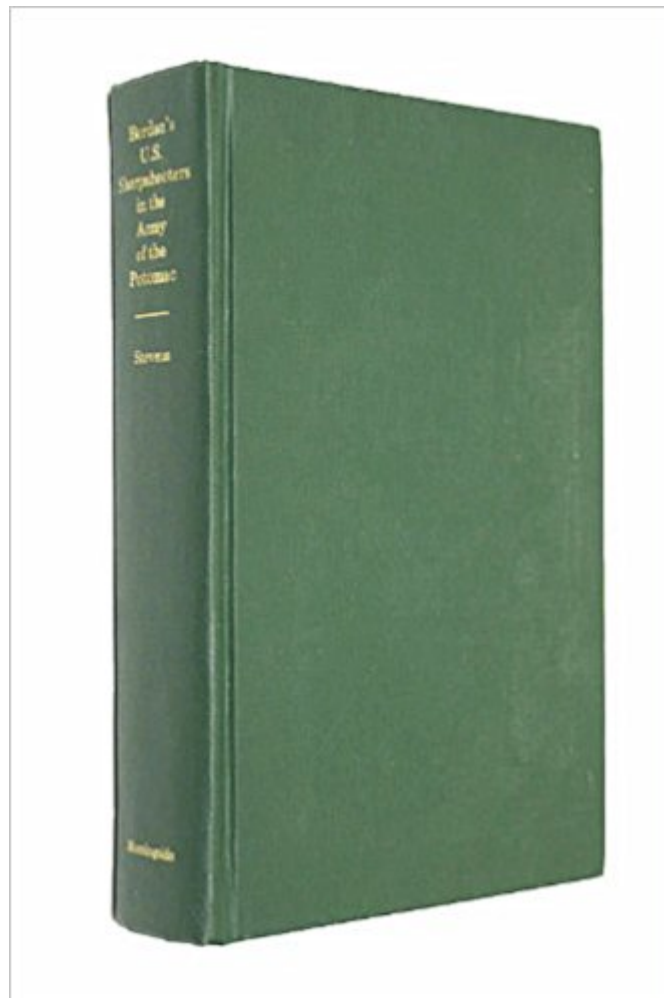




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Berdan's United States Sharpshooters In The Army Of The Potomac, 1861-1865



Book Information

Hardcover: 555 pages

Publisher: Press of Morningside Bookshop; Facsimile reprint edition (1972)

Language: English

ASIN: B0006W6TKM

Average Customer Review: 3.6 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,162,920 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #107 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Regimental Histories](#) #11945 in [Books > History > Military > United States](#)

Customer Reviews

I'll qualify this by stating that I enjoy reading Regimental History's and veteran's accounts - which may or may not be a sign of a personal shortcoming. Such books hold a special place for me as in that one senses the veteran telling his story or the story of his military brothers for all generations. Regimental history readers know that as well as a treasure trove of first hand information, there is also always an occasional element of historical inaccuracy that sometimes creeps into any of these books. But that's why these books are to be used as a source for information and not as THE definitive end of story narrative. This book was written by Capt. C.A. Stevens - THE historian of Berdan's U.S. Sharpshooter's in 1892. It was republished by Morningside Books in the 1980's. It is a thick book (over 500 pages) and it includes an appendix with complete rosters of those that served with the men that wore green. As with any Civil War regimental history, there is an element of humor, camp stories, hardship and some exaggerations that creep into the recounting of the events. But when one realizes that this history is being written by a veteran to share the story of bravery and experiences that this proud regiment experienced throughout the Civil War (Berdan's men were with the Army of the Potomac from the Peninsula Campaign through Appomattox), it becomes a historical novel of sorts. Stevens writes in a way that emotes the feeling that he's sitting in a chair in the room telling a story. He recounts stories of individuals and his recollection of wartime conversations. He moves the reader from campaign to campaign, vignette to vignette. For battlefield stompers, it is useful to read his sections about the experiences of the Sharpshooter's at various stages or battles and then go to the actual site and walk the ground that they trod. That is not hard to do since Berdan's men were involved in approximately 65 engagements. For sure this book is not for everyone - especially those that want the macro-view of every battle. However, it is a good read for those that desire to know some of the soldier's stories and personal perspectives from

that era.

This is a very choppy, dry account of Berdan's sharpshooters. While some first hand accounts are included somehow the author manages to achieve more of a dry regimental history than a compelling first hand account of what should be a very unique Civil War era story.

A must read book for US sharpshooter enthusiasts and reenactors. The book is a first hand account of soldier's lives and the battles involving the Berdan's regiments. Nothing is more intriguing to me, than reading the words of one who was there.

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