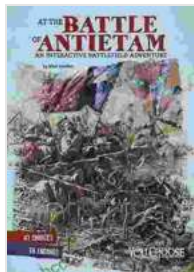


At the Battle of Antietam: A Thrilling History of One of the Bloodiest Battles in American History



At the Battle of Antietam: An Interactive Battlefield

Adventure (You Choose: American Battles) by Suzanne Slade

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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File size : 14390 KB
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Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 112 pages

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An to the Battle of Antietam

The Battle of Antietam, also known as the Battle of Sharpsburg, was one of the most pivotal and bloody conflicts of the American Civil War. Fought on September 17, 1862, in Maryland, near the town of Sharpsburg, it was the first major battle to take place on Union soil.

The battle pitted the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, led by General Robert E. Lee, against the Union Army of the Potomac, commanded by General George B. McClellan. With over 23,000 casualties, Antietam remains one of the deadliest single-day battles in American history.

Antecedents and Causes

The battle stemmed from Lee's invasion of Maryland in September 1862. After his victories at Second Bull Run and Chantilly, Lee aimed to capture the Union capital of Washington, D.C. However, McClellan intercepted Lee's plans and engaged him in battle at Antietam.

The Union army had a significant numerical advantage, with approximately 87,000 troops to Lee's 52,000. McClellan's plan was to divide his army into three columns and attack Lee's forces from multiple directions.

The Course of the Battle

The battle began at dawn on September 17th. The Confederate forces were initially positioned along Antietam Creek, with their flanks protected by the Potomac River on one side and the Cornfield and Dunker Church on the other.



Burnside's Bridge, a crucial crossing point that became the scene of intense fighting.

The Union army launched its attacks in the morning, with General Ambrose Burnside's IX Corps tasked with capturing a stone bridge over Antietam Creek. Burnside's troops faced heavy resistance from Confederate forces, and the fighting at the bridge became known as "Bloody Lane."

Other Union columns also encountered fierce opposition from the Confederates. By midday, the battle was raging across a wide front, with heavy casualties on both sides.

Confederate Retreat



As nightfall approached, Lee's forces were exhausted and running low on ammunition. Realizing that he could not hold his position, Lee Free Downloaded a retreat across the Potomac River.

McClellan's army did not pursue Lee's retreating forces, a decision that has been criticized by some historians. However, the battle of Antietam had effectively ended Lee's invasion of the North.

Aftermath and Significance

The Battle of Antietam had a profound impact on the course of the American Civil War. Although it did not result in a Union victory, it provided

President Abraham Lincoln with the opportunity to issue the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared the freedom of slaves in Confederate-held territory.

Antietam also convinced European powers, such as Britain and France, not to intervene in the war on the side of the Confederacy. The battle's outcome strengthened the Union cause and helped to turn the tide of the war in favor of the North.

The Legacy of Antietam



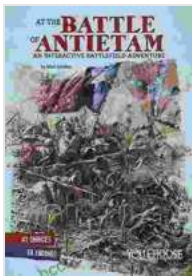
The Antietam National Cemetery, a solemn reminder of the sacrifices made during the battle.

Today, the Antietam National Battlefield is a national park and a popular destination for tourists and history enthusiasts. The battlefield has been meticulously preserved, and visitors can walk among the fields and woods where the battle took place.

The legacy of the Battle of Antietam is one of sacrifice, heroism, and the enduring struggle for freedom. It is a battle that continues to fascinate and inspire generations.

The Battle of Antietam was a pivotal moment in American history. It was a battle that tested the limits of human endurance and forged the nation's destiny. The memory of Antietam serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by those who fought for the cause of freedom.

For anyone interested in the American Civil War or the history of the United States, "At the Battle of Antietam" is an essential read. It is a book that will transport you back in time and allow you to experience the drama and tragedy of one of America's most important battles.



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