

The only lesson from that episode, and for that matter the whole wartime policy, he believes, is that there is "no clear lesson." One feels Neely would not protest too much a rejoinder that this conclusion remains debatable.

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General John H. Winder, C.S.A. By Arch Fredric Blakey. (Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 1990. Pp. xvi, 275. Figures, illustrations, appendix, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

History has not been kind to General John Henry Winder. He has been portrayed as a dictator who established a reign of terror while provost marshal general of Richmond and as a brutal, inhumane fiend responsible for the fate of Union prisoners at Libby, Andersonville, and elsewhere.

Arch Fredric Blakey believes this image is inaccurate and incomplete. In this volume, reportedly the first biography of Winder to examine his antebellum career, the author attempts to rescue a villain from history, to overturn a historical myth.

In trying to alter Winder's reputation, Blakey wisely avoids picturing the general as a saint. Instead, he describes Winder as abrupt, abrasive, arrogant, vain, short-tempered, impulsive, stubborn, profane, and aloof. At the same time, Winder is also characterized as loyal, somewhat innovative, moderately flexible, honest, efficient, and courageous. He is seen as highly qualified by training and experience for the responsibilities he had during the Civil War. And most important to Blakey, Winder was neither cruel nor vindictive, and to describe him as either is totally untrue.

One of Blakey's clearest contributions is to demonstrate that Winder often found himself in a catch-22 situation; no matter what he did, he would be criticized. For instance, at the same time he was being castigated in the northern press for treating the prisoners inhumanely, he was being maligned in the southern press for pampering the prisoners and for showing them undue leniency.

The author aptly points out that much of Winder's troubles were beyond his power to correct. The Confederacy never mobilized the necessary resources nor established an efficient system of prison organization. The inability of the two governments to agree to a general exchange doomed prison reform. Overcrowded conditions, clothing shortages, and insufficient food are all viewed as problems created by others, not Winder. There is truth in all this, but the author has a troublesome tendency to brush aside too lightly some of the criticism of Winder and to spread the blame so widely as to remove nearly all sense of wrongdoing on Winder's part.

The monograph is clearly written and provides its readers with a thorough account of Winder's life, his own liabilities, and the limitations under which he operated, all of which may cause some to modify their evaluation of the controversial general. It remains to be seen if Blakey's book brings about any significant reevaluation of Winder.

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America's National Battlefield Parks: A Guide. By Joseph E. Stevens; maps by Beth Silverman. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1990. Pp. xiv, 337. Illustrations, maps, index. \$29.95.)

While it may be unwise to judge a book by its cover, in the case of Joseph E. Stevens's guide to American battlefield parks, happily the contents are equally as absorbing and gripping as the jacket front's striking artistic color recreation of a scene from the battle of Gettysburg. In thirty-eight chapters, one for each battlefield park administered by the National Park Service, Stevens surveys much of America's military heritage, beginning with the American Revolution and ending with the War in the Pacific Historical Park in Guam and the U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. His prose sparkles as he recreates not only battlefield troop movements but also the real-life experiences of the participants.

With the traveler in mind, the chapters are arranged geographically: North Atlantic, Mid-Atlantic, Midwest, South, and West. By far the largest number—nineteen—are southern Civil War battlefield parks. Each chapter is also geared to the park visitor. A box insert gives directions to the park, availability of gas, food and lodging, and information on handicapped access and park activities. The guide offers detailed, self-guided walking and auto tours keyed to National Park Service numbered tour stops. Fifty-two clear and simple maps, prepared by Beth Silverman, indicate present-day roads, trails, and visitor facilities. Visuals also include eighty drawings, paintings, and modern and historic photographs.

Each battle is faithfully and skillfully recreated in an engaging narrative style. Stevens gives the background, strategy, tactics, and significance of the engagements. In nineteen pages the battle at Gettysburg comes alive, and the carnage—51,000 casualties in three days—is poignantly portrayed. The twelve pages on Vicksburg, another turning point of the war, include a wartime lithograph showing Union forces firing at the forts around Vicks-