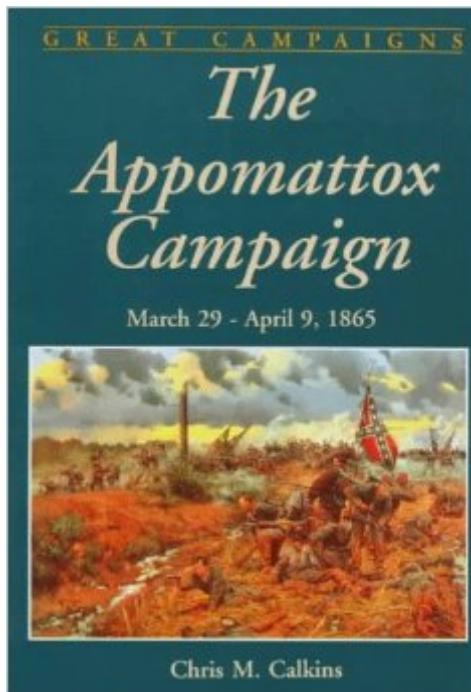


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The Appomattox Campaign: March 29-april 9, 1865 (Great Campaigns Series)



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

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!

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