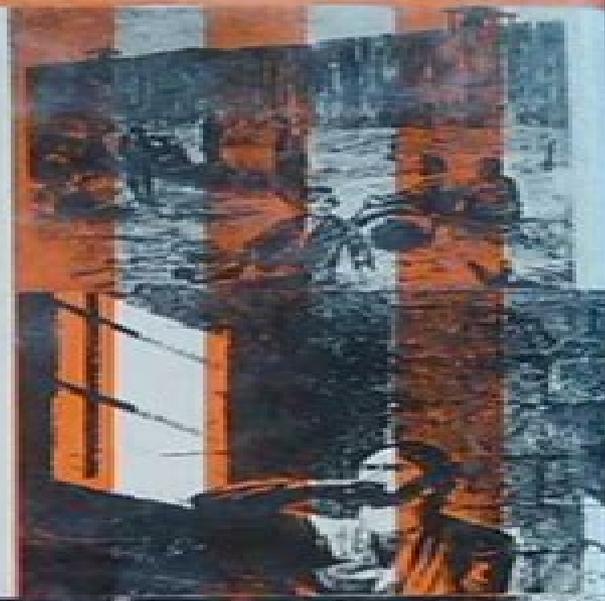


A M E R I C A N C L A S S I C S

# CIVIL WAR PRISONS

A STUDY IN  
WAR  
PSYCHOLOGY

William B. Hesseltine



An unbiased investigation of actual prison conditions, particularly notorious Andersonville and Libby. Quietly fascinating, this notable work is "an exhaustive, impartial and critical study." — *American Historical Review*

# Civil War Prisons A Study In War Psychology

**David Baud**



## **Civil War Prisons A Study In War Psychology:**

**Civil War Prisons** William Best Hesseltine, 1972 First published in 1962 as a special edition of Civil War History journal Civil War Prisons remains the standard on the topic Editor Hesseltine tackles the historiography of northern and southern prisons during the American Civil War He attempts to bring closure to the legendary northern myth that the Southern government did its best to exterminate Union prisoners by calling the effective northern war propaganda a wartime psychosis Furthermore the author offers his analysis over the much debated prisoner exchange system and comes down hard on the North especially its government and General Ulysses S Grant for their questionable approach to this issue For all the serious scholarship and popular writing devoted to the American Civil War the topic of prisoner of war camps more than any other retains the feeling of horror and passion that characterized the war years themselves Men held captive under such circumstances guilty of no offense other than the deplorable misfortune of having been captured by the enemy suffer tremendous psychological punishment as well as physical hardship Monotony estrangement and fear along with privation and often brutality combine to create nearly as wretched a quality of human life as is imaginable The sufferings of Civil War prisoners are documented in this re issue of an early number of the journal Civil War History Recounted there are prisoner experiences in four Confederate installations Andersonville Georgia Libby in Richmond Virginia Cahaba Alabama and Charleston South Carolina The remaining articles treat conditions in four Union prisons Fort Warren in Boston harbor Rock Island Illinois Elmira New York and Johnson s Island on Lake Erie in addition to some examples of sparkling and vivid prose this volume contains a number of excellent photographs as well as an introduction by the late William B Hesseltine Kenneth B Shover The Historian

**Civil War Prisons** William Best Hesseltine, 1964 Reprint of the 1930s volume of the same name Hesseltine 1902 1963 examines the prisons and prison camps in both the North and the South He argues that contrary to popular myth the North shared responsibility with the South for the poor treatment of prisoners during the war Also discussed is the prisoner exchange cartel that was in operation from July 1862 until the end of 1863 and the worsening of POW conditions after its collapse Annotation copyrighted by Book News Inc Portland OR

**Civil War Prisons** William Best Hesseltine, 1971 *Civil War Prisons* William Best Hesseltine, 1930 Transforming Civil War Prisons Paul J. Springer, Glenn Robins, 2014-09-04 During the Civil War 410 000 people were held as prisoners of war on both sides With resources strained by the unprecedented number of prisoners conditions in overcrowded prison camps were dismal and the death toll across Confederate and Union prisons reached 56 000 by the end of the war In an attempt to improve prison conditions President Lincoln issued General Orders 100 which would become the basis for future attempts to define the rights of prisoners including the Geneva conventions Meanwhile stories of horrific prison experiences fueled political agendas on both sides and would define the memory of the war as each region worked aggressively to defend its prison record and to honor its own POWs Robins and Springer examine the experience culture and politics of captivity including war

crimes disease and the use of former prison sites as locations of historical memory Transforming Civil War Prisons introduces students to an underappreciated yet crucial aspect of waging war and shows how the legacy of Civil War prisons remains with us today **Civil War Prisons** William Best Hesseltine,1930 Upon its publication in 1930 Civil War Prisons immediately provoked controversy The first authoritative study of both Southern and Northern wartime prison systems the book exposed several myths including the widely held assumption that Confederate leaders conspired to kill their prisoners through deliberate neglect William Best Hesseltine demonstrated that the North shared responsibility with the South for the poor treatment of prisoners and that it had little to brag about in its own camps Furthermore Hesseltine argued that some in the North had conducted a propaganda campaign aimed at impugning the southern character thus creating what he called a wartime psychosis that made it easier for the Union to believe the worst of the Confederacy Military Review ,2000

George W. Alexander and Castle Thunder Frances H. Casstevens,2007-11-15 Captain George W Alexander was a controversial figure in Richmond during the Civil War honored as a hero and condemned as a cruel prison superintendent He was appointed Provost Marshal and put in charge of Castle Thunder in 1862 after escaping imprisonment at Fort McHenry At his Confederate prison in Richmond he oversaw prisoners of all types including Confederates women slaves Federal deserters and spies This biography traces Alexander s life from the U S Navy voyage with Commodore Perry to Japan hiding in Canada after Lee s surrender editorship of Washington DC s Sunday Gazette to his death in 1895 The main body of the text concentrates on Alexander s time at Castle Thunder but the book also explores the evolution of the prison system and the provost marshal s department touching on unusual prisoners and escape attempts Appendix 1 is a partial list of prisoners at Castle Thunder and when where and why they were arrested Appendix 2 is a transcript of the court martial of Private John R Jones Appendix 3 lists prisoners sent from Camp Holmes and appendix 4 is a report of Alexander as Assistant Provost Marshall Appendix 5 is a pamphlet published by the Republican Party National Committee it struck at the Democratic Party by scorning its military prison keepers *Journal of applied psychology* ,1930 **Dictionary Catalog of the Department Library** United States. Department of the Interior. Library,1969 *Professional Journal of the United States Army* ,1999

*So Far from Dixie* Philip Burnham,2003-09-04 Across the North 26 000 Rebels died in what was called Yankee captivity six times the number of Confederate dead listed for the battle of Gettysburg and twice that for the Southern dead of Antietam Chickamauga Chancellorsville Seven Days Shiloh and Second Manassas combined If there was ever a hell on earth one Confederate veteran remembered Elmira prison was that hell New York s POW camp nicknamed Helmira was the most infamous of Northern prisons during the Civil War places where hunger brutality and disease were everyday hazards *So Far from Dixie* is the gripping narrative history of five men who were sent to Elmira and survived to document their stories Berry Benson promised that he would escape the prison under honorable circumstances Anthony Keiley charmed Union authorities into giving him a job at Elmira and later became mayor of Richmond Virginia John King refused to build coffins for his fellow

prisoners Marcus Toney disdained to take the Union oath of loyalty until long after the war had ended And Frank Wilkenson a Union army volunteer only fifteen years old endured the same humiliating punishments meted out to the prisoners he was guarding

*The Sable Arm* Dudley Taylor Cornish,1987 Describes the hopes fears and accomplishments of Black troops in the Union Army during the Civil War

*Monthly Bulletin* St. Louis Public Library,1930 Teachers bulletin vol 4 issued as part of v 23 no 9

**Annual Report of the Board of Trustees of the Ohio State University** Ohio State University,1930 First report 1870 72 contains also a full transcript of the Journal of proceedings of the board

**Voices from Captivity** Robert C. Doyle,1994 Doyle shows that though setting and circumstances may change POW stories share a common structure and are driven by similar themes Capture incarceration isolation propaganda torture capitulation or resistance death spiritual quest escape liberation and repatriation are recurrent key motifs in these narratives

*The American Mercury* George Jean Nathan, Henry Louis Mencken,1930

*West Virginia History* ,1996

**The American Mercury** Henry Louis Mencken,1930

**Military Affairs** ,1950

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