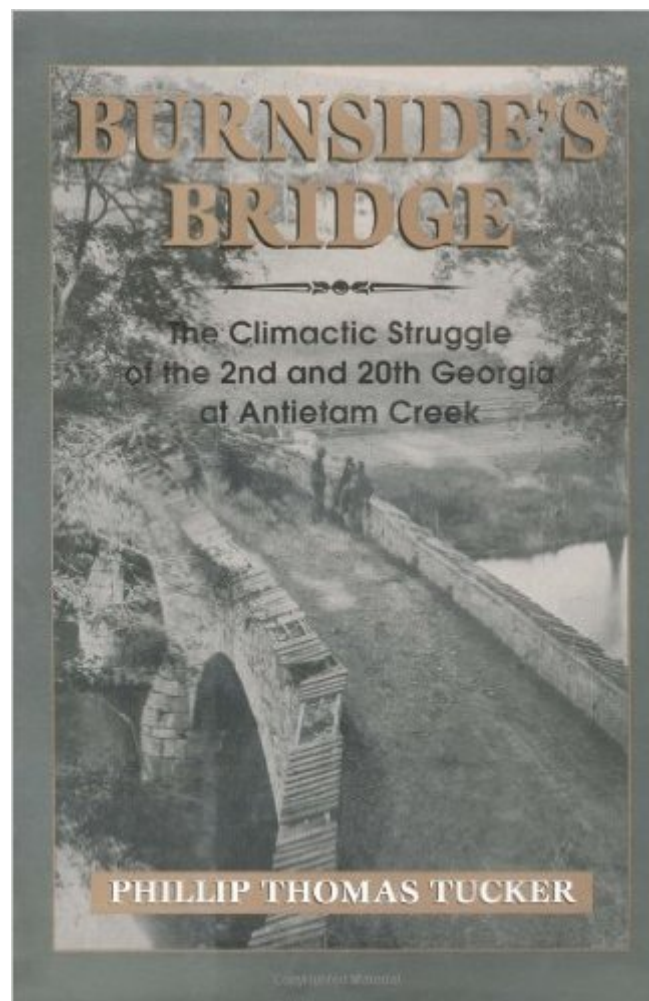


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Burnside's Bridge: The Climactic Struggle Of The 2nd And 20th Georgia At Antietam Creek



Synopsis

Before the heroic stand of the 20th Maine at Little Round Top, the 2nd and 20th Georgia Infantries, led by Brigadier General Robert Toombs, held off a veritable Yankee juggernaut and triumphed at Burnside's Bridge on Antietam Creek in 1862. This detailed account profiles the troops whose last stand helped prevent the destruction of the Army of Northern Virginia, providing Robert E Lee with yet another chance for a northern invasion.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In the Introduction, the author states "....the full story of this tenacious struggle for possession of Burnside's Bridge has never been told until now. The accomplishments of the Georgia defenders have been overlooked by historians who have, in turn, underestimated the significance of their actions on the outcome of the action that day." For example, Russell Wiegley wrote "At the end of the day, the final Federal charge, across the Antietam near the right of the Confederate position over the Rohrbach Bridge--hereafter Burnside's Bridge--and up the adjacent hills, missed turning Lee's right and cutting his road to the Potomac only because Powell Hill and the Light Division arrived from Harpers Ferry at the last desperate moment." (1) Other historians such as Emory Thomas have written similar comments.(2)The author provides an excellent background review of the commanders and Georgia soldiers. Several officers had attended military colleges plus had experience in the Mexican and the Indian Wars. Several units, such as the 2nd Georgia, had a nucleus of soldiers from militia units such as the Columbus Guards of Muscogee County.This well

researched work is not a general account of the Antietam Battle, but concentrates on the fighting in the Rohrbridge sector; thus the reader is not distracted by the critical events taking place on General Lee's left or center. Union General George McClellan ordered General Burnside's IX Corps to cross Antietam Creek, turn Lee's right flank and attain Lee's rear area. General Toombs' 2nd and 20th Georgians defended Rohrbach's Bridge and by noon this "....relative handful of tough Georgian Rebels" had repelled five bloody attacks and accomplished their mission in holding the army's right flank. AT 1:30 P.M.

"Burnside's Bridge" breaks through the absence of research in this part of the battle of Antietam and attempts to paint a factual picture of what happened in that small area of the battlefield. The author begins by giving a history of the two regiments (20th and 2nd Georgia). After this he gives an in-depth history of the leader of the two regiments, a man by the name of General Toombs. The author stresses the importance of researching the mysterious General Toombs, due to the fact, historians have overlooked this man because many considered he was only a small part of the Confederacy. Half way through the book the author begins to talk about the bridge and what happened at the battle of Antietam. Armed with the many facts Mr. Tucker (the author) tells the complete story of what happened when the Federal army charged the bridge five times. Even though this is a breakthrough book there are some weaknesses that appear within the book. The first weakness is the fact the book is only 154 pages long (154 pages + 43 pages of sources). Within these 154 pages the author does not approach the battle of Antietam until page 67 and then leaves the bridge at page 137, which allows him only 70 pages to deal with the actual events around the bridge. The second weakness is the fact the reader has to have a basic knowledge of the battle of Antietam. In fact, the author never gives an explanation of what was going on in the other parts of the battlefield. This is compounded with the fact the author only shows one map of the battlefield and this map is only dealing with Burnside's bridge. Finally and what I feel to be the weakest part of the book, is the manner in which the author presents the material. Mr.

Antietam was the bloodiest day in American history and on that fateful day there were many localized struggles, inside the larger framework of the battlefield. This battle was fought in three basic parts, that made up the whole. The morning fight on the northern end of the field centered between the Miller Cornfield and Dunker Church, the central fight for the sunken road known forever after as Bloody Lane and the southern end of the field. On the southern end of the battlefield, General Ambrose Burnside's federal soldiers in the IX Army Corps tried to take and cross the

bridge over Antietam Creek and break General Robert E. Lee's hold on the town of Sharpsburg. If Burnside could get across and break Lee's thin ranks in that sector, then General George McClellan could put an end to Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and possibly put a speedier end to the Confederacy and the American Civil War. If you have read books on the Maryland Campaign and the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg), then you have a good idea of what happened on that deadly day. Go that one step further and learn more about a localized struggle in the battle and get a more in depth and detailed account of what took place there. If you thirst for a good tactical read and want to learn more on the fight for the bridge, this book gives you that. In an amazing story, of many more amazing stories from this battle and time period, the struggle and fight for the lower bridge is truly a memorial to both sides and what they had to endure. How was a thin line of ragtag Confederate soldiers mostly from Georgia going to keep a horde of Yankees back? Well, they did for several hours, giving rebel reinforcements from Harper's Ferry, under A.P.

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