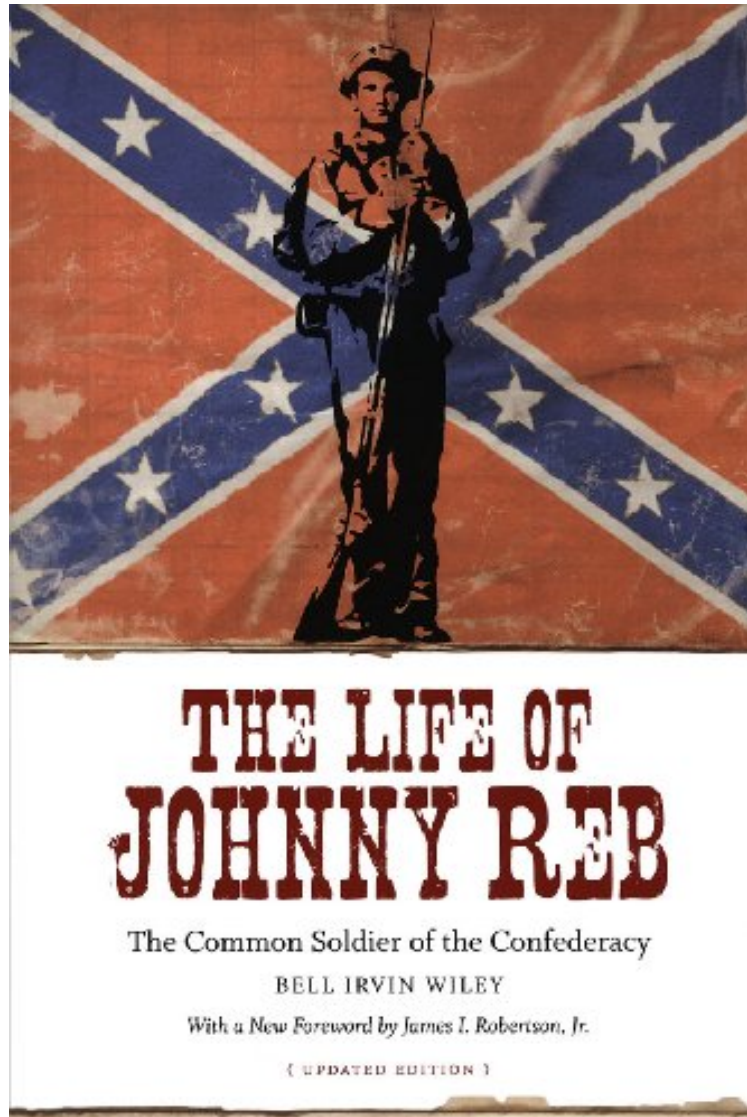


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The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy

Bell Irvin Wiley

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Bell Irvin Wiley : The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the Confederacy:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Life of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier of the ConfederacyBy Neil F. CarrCopyright 1943, this is one of the most carefully researched, and credited volumes of Civil War history I've read and thoroughly appreciated. History from the viewpoint of the participants is "as good as it

gets," to me; Bell Irvin Wiley certainly provided that viewpoint in this and its sister volume, *The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union*. (Available as separate volumes and as a boxed-set from sellers on .com.) I recommend that one have both at hand for the sake of comparison, on a second read-through if not the first. (Got history? Bring it on!) Civil War historian Bruce Catton, whose books also rank highly for historical accuracy and "palatability," said, "Of all the books that have been written [on the Civil War]... the ones that will truly live are Bell Wiley's." I'll add: "I wish I'd been a student when Professor Wiley taught history at Emory." 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. He enjoyed the book. By Jay4Tee It was a gift for my husband who enjoys reading about the Civil War. He enjoyed the book. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great knowledge of how it may have been to be ... By wheeler Great knowledge of how it may have been to be in the trenches of the Great American civil war to save democracy. Though there were some phrases and comparisons that I've read in other books?.

In this companion to *The Life of Johnny Reb*, Bell Irvin Wiley explores the daily lives of the men in blue who fought to save the Union. With the help of many soldiers' letters and diaries, Wiley explains who these men were and why they fought, how they reacted to combat and the strain of prolonged conflict, and what they thought about the land and the people of Dixie. This fascinating social history reveals that while the Yanks and the Rebs fought for very different causes, the men on both sides were very much the same. "This wonderfully interesting book is the finest memorial the Union soldier is ever likely to have.... [Wiley] has written about the Northern troops with an admirable objectivity, with sympathy and understanding and profound respect for their fighting abilities. He has also written about them with fabulous learning and considerable pace and humor.

From the Back Cover When Bell Irvin Wiley's composite portrait of the rank-and-file Confederate soldier was published in 1943, it was enthusiastically received by professional historians and general readers alike. A half century later, the book still is regarded as one of the best available accounts of the ordinary citizens who made up the Confederate army. *The Life of Johnny Reb* is not about the battles and skirmishes fought by the Confederate foot soldier. Rather, it is an intimate history of the soldier's daily life - the songs he sang, the foods he ate, the hopes and fears he experienced, the reasons he fought. Wiley has examined countless letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, and official records in constructing this frequently poignant, sometimes humorous account of the life of Johnny Reb. | When Bell Irvin Wiley's composite portrait of the rank-and-file Confederate soldier was published in 1943, professional historians and general readers alike greeted it enthusiastically. Over a half century later, the book still offers one of the best available accounts of the ordinary citizens who made up the Confederate army. *The Life of Johnny Reb* does not merely describe the battles and skirmishes fought by the Confederate foot soldier. Rather, it provides an intimate history of a soldier's daily life -- the songs he sang, the foods he ate, the hopes and fears he experienced, the reasons he fought. Wiley examined countless letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, and official records to construct this frequently poignant, sometimes humorous account of the life of Johnny Reb. In a new foreword for this updated edition, Civil War expert James I. Robertson, Jr., explores the exemplary career of Bell Irvin Wiley, who championed the common folk, whom he saw as ensnared in the great conflict of the 1860s. "A fascinating, well-written, stimulating, and valuable book." -- *Tennessee Historical Quarterly* "[Wiley] has painted with skill a picture of the life of the Confederate private... that is not only by far the most complete we have ever had but perhaps the best of its kind we ever shall have." -- *Saturday of Literature* Bell Irvin Wiley (1906--1980) was a professor emeritus of history at Emory University and one of America's preeminent Civil War historians. He is also the author of *The Life of Billy Yank* and *Road to Appomattox*, among other books. James I. Robertson, Jr., is Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at Virginia Tech University. He is the author of *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend*; *Soldiers Blue and Gray*; and *The Stonewall Brigade*, among other works. About the Author Bell Irvin Wiley (1906--1980) was a professor emeritus of history at Emory University and one of America's preeminent Civil War historians. James I. Robertson, Jr., is the author of many books, including the award-winning *Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend*. Well known for his lectures across the country and his appearances in television documentaries, he is Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at Virginia Tech.