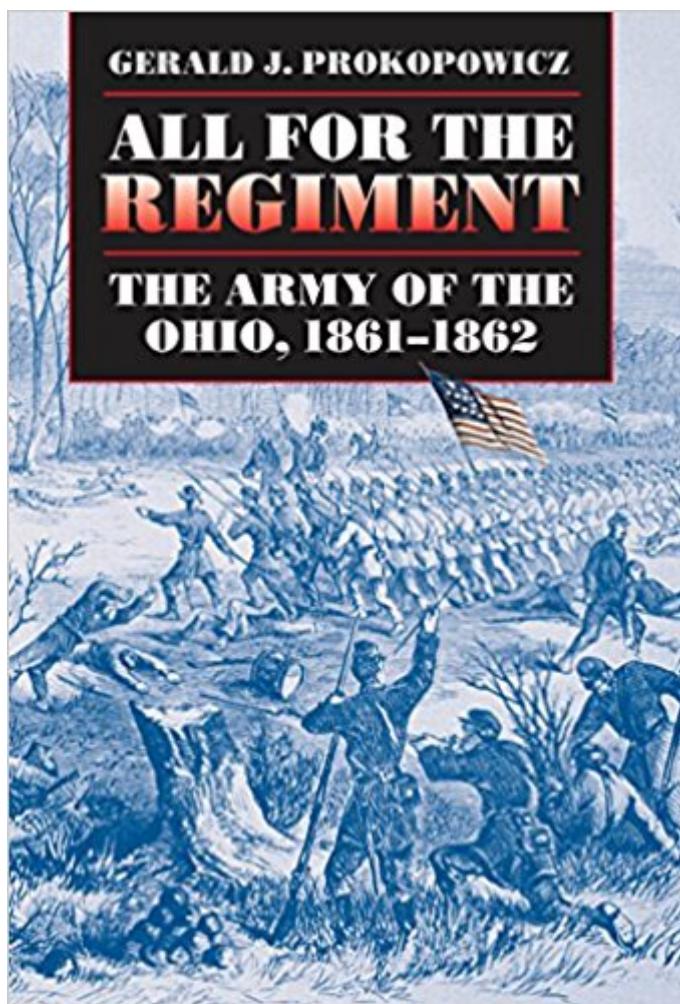


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All For The Regiment: The Army Of The Ohio, 1861-1862 (Civil War America)



Synopsis

Despite its important role in the early years of the Civil War, the Army of the Ohio remains one of the least studied of all Union commands. With *All for the Regiment*, Gerald Prokopowicz deftly fills this surprising gap. He offers an engaging history of the army from its formation in 1861 to its costly triumph at Shiloh and its failure at Perryville in 1862. Prokopowicz shows how the amateur soldiers who formed the Army of the Ohio organized themselves into individual regiments of remarkable strength and cohesion. Successive commanders Robert Anderson, William T. Sherman, and Don Carlos Buell all failed to integrate those regiments into an effective organization, however. The result was a decentralized and elastic army that was easily disrupted and difficult to command--but also nearly impossible to destroy in combat. Exploring the army's behavior at minor engagements such as Rowlett's Station and Logan's Cross Roads, as well as major battles such as Shiloh and Perryville, Prokopowicz reveals how its regiment-oriented culture prevented the army from experiencing decisive results--either complete victory or catastrophic defeat--on the battlefield. Regimental solidarity was at once the Army of the Ohio's greatest strength, he argues, and its most dangerous vulnerability.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This book fills an important niche in the history of Civil War armies." -- James M. McPherson, Princeton University

An insightful, ground-breaking study of that army's organization, training, and institutional culture. . . . This is an interesting addition to Civil War scholarship and opens the door for much additional study.--Blue & Gray Magazine An insightful and incisive analysis of Civil War military culture, of the disorganization of Civil War armies--the key to their sloppy, indecisive, and deadly performances. This is an excellent anti-romance, original and unusual in approach and refreshingly honest.--Michael Fellman, author of *The Making of Robert E. Lee* The first history of the Army of the Ohio published since the nineteenth century. . . . [Prokopowicz] provides a window to understanding the Civil War in a new light. . . . Prokopowicz is to be commended. . . . [He] challenges Civil War scholars to advance the study of Civil War armies.--Journal of Southern History All for the Regiment provides every student of the Civil War with an engaging examination into the nature of applied violence and human behavior.--Gulf South Historical Review This book fills an important niche in the history of Civil War armies. Lucid and lively, All for the Regiment shows how recruitment, training, and combat forged the bonds of comradeship that sustained morale and fighting power. It is a book that students of the Civil War will want to read.--James M. McPherson, Princeton University A superb and insightful study. . . . Well worth reading and owning, especially by those interested in military leadership, cohesion, and fighting power in the Civil War.--Military History [Prokopowicz's] study is valuable and should provoke further inquiry.--Choice

This book is focused and trenchant, and it succeeds in illuminating some basic questions (the 'how's and 'why's of Civil War army dynamics, and how they affected the flow of battles), and best of all it raises many interesting points, and leaves the reader thinking anew. It is an interesting dichotomy that the story is of discreet regiments and companies of the Army of the Ohio 'formed into a blunt instrument', and that Buell and his key commanders remain indispensable elements in the story. The army commander's and officers' struggle to fulfill their true roll (drill the troops in a systematic way, create and encourage esprit de corps for the army, and of course - develop a plan of campaign and act - with alacrity!) seems to be a sub-theme of the entire book. Another re-curring theme is the power of perception - the strength that the Army of the Ohio drew from their steady diet of success up until Perryville. Casual readers of this or that battle account from that war become de-sensitized to the big numbers (30,000 troops, or 60,000, or 100,000...and casualties in the thousands after single engagements) and maybe never give any thought at all to the enormously complex enterprise of creating such an army, and supplying it, and manuevering it; let alone bringing it to bear and fighting it in an effective way. This book includes interesting accounts of the

battles at Shiloh and Perryville, and of an epic march between Nashville and Louisville as it happened to the Army of the Ohio.

Shipped quickly. Textbook for my son. The author is his professor.

This is a good account of the building of regiments and brigades in the early years of the war. Using the Army of the Ohio as a model, the author gives a good account of the raising, equipping and training of a regiment. This is the book's strongest point and much of its' value. If this justifies spending \$37.50, is an open question. After reading the book, I'm not sure that I have an answer for you. The Army of the Ohio's role at Shiloh is still being debated. The author comes down firmly on saving Grant's army; over the secondary role many historians assign it. The question isn't debated as much as stated with little more than a nod to the other side. This caused no little upset with the reviewer, as it contradicted other histories without providing real answers as to why. The frustrations of campaigning between Shiloh and the invasion of Kentucky are explained. The army was used not so much as a weapon but as a construction crew. Isolated garrisons, poorly lead and badly trained were no match for the hard riding raiders of Morgan and Forrest. Both of these men built reputations at the expense of this army. The author manages to show how decisions made months before caused many of the problems at this time. Political appointees do not make a regimental commander or a fighter. More than one surrender caused army wide embarrassment and strained the fragile ties between units. Bragg's invasion of Kentucky, the political implications and the impact on the 1862 election are not developed. Neither is a good explanation of the battle of Perryville provided. Without reading Noe's excellent book, I'm not sure you can understand what is going on. This is the weakest part of the book and the most vital, as the army is really tested during this time. The army passed this test, if not with flying colors at least with a clear victory. How much Bragg contributed to this victory isn't talked about either, leaving another hole in the book. The Kentucky Campaign of 1862 is one of the worst offensive operations the CSA mounted. Plagued by divisions in leadership, fuzzy thinking and unrealistic expectations "Kentucky fever" came to a crashing halt from Frankfort to Richmond. The battle of Perryville is a confused, chaotic battle with little direction by either commander. The failure of Union leadership is covered but the failure of Confederate leadership isn't mentioned. This cheats Bragg, as major problems caused by Smith and Polk may have caused the failure more than the poor decisions on his part. Missing is a detailed account of Jefferson C. Davis killing William Nelson. This event, where Davis gets away with murder, and the impact it had on the army prior to Perryville deserves a book. In addition, the relief of Buell on the

eve of the Perryville campaign is hardly mentioned. George Thomas' refusal to assume command and the impact on him aren't covered either. Over all is Don Carlos Buell, commander of the Army of the Ohio. "Don Carlos" was a McClellan supporter but lacked his style and ability to build bridges to his men. However, he shared the soft war ideas and enforced a policy of appeasement that turned the army against him. Nothing Buell did worked, as it should have within his army. He built strong regiments but never managed to build higher formations. His appointments didn't work out but Buell either kept them in position or assigned them more responsibility. These generals usually failed at a critical point in a battle or managed to really upset the men. Both contributed to Buell's problems, which he seems unable to recognize and/or address. Always asking for more, unwilling to take real risks and saddled with a Washington priority in loyalist Eastern Tennessee; Buell cannot command and reacts to McClellan, Halleck and Lincoln. Over showed by Grant, Don Carlos has become a forgotten man. He missed every major battle his army fought in. Failed to understand the change in direction the war was taking and refused to implement the new policies. Unable to hear the battle at Perryville, Buell sits and fumes about the waste of cannon ammunition but send no office forward to investigate. Removed from command, Buell is left to justify his actions in the face of life long hostility from his veterans. This is a very readable and enjoyable book. The author writes well, keeps the story moving and supports his points. I didn't find the size of the book to be a problem or get the feeling that the story was truncated either. Most of the book is on good solid historical ground. The earlier battles are well done and provide the stepping-stones to the larger battles to come. However the author never gets a grip on these large battles. This is the place where the size of the book might become a problem. An additional hundred pages could have give the coverage Shiloh and Perryville need and added one or more stars to the review. In the end William Stark Rosecrans, fresh from Mississippi, assumes command and the Army of the Ohio becomes the Army of the Cumberland. Larry J. Daniel's book "Days of Glory" for \$44.95 is a much better and more complete history.

Well-written study of the Army that saved Grant at Shiloh, captured Corinth, and defeated the Rebels at Perryville. But its commander, Don Carlos Buell, could not figure out how to use its combined strength effectively, so opportunities to defeat the enemy decisively were lost and the war continued. So, the book is as much about Buell's failures as a leader as it is about Army of the Ohio.

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