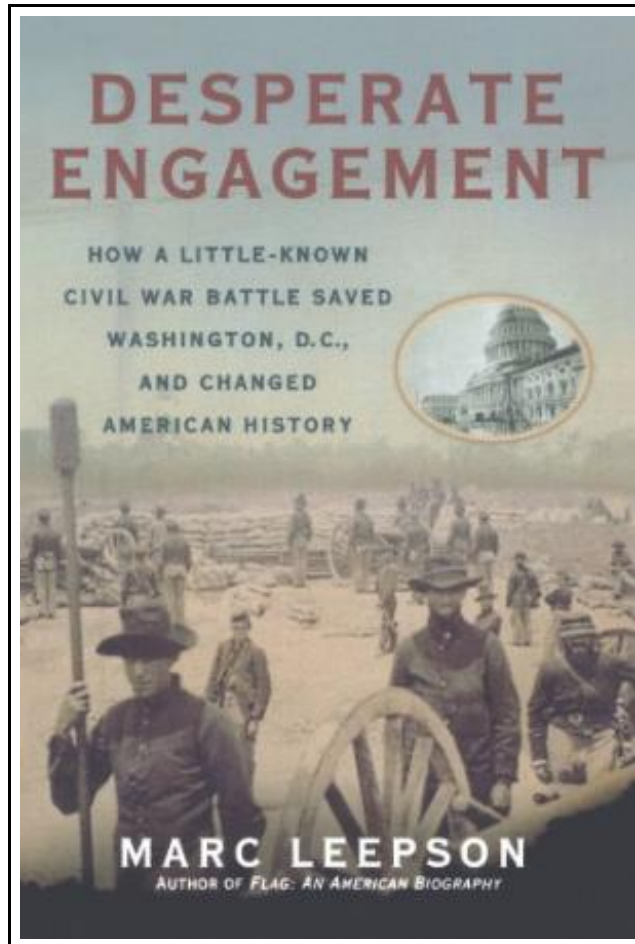


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DESPERATE ENGAGEMENT: HOW A LITTLE-KNOWN CIVIL WAR BATTLE SAVED WASHINGTON, D.C., AND CHANGED AMERICAN HISTORY

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Griffin. Paperback. Condition: New. 303 pages. Dimensions: 8.2in. x 5.5in. x 1.1in. The Battle of Monocacy, which took place on the blisteringly hot day of July 9, 1864, is one of the Civil Wars 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 wars most fateful, portentous decisions: whether or not to order his men to invade the nations 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 Lincolns front yard. Also on Lees 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, Washingtons ring of forts and fortifications that day...



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