

History 225

Re: Notes w/ Lincoln and the War

Source: Boritt, Lincoln's Generals/ Essay by Neely

What does this say about Lincoln?

That he was becoming desperate to end this war; becoming bloody-minded.

Or that he was beginning to understand 19th century warfare and was desperate for a end to the Civil War.

This is a statement he made to one of his secretaries after the battle of Fredericksburg:

We lost fifty per cent more men than did the enemy, and yet there is sense in the awful arithmetic propounded by Mr. Lincoln. He says that if the same battle were to be fought over again, every day, through a week of days, the same results, the army under Lee would be wiped out to its last man, the Army of the Potomac would still be a mighty host, the war would be over, the Confederacy gone, and the peace would be won at a smaller cost of life than it will be if the week of lost battles must be dragged out through yet another year of camps and marches, and the deaths in the hospitals rather than upon the field. No general yet can face the arithmetic, but the end will be at hand when he shall be discovered.