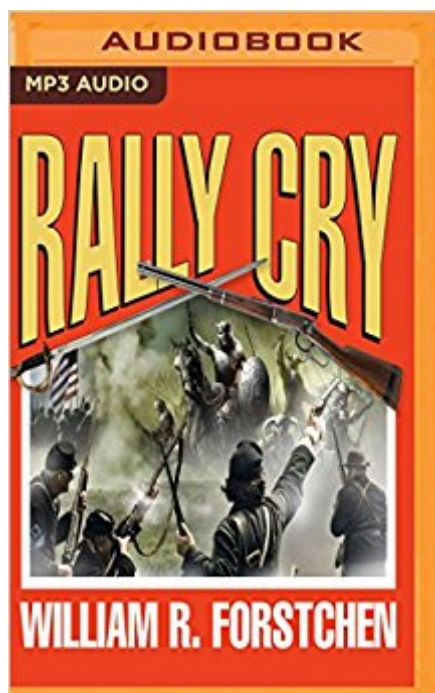


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Rally Cry



Synopsis

Boarding a transport ship after the Battle of Gettysburg, Colonel Andrew Keane and his 35th Maine regiment are swept into an alternate world. The first human civilization they encounter on this planet resembles medieval Russia, with boyars and priests ruling over the peasants and townspeople. Soon Keane and his regiment learn this world's terrible secret: that cannibalistic hordes of large, fierce Tugars circle the planet and demand tribute - including humans to be devoured. And the hordes will be arriving sooner than expected, with several hundred thousand warriors on horseback. Using all their 19th century know-how, Keane and his men build a new society with railroads and ironworks, and with skill, cooperation, and courage, the regiment and most of the Russians work together in hopes of defeating the horde. A great story of survival and bravery in the face of overwhelming odds. First novel in the acclaimed Lost Regiment series by the author of One Second After, One Year After, and Day of Wrath.

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Customer Reviews

William R. Forstchen is the author of more than forty books, including the award-winning *We Look Like Men of War*. He is a professor of history and Faculty Fellow at Montreat College, in Montreat, North Carolina. Forstchen resides near Asheville, North Carolina.

I first read this series more than 20 years ago, and I was so happy to see it released in a kindle edition . The story was as great as I remember, but the editing and formatting on this edition is terrible. please make sure you have someone read these before you re sell them. Honestly, the

formatting is enough to make me wish for a refund. Changing POV in the middle of a paragraph, come on would adding a few *** really cost that much?

This book is well crafted and interesting. I bought it because of his post EMP series. This one is better in terms of overall quality and REALLY creative in some of its concepts. It's so far out in places, that it took a little while to figure out who (and what) the bad guys were and were doing. Then it got good. A little weird, but good. I'm currently considering the rest of the series but don't have that compulsion to see what happens like in the next four books. In the EMP series, I couldn't wait to see what happened. If you like civil war armaments and some interesting character development and Mr. Forstchen, give it a try. Ah....I'll buy the rest...

Well written, fast paced. Forstchen is adept at describing battle scenes. The premise naturally requires a willing suspension of disbelief, but once past that, the reader quickly gets caught up in the flow. I question whether any typical Civil War regiment would have the skills and ability to accomplish industrialization as quickly and broadly as they did, but hey --- it's a novel. Without giving away any spoilers, the deus ex machina of the climax was well done, if you don't think about it too hard. The theme that holds this book together, though, is that freedom can only be won --- and kept --- by those willing to pay the price. It is well to be reminded of this simple fact, and Forstchen does a good job of doing so.

Riveting, parallelism of a fictional civil war that has carried over to another world. I do think though there could be more detail description of the foes. From the description of the Tugars I have a visual of the Brazilian race from Edgar Burroughs "John Carter" series.

I don't think I've stayed up reading a book til 2:00 a.m. for at least thirty years. "Rally Cry" has brought some excitement back to my reading - and I'm really relieved. I thought it was me. I hadn't even finished the last several books I started. Now I know that it was the material. Thanks Bill! Forstchen combines some of what I liked best about Farmer (the unlimited possibilities of his Riverworld and World of the Tiers) with some elements of Burroughs, my first addiction. John Carter was, after all, a Civil War vet also, albeit a Virginian, if my memory serves me right. One of the other reviews lauded Forstchen's idealism. I echo that. I have always been a Civil War music buff. The lyrics portray some of the highest human values. That Forstchen makes some of this music the centerpiece of his books, shows he feels what he writes. You can't fake it. These are works of love.

What is so moving about his battle scenes, is that the heroism, valor and sacrifice, while almost incredible to us, were nevertheless displayed by many soldiers and regiments during the Civil War (and, in fact, all our nation's wars). Tomorrow I buy book two.

Rally Cry(1990)The following is a summary of the plot. Some may consider it as having spoilers.+++++++WARNING+++++++If you don't want to know a summary of the plot, don't read any further! I consider it akin to what you'd find on the back of a paperback cover.+++++++WARNING+++++++This is the first Alternate History novel in The Lost Regiment series. The 35th Maine infantry regiment has had a magnificent history, the first to receive the Congressional Medal of Honor as a unit for their stubborn resistance to Confederate forces at Gettysburg. Now, they and the 44th New York Light Artillery board the transport Ogunquit to participate in an amphibious assault, but sail a day behind the other ships of the flotilla. The Ogunquit is caught in a storm, flounders in high waves, is sucked into a funnel of blinding light, and is then dropped elsewhere. In our timeline, neither the ship nor any of those onboard are ever seen again. In this novel, Colonel Andrew Keane, commander of the regiment, awakes to find the ship aground, all masts down, and bodies and gear littering the deck. Sergeant Major Hans Schuder reports that two men have been killed and the other 600 are vomiting their guts out. Miss Kathleen O'Reilly, a nurse from the Christian Sanitation Commission, avows that she will never set foot on a ship again, then goes below to assist Doctor Emil Weiss, the regimental physician, in treating the injured. One of the privates reports a horseman on the shore and Keane uses his field glasses to discover that the rider has a long beard, a conical iron helmet and a long spear; he is wearing a dirty white tunic that buttons up one side and has rags on his feet. When the horseman leaves, Keane gets his men and artillery ashore and digs in against a possible attack. However, the Captain of the Ogunquit, Tobias Cromwell, calls him back aboard and up the rigging to the shattered maintop, giving Keane a view of the land beyond the nearest hills using his more powerful telescope. Thousands of men are swarming towards them, lead by a mounted contingent carrying square banners portraying various symbols. Some of the horsemen are wearing rough plate armor and are clustered around a portly, bearded man wearing gold-embossed armor. The infantry looks like true medieval levies, with an insane assortment of spears, swords, clubs and pitchforks. After the strangers arrive, they form up in a line, two priests walk down the line with censers smoking, and the strangers each cross themselves...backwards. An emissary comes forward to ask for their surrender, but Keane cannot understand the language, except for the term "boyar". When the strangers charge, some of the 35th fire a volley of blank charges and the two artillery pieces fire

over their heads. At that point, the strangers leave the field rapidly, but soon some return with their catapults and attack the ship. Keane has Major Pat O'Donald, commander of the 44th New York, target the catapults and the strangers leave the field, after the catapults are destroyed by the artillery. Then the regiment sees two moons in the sky. Amidst all the excitement that this causes, another emissary approaches the camp carrying a torch and is taken to the colonel. Kalencka, aka Kal, is a peasant, the bard of the boyar, and has been sent to gather information on the bluecoats. After a swig of Emil's gin, Kal is eager to participate in language lessons. After three days, he is sent back with a gift of spectacles for his boyar, Ivor of the Weak-Eyes, and a flask of whiskey for himself. Reporting back to his boyar, Kal urges his boyar to form an alliance with the bluecoats, realizing that he has job security as long as no one else can speak with them. He even convinces the boyar to let him, and him alone, live among the bluecoats as his permanent spy. Soon Keane, with his escort, are invited to a huge banquet involving numerous toasts. The next morning, they awake with terrific hangovers, but Kal has the perfect cure. Then they begin negotiations with Ivor, but are interrupted by an attack led by Mikhail, Ivor's half brother, who has been incited to rebel against the boyar by Rasnar, the local patriarch, but Mikhail has not reckoned on the firepower of Keane's escort and is driven away. Impressed by this power, Ivor provides Keane with a grant of land to build an encampment and a steady supply of food, in return for protection against Mikhail. Soon the Mainers have constructed a saw mill, a foundry, some dams and other "modern niceties", all the comforts of home. The regiment is now essentially independent of the Suzdal Rus, the local people, but there are other Rus boyars. Then there are the Tugar hordes, aliens who are the masters of all the Rus and who, although scheduled to arrive in four years, are coming earlier. As an ex-field artillery officer, I especially enjoyed the battles where the Regiment demonstrates what Civil War era field artillery could do.++++++SPOILER ALERT++++++Unfortunately, two Mainers are taken captive during the battle along with some weapons. Will they tell the Rus how to operate the weapons and make ammunition? Stay tuned to find out. This novel introduces an alternate world which has been ruled by an alien race which traverse fixed routes around the world, harvesting humans as cattle. The Tugar is only one of several hordes and the Rus is only one of many human groups who have come through the gates of light to leave descendants upon this world. The regiment is faced with a monumental task, but the 35th Maine has fought tougher enemies and survived.++++++WARNING++++++You better have a strong stomach when you get to the Tugar segments, especially the feasting. This novel is an alternate world SF much like *The Misplaced Legion*. The 35th Maine is a historical reality, credited for saving the Union forces at Gettysburg and lost at sea a few months later. The author Civil War re-enactor, so the

historical details of the regiment are as accurate as they can be. The Rus are also true to their ancestry, medieval Russians, but their presence on the alternate world is not attributed to any historical event. I highly recommend this for anyone who is interested in Civil War history and alternate world wars. All-in all, this might very well be the best book that I've read so far, this year (CHECK OUT MY PROFILES and see my reviews so far this year to see what I'm comparing it to. I can't wait to read the rest in the series. See my Listmania (entitled "William R. Forstchen Books") for the other titles in this series. I've already ordered the second volume— The Union Forever— and am anxiously awaiting it to arrive (it is only available through second party vendors via AT THIS TIME. BTW, THERE ARE TWO BOOKS IN ONE IN THIS VOLUME, BOOK II STARTS ON PAGE 240. Gunner April, 2011

I really enjoyed this book, as odd as the premise may be. The author is an actual historian and that made the battle scenes and technology very enjoyable.

This is my second time around with this series; very glad to see its available again. A well-written, meticulously researched sci fi novel on the theme of castaways in space. In this case, a Civil War regiment ends up on an alien planet peopled by Earthlings from other times and places. Interesting premise well executed. Very readable and thoughtful. Enjoyed it thoroughly.

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