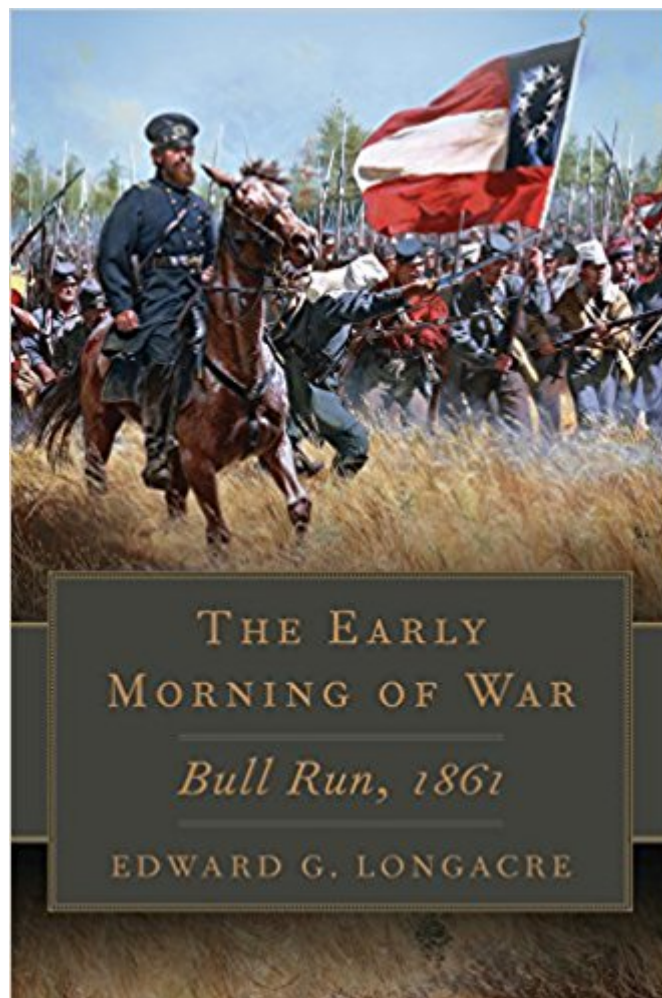




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The Early Morning Of War: Bull Run, 1861 (Campaigns And Commanders Series)



Synopsis

When Union and Confederate forces squared off along Bull Run on July 21, 1861, the Federals expected this first major military campaign would bring an early end to the Civil War. But when Confederate troops launched a strong counterattack, both sides realized the war would be longer and costlier than anticipated. First Bull Run, or First Manassas, set the stage for four years of bloody conflict that forever changed the political, social, and economic fabric of the nation. It also introduced the commanders, tactics, and weaponry that would define the American way of war through the turn of the twentieth century. This crucial campaign receives its most complete and comprehensive treatment in Edward G. Longacre's *The Early Morning of War*. A magisterial work by a veteran historian, *The Early Morning of War* blends narrative and analysis to convey the full scope of the campaign of First Bull Run—its drama and suspense as well as its practical and tactical underpinnings and ramifications. Also woven throughout are biographical sketches detailing the backgrounds and personalities of the leading commanders and other actors in the unfolding conflict. Longacre has combed previously unpublished primary sources, including correspondence, diaries, and memoirs of more than four hundred participants and observers, from ranking commanders to common soldiers and civilians affected by the fighting. In weighing all the evidence, Longacre finds correctives to long-held theories about campaign strategy and battle tactics and questions sacrosanct beliefs—such as whether the Manassas Gap Railroad was essential to the Confederate victory. Longacre shears away the myths and persuasively examines the long-term repercussions of the Union's defeat at Bull Run, while analyzing whether the Confederates really had a chance of ending the war in July 1861 by seizing Washington, D.C. Brilliant moves, avoidable blunders, accidents, historical forces, personal foibles: all are within Longacre's compass in this deftly written work that is sure to become the standard history of the first, critical campaign of the Civil War.

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Customer Reviews

In this book, Edward Longacre has applied his considerable skills as a biographer to a vivid piece of American history, injecting humanity and fresh insight to the story of the Civil War's first major battle. Practicing the lost art of personification and characterization with both flourish and wisdom, Longacre makes the players in this immense drama live anew. "John Hennessy, author of *Return to Bull Run: The Campaign and Battle of Second Manassas*"Extensively researched and full of fresh insights and information, Edward G. Longacre's finely crafted *Early Morning of War* offers a remarkably thorough, highly readable account of the men and events that shaped the course of the first great campaign of the American Civil War." "Ethan S. Rafuse, author of *McClellan's War: The Failure of Moderation in the Struggle for the Union* and *Manassas: A Battlefield Guide*

Edward G. Longacre is a retired U.S. Department of Defense Historian and the author of numerous articles and books on the Civil War and U.S. military history, including *The Cavalry at Gettysburg*, winner of the Fletcher Pratt Award, and *Gentleman and Soldier: A Biography of Wade Hampton III*, recipient of the Douglas Southall Freeman History Award.

Edward Longacre has written the definitive work of the campaign of Bull Run (First Manassas). While the tome is 500 pages (complete with an extensive bibliography), there is not a sentence that could have been aborted. The author gives us extensive information on the major players. I knew nothing of the Union commander Patterson, whose designs were to keep Joseph Johnston in the Shenandoah and away from Manassas. This was a timid and confused man who marched and countermarched and was totally ineffective. P.G.T. Beauregard commanded rebel forces in the field. He had grand visions of complicated moves on a Napoleonic scale that were useless for a piecemeal army green as peas. We are introduced to Longstreet, Jackson, Sherman, Howard, Hampton, a stubborn and intoxicated Confederate named Nathan Evans and a whole host of other

players. The battle itself was an intense conflict and the outcome hung by a thread, but it mostly centered on Henry Hill where it was attack and counter attack. You pity both sides trying to move through briars, woods, ravines, all under a blistering hot July sun in Virginia. Both sides of the conflict put national pride above all else and as one chapter describes it was green versus green. The author did a masterful job of enumerating what units went in and where and the result. It was a very complicated action, but Longacre sorts it out admirably. Toward the last action of the day, McDowell decided on an artillery charge from the units of Ricketts and Griffin. I have never heard of such a thing. The result was predictable, but even McDowell (just previously a major instead of a general) admitted he had never come close to commanding 30,000 men. It showed. There are several maps that will help you along the way. The first few are half page, and with this area being eight miles in length, it required the use of a magnifying glass, but later in the book, the author used full page maps which helped greatly. The author also writes without bias. There is no Jackson worship here, but there are poignant examples of several brave young men trying to get through one day alive with all limbs.

As a Civil War enthusiast, I found this book compelling, and resourceful. I lived near the Manassas Battlefield for 4 years, and loved exploring the history of the first battle of the CW. Longacre did the research, and it's impeccable. Worth the read.

As always Edward Longacre shows not only the depth of his subject knowledge but his ability to convey this to the reader in an informative manner.

A must read.

excellent

Great book for Civil War buff!

Great

Haven't had time to read it yet myself but my friend has and he says it is excellent.

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