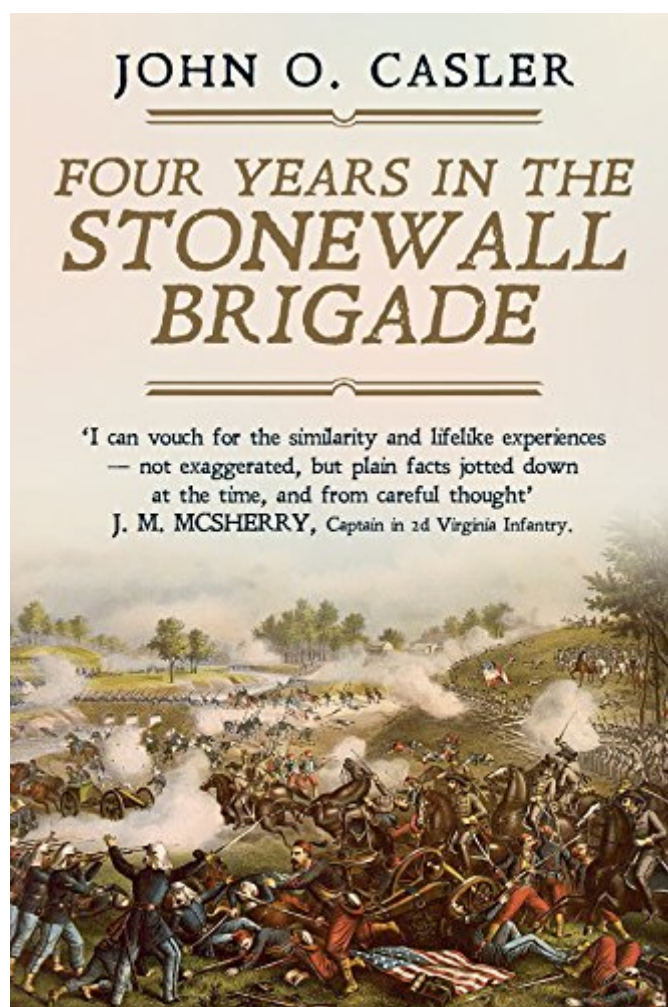


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# Four Years In The Stonewall Brigade



## Synopsis

“Look yonder! There is Jackson and his brigade standing like a stone wall. Let us determine to die here and we will conquer. Rally behind them!” With these words Gen. B. E. Bee of the Confederate States Army inspired the famous nickname for Gen. T. J. Jackson, and his brigade, at the First Battle of Bull Run: Stonewall. Three months earlier the 2d, 4th, 5th and 27th Virginia Infantry Regiments had been brigaded together with the 33rd, in whose Company John O. Casler was serving as a Private. However, their reputation came at a cost: if there was an extra hard duty, Jackson would send in his old brigade lest he be thought of as favouring them. Drawn from his diary at the time, Casler recounts his experiences in the ranks, from marches and looting to nail-biting escapades and the monotony of life as a prisoner of war. Instead of a history of the war, *Four Years in the Stonewall Brigade* is a remarkable account of men in war, graphically bringing to light the challenges they faced on a daily basis. Praise for *Four Years in the Stonewall Brigade* “As illustrating the daily life of a soldier in the ranks it is one of the very best publications I have read. I found it a vivid reminder of the days gone by.” E. M. Schutte, late Sergeant Company C, 13th Massachusetts. “Your style is clear and entertaining. It will do all the old boys of both sides good to read it.” J. G. Winne, late 16th New York Horse Artillery. “This is to certify that John O. Casler belonged to Company A, 33d Virginian Infantry, Stonewall Brigade. John was a good soldier, always ready and willing to perform any duty assigned him.” W. H. Powell, Captain Company A, 33d Virginian Infantry, Stonewall Brigade. John O. Casler (1838-1926) was an American soldier and author born in Frederick County, Virginia. While he had left the family home aged twenty one, when it seemed that war was imminent he returned and enlisted in the Confederate States Army in June 1861. Following the war he emigrated to Sherman, Texas. For details of other books published by Albion Press go to the website at [www.albionpress.co.uk](http://www.albionpress.co.uk). Albion Press is an imprint of Endeavour Press, the UK’s leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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## Customer Reviews

This is a great book by a Southern Soldier. You see these young southern boys leave home, hoping the war will not end before they have a fight. After there first big battle they understand that war is a tough proposition. The fellows that serve in the Stonewall Brigade became tough seasoned soldiers and have some great adventures, but slowly they disappear through wounds or death. At the end of the war John Casler is one of the few original members still in the Stonewall Brigade. This is a great book for someone interested in the Civil War. Kurt Seraphine

A reader with any level of interest in Civil War life/death will regret getting to the final page, wishing the book continued.....While I feel the 'Classics' designation is a bit ambitious - I would none the less highly recommend your time is well spent reading slowly and comprehensively for full enjoyment. Wished I'd purchased two copies.....so I could read it again! :>)

I thoroughly enjoyed reading the first person narrative from a confederate soldier who proudly served in the Stonewall Brigade. Surprising to me was the candid accounts of his mischief, deceiving his superiors, stealing food and visiting his home without permission. He remained faithful to the southern cause and was imprisoned late in the war. However, the best part of the book involves his reflections after the war. He describes the political forces that divided the state of Virginia into two separate states. His observations about the causes of the war, lost opportunities to

prevent it, his hardships, and tragedies seem to have left him without bitterness toward former enemies. The remarkable young man recognized the need to reunite his country.

Very interesting! It moved fast with lots of details, and I found it captivating because it was written by someone who was actually there instead of someone trying to reconstruct the errors and events of the battles from reading history books and self-determining what had happened. Casler did write this years after the events, but you feel like you are there with him those four years. And I was amazed that he was all over the place so much and not with his unit, and having to find his way back to them. Enjoyable and well worth reading.

I thought this book was extremely interesting. It certainly gave a side of the Civil War that we didn't hear about in our history books. I thoroughly enjoyed the book.

I didn't expect much from this book, was very pleasantly surprised! A lot of personal experiences and candid observations by the author/soldier. The only thing I wish the book had was maps, and a few photos of the lesser known officers that the author served under. All in all a very good book!

This was an interesting autobiography by a Confederate soldier during the first several years of the American Civil War. Apparently it is one of many similar books written in the 40 years after the war ended.

Great read ! Told from a privates point of view. All you old enlisted guys can relate quite well to the young rebel lad as he fights in the civil war. He has quite a lot of adventures other than fighting.....excellent writing.....RBC

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