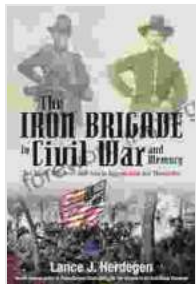


# The Iron Brigade: A Legacy of Valor and Sacrifice in the Civil War



## The Iron Brigade in Civil War and Memory: The Black Hats from Bull Run to Appomattox and Thereafter

by Lance J. Herdegen

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
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Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
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The Iron Brigade was a legendary unit of the Union Army during the American Civil War. Formed in 1861, the brigade consisted of five regiments from Wisconsin, Michigan, and Indiana. The brigade fought valiantly in some of the most brutal battles of the war, including Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg.

The Iron Brigade earned its nickname for its steadfastness and courage in battle. At the Battle of Gettysburg, the brigade held its ground against repeated Confederate attacks, helping to secure a Union victory. At the Battle of the Wilderness, the brigade fought its way through dense undergrowth, suffering heavy losses but ultimately driving the Confederates back.

The Iron Brigade's legacy extends beyond the battlefield. The brigade's soldiers were known for their discipline, their camaraderie, and their commitment to the Union cause. They were also pioneers in the use of new military tactics and technologies. The Iron Brigade's story is a testament to the courage, sacrifice, and determination of the men who fought for the Union during the Civil War.

## **Formation and Early Campaigns**

The Iron Brigade was formed in September 1861, as part of the Army of the Potomac. The brigade's first commander was Brigadier General John Gibbon. The brigade consisted of the following regiments:

- 2nd Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
- 6th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
- 7th Wisconsin Infantry Regiment
- 19th Indiana Infantry Regiment
- 24th Michigan Infantry Regiment

The Iron Brigade's first major engagement was the Battle of Antietam in September 1862. The brigade fought valiantly, but suffered heavy losses. After Antietam, the brigade was transferred to the Army of the Cumberland. The brigade fought in the Battle of Stones River in December 1862, and the Battle of Chickamauga in September 1863.

## **Gettysburg and the Wilderness**

The Iron Brigade's most famous battle was the Battle of Gettysburg in July 1863. The brigade fought on the second day of the battle, helping to

repulse a Confederate attack on the Union center. The brigade's stand at Gettysburg was one of the turning points of the battle, and helped to secure a Union victory.

After Gettysburg, the Iron Brigade was transferred to the Army of the Potomac. The brigade fought in the Battle of the Wilderness in May 1864. The battle was a bloody and costly affair, and the Iron Brigade suffered heavy losses. However, the brigade fought bravely, and helped to drive the Confederates back.

### **Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg**

After the Wilderness, the Iron Brigade fought in the Battle of Spotsylvania in May 1864. The battle was another bloody stalemate, and the Iron Brigade again suffered heavy losses. After Spotsylvania, the brigade fought in the Battle of Cold Harbor in June 1864. The battle was a disaster for the Union, and the Iron Brigade suffered even more losses.

In June 1864, the Iron Brigade was transferred to the Army of the James. The brigade fought in the Siege of Petersburg from June 1864 to April 1865. The siege was a long and arduous campaign, but the Iron Brigade fought bravely throughout. The brigade was one of the first units to enter Petersburg after the city fell in April 1865.

### **Legacy**

The Iron Brigade was mustered out of service in June 1865. The brigade had fought in some of the most brutal battles of the Civil War, and had suffered heavy losses. However, the brigade's legacy extends beyond the battlefield. The brigade's soldiers were known for their discipline, their

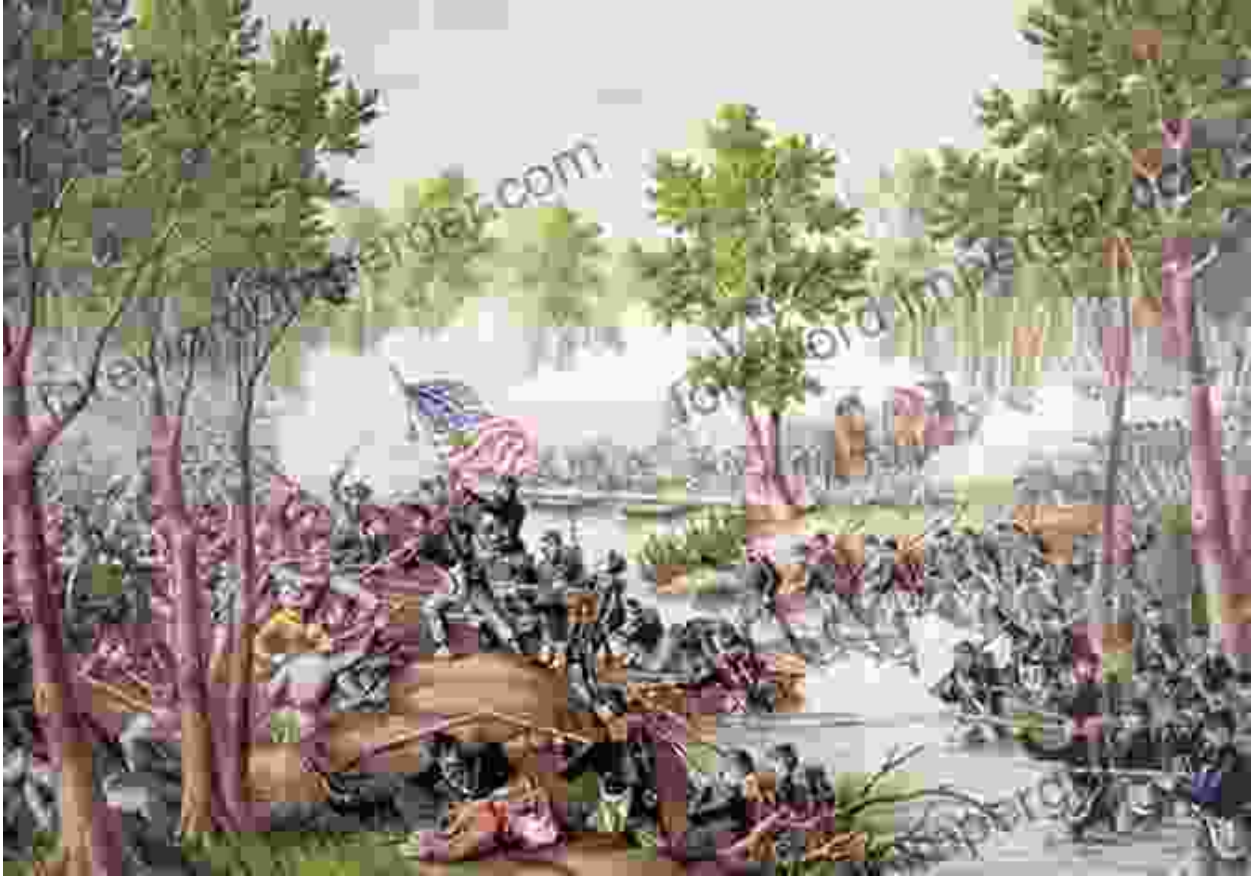
camaraderie, and their commitment to the Union cause. They were also pioneers in the use of new military tactics and technologies.

The Iron Brigade's story is a testament to the courage, sacrifice, and determination of the men who fought for the Union during the Civil War. The brigade's legacy continues to inspire Americans today.

## **Image Gallery**

The following images are of the Iron Brigade:

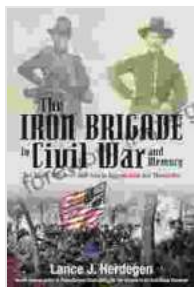




## Further Reading

The following books provide further information about the Iron Brigade:

- *The Iron Brigade: A Military History* by Alan T. Nolan
- *The Iron Brigade of the West: The History of the 19th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment* by Robert C. Reinders
- *The Iron Brigade: A Photographic History of the Regular Army Brigade of the West, 1861-1865* by William F. Fox



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