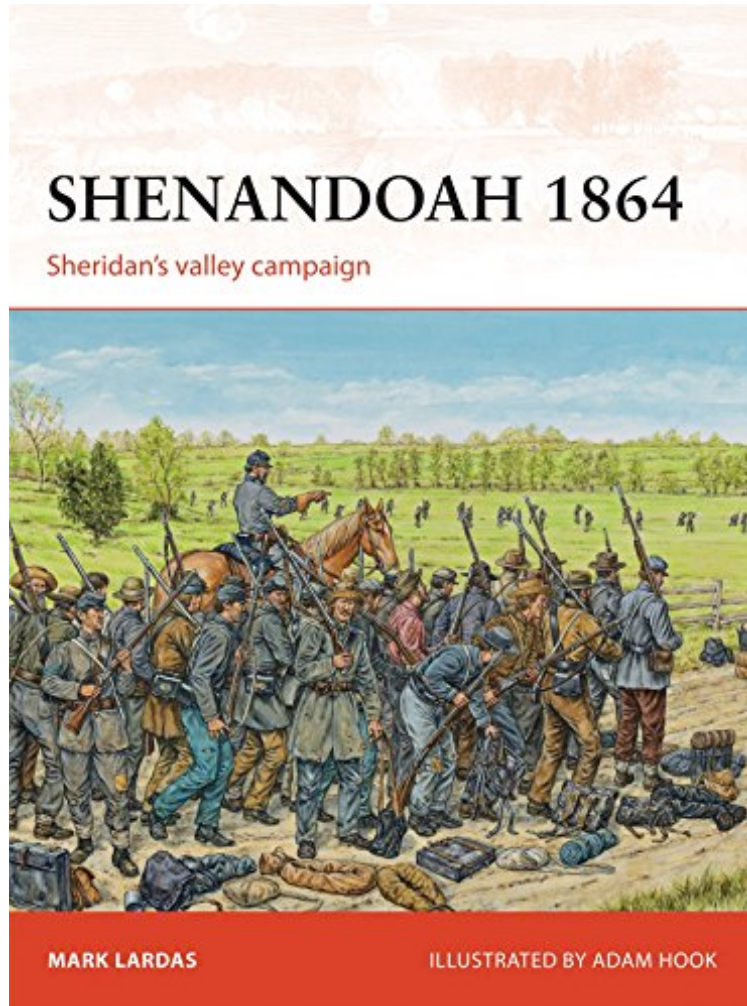


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Shenandoah 1864: Sheridan's valley campaign

Mark Lardas

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Mark Lardas : Shenandoah 1864: Sheridan's valley campaign before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Shenandoah 1864: Sheridan's valley campaign:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Sheridan's Valley campaign...By HMS Warspite
In August, 1864, Union General U.S. Grant dispatched the young and aggressive Brigadier General Phil Sheridan to the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, there to suppress the Confederate Army of General Jubal Early, whose troops had threatened Washington, D.C. in early July, and burned Chambersburg, Pennsylvania in late July. Sheridan was given the elements of a small army and told to follow Early "to the death." What followed was Sheridan's remarkable Valley campaign. "Shenandoah 1864" is an Osprey Campaign Series entry, authored by Mark Lardas, with illustrations by Adam Hook. The narrative captures the see-saw nature of the campaign up and down the Valley, as two skilled generals maneuvered for advantage. The campaign culminated in the Battle of Cedar Creek, a clash that could have

been won by either side. The format follows the standard Osprey presentation on the opposing commanders, their forces, and their plans. The text provides a very readable description of the campaign itself, nicely supplemented with an excellent selection of maps, diagrams, photographs, and illustrations. The author provides some concise analysis on the differing expectations of the opposing commanders, along with mention of the role played by Confederate irregulars and of the effects of the "burning" of the Valley. The result is a good introduction to the topic.

Recommended. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Easy to read and well illustrated. By Gary E.

Binder An interesting overview of the famous campaign in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. It not only covers the major actions but puts the campaign into the strategic perspective, i.e. how did the Sheridan vs Early fight affect the rest of the war? Easy to read and well illustrated. Great for the history buff who wants to learn about this famous campaign. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Battle Summery. By Richard C. Wolfinger

I recommend this book. It is a well written and easy to follow account of Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign. I would recommend the book rather than the kindle version to more easily study the wonderful maps.

Virginia's Shenandoah Valley in 1864 was the scene of one of the most crucial campaigns of the Civil War. The outcome of the fighting there would have consequences that stretched far outside the valley to help decide the fate of the nation. In 1864 the Union Army's new commander, Ulysses Grant, created the Union's first cohesive strategy for conquering the Confederacy. One of his key objectives was to control the Shenandoah Valley. The valley shielded the Confederacy, served as the bread basket for Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, and provided remounts for Confederate cavalry. When an initial invasion in spring 1864 failed in the face of a skillful counter-attack by General Jubal Early, Grant turned to his cavalry commander, Brigadier-General Philip Sheridan, to drive the Confederacy from the valley. On August 7, 1864, "Little Phil" assumed command of the Army of the Shenandoah, as the new command was styled. Over the next 90 days two armies--the Union forces led by Sheridan and the Confederate troops commanded by Early--maneuvered across the Shenandoah Valley in a storied campaign of move and countermove, where unexpected attacks were met by equally unexpected ripostes. The stakes in the battles were not just the fate of one disputed agricultural valley in the United States. Rather, its implications would be felt throughout a nation torn by Civil War. Victory or defeat in the Shenandoah could affect the outcome of the Presidential election to be held in November 1864. Confederate loss of the Valley would cripple the Army of Northern Virginia. Sheridan's eventual victory helped ensure Lincoln's re-election and removed the Confederate threat, hastening the eventual end to the Civil War.

About the Author Mark Lardas holds a degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering, but spent his early career at the Johnson Space Center doing Space Shuttle structural analysis, and space navigation. An amateur historian and a long-time ship modeler, Mark Lardas is currently working in League City, Texas. He has written extensively about modeling as well as naval, maritime, and military history. The author lives in League City, TX.