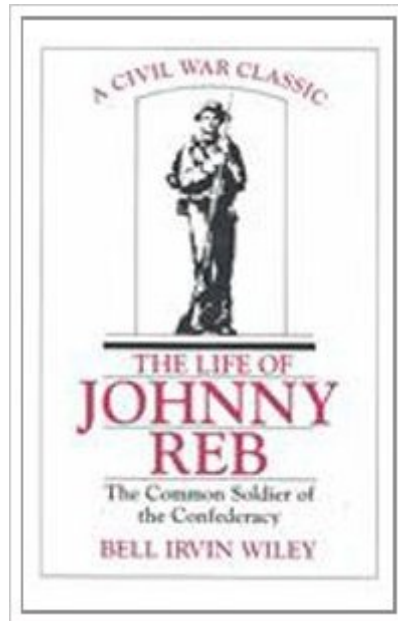




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# Life Of Johnny Reb: The Common Soldier Of The Confederacy



## Synopsis

In this companion to *The Life of Johnny Reb*, Bell Irvin Wiley explores the daily lives of the men in blue who fought to save the Union. With the help of many soldiers' letters and diaries, Wiley explains who these men were and why they fought, how they reacted to combat and the strain of prolonged conflict, and what they thought about the land and the people of Dixie. This fascinating social history reveals that while the Yanks and the Rebs fought for very different causes, the men on both sides were very much the same. "This wonderfully interesting book is the finest memorial the Union soldier is ever likely to have.... [Wiley] has written about the Northern troops with an admirable objectivity, with sympathy and understanding and profound respect for their fighting abilities. He has also written about them with fabulous learning and considerable pace and humor.

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## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

When Bell Irvin Wiley's composite portrait of the rank-and-file Confederate soldier was published in 1943, it was enthusiastically received by professional historians and general readers alike. A half century later, the book still is regarded as one of the best available accounts of the ordinary citizens who made up the Confederate army. *The Life of Johnny Reb* is not about the battles and skirmishes fought by the Confederate foot soldier. Rather, it is an intimate history of the soldier's daily life - the songs he sang, the foods he ate, the hopes and fears he experienced, the reasons he fought. Wiley has examined countless letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, and official records in constructing

this frequently poignant, sometimes humorous account of the life of Johnny Reb. When Bell Irvin Wiley's composite portrait of the rank-and-file Confederate soldier was published in 1943, professional historians and general readers alike greeted it enthusiastically. Over a half century later, the book still offers one of the best available accounts of the ordinary citizens who made up the Confederate army. The Life of Johnny Reb does not merely describe the battles and skirmishes fought by the Confederate foot soldier. Rather, it provides an intimate history of a soldier's daily life -- the songs he sang, the foods he ate, the hopes and fears he experienced, the reasons he fought. Wiley examined countless letters, diaries, newspaper accounts, and official records to construct this frequently poignant, sometimes humorous account of the life of Johnny Reb. In a new foreword for this updated edition, Civil War expert James I. Robertson, Jr., explores the exemplary career of Bell Irvin Wiley, who championed the common folk, whom he saw as ensnared in the great conflict of the 1860s. "A fascinating, well-written, stimulating, and valuable book." -- Tennessee Historical Quarterly "[Wiley] has painted with skill a picture of the life of the Confederate private... that is not only by far the most complete we have ever had but perhaps the best of its kind we ever shall have." -- Saturday Review of Literature Bell Irvin Wiley (1906--1980) was a professor emeritus of history at Emory University and one of America's preeminent Civil War historians. He is also the author of The Life of Billy Yank and Road to Appomattox, among other books. James I. Robertson, Jr., is Alumni Distinguished Professor of History at Virginia Tech University. He is the author of Stonewall Jackson: The Man, the Soldier, the Legend; Soldiers Blue and Gray; and The Stonewall Brigade, among other works. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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Copywrite 1943, this is one of the most carefully researched, and credited volumes of Civil War history I've read and thoroughly appreciated. History from the viewpoint of the participants is "as good as it gets," to me; Bell Irvin Wiley certainly provided that viewpoint in this and its sister volume, The Life of Billy Yank: The Common Soldier of the Union. (Available as separate volumes and as a boxed-set from sellers on .com.) I recommend that one have both at hand for the sake of

comparison, on a second read-through if not the first. (Got history? Bring it on!) Civil War historian Bruce Catton, whose books also rank highly for historical accuracy and "palatability," said, "Of all the books that have been written [on the Civil War]... the ones that will truly live are Bell Wiley's." I'll add: "I wish I'd been a student when Professor Wiley taught history at Emory."

It was a gift for my husband who enjoys reading about the Civil War. He enjoyed the book.

Great knowledge of how it may have been to be in the trenches of the Great American civil war to save democracy. Though there were some phrases and comparisons that I've read in other books?.

It was a great book. A personal look at the foot soldiers who actually fought the war much of which was told through their letters home. It was an insight into what many of them really thought about the war. Mostly though, the reader will come away amazed at the physical and mental toughness and endurance of these 19th century men.

Excellent look into the many aspects of the life of a Confederate soldier. Wiley has definitely done his research, and cites numerous letters from the soldiers themselves. Once I finish this book, I plan to read the Union counterpart. This book should be on the bookshelf of any historian of the Civil War, and is a must-read for any reenactor.

This is my second copy of this book. It is a civil war classic and a good primer for beginners to Confederate history. Mr. Wiley touches on every aspect of how the Confederate soldier lived. I usually put on music from that period when I read this book. When you are reading about starvation, cold winters with no boots and things like that, you can't help but feel like you are there right along side them. I recommend this to anyone looking for a thorough day in the life account of the everyday Confederate Soldier.

I recommend this book to all those who want to look into the life of the common soldier of the south during the Civil War. The book flows very well and is a must have for those who love the American Civil War.

Through genealogical research I discovered that many of my ancestors fought for the Confederacy. While they all served a common cause, they had a variety of different experiences. Some died in

battle, some died of sickness, some were captured, and some were still around for the bitter end. But, what they all shared was the experience of serving in the ranks as common soldiers. There was not an officer among them. Most writers dwell on the historical contributions of the leaders and the impact they had on tactics and strategy. "The Life of Johnny Reb" by Bell Irvin Wiley is the only book I have come across that effectively tells the story of the men who did most of the actual fighting and the dying. This book let's me "walk in the shoes" of my ancestors. I have enjoyed it a great deal and I would highly recommend it.

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