

THE GOOD FIGHT THAT DIDN'T END

Henry P. Goddard's *Accounts of Civil War and Peace*
Edited by Calvin Goddard Zon

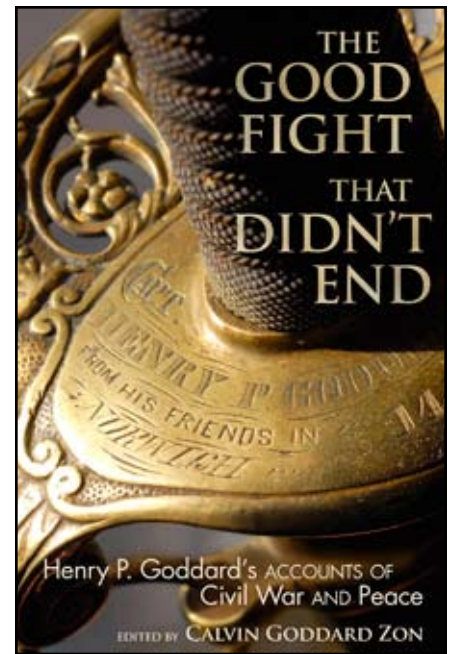
The letters, journals, and newspaper writings of Henry Perkins Goddard (1842–1916) of Norwich, Connecticut, provide much firsthand detail about the passions and principles of a divided nation during the Civil War and Reconstruction as witnessed by a scrupulous soldier and scribe eager to capture the bitter realities of his time. Edited by his great-grandson, *The Good Fight That Didn't End* includes Goddard's accounts of combat in the battles of Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and Gettysburg, his travels across the war-torn South after the war, and his encounters and friendships with well-known historical and literary figures of the era, including Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, George McClellan, Ambrose Burnside, Joseph Hooker, George Armstrong Custer, Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Mark Twain.

Goddard served the Union forces in the cavalry, infantry, general staff, and artillery, all the while also acting as war correspondent for the *Norwich Bulletin*. He distinguished himself as a skilled journalist, even in the throes of fierce combat, and vividly recorded the prevailing attitudes and motivations in the ranks of the Army of the Potomac as well as the bloody realities of war. For Goddard the miseries of camp life and horrors of combat were overshadowed by a powerful sense of duty and camaraderie that justified the hardships and motivated the Union toward victory.

In the decades following the war, Goddard's newspaper accounts from Connecticut, Maryland, and his travels across the South chronicle the open wounds of war on American society and the unresolved issues of race relations in particular. In his writings and actions, Goddard shows himself to be a staunch advocate for the civil rights of freed African Americans, and he consistently defends their just and fair treatment. In his friendships with prominent former Confederates and high-ranking officials in both the North and the South, Goddard places himself at a nexus of efforts toward national reconciliation, carefully recording the temper of the changing times.

The Good Fight That Didn't End serves as an insightful look into the Union ranks and national postwar tensions as viewed by a stalwart soldier and thoughtful journalist for whom the pen and sword delivered with equal might.

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Calvin Goddard Zon, great-grandson of Henry P. Goddard, is a journalist and historian living in Washington, D.C. He is a former staff writer for the *Washington Star* daily newspaper and his articles have appeared in such varied publications as the *Civil War News*, the *Progressive*, the *National Catholic Reporter*, and *People*.

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