

Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26-June 1864



Cold Harbor: Grant and Lee, May 26–June 3, 1866

by Gordon C. Rhea

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

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The Battle of Cold Harbor was one of the bloodiest battles of the American Civil War. It was fought from May 26 to June 18, 1864, between the Union Army of the Potomac, commanded by General Ulysses S. Grant, and the Confederate Army of Northern Virginia, commanded by General Robert E. Lee. The battle was a Union defeat, but it had a significant impact on the course of the war.

Background

The Battle of Cold Harbor was part of Grant's Overland Campaign, a series of battles fought in Virginia in 1864. Grant's goal was to defeat Lee's army and capture the Confederate capital of Richmond. The campaign had been a bloody affair, with both sides suffering heavy losses. By the time the Union army reached Cold Harbor, it was exhausted and demoralized.

Lee's army was also weakened, but it was still a formidable force. Lee had entrenched his army in a strong defensive position on the high ground around Cold Harbor. He was confident that he could defeat Grant's army if it attacked.

The Battle

On May 26, 1864, Grant Free Downloaded his army to attack Lee's positions. The Union troops charged across open ground into a hail of Confederate gunfire. The Confederates had built a series of fortifications, including breastworks, trenches, and abatis, which made it difficult for the Union troops to advance. The Union troops were also outnumbered, and they were unable to break through the Confederate lines.

The fighting was intense, and the casualties were high. The Union army lost over 7,000 men in the first day of fighting, while the Confederates lost about 1,500 men. The fighting continued for another two weeks, but neither side was able to make any significant progress.

Aftermath

The Battle of Cold Harbor was a Union defeat, but it had a significant impact on the course of the war. The battle showed that Grant was willing to take heavy losses in Free Download to achieve his goals. It also showed that Lee was a skilled defensive commander. The battle also helped to convince Grant that he needed to change his strategy. He decided to abandon the Overland Campaign and instead move his army to Petersburg, Virginia, where he could besiege the city and cut off Lee's supply lines.

Legacy

The Battle of Cold Harbor is remembered as one of the bloodiest and most futile battles of the American Civil War. The battle had a significant impact on the course of the war, and it is still studied by military historians today.

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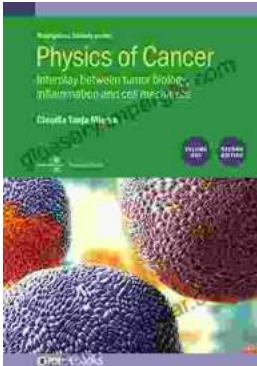
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