In this companion to his celebrated earlier book, Gettysburg--The Second Day, Harry Pfanz provides the first definitive account of the fighting between the Army of the Potomac and Robert E. Lees Army of Northern Virginia at Cemetery Hill and Culps Hill--two of the most critical engagements fought at Gettysburg on 2 and 3 July 1863. Pfanz provides detailed tactical accounts of each stage of the contest and explores the interactions between--and decisions made by--generals on both sides. In particular, he illuminates Confederate lieutenant general Richard S. Ewells controversial decision not to attack Cemetery Hill after the initial southern victory on 1 July. Pfanz also explores other salient features of the fighting, including the Confederate occupation of the town of Gettysburg, the skirmishing in the south end of town and in front of the hills, the use of breastworks on Culps Hill, and the small but decisive fight between Union cavalry and the Stonewall Brigade.
Personal Review: Gettysburg--Culps Hill and Cemetery Hill
(Civil War America) by Harry W. Pfanz

The men who fought on Cemetery Hill had Pickett's Charge to boast about. This put them on an equal footing with the men fighting on Cemetery Ridge when swapping stories in the GAR hall. However, the men on Culp's Hill never seemed to be noticed. They spent two days in very close contact fighting several nasty engagements but who knew? Only the cavalry on July third has as little written about them as these men. A quick search will show this is one of two books that deal with this fighting. The other is a battlefield guide more than a history. That brings us to a second question: what did the men on Cemetery Hill do until Pickett's Charge?

Harry W. Pfanz worked at Gettysburg as a historian from 1956 to 1966 and was Chief Historian of the National Park Service. His grasp of the details of the battle are excellent. However, he never allows the details to prevent us from seeing the operational picture at the same time. This combination of knowledge and ability to see beyond the trees is coupled with an outstanding writing ability. He is able to put the reader into the action without losing good historical content.

This had to be a hard book to write. He could not expect reader to know about this area of the field nor could he ignore the impact those events have here. Walking a careful tightrope, he keeps us concentrated here while aware of the larger battle. The result is exciting, readable and informative all at once. This may not be his most accepted book but it is a very important contribution to our knowledge of Gettysburg.

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Gettysburg--Culps Hill and Cemetery Hill (Civil War America) by Harry W. Pfanz 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!