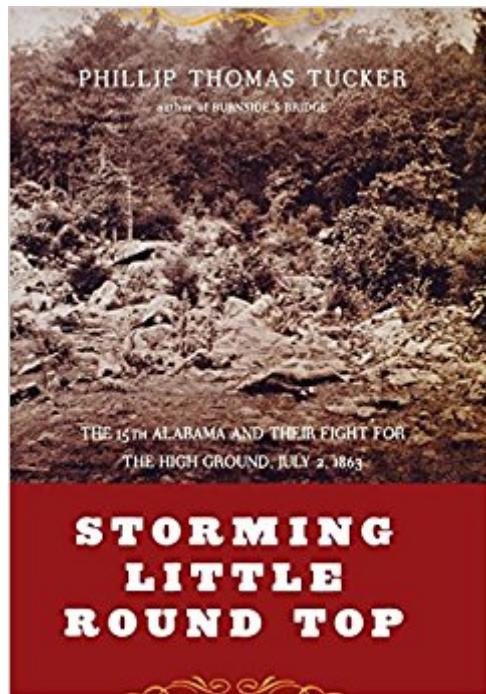


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Storming Little Round Top: The 15th Alabama And Their Fight For The High Ground, July 2, 1863



Synopsis

The fight for Little Round Top on July 2, 1863, is forever etched in the annals of America's Civil War. The heroic defense of the high ground by Joshua Chamberlain and the men of the 20th Maine is one of the most famous incidents in American history, made more so by its powerful depiction in the film *Gettysburg*. There are numerous written accounts of the Union defenders on Little Round Top but considerably less has been written up to now about the Confederate attackers who charged up the hill and faced an even more desperate challenge than those who defended it. Unique and colorful, this new study brings to life the men and officers of the 15th Alabama who gathered that day to assault the Union flank. The lively narration of this dramatic engagement is both detailed and authoritative. Veteran Civil War author Phillip Tucker colorfully evokes the men and the times from descriptions of the Alabamans' Chattahoochee River valley home to sketches of the lives and personalities of William C. Oates and other key members of the regiment.

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Customer Reviews

I had originally placed this order almost a year ago with much anticipation. After the publishing was delayed for months I had forgotten I even had it on back order. Well, I finally got my copy and I must say that it is a big disappointment. To begin with, there are exactly two illustrations: one map and one seriously degraded photo of Col Oates. Unless you have the memory of an elephant it is very hard to get detail on timelines and troop movements/placements on text alone. This, to me, was perhaps the biggest disappointment. Another area of concern is the, at times, seemingly lack of real

research. One example of this is the claim made by the author that the hill, thus the entire battle, could have been won if the 15th ALA had had support, etc. He failed to explain where these units were supposed to come from, neglected to mention that by the time the 15th ALA had run out of steam there wasn't enough daylight left to mount another assault, any supports would have to come from over a mile away under fire, and he doesn't offer any gameplan as to how the Confederates were supposed to hold the hill once it was taken (given the fact that there were 1000s of Union troops within double quick distance). I don't mean to nitpick on one aspect but the entire book is written this way. I was looking for a book that was going to finally explain the Confederate point of view in detail, with battle maps to accompany the text. But this reads more like a guy who is trying to defend his family's honor after someone hurled a staining insult at them. I agree that the Conf side of this legendary struggle has not been represented in enough detail and scope. I still feel that way. Bottom line-the premise is a great idea; don't waste your money.

That a book purporting to be a detailed, comprehensive tactical study offers only one map pretty well reflects the carelessness, and lack of respect for the reader, with which this book apparently was produced. I've written thirteen books on the Civil War and Indian Wars myself, and I understand the importance of good maps. The prose also is sloppy, and the author repeats the same absurd premise - that a few more men in the ranks of one regiment might have changed the course of Gettysburg, and thus of the Civil War - so many times that one feels tempted to toss the book across the room. An absolute disgrace to the field of military history.

I totally agree with [a negative reviewer]. I was very disappointed after waiting so long for the release. The author constantly repeated things, trying to make the book longer. Plus Tucker seems to have a grudge against Joshua Chamberlain. In the last chapter he makes it sound like Chamberlain had nothing to do with the battle and lied about his contribution afterwards. He provides no maps to prove his "research". He also states the 15th Alabama retired up Big Round Top after the battle. But wasn't Big Round Top in Union hands after the 2nd day? There's many things I didn't like about this book.

The author, who did a good job with Burnside's Bridge, repeats himself over and over ad naseum and fails to include maps or drawings to illustrate what he is describing. His main premise is, that had the 15th Alabama been fully complemented with men and had it been supported by another regiment, Gettysburg would have been a Confederate victory. That is preposterous, considering the

number of reinforcements the Union had. Oates and his men deserve a lot of credit for their valor but so do the Union troops who put up one hell of a battle from prepared defensive positions. The author is capable of writing a much better product and must have been in a hurry to churn another book out.

Published nearly a dozen years ago, this is the first book to present a much-needed and long-overdue corrective to the popularized and romantic version of the struggle for Little Round Top on the afternoon of July 2, 1863. The author, a career Department of Defense historian and PhD, has presented a refreshing and balanced work that vividly tells the dramatic story of the most famous small unit action of the Civil War, while also successfully challenging the excessive hype and mythology that has created a saint of Joshua Chamberlain, who has been elevated to cult-like status by first Maine historians, then popular novels, and then films to reign over the Mount Olympus of Civil War heroes and Gods. This book is myth-busting at its very best, bringing a sense of reality to the story of the fierce struggle for the possession of Little Round Top.

In *Storming Little Round Top*, Phillip Thomas Tucker presents a highly readable, interesting and informative account of Confederate actions on the slopes of a hotly contested section of the Gettysburg battlefield. He skillfully outlines the desperate and heroic fighting between Union forces and Colonel William C. Oates and the 15th Alabama Regiment. Dr. Tucker clearly details the various actions, maneuvers and results of Confederate thrusts and repulses by the 20th Maine Regiment under Joshua Chamberlain. Anyone wishing to understand and appreciate the desperate combat on Little Round Top needs to read this book. It is both an informative and captivating read. Phillip Thomas Tucker has paid a very fine tribute to all combatants in this action while providing a fascinating read. A story not to be missed. This title is a must for any student of the Battle of Gettysburg.

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