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Lee's Lieutenants: A Study In Command, Vol. 3



Synopsis

Book by Douglas Southall Freeman

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Book by Douglas Southall Freeman

No one can beat Dr. Freeman in research. He devoted his life to researching Virginia history. If you want to know the subjects Dr. Freeman writes about- read his books and you will feel you have actually met the individuals he writes about, whether it's Geo. Washington, R.E. Lee, A.P. Hill, Jeb Stuart and Stonewall Jackson (just to name a few) you will come away knowing more about them as people- not just icons of history. If there was a fan club for Dr. Freeman's books, I would want to be a member. He is truly one of the greatest historians ever!

Volume Three of Douglas Southall Freeman's masterful "Lee's Lieutenants" begins with the fateful Battle of Brandy Station, at which Confederate Cavalry commander Jeb Stuart is surprised and embarrassed by his Union counterparts in a closely fought combat. The supposed stain on his honor would prompt the proud Stuart to exceed his orders during the Gettysburg campaign, leaving General Lee for days without good information about his Union opponents. Lee and the vaunted Army of Northern Virginia would stumble into a pitched and bloody three-day battle at Gettysburg; the South would never recover from its losses, especially in general officers. Freeman closely tracks

the last two years of the Civil War, as attrition of leadership forced Lee to reach deeper into the ranks for commanders. Some, such as John Gordon, shone as commanders. Some others were less than equal to the challenge. Worst of all, in Union General Grant, Lee faced an opponent prepared to fight to the death, that of the Army of Northern Virginia. The ending of the narrative has all the qualities of a tragedy, as Lee's army is bled nearly death at the Siege of Petersburg. Freeman tells the story with superb narrative skills, but wisely places his conclusions up front, lest they detract from the story of the road to Appomattox. His conclusions remain relevant to Civil Historians, while the narrative should continue to appeal to the general reader; highly recommended.

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