



Nowhere to Run: The Wilderness, May 4th & 5th, 1864

John Michael Priest

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At 12:00 a.m. on May 4, 1864, Ulysses S. Grant and George G. Meade's Army of the Potomac began crossing the Rapidan River in an effort to turn the strategic right flank of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. Confederate reaction was swift. Richard E. Ewell's Second Corps and Ambrose P. Hill's Third Corps moved to meet the advancing Union infantry, artillery, and cavalry in the heavy terrain known simply as "The Wilderness," a sprawling area of second growth scrub oak, brush, and gullies, interspersed with meandering creeks. Inside this difficult terrain one of the largest and bloodiest battles would consume two days and thousands of men.

Nowhere to Run is the story of the men and their officers who fought and died in the horrific fighting. With John Michael Priest's customary thoroughness, specially drawn maps, and extensive documentation, the reader will experience the battles just as the men themselves saw it, and wrote about it, from their own eyes and their own pens.

"Farther to the rear, and closer to Germanna Ford, [Ambrose Burnside's Federal] IX Corps band serenaded the troops with patriotic airs while the soldiers waited for their coffee to boil. The veterans did not want to hear the selections the musicians had chosen. They insisted on 'Home Sweet Home.' The sight of so many playing cards strewn along the roadside led many of the men in the 45th Pennsylvania (Potter's division) to think of their souls. Private William A. Roberts (Company K) listened to the melancholy strains of the John H. Payne favorite and solemnly observed veterans, like himself, crying unashamedly."

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