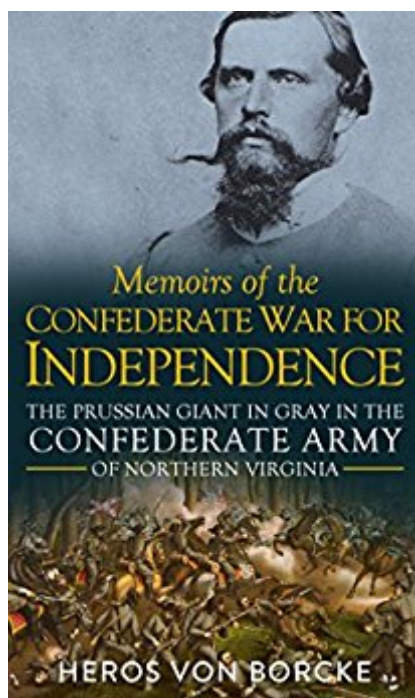


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# Memoirs Of The Confederate War For Independence



## Synopsis

“Von Borcke’s book is one that no student of Confederate history will forget. •Douglas Southall Freeman After travelling from Prussia to America in 1862 on board a Confederate blockade runner, von Borcke joined General J.E.B. Stuart’s cavalry. General Stuart was greatly impressed by von Borcke, reporting: “Capt. Heros von Borcke, a Prussian cavalry officer, who lately ran the blockade, assigned me by the honorable Secretary of War, joined in the charge of the First Squadron in gallant style, and subsequently, by his energy, skill, and activity, won the praise and admiration of all. •Major von Borcke’s friendship with Stuart plays a significant role in this book. His unique standing in the General’s life allows the reader to gain an insight into one of the most fascinating figures in Civil War history. Also serving under General Stonewall Jackson and General Robert E. Lee, von Borcke’s dealings with leading Confederate figures sets his autobiography apart from the average Civil War memoir. In addition to the detailed battleground accounts, von Borcke recalls the comradery of the Confederate army and revelry that often took place in their downtime. Written in 1866, Heros von Borcke’s *Memoirs of the Confederate War for Independence* is one of the most important and enlightening memoirs of this tumultuous time in American history. “One of the most exhilarating of war memoirs •Confederate Shop Heros von Borcke (1836–1895) served in the Confederate army and participated in numerous battles before being wounded at the beginning of the Gettysburg Campaign. Prevented by injury from continuing in active service, he was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel and sent by the Confederate Congress on a diplomatic mission to England. When the war ended in 1865 he remained abroad and returned to his native Prussia, where he later served with distinction in the Franco-Prussian War. He wrote his memoirs in 1866 and died in 1895.

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## Customer Reviews

This is a fascinating study of someone entirely immersed in a bubble of blind devotion and martial courage. The author is an undoubtedly brave and fearless warrior of the Prussian tradition. He was a friend of the very best Confederate generals and was steadfastly devoted to their cause. He was sensitive to the sufferings of his colleagues as they were wounded and killed in succession but almost indifferent to those of the countless Union soldiers that he either dispatched himself or caused to be killed. What he never explains is why he journeyed from Prussia to fight in this war or his views on the justification for the war. Perhaps there is a clue in his unaffected racism. As a story about the American civil war and the way it was fought, this is a tremendous memoir. It is also very well written. I highly recommend it.

A very well written book by a soldier who was there. The book is amusing and it reflects how the cavalry in the South operated in the first two years of the war in the East. I found it surprising with all the Union soldiers killed or captured by the Rebel Cavalry and the incredible amounts of armaments that they captured that they lost the war. It could be they spent too much wooing the Southern Belles who gathered around these gray clad warriors when they went into camp. All in all, it's a book worth reading written by a very good soldier.

Very interesting since he wrote about the ordinary people, events and everyday life as much as he did about the battles. The book tells you what the southern people thought and how they existed during the war. Highly recommended for those tired of just the battles and decisions made by the generals.

Von Borcke, not an American, fought with Stuart's cavalry and is a good writer.

Great book! tells the true story of the South's war for independence

Came across this by hap chance and found it to be of excellent quality and an amazing read.

Detailed, thorough and refreshing with virtually no vanity or defensive writing so found in many a civil war biography. Truly surprising find...can't speak well enough about it.

I have looked for a book written from the Confederate point of view for some time, and settled on this one. Spoiler alert: the Confederacy gets whipped. I enjoyed the book, although I will readily admit that it drags in places, and von Borcke can use pretty pompous language now and then. I will say that it gives an excellent peek into life in a camp during war. It also gives excellent insight into how officers were treated in stark contrast to how the average enlisted man was treated. I waffled between giving this 4 stars, and the thing that kept me from doing so is the fact that von Borcke wrote about much of the war with rose colored glasses...HEAVILY rose colored. Had von Borcke's writing the power to be history, the Capital of the USA would be in Richmond, VA. The Confederates were ALWAYS outnumbered... but they almost ALWAYS won every battle. Maybe all of the Confederate losses were in other places? The other turn off was his reporting of Federal losses in comparison to Confederate casualties: Confederate losses were almost miniscule compared to Federal casualties. It made me think back to the Vietnam war and the Government's ludicrous casualty reports. So I would just be aware of this. In "Von's" recount they all but won Gettysburg in my opinion, and we all know how that battle went. Perhaps he was just being a loyal soldier, putting the best face he could on the situation. And he WAS if nothing else a proficient and loyal fighter. A couple of things really struck me. One was the foolhardy action soldiers on BOTH sides to capture battle flags, readily risking death to capture a bullet riddled piece of cloth. The second was that less than 20% of the soldiers who fought and died for the Confederacy owned slaves, yet the elites of the Confederacy whipped these soldiers into a frenzy to "protect their mothers, wives, daughters and their way of life." Not much different today, is it? The more things change, the more things remain the same.

A very good read with an inside view of the triumphs and tragedies and daily life in J.E.B. Stuart's Calvary. Amazingly well written by a man who barely spoke English when he came to help the

Southern Cause for freedom and independence.

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