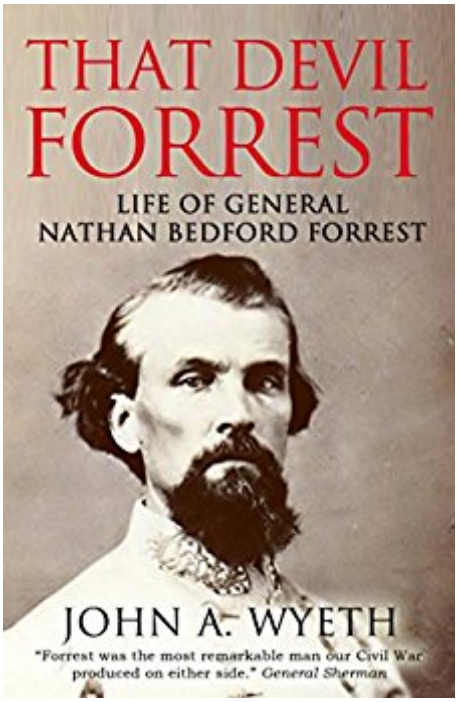
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That Devil Forrest: Life Of General Nathan Bedford Forrest



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Synopsis

Ã¢â ¬Å“Ã¢â ¬ËœThat devil ForrestÃ¢â ¬â„¢ was at his heels again, and once more the crackling rifles of his rear-guard and their relentless pursuers came ringing through the wood.Ã¢â ¬Â•Nathan Bedford Forrest was one of twelve children, born to a poor blacksmith and his wife in Bedford County, Tennessee.Yet, despite these humble origins he would go on to become one of the most innovative cavalry leaders America has ever seen.His enemies respected him and his Southern compatriots admired him. Both General Johnston and General Sherman agreed that he was Ã¢â ¬Å“the most remarkable man our Civil War produced on either side.Ã¢â ¬Â• While Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee, in their postwar memoirs, stated that the tide of the war might have been changed had the Confederate high command better used ForrestÃ¢â ¬â„¢s talents.John A. WyethÃ¢â ¬â„¢s brilliant biography of Forrest fully captures this fascinating general and his actions throughout the war.From his brilliant campaigns at Fort Donelson, Shiloh and BriceÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Crossroads to his more controversial moments, for example at the Battle of Fort Pillow where many Union prisoners were slaughtered, Wyeth examines every part of ForrestÃ¢â ¬â„¢s career in precise detail.Ã¢â ¬Å“This biography, like its subject, has few peers.Ã¢â ¬Â• New York Times Book ReviewÃ¢â ¬Å“Dr. WyethÃ¢â ¬â„¢s style is attractive, and his narrative, notwithstanding the amplitude of detail and incident, is extremely clear. He tells the story well, and vividly paints the scenes of his heroÃ¢â ¬â„¢s campaigns; and Forrest stands out from the canvas, audacious and energetic, yet vigilant and cautious; vehement but clear-sighted and prescient, the incarnation of dauntless, sagacious, indomitable leadership.Ã¢â ¬Â• The American Historical ReviewJohn Allan Wyeth fought in the American Civil War for the Confederacy before becoming a well-respected surgeon in New York. Wyeth wrote innovative and widely used medical texts that introduced illustrations in color as well as a memoir, With Sabre and Scalpel: The Autobiography of a Soldier and Surgeon; an acclaimed biography, That Devil Forrest: Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest, and many magazine articles. This book was first published as Life of General Nathan Bedford Forrest in 1908. Wyeth died in 1922.

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Customer Reviews

A semi-worshipful account of the history of one of the most successful leaders in the Civil War, written by an officer who served closely under him. The research done by the author is incredibly detailed, as he tracked down just about everyone Forrest ever fought with or against. It’s a good thing the guys in Richmond never really turned him loose, or the North may have lost the War! He was an original, daring, some would even say reckless, and imaginative in a way the highly-trained officers against whom he fought never could figure out.Yes, he earned part of his fortune as a slave trader, but he would never separate families, and if he bought a married slave, he always sought out and bought the other members of the family. He would never break up a family, either. Given the conditions of the time, it says a lot for him that slaves considered it a privilege and an honor to be owned by him because of his humane treatment.Truly an interesting man! He had 28 horses shot out from under him, and was wounded many times in just about every part of his body, but he fought on. His brigade was the last Confederate unit to end the war, but they never really surrendered ...

Any consideration N B Forrest requires one to think like a citizen of Tennessee in the 1860s--an impossible task! Clearly, a great military figure, blending initiative with bravery; clearly, a product of his times--racist and anti-federal.The author is an admirer of Forrest and is quick to defend his actions at Ft. Pillow and association with KKK. The author, too, is a product of his time.One questions Ft. Pillow and his treatment of his inferiors, but is left with no doubt as to his significant

military actions. N B Forrest is a remarkable confederate general we must admire and dislike.As one who’s roots are southern Tennessee and Georgia with patriarchs who fought in "the lost cause" and later in WWI and WWII--I’ve seen my ancestors move from "Live and Die in Dixie" to "I have a dream" in my lifetime.Judge not the hearts of our ancestors; we fail to factor in the force behind culture.

THE AUTHOR, UNLIKE MOST CIVIL WAR AUTH0RS, CAN TRUTHFULLY SAY, "BEEN THERE, DONE THAT". HE WAS A CONFEDERATE SOLDIER AND HAS WRITTEN AN EXCELLENT BIOGRAPHY OF FORREST. HE HAS THE SAME QUALITY YOU FIND IN MAX HASTINGS, SHELBY FOOTE AND AND STEVEN AMBROSE. HE TELLS IT LIKE IT WAS. NO FRILLS, NO HOT AIR, JUST FACTS AND A TRUE PICTURE OF THE WAR AND OF THE MAJOR PARTICIPANTS.

A little long winded and real detailed accounts by the Author, but still a interesting read for those interested in the Civil War and Forrest. Forrest was one or the most interesting Generals involved in the war. He had no military training but was able to out wit and defeat military leaders with years of training and time in the military. For those of us in the areas where some of this action took place there will be a special interest in the battles that were fought.

I could not put this book down. General Forrest was in mine, the greatest General in the Civil war.His leadership and foresight in battle is unmatched by any General in any war. This book is the bestOf all written about the General. The book moves from one battle to the next as General Forrest did.

Members of my family rode with Forrest that were from Texas! Forrest is/was the greatest general to ever live! Without formal training or education he rose to the rank of Lt General. Many lies were spread about him by men of the North that were embarrassed by him in combat! Others who fought against him came to respect him & became good friends!Awesome book!

One of best two books on Forrest written by eye witness account who rode with the General.

Outstanding history of this controversial instinctive warrior. His ingenuity in moving large formations across seemingly impossible terrain is impressive. The comments of several observers that he

would have been even a more effective general if he had had proper military training is open to dispute. Perhaps because he was not bound by doctrine and the acts of others, his imagination had greater latitude and he settled upon unexpected courses of action that baffled his opponents. Discussions of the impact of heat casualties, the complexities of maintaining mounted forces, and the use of terrain are all enlightening because of the paucity of attention to these subjects in more modern Civil War studies. A truly enjoyable and informative read, but one that should be undertaken with a map at hand.Ã Â Conflicting Loyalties (Navy Gray Book 1)

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