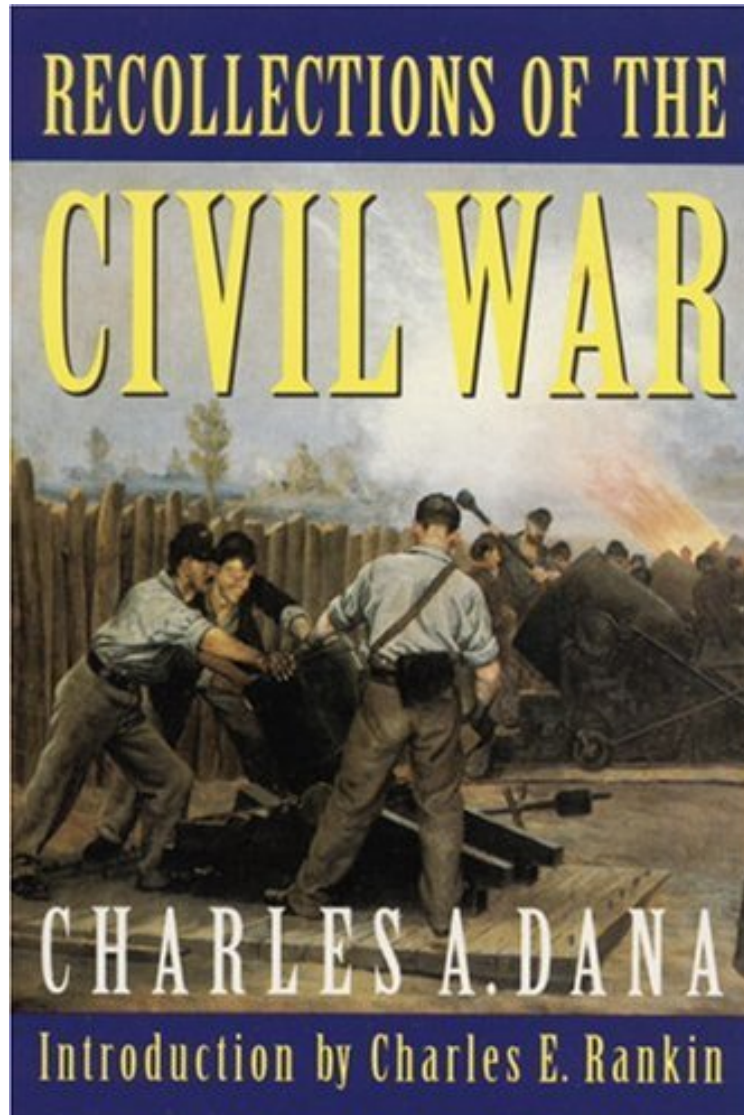


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Recollections of the Civil War

Charles A. Dana

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Charles A. Dana : Recollections of the Civil War before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Recollections of the Civil War:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Civil War at First Hand By Ross N. Tucker Hard to believe Recollections was written years after the Civil War ended in 1865--and "ghosted" by Ida Tarbell, mostly known for her monopoly-busting writings. Dana was one of very few "on-the-scene" scribes who gained favor with Northern generals, mainly U>S> Grant. Another rather interesting point is that Dana was appointed Assistant Secretary of War by Edwin Stanton which gave him entry into just about anywhere war-like conditions existed. He covered both Grant's

Vicksburg campaign and his Overland campaign which led to ending the war after some 4plus years. Jefferson Davis' imprisonment was another interesting side note. All-in-all and excellent read, highly recommended.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good read and necessary for anyone's library on the warBy jwizUnique perspective on the Union command system in the last year of the civil war. Dana, being somewhat unbiased, was able to offer opinions that provided a more broad interpretation of decisions made by Grant and his commanders. Good read and necessary for anyone's library on the war.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. In depth history.By Dart66Charles Dana is normally just a side bar in most history of General Grant. It is interesting to see what part he played in the war.

Early in 1863 General Grant was under a cloud, blamed for heavy Union losses at Shiloh, called an undependable drunkard by his detractors. As Grant moved toward Vicksburg, the Lincoln administration needed to know more about what was happening in the remote western theater. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton dispatched a respected newspaperman, Charles A. Dana, ostensibly to straighten out payroll matters but actually to observe Grant and the situation in the army and report back daily. Dana became "the government's eyes at the front." Recollections of the Civil War, drawing largely on his reports and originally published in 1898, is a classic to rank with Grant's Personal Memoirs. Dana's candid assessment of Grant, other officers, and campaign operations carried weight with Lincoln and Stanton and undoubtedly influenced the course of the war. In these pages, Dana is with Grant and General Sherman throughout the siege of Vicksburg, riding into the city "at the side of the conqueror." Later he is with Grant at Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. He is with General Rosecrans at Chickamauga; he watches General Sheridan's troops scale Missionary Ridge at Chattanooga; he walks through the ruins of Richmond; he attends Lincoln on his deathbed. Finally, he sees Jefferson Davis in chains at Fortress Monroe.

From the Back CoverEarly in 1863 General Grant was under a cloud, blamed for heavy Union losses at Shiloh, called an undependable drunkard by his detractors. As Grant moved toward Vicksburg, the Lincoln administration needed to know more about what was happening in the remote western theater. Secretary of War Edwin Stanton dispatched a respected newspaperman. Charles A. Dana, ostensibly to straighten out payroll matters but actually to observe Grant and the situation in the army and report back daily. Dana became "the government's eyes at the front". Recollections of the Civil War, drawing largely on his reports and originally published in 1898, is a classic to rank with Grant's Personal Memoirs (also available in a Bison Books edition). Dana's candid assessment of Grant, other officers, and campaign operations carried weight with Lincoln and Stanton and undoubtedly influenced the course of the war. In these pages, Dana is with Grant and General Sherman throughout the siege of Vicksburg, riding into the city "at the side of the conqueror". Later he is with Grant at Spottsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg. He is with General Roseerans at Chickamauga; he watches General Sheridan's troops scale Missionary Ridge at Chattanooga; he walks through the ruins of Richmond; he attends Lincoln on his deathbed. Finally, he sees Jefferson Davis in chains at Fortress Monroe.About the AuthorIntroducing this Bison Books edition is Charles E. Rankin, the editor of Montana The Magazine of Western History.