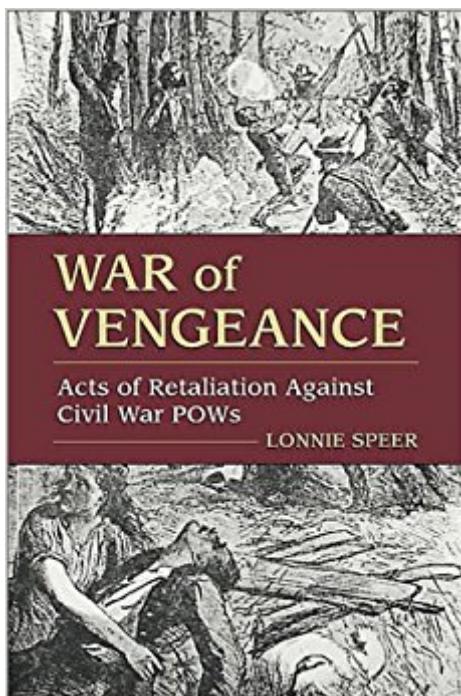


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War Of Vengeance: Acts Of Retaliation Against Civil War POWs



Synopsis

The violent retaliation between sides in the American Civil War was perhaps most apparent in the taking of prisoners. Often, these retaliatory measures were enacted against the innocent-prisoners who were unfortunate enough to be in wrong place at the wrong time. Each chapter of this book undertakes to describe a specific event of retaliatory action. Lonnie Speer takes no sides as he points an accusing finger at both the Union and the Confederacy for their equal parts in treating the prisoners poorly. He explores this little-known wartime violence, focusing on the most notorious and well-documented cases of the practice.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Lonnie Speer is also the author of "Portals to Hell: Military Prisons of the Civil War" (0811703347). He is a freelance writer and has published several articles in "Civil War Times Illustrated" and "America's Civil War." He lives in North Carolina.

I have been researching Civil War prisoners of war for the past four years. Mr. Speer has done his research and was able to put it in an easy form for the novice and more experienced reader as well.

very happy

Insufficient detail. Not what I was looking to research about mistreatment of civil war prisoners but perhaps my expectations were too high.

In this modest sized book, Mr Speer outlines a handful of incidents that give face to the cruel passions that the American Civil War evoked. Both Confederate and Federal share the blame in Speer's sampling - from the "random" execution of partisans, to the more deliberate starving of Confederate prisoners in Northern prisons, to Union prisoners being held amid bomb-out Charleston! A nice final chapter gives a brief overview of prisons - which I found to be the highlight of this very short endeavor. Those well-versed in Civil War studies may find little new, but the novice reader will, perhaps, be taken aback at what Speer reveals. I give Speer credit for "naming names" and showing the purposeful role Lincoln, Stanton and Grant played to further the plight of those held in their charge.

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