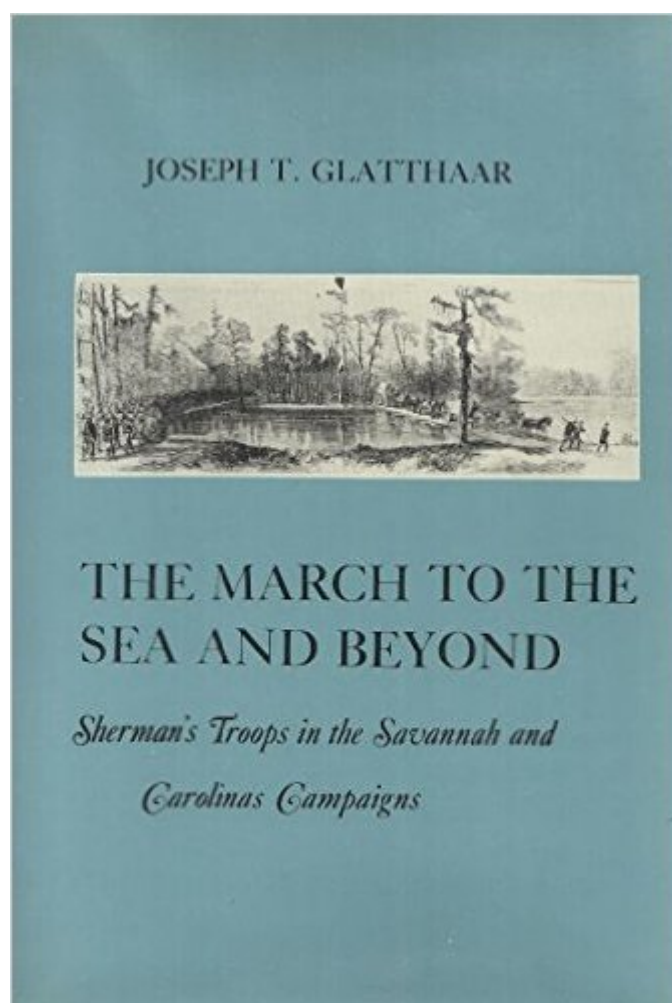


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The March To The Sea And Beyond: Sherman's Troops In The Savannah And Carolinas Campaigns (American Social Experience Series, Volume 1)



Synopsis

In November, 1864, Major General William Tecumseh Sherman led an army of veteran Union troops through the heart of the Confederacy, leaving behind a path of destruction in an area that had known little of the hardships of war, devastating the morale of soldiers and civilians alike, and hastening the end of the war. In this intensively researched and carefully detailed study, chosen by Civil War Magazine as one of the best one hundred books ever written about the Civil War, Joseph T. Glatthaar examines the Savannah and Carolinas Campaigns from the perspective of the common soldiers in Sherman's army, seeking, above all, to understand why they did what they did. Glatthaar graphically describes the duties and deprivations of the march, the boredom and frustration of camp life, and the utter confusion and pure chance of battle. Quoting heavily from the letters and diaries of Sherman's men, he reveals the fears, motivations, and aspirations of the Union soldiers and explores their attitudes toward their comrades, toward blacks and southern whites, and toward the war, its destruction, and the forthcoming reconstruction. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is not the traditional campaign book. Most books written on Sherman's Savannah and Carolina Campaigns provide the backgrounds of key military leaders on both sides, discuss the politics, follow the Union army's movements, outline Union and Southern strategies and tactics, and cover notable events, including battles and other engagements. While touching upon those topics, this work instead complements those books for readers interested in a deeper understanding

of those campaigns from the Union soldier's perspective. This book focuses on who these soldiers were, their experiences, and how they saw things. Much of the story is told through the words of Union soldiers, with additional observations from civilians and Confederate soldiers they encountered along their marches. Their stories are gleaned from personal journals, letters, manuscripts, memoirs, regimental histories, and other sources. Individual chapters include: organization and makeup of Sherman's Army (1) (including notable aspects of the senior commanders), soldiers' experiences and feelings concerning the Cause (2) Blacks (3) Southern Whites (4), Camp Life (5), The March (6), Foraging (7), Destruction and Pillaging (8), Battle (9), and The War's End (10). Appendices provide statistical information on the demographics of the soldiers. To get a sense of this book, I've included a sampling of what it includes: THE ARMY--By the time of the campaigns, Sherman's army was a well-oiled machine of confident and battle-hardened veterans. Most officers through the ranks had proven abilities, with poor performers and most trouble-makers long gone.--There were key differences between the army and the Army of the Potomac in the east.

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