

# **ESSENTIAL CIVIL WAR CURRICULUM**

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## **Edward Porter Alexander**

By **Maury Klein**

### **Resources**

**If you can read only one book**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Klein, Maury	<i>Edward Porter Alexander</i> . Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1971.

### **Books**

Author	<i>Title</i> . City: Publisher, Year.
Alexander, E.P.	<i>Military Memoirs of a Confederate: A Critical Narrative. With Sketch-Maps by the Author</i> . New York: Scribner's, 1907.
_____.	<i>Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander</i> , ed. Gary W. Gallagher. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1989.

### **Organizations**

### **Web Resources**

<a href="http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/a/Alexander,Edward_Porter.html">http://www.lib.unc.edu/mss/inv/a/Alexander,Edward_Porter.html</a>	Edward Porter Alexander Papers, 1852-1910, The Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina. Available online.
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### **Other Sources**

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## Scholars

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## Topic Précis

Porter Alexander played an active role at First Bull Run and took part in the surrender at Appomattox. He was a brilliant officer and field commander and gained a reputation as Lee's most talented artillery officer. He served brilliantly as chief of ordnance and signals for what became the Army of Northern Virginia, and helped create and fly the South's only observation balloon. At Fredericksburg, his first battle as a battalion commander, he persuaded Lee's engineer to locate the guns on the brow rather than the reverse slope of each hill as Lee had directed. The guns inflicted much of the devastation on charging Union brigades. As early as 1861 Alexander urged the formation of separate artillery battalions under the command of artillery officers. Finally, in February 1863, Lee approved a reorganization plan that abolished divisional and brigade batteries and the artillery became an independent arm directed by officers with specialized training. Alexander continued to excel with brilliant performances at Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, and in the Tennessee campaign. In March 1864 he was promoted to brigadier general. After the war Alexander launched a career in railroading that lasted twenty years. In 1907 he published *Military Memoirs of a Confederate: A Critical Narrative. With Sketch-Maps by the Author* which has been hailed as the finest account of the war by a major participant. Alexander's personal memoirs, gleaned from his ledgers, were published posthumously in 1989 as *Fighting for the Confederacy: The Personal Recollections of General Edward Porter Alexander*.

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