



The Last Full Measure: How Soldiers Die in Battle

Michael Stephenson

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Behind every soldier's death lies a story. What psychological and cultural pressures brought him to his fate? What lies—and truths—convinced him to march toward his death? Covering warfare from prehistory through the present day, *The Last Full Measure* tells these soldiers' stories, ultimately capturing the experience of war as few books ever have.

In these pages, we march into battle alongside the Greek phalanx and the medieval foot soldier. We hear gunpowder's thunder in the slaughters of the Napoleonic era and the industrialized killing of the Civil War, and recoil at the modern, automated horrors of both World Wars. Finally, we witness the death of one tradition of "heroic" combat and the construction of another in the wars of the modern era, ranging from Vietnam to America's latest involvements in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Combining commanding prose, impeccable research, and a true sensitivity to the combatant's plight, *The Last Full Measure* is both a remarkably fresh journey through the annals of war and a powerful tribute to the proverbial unknown soldier.

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