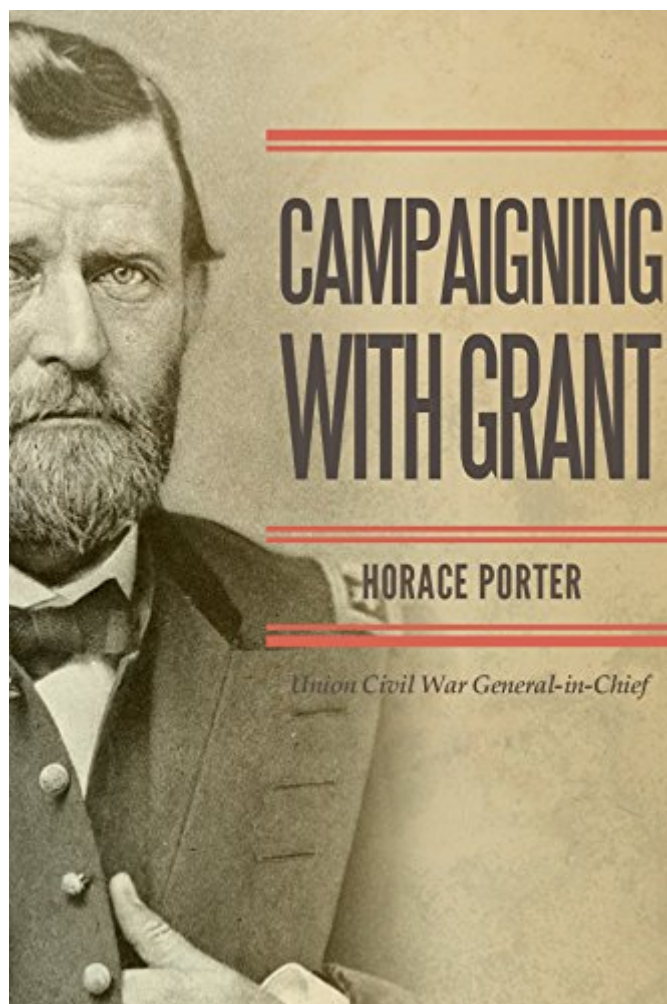


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# Campaigning With Grant



## Synopsis

“We naturally expected to meet a well-equipped soldier, but hardly anybody was prepared to find one who had the grasp, the promptness of decision, and the general administrative capacity which he displayed at the very start.” —Horace Porter first met Gen. Ulysses S. Grant in the autumn of 1863, when he was on the staff of Gen. George H. Thomas, commander of the Army of the Cumberland. In the November Porter received orders, posting him to Washington and away from the field, but Thomas and his fellow staff officers turned to Grant to assist in his return. After five months in the capital, Grant’s intercession proved successful and Porter joined his staff in April 1864, setting in motion wheels that would go far beyond the present conflict. Porter spent the remainder of the war at Grant’s side, uniquely placing him to witness a master of the formidable game from the crossing of the Rapidan to Appomattox Court House. Encompassing Porter’s fifteen months as an aide to the General-in-Chief, *Campaigning with Grant* recounts the daily acts of the man in the field, his traits, his habits and his motives, bringing the reader an unparalleled familiarity with Grant. Horace Porter (1837-1921) was a Union soldier and diplomat. Graduating from West Point in 1860, he was commissioned into the U.S. Army the following year. Initially serving as an ordnance officer, he spent the final year of the conflict on the staff of Ulysses S. Grant and later served as his personal secretary in the White House. From 1897 to 1905 he was the U.S. Ambassador to France. Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK’s leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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## Customer Reviews

I read Grant's "Memoirs" on the recommendation of a cigar-chomping friend. It was a revelation. I began reading with ambivalence about Grant. By the time I was finished, he became a hero for me, for entirely unexpected reasons -- the clarity of his writing, for one; his modesty and straight-forward manner, for two others. I followed it with other volumes about Grant (including Bruce Catton's set) but it wasn't until another friend whom I discovered shared my feelings for Grant's genius recommended Horace Porter's "Campaigning with Grant" that I discovered an equally satisfying successor. Horace Porter's "Campaigning With Grant" is the next best thing to Grant's "Memoirs." Again, the clarity of writing, the descriptions of Grant's decision-making process, the anecdotes from the Wilderness Campaign on through the sieges of Richmond and Petersburg, and on to Appomatox come as a revelation -- at least, in part, when you realize this is one of those "source documents" all the great historians of the era have relied upon. Apparently Porter assisted Grant in writing his "Memoirs" although there is not much (if any) dispute that Grant wrote them himself. While this may explain some of the similarity in style and substance, it probably says more about "like minds" than anything else. No matter. This is well worth the read and very rewarding.

This book is a true classic. And it has a great advantage which many books of the 19th century do not have. It is readable. In fact it is a very good read indeed. Many of the 1860's to 1890's books about (or by) Civil War figures read more like 300 page obituaries than real memoirs or good history. "Campaigning With Grant" does not. It is a work of relatively unstilted language written by a literate man about a man he came to know quite well. As such it is a charming combination of history and personal memoir. Much of what we know of Grant the human being during the war comes from this book. Scott Brundage

If you had to read one book about U.S. Grant as a man this is it. Horace Porter knew Grant quite

well and thought the book was written in 1896, it still retains a vibrancy and modernity to it. Porter wrote the book in an almost conversational style which is entertaining and interesting. Do you want to know how much Grant weighed or how tall he was? What kinds of foods he liked? How about a description of him necking with his wife in full view of Lincoln and his staff officers? Look no further than between the covers of this remarkable book. I guarantee you won't be able to put it down!

These are the personal reminiscences of Horace Porter, Aide-de-Camp to General Grant. He joined Grant April 4, 1864 and served with him for 9 years, 1864-1872. So by definition expect Federal bias and a father like depiction of Grant. That said, this is a very good Civil War learning tool, insightful as only the reflections of someone who was privy to the highest councils of Union command could be. From his promotion to General-in-Chief until the end of the war, Grant had to make many tough decisions. Porter reports a number of these in his book. Most importantly, however, he reports on Grant, General of the Armies. My comments to come are not intended to denigrate Robert E. Lee in any way. Let's face it, Lee's performance was awesome. However, Grant's performance was much better, if for no other reason than Grant's authority was greater than Lee's. Until the very last days of the war, Jeff Davis acted as his own General-in-Chief. For all but 4-5 weeks, Lee only commanded the Army of Northern Virginia. Grant, however, commanded all Federal armies. Thus, as biased as Porter's work necessarily is, Porter does give us the first and best look at a true modern general. Grant's political awareness, his understanding of logistics, close coordination with the navy, handling multiple armies, ability to improvise, understand and forge new methods of warfare such as Sherman's march, "mark him as the exceptional general of the nineteenth century". He really was. Porter's book gives us a unique view of how Grant's abilities evolved. Equally important we get in-depth reviews of a variety of Union participants, everyone from Lincoln, to Hancock, Dana, Meade, Sherman and Sheridan just to mention a few. These personal reflections are quite worthwhile. This is one interesting book, written by a well positioned observer. It is a book that adds greatly to understanding the workings of the Union high command during the final year of the Civil War.

I read this on Kindle, the formatting was excellent. Porter was serving on General Thomas's staff at Chattanooga when Grant was first took over all command of the Union armies. He was so impressed by Grant's immediate command of the situation, not just at Chattanooga, but in all the areas wherein Union armies were in the field that, when the opportunity arose he asked to be transferred to Grant's staff. From then on he was a close aide to Grant. One of the more interesting

missions he undertook on Grant's behalf was to travel to Atlanta to visit with Sherman about possible future actions. His notes are detailed and reveal a great many of the details of Grant's life and behavior both under fire and when in a relaxed more personal setting. He writes well and smoothly is articulate and although he occasionally shows hints of a bit of hero worship he is extremely careful to stick to the facts.

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