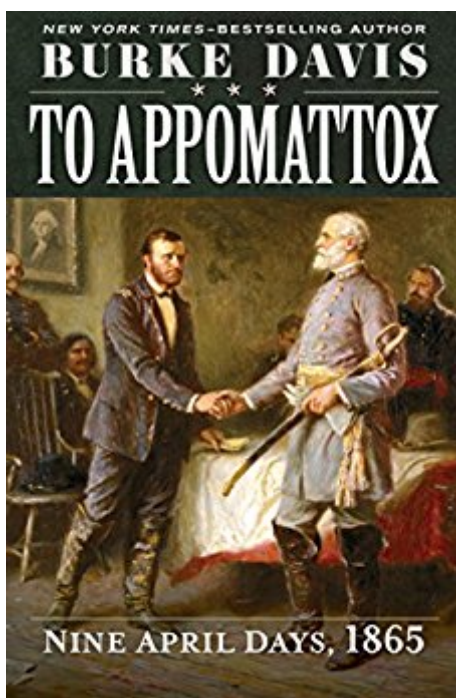


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To Appomattox: Nine April Days, 1865



Synopsis

A gripping account of the last nine days of the Civil War from the New York Timesâ bestselling author of Shermanâs March. After four long years of fighting, the Army of Northern Virginia was irreparably broken in April 1865, despite the military brilliance of its commander, Gen. Robert E. Lee. Acclaimed author Burke Davis recounts the last days leading up to Leeâs surrender to Union army commander Ulysses S. Grant in this riveting and uniquely revealing journey down the final road to Appomattox Court House. Beginning his remarkable saga during the decisive Siege of Petersburg, Davis chronicles the last days of the War between the States in intimate and unforgettable detail. Drawing on a wide array of voicesâfrom frontline soldiers and battlefield commanders to presidents Abraham Lincoln and Jefferson Davis to regular citizens in the North and the SouthâTo Appomattox vividly captures the human stories behind one of the most enthralling chapters in American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"To Appomattox: Nine April Days 1865" is well researched, well written, and a powerful and compelling read. Davis weaves historical narrative and first person recollections masterfully. The result is an insightful and even moving history of the last days of the Confederacy and Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. This book is recommended for students of the American Civil War, Generals Grant and Lee, and their armies.

We all know the conclusion to this story, but the book provides an interesting behind-the-scenes look at the command structure on both sides, coupled with individual soldiers experiences in the last few days of the war (in Virginia; it continued on for a few more weeks in other areas). It chronicles the movements of the different segments of each army and documents the overwhelming advantage that Grant had in logistics and supply for his army. The author also notes a factor not widely known that played into Lee's decision to surrender, i.e. that his army was experiencing a high number of desertions (mainly because it being The Army of Northern Virginia and they were in an area of Virginia from which many of his soldiers had volunteered a long 4 years previous, and many knew in their hearts that the war would soon be over and they just wanted to see their families). The author did mention a battle at nearby Saylor's Creek as more of a "footnote", but it was very significant because the Union victory there threatened the collapse of Lee's flank. One can only imagine how the Confederate troops felt when they were ordered into columns for their march into Appomattox Court House to stack their arms and surrender their battle flags, but the author did mention one very noble and magnanimous aspect of it: the Union's General Chamberlain (of Gettysburg and Little Round Top fame) and his troops had been selected to "receive" the Confederate surrender and lined the road on each side near the courthouse, and as the Confederate troops marched in, General Chamberlain ordered his troops to "present arms" as a salute to the courage of the defeated army. Overall, I think this book was a fairly accurate and balanced report of this final chapter of The Army of Northern Virginia.

You will not be disappointed in this play by play ending of the Civil War. Converse from both sides keep you alert as to what is next. I recommend this not only to history buffs but to anyone who would like to know more about America.

This is a fascinating story of the final days of The War Between the States. It tells of Lee's retreat and how his overwhelmed forces were surrendered. It speaks in the voices of both generals and privates.

If you are a Civil War fanatic you will enjoy this book. It gives so much background to what led up to Appomattox that I have never read anywhere else. This one is a keeper.

Great for history buffs. Older book. I don't feel like the description accurately described the wear on this. I'll give it anyway but was disappointed.

Really enjoyed the book which provides a very in-depth analysis of Lee's retreat and Grant's pursuit. Very fast and engaging read!

It gave detailed coverage of the days before the surrender; details I never had access to before.

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