

## ***The Civil War Battlefield Guide***

Edited by Francis H Kennedy

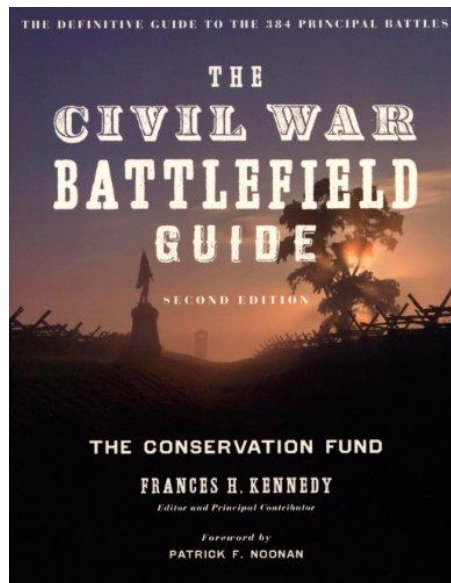
Published by Houghton Mifflin, 1990

From The Conservation Fund.

### **Review by Jim Rohrer**

This book contains about sixty American Civil War battlefield maps showing terrain, disposition of units, and troop movements. A few pages about the battle accompany each map. I was immediately taken with it because it is a useful source for wargame scenarios. Where else will you find sixty historically accurate scenarios that you can transfer directly to your game table?

The maps typically show about five to fifteen units per side, which is a manageable number for wargaming. Combat strengths and casualties are shown on the map and summarized for all battles in an appendix.



The most obvious use for this book is to attempt to reenact battles on your table using your favorite rule set to see if you get the same result. Next, you will be unable to resist asking: “What if the general did X instead of Y?” Thirdly, you can change the era to see if different military technology results in a different outcome. Finally, you can try different rule sets to see if one set more accurately predicts the historical outcome than others.

As you might expect, some battles do not lend themselves well to the game table because the troop movements are so confused. On the other hand, it is possible to break off a portion of the battle that took place with a limited number of units and model just that.

One criticism of the maps that Amazon reviewers noted is that the units are shown not only on the terrain but also on modern roads and city names. I think this is an advantage for anyone who might want to consult a road atlas or even to visit the area where the battle occurred.

Ordinarily, I only buy kindle books. However, this old library copy is so useful as a reference that I ordered one, in hardback. I intend to use it a lot.

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/039552282X/ref=ppx\\_yo\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_o00\\_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/039552282X/ref=ppx_yo_dt_b_asin_title_o00_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)

A newer edition with more maps is available also.