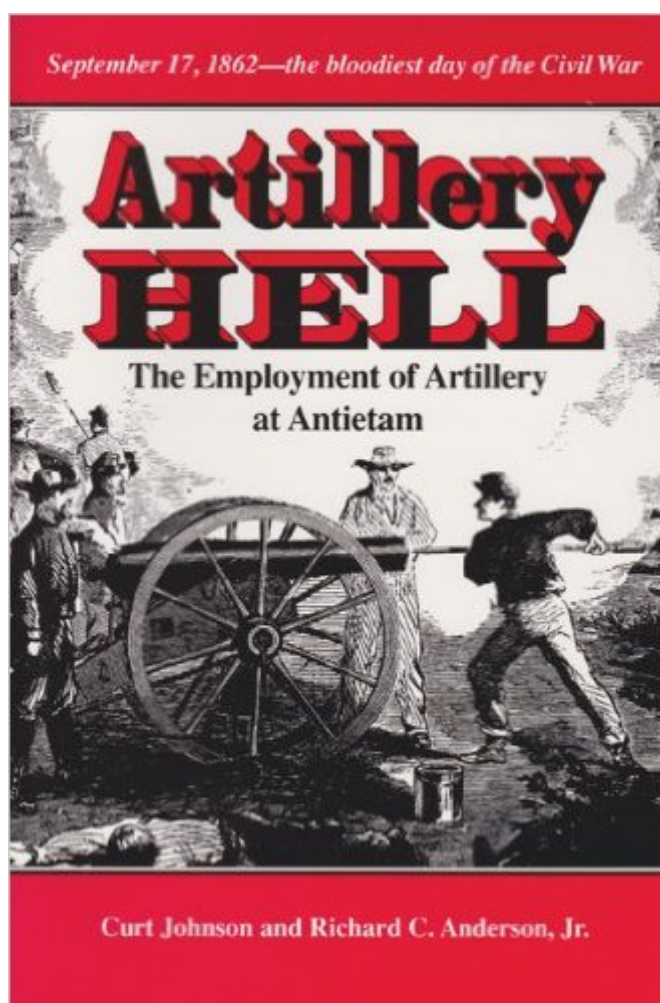


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Artillery Hell: The Employment Of Artillery At Antietam (Williams-Ford Texas A&M University Military History Series)



Synopsis

September 17, 1862, at Antietam Creek was the bloodiest day of the Civil War, as both armies made heavy use of field artillery, the "long arm." In *Artillery Hell* Curt Johnson and Richard C. Anderson, Jr., provide a detailed examination of the role of field artillery in the Battle of Antietam. Johnson sets the context with an overview of organizational problems on the eve of a great battle. Anderson's concise discussion of different types of artillery and their capabilities and ammunition is presented in accessible language. The heart of *Artillery Hell* is Maj. Joseph Mills Hanson's unpublished 1940 report, "Employment of Artillery." It includes compilations of the batteries in the respective armies at Antietam, a review of the battle actions of the "individual batteries," and a "list of battery positions in a tentative order." Johnson and Anderson build upon Hanson's reports with individual chapters on the Union and the Confederate artillery at Antietam. Utilizing previously untapped or unavailable sources, especially the Henry Jackson Hunt Papers at the Library of Congress, they answer questions that have long challenged historians and others interested in the battle. *Artillery Hell* discusses virtually every aspect of field artillery used during the Civil War. Battlefield visitors can use it to identify and understand the different types of cannon and their capabilities, and historians will find in it the military perspective so many studies of the battle lack.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Curt Johnson and Richard Anderson's "Artillery Hell" is a reference work for the artillery employed at

Antietam. The authors bring forward a useful report by the now deceased Maj. Hanson, along with their own study of what armament each battery had, and they include After Action Reports from the Henry Hunt Papers not to be found in the Official Records. The specialized nature of this work would easily gain 4 or 5 stars and a strong recommendation if it was not so flawed and user-unfriendly. The two most evident problems are an unpardonable lack of maps, and disjointed structure. The third flaw is one the reader should take more careful note of: a general misunderstanding of some types of artillery and misidentification/erroneous grouping of pieces. If one is researching orders of battle this could cause grief. For the casual reader the lack of maps is very unfortunate. If you want to know where batteries were positioned you will have to bring maps from elsewhere and work it out yourself. The disjointed nature of the work emerges from its semi-essay format. It doesn't feel complete and requires copious time for data mining. The authors present the work in sections and they did not take care to note differences in interpretation between sections. They present Maj. Hanson's work without sufficient editing or notes to show where it differs from their later studies/chapters. How bad is this? I spent about 4 hours in a first list of differences in their scattered OOB and Hanson's table. Of 62 Union batteries listed, there were significant differences with Hanson in 29. Of 57 CSA batteries engaged there were significant differences in 34. Why didn't the authors include their own summary table as well? Shouldn't that have been the culmination of their work?

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