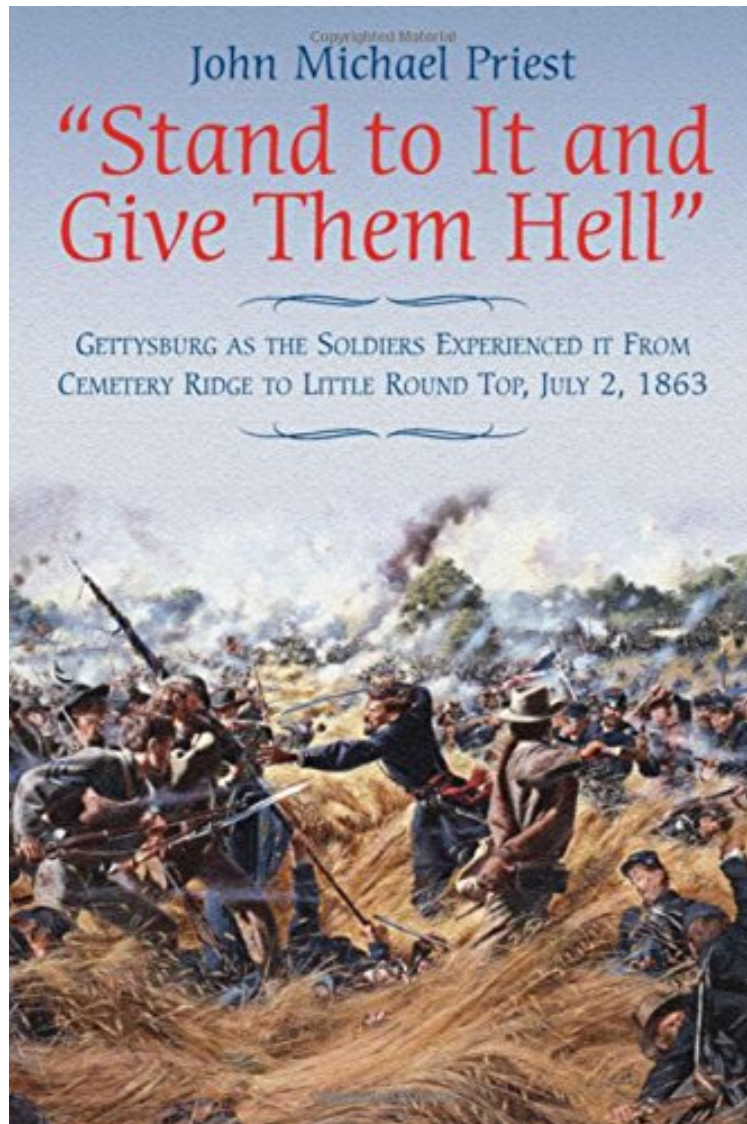


[Mobile pdf] Stand to It and Give Them Hell: Gettysburg as the Soldiers Experienced it from Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top, July 2, 1863

## Stand to It and Give Them Hell: Gettysburg as the Soldiers Experienced it from Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top, July 2, 1863

*John Michael Priest*

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**John Michael Priest : Stand to It and Give Them Hell: Gettysburg as the Soldiers Experienced it from Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top, July 2, 1863** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Stand to It and Give Them Hell: Gettysburg as the Soldiers Experienced it from

## Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top, July 2, 1863:

20 of 21 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding history of the second day of combat at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863. By Joe Owen Outstanding history of the intense fighting at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. Mike Priest gives a fascinating account of the intensive bloody battle on the fields of Gettysburg between the Army of the Potomac and the Army of Northern Virginia. The author gives a time frame and location of all the fighting during the second day of the battle. Giving the soldiers and commanders history of the action. The regiments both north and south hammered away at each other all over the vicinity such as the Peach Orchard, the Round Tops, the Wheatfield and the other locations. The narrative of the action is captivating and you are right in the action of the troops that fought against each other. The author has superb end notes, citations and bibliography based on the soldiers account of the battle. It is an intense read that draws you in the battle and you feel that you are witnessing the charges, defense, artillery barrages, and the hand-to-hand fighting that took place. It took years of great research from Mike Priest to write this book based on the soldiers accounts, hundreds of personal accounts, newspaper articles, manuscripts and memoirs from the soldiers of the AoP and the ANV and Mr. Priest has woven them together to make an outstanding account of the second day of fighting at Gettysburg on July 2, 1863. Mr. Priest as noted before did an excellent job citing the resources for the book and this greatly enhances the accuracy of the soldiers accounts of the battle. I can't recommend this book highly enough to anyone interested in the Battle of Gettysburg. It is a must read for the Civil War scholar, student, and historian and compliments the top books about the battle from the notable authors of the battle such as Coddington, Pfanz, Mingus, Petrucci, Coco, and Wittenburg and other fine authors. Mike Priest is called the "Ernie Pyle of the Civil War" by noted National Park Historian Emeritus Ed Bearss. After reading this fine book and the other great books by Mike Priest I definitely agree with Mr. Bearss. A truly outstanding account of the fighting on July 2, 1863 at Gettysburg. **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!** 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Chaos, Courage and Slaughter. By J. Groen This is an excellent study of the 2nd day of the Battle of Gettysburg, focused on the attack by Longstreet and the defense of the well known locations - Little Round Top, Devil's Den, the Wheatfield and the Peach Orchard. Told through the eyewitness experiences of those who experienced the battle at all levels but mostly focused on individual soldiers, what comes through is a very accurate assessment of what happened. What comes through is what General Longstreet said during the Gettysburg movie - "it wasn't that close". Typically, books that are written about this battle from the top down, i.e. from the General's perspective, give the impression that the Confederates almost won on July 2nd, but they didn't and this book highlights that. Instead what happened, as usually occurred in a Civil War battle, was individual courage, a lot of chaos and a substantial amount of slaughter. Courage - continued stories of individual soldiers who kept fighting until they were shot and killed or wounded, General Barksdale being wounded but staying on his horse (because he couldn't walk due to his wounds) to lead his troops and making himself a target until he was wounded mortally; General Vincent, calmly standing next to his soldiers stopping a charge with nothing but a riding whip to defend himself - and their more and more of these stories. Chaos - there were no defined lines for regiments and brigades as units became mixed up, and often marched beyond their support to get surrounded and decimated. The Wheatfield had a number of these examples. And, Slaughter - there are numerous examples provided of soldiers being beheaded by cannon shot, disemboweled and dismembered, soldiers being shot in the head and their brains splattering all over their compatriots. The fact that these individuals who experienced this still continued fighting is also an example of the courage that they exhibited. There are many books written about the battle of Gettysburg, and I have read many of them. This is one of my favorites. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent work on the second days actions. By Gene TA great book to sit down and read with a map set out in front of you! My choice was the McElfresh map as I find it one of the best. Yes the book is a bit choppy and hard at times to keep straight but you must remember it's NOT a novel! It's actually a nice study guide! I read and reread sections a number of times so as to get a clearer image of what was happening where and by whom. Again, a good map makes the read even more interesting. I started the book right after a trip to the battlefield and find myself wanting to go back with the book in hand to wander and read. All the personal anecdotes add that human touch and makes the read much more than a rigid, boring "They were here at this time and did this" type of book. I WILL reread this a number of times I'm sure and always with my map(s) set out in front of me! I highly recommend the book especially for one who has a solid understanding of the second days field. One who just picks it up without any or much knowledge most likely will not enjoy it as much. Dig in, read and reread. Digest it all and come away alot more knowledgeable on the second day of Gettysburg! Oh yeah...don't forget your map!

"Stand to It and Give Them Hell" chronicles the Gettysburg fighting from Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top on July 2, 1863, through the letters, memoirs, diaries, and postwar recollections of the men from both armies who struggled to control that "hallowed ground." John Michael Priest, dubbed the "Ernie Pyle" of the Civil War soldier, wrote this book to help readers understand and experience, as closely as possible through the written word, the stress and terror of that fateful day in Pennsylvania. Readers will gain a deeper appreciation of the personal sacrifice made that awful day by privates and generals alike. This invaluable method uses their own words to paint a rich tapestry of

their personal courage and cowardice, and their failures and triumphs. Nearly 60 detailed maps, mostly on the regimental level, illustrate the tremendous troop congestion in the Wheatfield, the Peach Orchard, and Devil's Den. They accurately establish, by regiment or by company, the extent of the Federal skirmish line from Ziegler's Grove to the Snyder farm and portray the final Confederate push against the Codori farm and the center of Cemetery Ridge, which three Confederate divisions in what is popularly known as Pickett's Charge would unsuccessfully attack on the final day of fighting. This is a book about combat as seen through the eyes of those who waged it. There is no glamour here, and no adventure. Nor are there accusations, confessions, or second-guessing from the comfort of an easy chair. Instead, "Stand to It and Give Them Hell" offers the brutal, heart-wrenching story of a slice of America's greatest battle as described by those who marched, fought, bled, and died there. This is their story, and it is one you will long remember.

"'Stand to it and Give Them Hell!' puts a human face on the second day of the nation's epic Civil War battle. It is easy to forget that soldiers are not cardboard figures, but real fathers, sons, brothers, friends, and neighbors, all caught up in a conflict of unexpected magnitude. Often these men are weary or hungry, frightened, in pain, or unbelievably brave. Mike Priest has taken a familiar story and somehow made it fresh and new. It is simply first-rate." (Lance J. Herdegen, award-winning author of *The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory: The Black Hats from Bull Run to Appomattox and Thereafter*) "This remarkable new book uses the writings of individual officers and soldiers on both sides to relate the horrible combat they witnessed on Cemetery Ridge and the Union left on second day at Gettysburg. Priest's distinctive style is rife with anecdotes, many drawn from obscure diaries and letters, artfully stitched together in an original manner. Readers will witness the passion and bravery of these men and their units during the ebb and flow of battle, together with the awful wounds and suffering they endured. What was it really like to fight at Gettysburg? Read this intensely personal narrative, complete with scores of original maps to carefully follow the action, and you will find out." (David G. Martin, author of *Gettysburg July 1*, and co-author (with John W. Busey) of *Regimental Strengths and Losses at Gettysburg*) "John Priest has earned the reputation for his remarkable research that reaches deep into the past to find the voices of ordinary men engulfed in the maelstrom of combat. Just when it seems every nook and cranny of the Gettysburg battlefield has been explored, Priest brings new voices to the surface, reminding us that no single grand narrative can capture the incredible range of experiences and emotions felt between July 1 and 3, 1863. "Stand to It and Give Them Hell!" demonstrates Priest's remarkable ability to take the reader to the ground level of the Civil War." (Peter S. Carmichael, Gettysburg College, and the author of *Lee's Young Artillerist: William R. J. Pegram*)...stirring narrative of the common soldier's experiences on the southern end of the battlefield on the second day of fighting at Gettysburg...packed with great information and wonderful anecdotes..capacity as a researched is quite impressive as even a cursory glance through his bibliography will attest, and his devotion to primary stories is clearly demonstrated... (Civil War News) About the Author A retired high school history teacher, John Michael Priest has been interested in Civil War history since an early age. He is a graduate of Loyola College in Baltimore and Hood College in Frederick, Maryland, and has written extensively about the Civil War. His many books include *Antietam: The Soldiers' Battle* (1989); *Before Antietam: The Battle for South Mountain* (1992); *Nowhere to Run: The Wilderness, May 4th 5th, 1864* (1995); *Victory Without Triumph: The Wilderness, May 6th 7th, 1864* (1996); and *Into the Fight: Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg* (1998). Praised by legendary historian Edwin C. Bearss as the "Ernie Pyle" of the Civil War soldier, Priest appeared on the Discovery Channel's *Unsolved History: Pickett's Charge* (2002), and is one of the historical consultants for the forthcoming miniseries *To Appomattox*. He and his wife live in Clear Spring, Maryland.