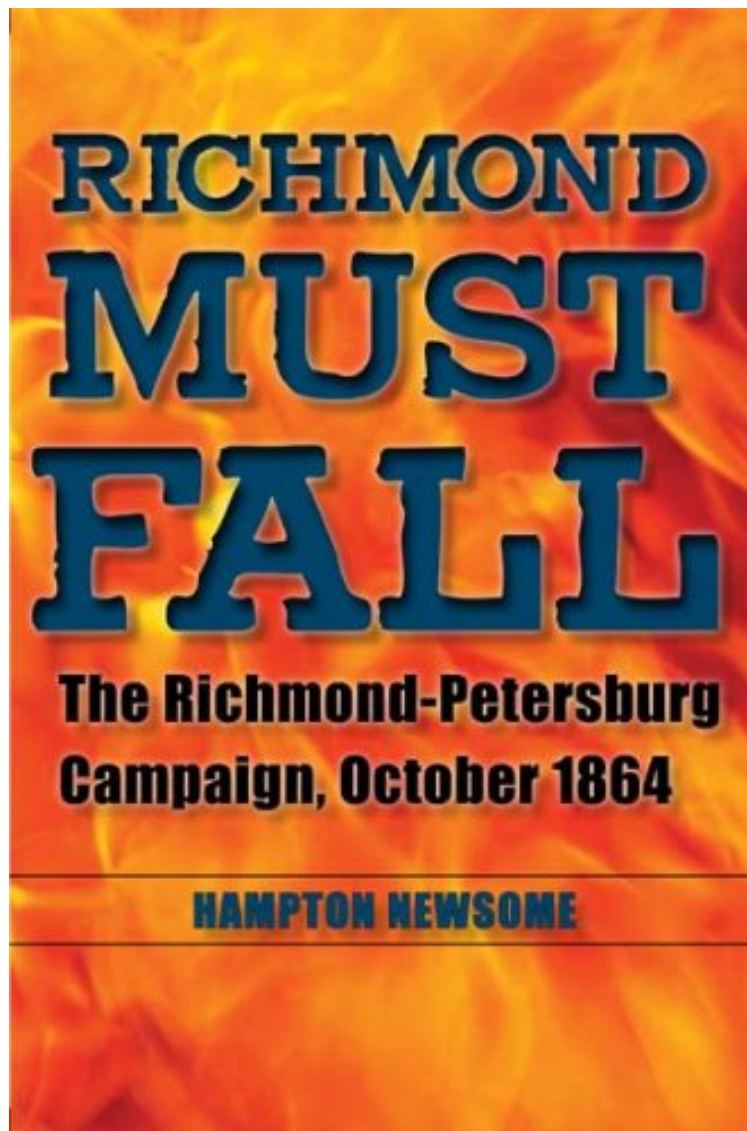


(Ebook free) Richmond Must Fall: The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, October 1864 (Civil War Soldiers and Strategies)

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Hampton Newsome

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Hampton Newsome : Richmond Must Fall: The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, October 1864 (Civil War Soldiers and Strategies) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Richmond Must Fall: The Richmond-Petersburg Campaign, October 1864 (Civil War Soldiers and Strategies):

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. A Detailed account of Grant's Sixth OffensiveBy R. SimonThe

Petersburg Campaign lasted over nine months. This book takes on one month of that campaign, October 1864. If a reader is looking for a detailed account of this period, the book does so wonderfully. Because it covers just one month of the Petersburg campaign, it should not be the first book you read on the subject. I had just toured the Petersburg battlefield and had read some general books on the subject so I found the book very understandable while at the same time broadening my understanding of the campaign. The author writes in a style that is clear and he doesn't fall into the trap of using obscure terminology or flowery language just to impress the reader. I appreciated that he covered both the battlefield tactics and the personalities involved. I completed the book by a combination of reading some chapters and by listening to others via the audible.com recording. The book had the advantage of very good maps and a section of interesting photos. That said, if you are a commuter and audio works better, the narrator did a fine job. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. South Side Road By richard m rocco This book required some tenacity, but delivered in the home stretch. Not until the reader begins the South Side Road effort does the payoff become tangible. Maps are OK, not superior, but helpful. The maps might be the one really weak link in the chain. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Brilliant, Original, and a Must-Read. By Militarybooks Despite its rich complexity, bloody battles, wide-ranging maneuvers, importance to the war, and amazing cast of characters and events, precious few books exist on the Petersburg Campaign in general, and its individual episodes in particular. Richard Summers broke new ground in 1980 with his well-received (if oddly titled) *Richmond Redeemed: The Petersburg Campaign*, a micro-study of the late September-early October 1864 "Fifth Offensive." Three decades on, Hampton Newsome's masterful "Richmond Must Fall" dissects the early October Darbytown Road battles north of the James River before digging into the Union's ambitious "Sixth Offensive" later that month. Gen. U. S. Grant's large-scale operation on October 27, 1864, outside Petersburg and Richmond threatened to affect the outcome of the upcoming November presidential election. The capture of Atlanta and victories in the Shenandoah Valley all but cemented Lincoln's reelection, but a decisive defeat threatened to undue these successes. As a result, Grant's effort unfolded beneath both military and political storm clouds. The book opens with the Darbytown Road actions of October 7, including Johnson's Farm and New Market Road, a series of failed Confederate offensive operations conducted directly under Gen. Robert E. Lee's eye north of the James River southeast of Richmond. Earlier Union offensives had captured important stretches of the Southern lines there, and Lee intended to rectify the situation and strike a heavy blow in return. These small-scale battles are fascinating and but little known, which makes learning about them that much more interesting. The balance and bulk of Newsome's study covers the Sixth Offensive southwest of Petersburg. The operation consisted of three Union corps (2nd, 5th, and 9th) and cavalry designed to outflank the Rebel earthworks near Hatcher's Run and then drive northwest several miles to cut the vital South Side Railroad. Coincident with this movement was Ben Butler's two-corps (10th and 18th) effort opposite the Confederate capital, where his orders to demonstrate and pin the enemy turned into attacks with heavy losses. Riven by a lack of coordination, exceedingly poor maps and intelligence, faulty decision-making, and tardy marches, the under-strength move below Petersburg fell apart rather quickly. As the sources demonstrate, large swaths of the Confederate lines were barely (if at all) occupied; firm Union generalship would have cleaved it open and exposed the South Side Railroad to destruction. Hancock's 2nd Corps (a weak two-division flanking arm) was fortunate to avoid the fate of another Reams Station. Ultimately, sharp fighting but no heavy battles took place, and Grant called off the effort. Newsome evaluates every engagement and maneuver from both perspectives and explains the strategies behind each high-level decision. His word portraits offer compelling views of the thoughts and actions of the generals and colonels, while excerpts from enlisted men provide a grass-level viewshed so readers can slip on their own boots and fight through the eyes of those hoisting the rifled-muskets and tasked with assaulting earthworks. The entire book is supported by a plethora of excellent maps that are absolutely crucial to understanding the complex narrative. *Richmond Must Fall* is a battle purist's dream. Newsome's study is built upon a rock-solid foundation of hundreds of archival sources, newspapers, journals, letters, books, and a keen understanding of the terrain. Unlike many tactical studies, which simply move one regimental block here and another there, Newsome skillfully weaves personalities and command styles around political issues (both inside and outside the army), sets forth how decisions were made and by whom, and then carries the readers along every step of the way. His deft handling of the myriad detail is seamless, and his prose smooth and enjoyable. The final chapter, "Grant's Sixth Offensive Considered," is a brilliant synopsis with post-battle biographical detail of many participants. Because no decisive battles were fought during the Sixth Offensive, the effort faded from view and receives but little attention today. "Names such as Darbytown Road, Johnson's Farm, New Market Road, Burgess Mill, Hatcher's Run, Boydton Plank Road, Bull Pen, Second Fair Oaks, Williamsburg Road, and Nine Mile Road," writes the author, "would retain special meaning for the veterans who suffered through those battles." These actions will offer readers a "special meaning" as well, since nearly all of it is completely new and available nowhere else. Don't let the fictional-looking jacket design fool you. Find a copy of this book and lose yourself in a battle study against which others should now be measured. My lone complaint is the steep price tag of \$65.00, which may well prevent a large number of otherwise interested readers from ever owning this book. (As of this writing, it seems unavailable as an e-book).--Ted Savas

A study of Grant's and Lee's battles in the weeks before the 1864 election In the fall of 1864, the Civil War's outcome rested largely on Abraham Lincoln's success in the upcoming presidential election. As the contest approached, cautious optimism buoyed the President's supporters in the wake of Union victories at Atlanta and in the Shenandoah Valley. With all eyes on the upcoming election, Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant conducted a series of large-scale military operations outside Richmond and Petersburg, which have, until now, received little attention. In *Richmond Must Fall*, Hampton Newsome examines these October battles in unprecedented scope and detail. The narrative begins with one of Lee's last offensive operations of the war at the Darbytown Road on October 7, 1864, and ends with Grant's major offensive on October 27 to seize the South Side Railroad, the last open rail line into the Confederate stronghold at Petersburg. The offensive would spark sharp fighting at Burgess Mill south of Petersburg and on the Williamsburg Road east of Richmond. The October 1864 operations offer important insights into the personalities and command styles of Lee and Grant, including Lee's penchant for audacity and overwhelming thirst to strike a blow against his opponent even against bitter odds and Grant's willingness to shoulder heavy responsibility in the face of great risk. The narrative explores the relationships within the high command of both armies, including Grant's sometimes strained partnership with the cautious George Meade. It also illustrates Grant's efforts to guide the strong-willed political general Benjamin F. Butler, whose steadfast support for African American troops would spark a prisoner controversy that would bring the war's underlying issues of slavery and race into bold relief. For the Confederates, the month's operations illustrate Lee's necessary reliance on his key combat commanders at Petersburg, including the formidable William Mahone. Drawing on an array of original sources, Newsome focuses on the October battles themselves, examining the plans for the operations, the decisions made by commanders on the battlefield, and the soldiers' view from the ground. At the same time, he places these military actions in the larger political context of the fall of 1864. With the election looming, neither side could afford a defeat at Richmond or Petersburg. Nevertheless, Grant and Lee were willing to take significant risks to seek great advantage. These military events set the groundwork for operations that would close the war in Virginia several months later.

"The Best Civil War Books of 2013" - The Civil War Monitor, Winter 2013 "Finalist for the 2013 Richard B. Harwell Book Award "This extensively researched, well-written account, illustrated with an astonishing number of maps, takes the wraps off these forgotten battles. Newsome's detailed descriptions should satisfy even the most demanding Civil War armchair generals." - The Seattle Times "Newsome's considerable skill in constructing battle narrative from a wide depth and breadth of sources is on full display in this book. . . . Not only does it fill a gap in the military historiography of the campaign but it does so with a contribution of surpassing quality." - Civil War Books and Authors blog "Richmond Must Fall is a first-rate addition to scholarship on the military history of the Civil War . . . [Newsome's] research is solid, while his analyses of men, terrain and events are both persuasive and compelling. Newsome also demonstrates a keen talent for describing events in a way that is thoroughly detailed but does not lose track of the larger picture." - Ethan S. Rafuse, *America's Civil War* "[Newsome] seamlessly integrates personal accounts from letters and diaries into the text, providing a field-level sense of how the clashes unfolded. Newsome also provides a well-crafted sense of presence to the conflicts in the book . . . The result is a highly detailed but very readable description of the October battles around Petersburg." - Steven J. Ramold, *Civil War Book* "Newsome's clear prose and organization, which make a fairly complex series of battles into a logical, effective, and highly readable tome, are the highlight of the work. . . . Overall, Newsome has added to the growing body of knowledge of the Civil War by covering in detail this important but often forgotten campaign in the fall of 1864. The author's extensive use of source materials is impressive and should be a model for other scholars in the field, and his adroit use of first-person accounts is excellent." - Robert R. Mackey, *The Journal of Southern History* "Richmond Must Fall is a worthwhile addition to the field of Civil War military literature, not only in covering a neglected portion of a complex campaign, but also in illustrating its importance to the political side of the war [It] thus successfully integrates several diverse topics into a readable and useful narrative about a particular crucial phase of the war." - Michael W. Coffey, *The North Carolina Historical* "With meticulous research, Newsome seamlessly weaves together the stories of the Union and Confederate high command, blending them with tales told by the ordinary Johnny Reb and Billy Yank. . . . Richmond Must Fall is an exemplary piece of military history, one that brings to life the stories of the forgotten battles of October 1864 in fresh, page-turning way." - Timothy J. Orr, *History: s of New Books* About the Author Hampton Newsome is an attorney who lives in Arlington, Virginia. He is an editor of *Civil War Talks: Further Reminiscences of George S. Bernard and His Fellow Veterans*.