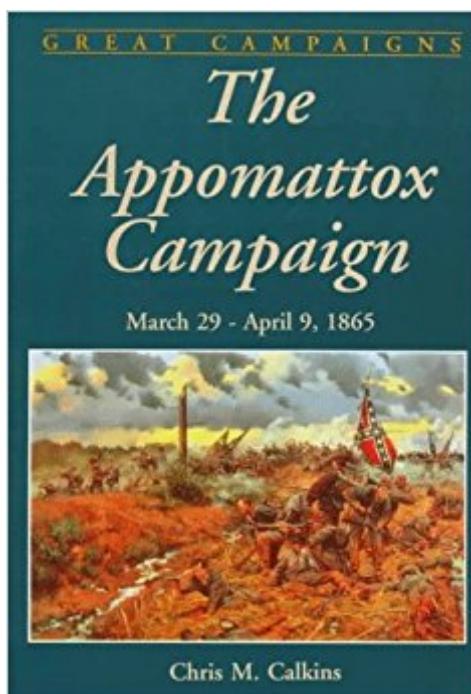


The book was found

The Appomattox Campaign: March 29-april 9, 1865 (Great Campaigns Series)



Synopsis

Previous accounts of the Civil War's last major campaign have often neglected the actual maneuvers and tactics of the units involved. This new addition to the Great Campaigns series features a tactical approach to the final drama of the Civil War. Innovative maps, sidebars and charts complement a dramatic narrative. The fall of Petersburg and Richmond, the last battles at Five Forks, Sailor's Creek, and Dinwiddie Court House, and the final surrender at Appomattox are all described by an author whose knowledge of the historical sources is equaled by his familiarity with the area over which the armies marched and fought. The author provides a day-to-day narrative of this fascinating campaign, with a series of specially commissioned maps that make clear the complex series of maneuvers that finally brought Lee's beleaguered army to bay. Special sidebars highlight many incidents and personalities of the campaign, including never-before-published information on African-Americans in Confederate service. Record-keeping, especially for the Confederates, was difficult in the last hectic days of the war, and readers will find here the most complete order of battle available for both sides.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Chris M. Calkins has spent many years studying the Petersburg and Appomattox battlefields. He played a significant role in the preservation of the Five Forks and Sailor's Creek battlefields. His numerous articles and books on the Civil War include *Thirty-Six Hours Before Appomattox* and *The Battle of Five Forks*. He is regarded by many specialists as having an unsurpassed knowledge

of the last Civil War campaign in Virginia.

Wanting more than a condensed retelling of the last two weeks of the Civil War, I purchased this excellent narrative. Easy-to-follow maps. Recommended.

Too general for someone that had driven and walked Lee's retreat a number of times. Poor maps

This is a great book with many insights into a pivotal time of the Civil War. The humane way the prisoners and defeated army were treated was amazing. It makes you hope that some civility could return to events today.

I wish I had paid closer attention to the fact that this work is part of a "Campaign Studies" series; as such, its attention to tactical detail is quite strong, but I found it weak in terms of the human interest element I look for in Civil War histories. Hardly the author's fault, as I'm sure this meets the demands of those readers looking for a more schematic view of the battles in Virginia prior to the surrender of Lee's army. Still, this may strike other readers as "dry as the hills of Gilboa."

This "book" came to me in excellent condition. It was listed "like new" and was as good as off the book store shelf! Very happy with the condition, supplier and the content. Interesting read for any Civil War buff.

Long before I learned of this book, I read everything I could on the Appomattox campaign. There has been so much written, and reading it all was exhausting and, at times discouraging, because it was all so general or technical, and in my otherwise fertile imagination I couldn't develop clear images of what exactly was happening where in mid-April 1865. When I came across Chris Calkins' book (no big deal at the time), I gradually became impressed. I remember saying to myself, "This guy really knows." I read it and re-read it. I must say, however, what and where at Appomattox Courthouse was still not entirely clear, so there was no alternative: Wendy and I flew to Virginia. I brought the book with me to review on the plane. We rented a car and drove the back roads from Richmond to Sailor's Creek, following the nondescript route of the former armies. Along the way I was impressed that, from my perspective, so little had changed in nearly 150 years (in fact, at one point I got lost out in the middle of nowhere) and the war might as well have been fought 30 years ago. My plan was to see it all, then somehow correspond with this Chris Calkins, if possible, in order to answer

lingering questions. After walking the Sailor's Creek battlefield alone in the rain (appropriately) while wife Wendy waited in the car by the old farm house, we drove down across the creek and up to the park station to talk with someone, perhaps buy something relevant in the gift shop. While talking with a uniformed attendant behind the sales counter, I overheard another attendant mention to my wife something about "Mr. Calkins." I tuned out the young lady speaking to me, and listened to the adjacent conversation. He was there! Chris Calkins was there! In the back office! Opportunity had just knocked. I went back and spoke with him, peppering him with questions for about a half hour, and it became apparent that the Appomattox campaign was his life. He'd been all over the battlefields (sometimes with metal detectors), knew every inch, knew every major actor in the drama, and knew a lot about who had subsequently written what, what was true and what was "horse puckey." A lot of what has been written about the Civil War falls under the latter heading. I went out to the car, got my book, had him autograph it, bought another Calkins book he recommended (The Battles of Appomattox Station and Appomattox Courthouse April 8-9, 1865) to complement The Appomattox Campaign, and have subsequently bought a third Calkins book (The Final Bivouac - out of print but available through the good people at). All have been excellent. There are thousands (at least) of books on the Civil War, and thousands of times Appomattox is discussed. Bottom line: For Chris Calkins, this isn't just another elaborate academic exercise. Chris Calkins has devoted his professional life to the Appomattox campaign. "This guy really knows." Carl Munson

This book is a well written and detailed account of the final days of the Civil War. It examines the battles that took place as the Union army pursued Lee's army from Petersburg to Appomattox in the final week of the war. As a Civil War Buff, I enjoyed it.

This is an excellent read, no art of words, just straight to the point facts and how the two armies arrived at the moment in Appomattox at McLean's house. A must read for any Civil War enthusiast.

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