

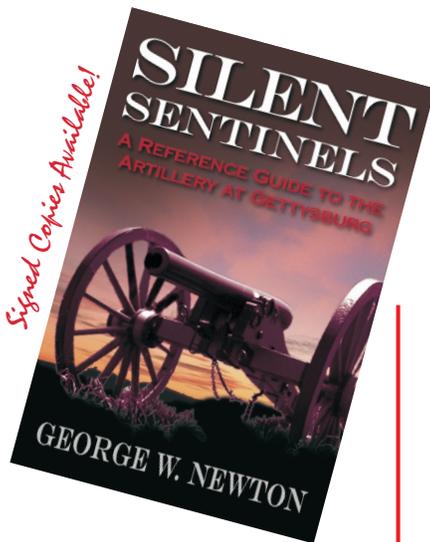
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Silent Sentinels

A Reference Guide to the Artillery at Gettysburg

by George Newton



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Artillery played an important and perhaps decisive role in the July 1863 battle of Gettysburg. Although many hundreds of books have been published on the battle, very few have focused more than a few paragraphs or a sprinkling of entries on the “long arm” and its role in the battle. This gap is finally filled by George Newton’s *Silent Sentinels: A Reference Guide to the Artillery at Gettysburg*.

Newton’s well-written and illustrated study was designed for both the casual battlefield visitor and serious Civil War scholar. The former will use *Silent Sentinels* to learn more about the campaign in general, the role of artillery in Civil War battles, and how it was used on the battlefield at Gettysburg. They will also use it to learn how to identify different types of artillery, and tour a wide variety of artillery-related sites from Oak Hill in the north to a solitary gun well south of the Peach Orchard.

More experienced Civil War students will find the book’s extensive primary sources, diagrams, appendices of numbers and losses, and informative discussion of artillery organization and tactics an indispensable reference resource.

Silent Sentinels opens with a general overview of the campaign and a wide-ranging discussion of 19th century artillery, the gun types used at Gettysburg, the equipment needed to operate the guns, how they were organized in each army, and the tactics employed by both Union and Confederate artillerymen. The chapter-long and wide-ranging tour included in this book guides readers to a variety of fascinating sites with enough detail to interest even the most jaded Gettysburg historian.

Silent Sentinels also includes: (1) Extensive information on the park’s gun collection and the pieces on display on the field today; (2) Directions on how to identify the different types of cannon, including their date and place of manufacture; (3) An order of battle (with losses); (4) A detailed state-by-state breakdown of the artillery used at Gettysburg; (5) Detailed biographical sketches and official reports of select Union and Confederate officers; (6) A helpful glossary of artillery terms, a chapter of artillery-related trivia, and much more.

This outstanding and useful historical guide includes detailed endnotes, a bibliography, and an index. Readers can peruse and enjoy this versatile study from the comfort of an easy chair or while walking the magnificent Pennsylvania field.

About the Author: George W. Newton is a native of Baltimore and a 1973 graduate of McMurry University in Abilene, Texas. A veteran of the United States Air Force, Newton served in the Vietnam War and is a retired executive from the insurance industry. He lives with his wife of 33 years near Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he plans to become a Licensed Battlefield Guide at the Gettysburg National Military Park.