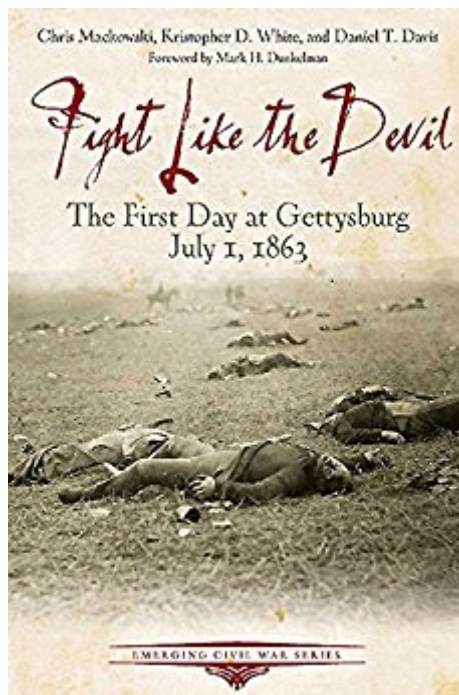




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Fight Like The Devil: The First Day At Gettysburg, July 1, 1863 (Emerging Civil War Series)



Synopsis

Do not bring on a general engagement, Confederate General Robert E. Lee warned his commanders. The Army of Northern Virginia, slicing its way through south-central Pennsylvania, was too spread out, too vulnerable, for a full-scale engagement with its old nemesis, the Army of the Potomac. Too much was riding on this latest Confederate invasion of the North. Too much was at stake. As Confederate forces groped their way through the mountain passes, a chance encounter with Federal cavalry on the outskirts of a small Pennsylvania crossroads town triggered a series of events that quickly escalated beyond Lee's or anyone's control. Waves of soldiers materialized on both sides in a constantly shifting jigsaw of combat. "You will have to fight like the devil . . .," one Union cavalryman predicted. The costliest battle in the history of the North American continent had begun. July 1, 1863 remains the most overlooked phase of the battle of Gettysburg, yet it set the stage for all the fateful events that followed. Bringing decades of familiarity to the discussion, historians Chris Mackowski and Daniel T. Davis, in their always-engaging style, recount the action of that first day of battle and explore the profound implications in *Fight Like the Devil*.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

An odd little book. But also an attractive volume.. In a sense, it is like two books in one--a somewhat brief but still solid description and analysis of the first day at Gettysburg and a guide to the battlefield. An odd coupling, but--I think--it works.As a history, it tells the story well. Others provide more detail, but this does a good job. We read of the preliminaries to the battle, including Meade taking over the Army of the Potomac from Joseph Hooker, the movement of the Confederate Army on multiple fronts, Meade's efforts to unite the northern forces. There is a nice description of General John Buford's arrival in Gettysburg and his energetic and effective performance as a leader of the cavalry working to hold back a Confederate advance on the town until infantry arrives to provide support. And on it goes--Reynolds' arrival on the battlefield, the gathering of Confederate forces. A fight that no one had anticipated or prepared for in this place. Each chapter explores an element of the battle--followed by directions to see relevant sites during the engagement described. One very interesting aspect of this book is a series of appendices. Issues addressed include: Was John Reynolds overrated as a general? Where was Jeb Stuart during the battle? The story of a soldier--Amos Humiston. What was the role of shoes in terms of the battle? There is also an order of battle for the first day. All in all, a nice little volume. This is not for those who want a detailed, blow-by-blow of the battle, but it fills a nice niche. . .

Have only scanned and already find it a great addition to my Gettysburg library. Have already found new things to seek on my next visit to the battlefield.

The book is very helpful in relating the story. I found it somewhat irritating that Chris is a journalism professor yet there are more than a few errors in grammar or dates incorrect that an editor should have corrected. Probably not Chris's fault.

Written as a Gettysburg driving guide, but is worth the read if not at Gettysburg.

This little book gives an excellent review of the events of the first day at Gettysburg and can be used as a guide book. I'm taking it with us on our next trip to Gettysburg NMP

If you're planning to tour the scene of the fighting on the first day at Gettysburg, you should read this

book before you go and have it with you as you tour the battlefield. Very good!

Fabulous , fills in many of the details that were omitted over the many years as well as more any of the made on the battle field

Nice read that left me hungry for more. Good books almost always leave you feeling cheated in the very best way

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