



Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History

Marc Leepson

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History

Marc Leepson

Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History Marc Leepson

The Battle of Monocacy, which took place on the blisteringly hot day of July 9, 1864, is one of the Civil War's most significant yet little-known battles. What played out that day in the corn and wheat fields four miles south of Frederick, Maryland., was a full-field engagement between some 12,000 battle-hardened Confederate troops led by the controversial Jubal Anderson Early, and some 5,800 Union troops, many of them untested in battle, under the mercurial Lew Wallace, the future author of *Ben-Hur*. When the fighting ended, some 1,300 Union troops were dead, wounded or missing or had been taken prisoner, and Early--- who suffered some 800 casualties---had routed Wallace in the northernmost Confederate victory of the war.

Two days later, on another brutally hot afternoon, Monday, July 11, 1864, the foul-mouthed, hard-drinking Early sat astride his horse outside the gates of Fort Stevens in the upper northwestern fringe of Washington, D.C. He was about to make one of the war's most fateful, portentous decisions: whether or not to order his men to invade the nation's capital.

Early had been on the march since June 13, when Robert E. Lee ordered him to take an entire corps of men from their Richmond-area encampment and wreak havoc on Yankee troops in the Shenandoah Valley, then to move north and invade Maryland. If Early found the conditions right, Lee said, he was to take the war for the first time into President Lincoln's front yard. Also on Lee's agenda: forcing the Yankees to release a good number of troops from the stranglehold that Gen. U.S. Grant had built around Richmond.

Once manned by tens of thousands of experienced troops, Washington's ring of forts and fortifications that day were in the hands of a ragtag collection of walking wounded Union soldiers, the Veteran Reserve Corps, along with what were known as hundred days' men---raw recruits who had joined the Union Army to serve as temporary, rear-echelon troops. It was with great shock, then, that the city received news of the impending rebel attack. With near panic filling the streets, Union leaders scrambled to coordinate a force of volunteers.

But Early did not pull the trigger. Because his men were exhausted from the fight at Monocacy and the ensuing march, Early paused before attacking the feebly manned Fort Stevens, giving Grant just enough time to bring thousands of veteran troops up from Richmond. The men arrived at the eleventh hour, just as Early was contemplating whether or not to move into Washington. No invasion was launched, but Early did engage Union forces outside Fort Stevens. During the fighting, President Lincoln paid a visit to the fort, becoming the only sitting president in American history to come under fire in a military engagement.

Historian Marc Leepson shows that had Early arrived in Washington one day earlier, the ensuing havoc easily could have brought about a different conclusion to the war. Leepson uses a vast amount of primary material, including memoirs, official records, newspaper accounts, diary entries and eyewitness reports in a reader-friendly and engaging description of the events surrounding what became known as "the Battle That Saved Washington."

 [Download Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil W ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History Marc Leepson

From reader reviews:

Shelia Coggins:

What do you concerning book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you need something to explain what your own problem? How about your time? Or are you busy man or woman? If you don't have spare time to perform others business, it is give you a sense of feeling bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Everyone has many questions above. They should answer that question mainly because just their can do that. It said that about guide. Book is familiar on every person. Yes, it is right. Because start from on pre-school until university need this kind of Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History to read.

Cierra Persaud:

Often the book Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History has a lot details on it. So when you check out this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was compiled by the very famous author. The writer makes some research prior to write this book. That book very easy to read you may get the point easily after perusing this book.

Kathleen Hernandez:

That publication can make you to feel relax. This particular book Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History was colorful and of course has pictures on the website. As we know that book Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History has many kinds or category. Start from kids until teens. For example Naruto or Investigation company Conan you can read and feel that you are the character on there. Therefore , not at all of book are usually make you bored, any it offers up you feel happy, fun and unwind. Try to choose the best book for you and try to like reading that will.

Debra Treat:

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from that. You can take knowledge and information from your book. Book is published or printed or highlighted from each source in which filled update of news. Within this modern era like right now, many ways to get information are available for you. From media social including newspaper, magazines, science e-book, encyclopedia, reference book, novel and comic. You can add your knowledge by that book. Are you hip to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just searching for the Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History when you needed it?

Download and Read Online Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History Marc Leepson #AJ8697VK00H

Read Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History by Marc Leepson for online ebook

Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History by Marc Leepson Free PDF download, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History by Marc Leepson books to read online.

Online Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History by Marc Leepson ebook PDF download

Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History by Marc Leepson Doc

Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History by Marc Leepson Mobipocket

Desperate Engagement: How a Little-Known Civil War Battle Saved Washington, D.C., and Changed American History by Marc Leepson EPub