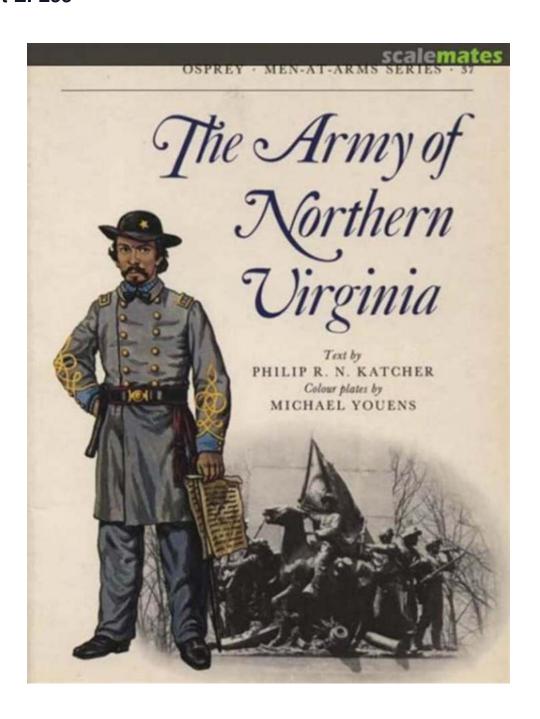
The Army of Northern Virginia: Unveiling Secrets from the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg

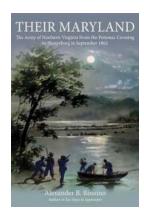
The Unforgettable Journey of the Confederates under General Robert E. Lee



The Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by the legendary General Robert E. Lee during the American Civil War, is an intriguing and iconic force that played a pivotal role in shaping the nation's history. Their remarkable journey from the Potomac Crossing to the historic battle at Sharpsburg (also known as Antietam), remains one of the most captivating and significant chapters in military history.

The Potomac Crossing: A Risky Maneuver

The Army of Northern Virginia, predominantly made up of soldiers from Virginia, crossed the treacherous Potomac River on September 4, 1862, as part of their strategic move against Union forces. This daring maneuver aimed to invade Union territory and bring the war to Northern soil.



Their Maryland: The Army of Northern Virginia From the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg in September 1862 by Alexander B. Rossino (Kindle Edition)

★ ★ ★ ★
4.8 out of 5

Language
: English

File size
: 21786 KB

Text-to-Speech
: English

Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 336 pages



Despite facing logistical challenges and unfavorable weather conditions, General Lee skillfully led his army across the river, demonstrating exceptional leadership and tactical acumen. The crossing was not only a physical obstacle but also a

psychological blow to Union soldiers who had assumed the Potomac River was their unassailable defense.

The Battle of Harpers Ferry: A Significant Victory

Following the Potomac Crossing, the Army of Northern Virginia achieved a significant victory at the Battle of Harpers Ferry. This strategic Union stronghold in West Virginia was captured on September 15, 1862, after General Lee's forces encircled and outnumbered the Union garrison.

The victory at Harpers Ferry not only boosted the morale of Confederate troops but also allowed General Lee's army to secure much-needed supplies and weaponry. This triumph further emboldened the Confederates, reinforcing their determination to continue their march towards Sharpsburg.

The Road to Sharpsburg: Clashes and Confrontations

As the Army of Northern Virginia advanced towards Sharpsburg, they encountered several clashes with Union forces. The most notable engagement occurred on September 17, 1862, at the Battle of Antietam in Sharpsburg, Maryland.

The Battle of Antietam proved to be one of the bloodiest single-day battles in American history, resulting in heavy casualties on both sides. Despite the staggering losses, General Lee and his army showed remarkable resilience and tactical prowess, and the battle ended inconclusively.

The Aftermath and Legacy

The campaign of the Army of Northern Virginia from the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg left an indelible mark on American history. While the battle at

Sharpsburg did not bring a swift end to the conflict, it provided a turning point in the war.

The resilience, determination, and military genius displayed by General Robert E. Lee and the Confederate soldiers of the Army of Northern Virginia solidified their place in history. Their comradeship, unwavering dedication, and bravery continue to inspire and be studied by military strategists to this day.

The Army of Northern Virginia's journey from the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg is a testament to the sacrifices made and the impact of those battles on the course of the Civil War. It serves as a reminder of the human cost of war and the transformative power of great leadership.

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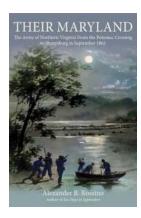
The Army of Northern Virginia's campaign from the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg remains a captivating tale of bravery, resilience, and tactical prowess. General Robert E. Lee's leadership and the unwavering dedication of his troops played a significant role in shaping the outcome of the American Civil War.

Witnessing the Army of Northern Virginia cross the Potomac River, secure victories, and engage in the historic Battle of Antietam is like peering into a defining moment in American history. It is a reminder of the sacrifices made and the profound impact that war has on shaping nations.

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Most students of the Civil War believe the story of Robert E. Lee's 1862 Maryland Campaign is complete, and that new studies must rely on interpretations long-since accepted and understood. But what if this is not the case? What if the histories previously written about the first major Confederate operation north of the Potomac River missed key sources, proceeded from mistaken readings of the evidence, or were influenced by Lost Cause ideology?

As Alexander B. Rossino, author of the acclaimed Six Days in September, demonstrates in Their Maryland: The Army of Northern Virginia from the Potomac Crossing to Sharpsburg in September 1862, these types of distortions continue to shape modern understanding of the campaign.

Rossino reassesses the history of the Confederate operation in seven comprehensive chapters, each tackling a specific major issue:

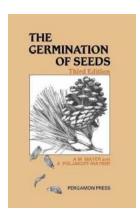
- Rebel Revolutionary: Did Robert E. Lee Hope to Foment Rebellion in Maryland in September 1862?
- High Hope for Liberating Maryland: The Army of Northern Virginia Crosses the Potomac River, September 4–7, 1862;
- Four Days on the Monocacy: Confederate Encampments Near Frederick City

and the Implications for the Lost Orders Debate;

- Dreams Dashed on the Rocks of Reality: The Army of Northern Virginia's Mixed Reception in Maryland;
- Rebels Photographed in Frederick, Maryland: The Case for September 1862;
- The Army of Northern Virginia Makes a Stand: A Critical Assessment of Robert E. Lee's Defensive Strategy at Sharpsburg on September 15–16, 1862;
- A Very Personal Fight: The Role of Robert E. Lee on the Field at Sharpsburg, September 17, 1862.

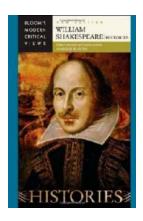
Rossino addresses many important issues: Did supply problems in Virginia force Lee north to press the advantage he had won after the Battle of Second Manassas? What did Rebel troops believe about the strength of secessionist sentiment in Maryland, and why? Did the entire Army of Northern Virginia really camp at Best's Farm near Frederick, Maryland? Did D. H. Hill lose Special Orders No. 191, or is there more to the story? How did Maryland civilians respond to the Rebel army in their midst, and what part did women play? Finally, why did Robert E. Lee choose to fight at Sharpsburg, and how personally was he involved in directing the fighting?

Rossino makes extensive use of primary sources to explore these and other important questions. In doing so, he reveals that many long-held assumptions about the Confederate experience in Maryland do not hold up under close scrutiny. The result is a well-documented reassessment that sheds new light on old subjects and reinvigorates the debate on several fronts.



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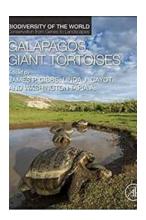
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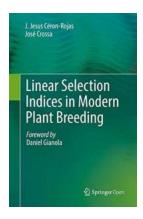
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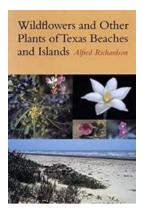
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