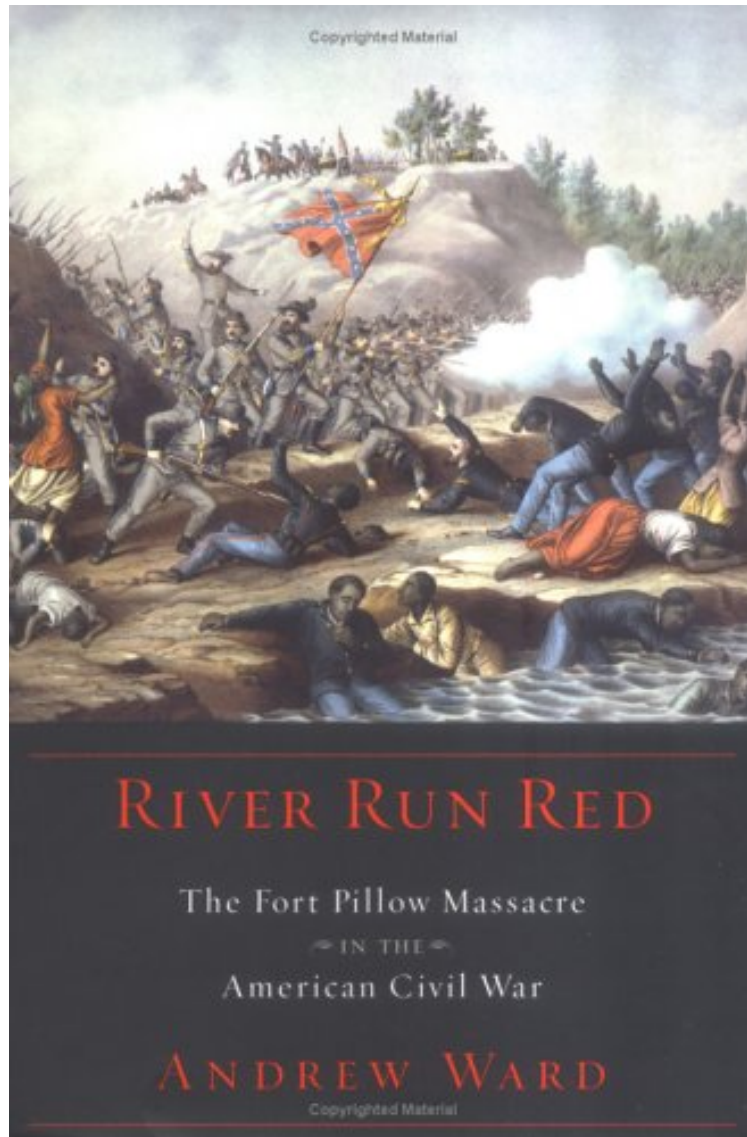


(Read free) River Run Red: The Fort Pillow Massacre in the American Civil War

# River Run Red: The Fort Pillow Massacre in the American Civil War

Andrew Ward

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**Andrew Ward : River Run Red: The Fort Pillow Massacre in the American Civil War** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised River Run Red: The Fort Pillow Massacre in the American Civil War:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. River Run Red novelBy Lauritz A. WilliamsLoved it. Met the

Author at the Austin Civil War Roundtable Meeting. Intriguing stuff am very exciting about this topic...17 of 28 people found the following review helpful. Who are you going to believe?By O. PflugFort Pillow still stirs emotions. Neo-Confederates claim that no massacre occurred. Due to the persistence and volume of their complaints textbooks and even Fort Pillow's official webpage state that there is "controversy over what exactly occurred on April 12, 1864." However, around 40 survivors gave testimony to a Congressional investigation that defenders of Fort Pillow were shot down after they had laid down arms, many of them surviving wounds they received after trying to surrender. Union survivors not only gave testimony under oath to the investigation, but they also related their experiences to newspaper interviewers and family members in their own letters immediately after the battle. And yes, there were a couple of Confederates who described the massacre in letters to their families. Many others freely admitted shooting soldiers who were floundering in the Mississippi. It was official Confederate policy not to recognize blacks as soldiers. Only after northern outrage boiled over did Forrest and the South begin to build their case that Fort Pillow was not a massacre. Some reviewers will have you believe that Ward is hiding some of the story, but that is not the case. He uses the works of Forrest's defenders, and mentions his late in life disavow of violence. Forrest's black aids are in the book. Ward also does a fine job of setting up the battle, showing why Fort Pillow's defenders were in no mood to surrender without a fair fight. Yes, there are errors in the book; Ward is not a Civil War specialist. But, the case for the massacre is there. Ex-slaves and Tennessee whites fighting for the North defended Fort Pillow. Forrest and his men reviled them as traitors to the South. Apparently, they are still hated by Neo-Confederates. Only by discounting their testimony as lies can anyone claim that there was no massacre. 3 of 13 people found the following review helpful. A Northern slant. By Allen D. Martin In depth analysis of the brutality following the battle. Not an easy book to read, especially so I would think if a person had a Southern background.

On April 12, 1864, a force of more than 3,000 Confederate cavalry under Nathan Bedford Forrest galloped across West Tennessee to storm Fort Pillow on the Mississippi River, overwhelming a garrison of some 350 Southern white Unionists and over 300 former slaves turned artillerymen. By the next day, hundreds of Federals were dead or wounded, more than 60 black troops had been captured and reenslaved, and more than 100 white troops had been marched off to their doom at Andersonville. Confederates called this bloody battle and its aftermath a hard-won victory. Northerners deemed it premeditated slaughter. To this day, Fort Pillow remains one of the most controversial battles in American history. The fullest, most accurate account of the battle yet written, *River Run Red* vividly depicts the incompetence and corruption of Union occupation in Tennessee, the horrors of guerrilla warfare, and the pent-up bigotry and rage that found its release at Fort Pillow. Andrew Ward brings to life the garrison's black troops and their ambivalent white comrades, and the intrepid Confederate cavalymen who rode with the slave trading Nathan Bedford Forrest, future founder of the Ku Klux Klan. The result is a fast-paced narrative that hurtles toward that fateful April day and beyond to establish Fort Pillow's true significance in the annals of American history. Destined to become as controversial as the battle itself, *River Run Red* is sure to appeal to readers of James McPherson's bestselling *Crossroads of Freedom: Antietam*.

From Publishers Weekly This massive narrative painstakingly recounts the notorious—and much-disputed—massacre of the Union garrison at Fort Pillow, Tenn., by Nathan Bedford Forrest's Confederate cavalry on April 12, 1864. The outnumbered garrison, containing an artillery regiment of 300 freed slaves and a cavalry regiment of 350 white Tennessee Unionists, asked for a truce but various errors on both sides led the Confederates to believe that the Union soldiers were refusing Forrest's call to surrender. The ensuing attack left approximately two-thirds of the garrison dead or taken prisoner. Ward (*Dark Midnight When I Rise: The Story of the Jubilee Singers*) details overwhelming evidence that many were killed while surrendering or wounded, and that the rebels slaughtered fleeing African-American civilians as well. A congressional investigation resulted, but Forrest returned to civilian life and reputedly went on to found the KKK. The author vividly builds his case, portraying a wide range of the actors in the drama as well as the broader context—western Tennessee's unhappy history of slavery meant that the Union garrison was riven from within while assaulted from without. Ward's story of this notorious "collision of Southerners—white and black" makes an outstanding addition to Civil War literature. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Fort Pillow's military significance in the Civil War was dwarfed by its symbolism. It was a static Union position on Tennessee's Mississippi River bank, garrisoned by white and newly recruited black troops, and assaulted and captured in 1864 by Confederates who took few prisoners. Rebel commander Nathan Bedford Forrest, antebellum slaver, postbellum Klansman, exulted in his victory. To the North, however, the battle at Fort Pillow was a massacre, a term author Ward says he initially avoided in his research but concludes is the unavoidable truth. His history must be the last word on this historically highly controversial affair. It judiciously examines all arguments advanced in defense of Fort Pillow as a legitimate, albeit particularly brutal, act of war; his narrative integrates the Confederate case and then relentlessly refutes it in the particulars of the battle and its gory aftermath. He is masterful in setting its context of slavery's unraveling, and in his portraits of perpetrators and victims as well. The conflict in microcosm, Ward's history will capture the Civil War readership. Gilbert Taylor Copyright ©

American Library Association. All rights reserved [Brings] to light the painful facts of the Fort Pillow Massacre and the terrifying, fascinating figure behind it... -- Ken Burns[Brings] to light the painful facts of the Fort Pillow Massacre and the terrifying, fascinating figure behind it... (Ken Burns)