

GENERAL SHERMAN'S CHRISTMAS

STANLEY WEINTRAUB

READ BY ED SALA

"From the author of the bestselling *Silent Night* comes a close look at the embattled holiday season of 1864, when Major General W. T. Sherman gave President Lincoln the city of Savannah and paved the way for the end of the Civil War.

General Sherman's Christmas opens on Thanksgiving Day 1864. Sherman was relentlessly pushing his troops nearly three hundred miles across Georgia in his "March to the Sea," to reach Savannah just days before Christmas. His methodical encroachment of the city from all sides eventually convinced Confederate general W. J. Hardee to slip away in darkness and escape to South Carolina. Three days before Christmas, the mayor surrendered the city.

General Sherman then telegraphed to Abraham Lincoln, "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah with 150 heavy guns & plenty of ammunition & also about 25,000 bales of cotton."

The fight for Savannah took place as its inhabitants were anxiously preparing for Christmas. Stanley Weintraub explores how Christmas was traditionally fêted in the South and what remained of the holiday to celebrate during the waning last full year of the war. General Sherman's Christmas captures the voices of soldiers and civilians on both sides of the conflict, as they neared the end of a long war.

Stanley Weintraub is a historian, a biographer, and a professor emeritus of the arts and humanities at Pennsylvania State University. He is the author of *Silent Night: The Story of the 1914 Christmas Truce* and *General Washington's Christmas Farewell*. He lives with his wife in Newark, Delaware.

Ed Sala, an actor and a writer, has won numerous *AudioFile* Earphones Awards for his audiobook narrations, including one for *Finn* by Jon Clinch. His performance of *White Doves at Morning* by James Lee Burke was selected by *AudioFile* as one of the fifteen best audiobooks of the year.



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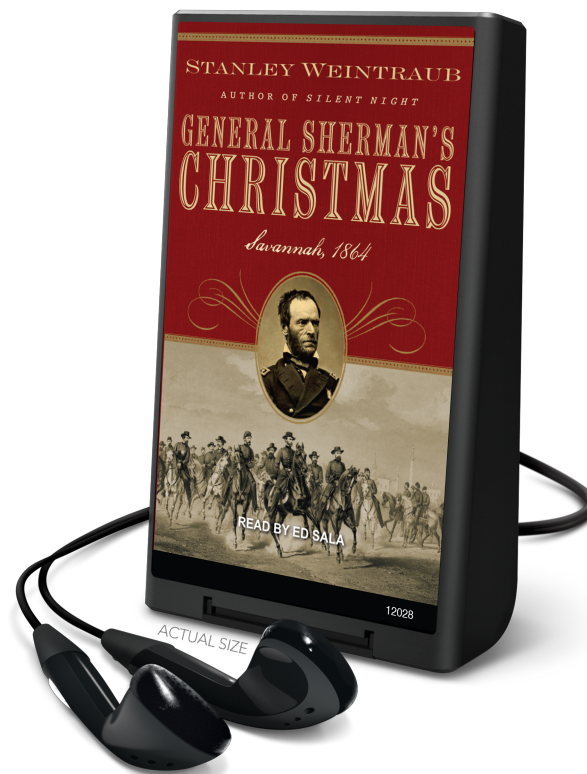


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