



# **Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign: How the Critical Role of Intelligence Impacted the Outcome of Lee's Invasion of the North, June-July 1863**

*Thomas Ryan*

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As intelligence experts have long asserted, “Information in regard to the enemy is the indispensable basis of all military plans.”

Despite the thousands of books and articles written about Gettysburg, Tom Ryan’s groundbreaking *Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign: How the Critical Role of Intelligence Impacted the Outcome of Lee’s Invasion of the North, June – July 1863* is the first to offer a unique and incisive comparative study of intelligence operations during what many consider the war’s decisive campaign.

Based upon years of indefatigable research, the author evaluates how Gen. Robert E. Lee used intelligence resources, including cavalry, civilians, newspapers, and spies to gather information about Union activities during his invasion of the North in June and July 1863, and how this intelligence influenced General Lee’s decisions. Simultaneously, Ryan explores the effectiveness of the Union Army of the Potomac’s intelligence and counterintelligence operations. Both Maj. Gens. Joe Hooker and George G. Meade relied upon cavalry, the Signal Corps, and an intelligence staff known as the Bureau of Military Information that employed innovative concepts to gather, collate, and report vital information from a variety of sources.

The result is an eye-opening, day-by-day analysis of how and why the respective army commanders implemented their strategy and tactics, with an evaluation of their respective performance as they engaged in a battle of wits to learn the enemy’s location, strength, and intentions.

*Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign* is grounded upon a broad foundation of archival research and a firm understanding of the theater of operations that specialists will especially value. Everyone will appreciate reading about a familiar historic event from a perspective that is both new and enjoyable. One thing is certain: no one will close this book and look at the Gettysburg Campaign in the same way again.

## REVIEWS

“Thomas Ryan's masterfully researched and written study builds upon the pioneering work of Edwin C. Fishel, Stephen W. Sears, and others. *Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign* is destined to become a classic Civil War study.”

? Edwin C. Bearss, former Chief Historian of the National Park Service and award-winning author of *The Petersburg Campaign: Volume 1, The Eastern Front Battles* and *Volume 2, The Western Front Battles*

“Through an in-depth and insightful examination of Union and Confederate intelligence organizations, personnel, and operations during the 1863 Gettysburg campaign, Thomas Ryan details how George Meade’s success in the behind-the-scenes ‘intelligence battle’ against Robert E. Lee set the stage for Union victory in the three-day engagement. This book is an important and original contribution to our understanding of why

Lee lost, why Meade won, and the titanic clash in Pennsylvania.”

? Dr. William B. Feis, author of Grant’s Secret Service: The Intelligence War from Belmont to Appomattox

“Accurate and timely information is the lifeblood of great generalship. Too often do military historians neglect exploring the flow of information and the effect it has on the decision-making of the great captains. Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign, the excellent new book by Thomas Ryan, gives us a new and insightful window into Lee’s decisions and the Union effort to counter them and helps us understand why the campaign ended as it did.”

? David A. Powell, award-winning author of The Chickamauga Campaign

“No one has studied the critical (and largely overlooked) role that intelligence played in the Gettysburg Campaign like Thomas Ryan. The vital information collected by scouts, spies and civilians?and how it was processed and used by the opposing high commands?is told here for the first time in tremendous detail that helps complete the story of how and why the campaign developed as it did, and the battle ended with Lee’s defeat.”

? J. David Petrucci, award-winning author of The Complete Guide to Gettysburg and The Gettysburg Campaign in Numbers and Losses

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**From reader reviews:**

**Damon Smith:**

This Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign: How the Critical Role of Intelligence Impacted the Outcome of Lee's Invasion of the North, June-July 1863 is great guide for you because the content which can be full of information for you who all always deal with world and have to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it information accurately using great plan word or we can point out no rambling sentences in it. So if you are read it hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only gives you straight forward sentences but tough core information with beautiful delivering sentences. Having Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign: How the Critical Role of Intelligence Impacted the Outcome of Lee's Invasion of the North, June-July 1863 in your hand like obtaining the world in your arm, details in it is not ridiculous one particular. We can say that no book that offer you world within ten or fifteen tiny right but this e-book already do that. So , this can be good reading book. Hey there Mr. and Mrs. occupied do you still doubt which?

**Bill Dildy:**

This Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign: How the Critical Role of Intelligence Impacted the Outcome of Lee's Invasion of the North, June-July 1863 is completely new way for you who has interest to look for some information given it relief your hunger info. Getting deeper you into it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having little digest in reading this Spies, Scouts, and Secrets in the Gettysburg Campaign: How the Critical Role of Intelligence Impacted the Outcome of Lee's Invasion of the North, June-July 1863 can be the light food for you because the information inside this book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books produce itself in the form that is reachable by anyone, sure I mean in the e-book type. People who think that in book form make them feel sleepy even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there is no in reading a publication especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for anyone. So , don't miss that! Just read this e-book type for your better life and knowledge.

**Ella McCoy:**

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**Darlene Lewis:**

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