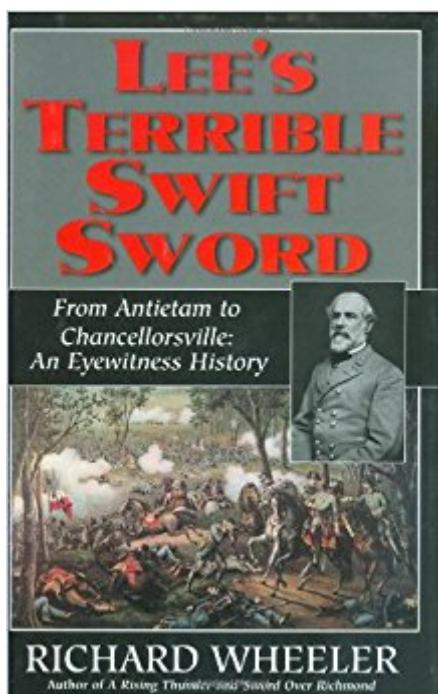


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# Lee's Terrible Swift Sword: From Antietam To Chancellorsville: An Eyewitness History



## **Synopsis**

From Antietam to Chancellorsville, this is an eyewitness account of the man himself, his ambitious and powerful successes against a poorly led foe which helped to promote an overconfidence that he could go North again, to Gettysburg, and win.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Here Wheeler powerfully retells the ever-new drama of the great battles of the Southern armies, which, until Gettysburg, made the North tremble. Using letters from soldiers, housewives, adjutants and generals and other accounts of participants or observers, Wheeler assembles a fluid and moving story of the battles, the stakes and the heroes. The love of his soldiers for Gen. Lee, the charm and dash of Jeb Stuart and the tragedy of George MacClellan are all evoked with the lost eloquence of the common citizen of that time. Although Wheeler ( *Witness to Gettysburg* ) draws on familiar sources without attribution, there is a good bibliography. And while the book does not have the sweep and majesty of Bruce Catton's Civil War classics, which used much the same method, it is a fine record of a time that, on both sides of the struggle, "tried men's souls." Illustrations not seen by PW. Military Book Club main selection. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This latest "eyewitness" history follows the formula of *Witness to Appomattox* ( LJ 4/1/89), *Sword Over Richmond* ( LJ 4/1/86), and the author's other previous Civil War books. Excerpts from participants' writings carry the story forward, while Wheeler provides connecting narrative. This

volume covers the Confederacy's high tide in the East, from the bloody draw at Sharpsburg through the striking Southern victories at Fredricksburg, Second Manassas, and Chancellorsville. Unlike earlier books in the series, it contains enough maps to render the strategic and tactical situations understandable, although the episodic structure inherent in the organization sometimes obscures the big picture. Nonetheless, an exciting and well-told story with vivid characterizations--especially of such key leaders as Stonewall Jackson, Robert E. Lee, and George McClellan--that enliven the narrative. Excellent for general readers.- Thomas E. Schott, Office of History, 17th Air Force, Sembach, GermanyCopyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great in-depth stories.Felt like being there at the time.Highly recommend.

I can't put this book down! It is well written with a lot of first-person accounts. It is definitely a keeper for my Civil War collection. Don't hesitate to purchase this book.

Wheeler's eyewitness books on the Civil War are extraordinary. He tells the tale of his subject through the words of others, people who experienced or lived through the war. He adds little to the quotations other than transitional paragraphs or set-ups for the next author that he is quoting. Wheeler merely assembles the texts into book form.. And that is exactly what makes his books extraordinary. Through careful selection of the statements and/or writings of his contributors he weave an outstanding story that makes for compelling reading, and remarkable history. I have read over 750 books on the Civil War: scholarly works, first-hand account, memoirs, analyses, critiques etc. These "eyewitness" books are amongst the best, particularly since the authors are so numerous, their memories so vivid, and crafted by the solid hand of a master aggregateto tel a complete and authentic tale from the disparate pieces. Wheeler's books are well worth reading. May sole complaint is that he was unable to devise an effective footnoting scheme so the interested can follow the tales of the speaking parties by reading Wheeler's source material first hand. But, since his works are drawn from so many voices, footnoting would detract from the superb presentation of the story.

This is one of the best books I have read about the Civil War. This book takes you right into the battles from Antietam to Chancellorsville. I love the maps and illustrations. This book is an eyewitness account of these battles. I would highly reccomend this book to History and Civil War

Buff.

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