Twelfth Corps; and the contribution of John C. Caldwell's division in the maelstrom of the Wheatfield. Provocative and occasionally at odds with one another, these essays present new evidence to expand understanding of the battle and offer sometimes controversial interpretations to prompt re-evaluation of several officers who played crucial roles during the second day at Gettysburg. Historians and other students of the battle who are not persuaded by all of the essays nonetheless will find they cannot lightly dismiss their arguments.

From Publishers Weekly Gallagher has put together a worthy sequel to his *The First Day at Gettysburg*. The volume contains five essays, originally delivered as papers at a 1991 conference. Each examines the mistakes and successes of a different military commander involved in the confrontation between 100,000 Union troops and 70,000 Confederate soldiers that sealed the fate of the Southern cause. Robert K. Krick offers a convincing reassessment of Confederate James Longstreet, long vilified as the author of the rebels' defeat. William Glenn Robertson provides a no less controversial appraisal of Federal General Daniel Sickles, who, according to conventional history, blundered in his actions at the Peach Orchard. Gallagher himself takes on the formidable task of rating the performance of Robert E. Lee, concluding that his actions were more reasonable than they have often been judged. The book proves a reflection on the nature and foibles of military leadership, and it opens up the entire panorama of the engagement and of Lee's campaign. Civil War buffs will doubtless be left eagerly awaiting a similar treatment of the final day of the encounter. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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About the Author Gary W. Gallagher is professor of history at the University of Virginia. He is a contributing editor of The Kent State University Press publications *Antietam: Essays on the 1862 Maryland Campaign* (1989); *Struggle for the Shenandoah: Essays on the 1864 Valley Campaign* (1991); *The First Day at Gettysburg: Essays on Confederate and Union Leadership* (1992); and *Three Days at Gettysburg: Essays on Confederate and Union Leadership* (1999).