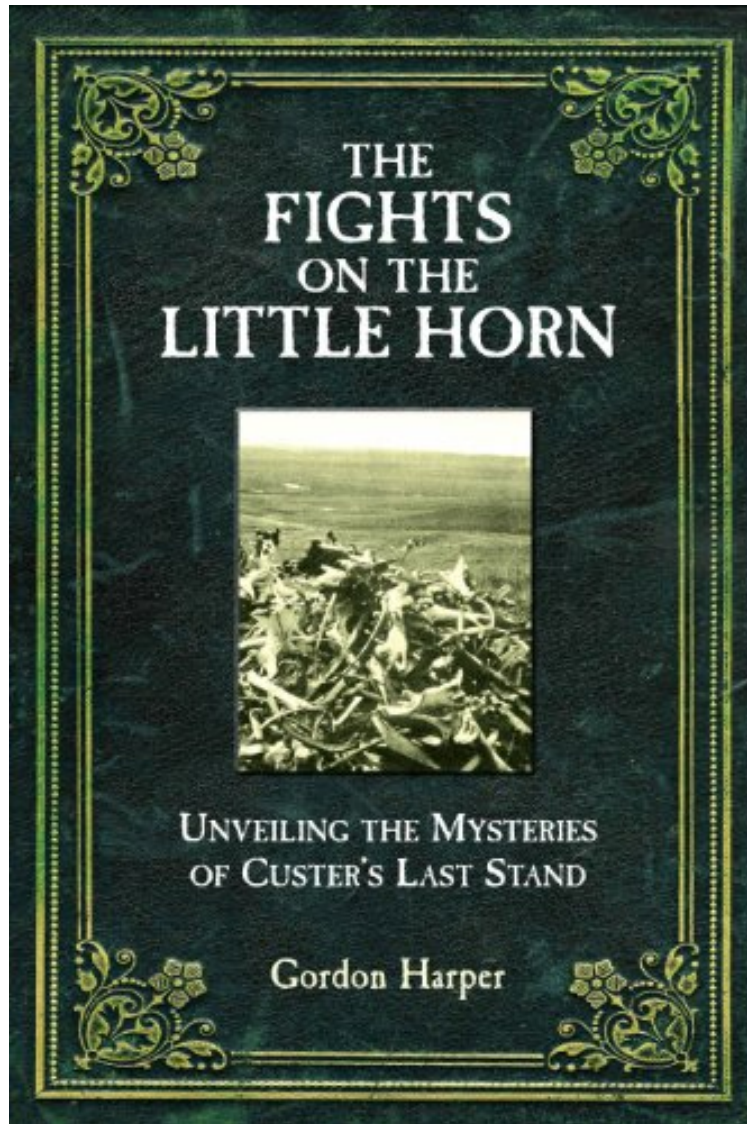


(Library ebook) The Fights on the Little Horn: Unveiling the Mysteries of Custer's Last Stand

The Fights on the Little Horn: Unveiling the Mysteries of Custer's Last Stand

Gordon Harper

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Gordon Harper : The Fights on the Little Horn: Unveiling the Mysteries of Custer's Last Stand before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Fights on the Little Horn: Unveiling the Mysteries of Custer's Last Stand:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. This Book Brings us Closer to the Truth of What Happened at the Battle of the Little BighornBy J. GroenAlthough we will never really know exactly what happened on that fateful

afternoon of June 25, 1876, with the recent sources, we are getting very close in my opinion. This book and Frederic Wagner's book (*The Strategy of Defeat at the Little Big Horn*) go a long way towards providing an answer. What is becoming clear from the archeological analysis and a clear and logical analysis of the Little Big Horn battlefield is that something happened to break up the coherence of Custer's command resulting in the deaths of 200 men. Although the author (not Gordon Harper but another individual) is not willing to be courageous and provide a final statement of that, Gordon Harper provides a strong hint. There are many individuals who have studied this battle (including David Humphreys and my brother) who believe that Custer was mortally wounded at the Medicine Coulee. My answer to that is: then why did his command go to the north ford. We know that he did because Mark Kellogg's body was found there and some Indian sources claim that there was a firefight there. So, I'm not a believer in that scenario and neither is this source and Fredericks. In fact, this source goes so far as to state that there may not have even have been a firefight there. However, there is more and more evidence pointing that Custer was in fact mortally wounded at the north fork. If not, why didn't the soldiers continue to charge across this ford against relatively minor resistance. And, after the command retreated to the site of the "last stand hill" why did it wait for 20 minutes. This source mentions that maybe someone important was wounded at the north fork and the doctor's were checking him out. Further, I would strongly suggest that that someone was George Custer, and at that time, E company charged to the Deep Ravine to get away and all coherence of command disappeared. As I stated earlier, we will never know what happened, but I think that we do know that the picture of George Custer fighting with two guns at the end is a farce. In fact, he was mortally wounded and someone (probably his brother, but maybe one of the other three officers around him at the end) probably ended his life with a bullet to the head (so that he wouldn't be captured). That doesn't mean that there wasn't heroism at the end. There is reason to believe that in fact Tom Custer died with two guns (probably George Custer's) blazing before being killed at the end and that Myles Keough (who many of the Indians believed was Custer) may have done the same. Again, we will never know for sure. Also, even if Custer was incapacitated and the coherence of command was broken up, the Indians still probably would have won the battle. So, maybe this point is mute... we'll never know for sure. This is one of the reasons why this battle of the Little Bighorn has always captured my and others imaginations. This and the fact that this is the only battlefield where the crosses are placed to mark where the soldiers fell. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. this is by far the best researched, and documented book I have read on ...By Ed Wood In 20 years of being an Indian wars, Cavalry, and Custer history buff, this is by far the best researched, and documented book I have read on the subject. I have the opportunity to ride the ground where the battle was fought every year as I have done the Reenactment of the battle every year at the Little Bighorn since 2001. This book and Weiberts "Sixty Six years in Custer's Shadow" are probably two of the best books written on the subject. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. this is one of the best books, maybe the best book that I have ...By Dave Ferrante this is one of the best books, maybe the best book that I have read pertaining to the battle, and I have read over 30 of them in 20 years. I would recommend it to anyone who is a student of the battle or anyone who is most interested. Very informative book and should settle-answer any questions that anyone might have on the Battle of the little Horn or Greasy Grass. Glad I purchased it. Super good reading.

Winner of the 2014 John Carroll Award, presented annually by The Little Big Horn Associates, as their Literary Award for the best book/monograph during the preceding year. Winner 2014 G. Joseph Sills Jr. Book Award This remarkable book synthesizes a lifetime of in-depth research into one of Americas most storied disasters, the defeat of Custers 7th Cavalry at the hands of the Sioux and Cheyenne Indians, as well as the complete annihilation of that part of the cavalry led by Custer himself. The author, Gordon Harper, spent countless hours on the battlefield itself as well as researching every iota of evidence of the fight from both sides, white and Indian. He was thus able to recreate every step of the battle as authoritatively as anyone could, dispelling myths and falsehoods along the way. Harper himself passed away in 2009, leaving behind nearly two million words of original research and writing. In this book his work has been condensed for the general public to observe his key findings and the crux of his narrative on the exact course of the battle. One of his first observations is that the fight took place along the Little Horn River its junction with the Big Horn was several miles away so that the term for the battle, Little Big Horn has always been a misnomer. He precisely traces the mysterious activities of Benteens battalion on that fateful day, and why it could never come to Custers reinforcement. He describes Renos desperate fight in unprecedented depth, as well as how that unnerved officer benefited from the unexpected heroism of many of his men. Indian accounts, ever-present throughout this book, come to the fore especially during Custers part of the fight, because no white soldier survived it. However, analysis of the forensic evidencetracking cartridges, bullets, etc., discovered on the battlefield plus the locations of bodies assist in drawing an accurate scenario of how the final scene unfolded. It may indeed be clearer now than it was to the doomed 7th Cavalrymen at the time, who through the dust and smoke and Indians seeming to rise by hundreds from the ground, only gradually realized the extent of the disaster. Of additional interest is the narrative of the battlefield after the fight, when successive burial teams had to be dispatched for the gruesome task, because prior ones invariably did a poor job. Though author Gordon Harper is no longer with us, his daughter Tori Harper, along with author/historians Gordon Richard and Monte Akers, have done yeomans work in preserving his valuable research for

the public.

The sheer breadth of Gordon Harpers research is amazing; Ive read every major account of George Custers last battle and the various imbecilities leading up to it (and a good many of the primary sources on which accounts are based), and I was stunned to find that *The Fights on the Little Horn* is, in its slightly ramshackle way, the best of them all. Care is taken throughout to keep the broader narrative moving forward, but the array of detailed excurses is positively joyful to the historically inquisitive....The Custer disaster is one of those odd little irreducible kernels of American history that exercise perennial fascination. Anybody who feels the pull of that fascination should make sure not to miss this deep-digging book (*Open Letters Monthly*)" provides a rich, well-documented narrative that will surely become one of the definitive sources of this bloody event. This is exceptional historical reporting that is meticulously researched, clearly written and as exciting as any well-crafted novel. This book is highly recommended" (*Kings Feature Syndicate*)Having read and studied several previous books on the Custer Battle, I was hoping that something new would emerge and I was not disappointed. It is a great pity Gordon Harper did not live long enough to have seen his years of work and research in a completed form, but it does stand as a solid testimony to diligence...certainly a book that one cannot put down (*Norman Franks, Author*)"... vast amount of research...without a doubt other enthusiasts of one of history's most overrated field engagements will get hours of enjoyment debating just how many of its revelations are truly groundbreaking... the research and passion is commendable (*Wild West Magazine*)... Harper studied the battle for about 50 years but died before completing his book. However, the writers who finished it for him preserved his passionate style... the extensive research and focused conclusions make it an essential read for serious students. (*True West Magazine*)This is a thoroughly researched, intriguing and well-written book that should rank as a definitive source of information about what really happened. (*Toy Soldier and Model Figure*)If the reader believes that there is nothing new to be written about the most famous and analyzed battle in the west, this book may convince him otherwise. It deserves a place on the shelf of every student of Custer's battle (*Journal of America's Military Past*)...through these pages we get a glimpse of Hitler as a private person, putting on eyeglasses to read reports without fear that the public would learn of his weak vision, and insisting on sending his personal physicians when one of his footmen fell ill. What I thought as the most valuable attribute of *Hitler's Last Witness* was Misch's own story, someone who naively followed Hitler without ever questioning anything, not even in his own mind. While he fell short of admitting this as a failure, I appreciated his warnings against war as a national policy, for he had realized that war was no better than mass murder. Memoirs, by definition, could not be considered history, but Misch's account gave me valuable insight into the mind of a low-ranking German serviceman during the WW2 era (*World War 2 Database*)"...we are blessed that Gordon Harpers scholarship is now available...he did his homework as his extensive bibliography attests... provide ample food for those who hunger for the serious study of the Little Big Horn, to whom I recommend the book. This contribution will at least challenge us to reexamine (if not revise) time-honored assumptions and conceptions. The reviewer is certain that it will lead to many more fights as we continue the perpetual debate on the subject that Gordon Harper loved so well. (*CBHMA BOOK REVIEW*)Gordon Harper (1939-2009) had a life long fascination with the battle, lived near the field for a time and toured it often, collected accounts of the battle, official papers, memoirs, and more, and hoped to write a definitive source book on it, but passed away before it was completed. This volume was compiled from his materials by his daughter *Tori Harper* and *Gordon Richard*.The first half of the book is essentially a narrative treatment of the operations that culminated in *Battle of the Little Big Horn*, which Harper had largely completed before his death. It consists of four chapters that follow the various detachments of the 7th Cavalry as they moved toward the battlefield on the Greasy Grass River, followed by three chapters on *Maj. Marcus Reno's* column, and then two chapters on the events and circumstances of the destruction of Custers battalion. The second part of the book is titled *Analysis*. It consists of eight essays that address particular questions about the battle and battlefield archaeology, from *A Question of Disobedience*, discussing whether or not Custer deliberately ignored orders through *The number of Warriors Facing the 7th Cavalry*, *Burials, Markers, and Survivors*, and so forth.While its likely that neither Custerphiles nor Custerphobes will be entirely happy with all of Gordons conclusions, anyone with a serious interest in the events on the Little Big Horn, or in the Indian Fighting Army, will find this excellent reading. (*NYMAS*)Drawing on Indian accounts, as well as evidence from cartridges, bullets, and bodies discovered on the battlefield, this work for general readers and scholars describes the defeat of Custers 7th Cavalry by Sioux and Cheyenne forces near the Little Horn River (a battle often known as the battle of Little Big Horn). The book also details the immediate aftermath of the battle, including the burial and reburial of combatants. The first half of the book offers a chronological narrative, while the second half offers analysis. Bw historical photos and contemporary battle maps are included. An ebook edition provides primary source appendices. Author Gordon Harper lived near the site of the battle for decades and collected information on the battle from local Native American tribes. (*Protoview*)About the AuthorGordon Harper is a researcher of American military history.