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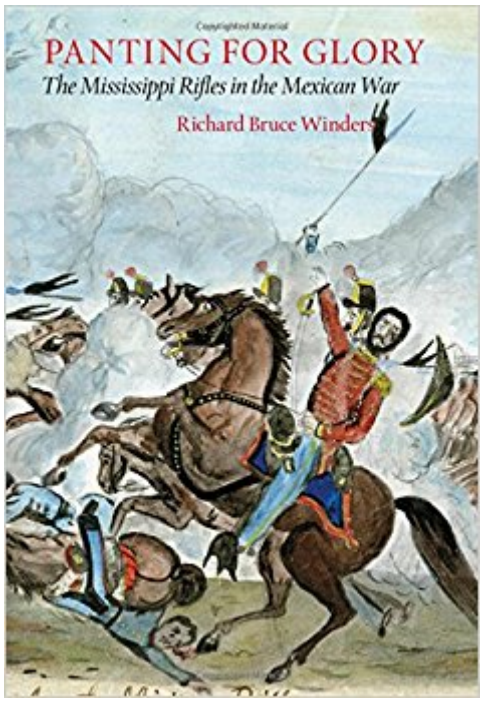
Panting For Glory: The Mississippi Rifles In The Mexican War (Williams-Ford Texas A&M University Military History Series)



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Synopsis

Armed with percussion rifles when most other US soldiers still carried flintlock muskets, the Ã¢â ¬Å“Mississippi RiflesÃ¢â ¬Â• served in the war against Mexico that followed the annexation of Texas in 1845. In Panting for Glory: The Mississippi Rifles in the Mexican War, Richard Bruce Winders skillfully uncovers the contrasting wartime experiences of two regiments, the 1st and 2nd Mississippi Rifles. The 1st Mississippi Rifles were lauded for their service and remain a familiar part of the history of the Mexican War. Under the leadership of Col. Jefferson DavisÃ¢â ¬â •later the President of the Confederate States of AmericaÃ¢â ¬â •the 1st enjoyed significant victories at the Battle of Buena Vista and the Battle of Monterey. The 2nd Mississippi Rifles, by contrast, saw little action and returned home overlooked and largely forgotten. Panting for Glory compares these regiments to show that the contours of history were sometimes arbitrary and that military historians, in their analysis of failure, should take into account a wide range of factors that influence outcomes, not merely records of wins and losses. As Winders concludes, Ã¢â ¬Å“the 1st and 2nd Mississippi Rifles . . . offer the perfect opportunity to examine two sides of war: glory gained and glory denied.Ã¢â ¬Â•

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“Bruce WindersÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Panting for Glory: The Mississippi Rifles in the Mexican WarÃ Â sheds new light on the role of the Mississippi volunteers in the Mexican WarÃ¢â ¬Â|.a

smooth-running narrative from beginning to endÃ¢â ¬Â|Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Christopher D. Dishman, author ofÃ Â A Perfect Gibraltar: The Battle for Monterrey, Mexico, 1846 Ã Â (Christopher D. Dishman 2016-02-12)Ã¢â ¬Å“Ã¢â ¬Â| admirably details the life of both units from their inception in mid and late 1846 until each was mustered out of the service in 1847 and 1848Ã¢â ¬Â|Ã¢â ¬Â• Ã¢â ¬â • Timothy D. Johnson, author ofÃ Â A Gallant Little Army: The Mexico City Campaign (Tim Johnson 2016-02-12)Ã¢â ¬Å“It captures the excitement of the battle and contrasts that with the boredom of guard dutyÃ¢â ¬Â| This work effectively shows how the service of these two unites exemplifies the way opportunity and chance affects what kind of war a soldier experiences.Ã¢â ¬Â•Ã¢â ¬â •Military Heritage Ã Â (Southwestern Historical Quarterly)

RICHARD BRUCE WINDERS is the historian and curator of the Alamo. He is the author of numerous books, including Mr. PolkÃ¢â ¬â„¢s Army: The American Military Experience in the Mexican War and Sacrificed at the Alamo: Tragedy and Triumph in the Texas Revolution. Ã Â

A summary of the review on StrategyPage.Com'Winders, author of the excellent "Mr. PolkÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Army" and several other works, takes a look at the service of MississippiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s two volunteer mounted rifles regiments in the war with Mexico. One, the 1st Mississippi Mounted Rifles, gained fame campaigning under Jefferson Davis, most notably at Buena Vista, where it may well have saved Zachary TaylorÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s little army from destruction. The other, the 2nd Mississippi Mounted Rifles, although it arguably had a more arduous war, and certainly suffered far greater losses, is virtually unremembered, because it served largely on security duties and most of its losses were due to disease. Winders examines the formation of each regiment, with an analysis of the regional origins of the men, and discusses their organization, equipping (with new ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“untriedÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• percussion rifles), training, and service. As he does so, he throws a good deal of light on the role of volunteers in the war, and on the war itself. An excellent book, and a good read, this is, however, more suited to the seasoned student of the war than to someone lacking familiarity with the subject.'For the full review, see StrategyPage.Com

Dr. Winders, already the author of one of the finest books on the US Army during the Mexican War ("Mr. Polk's Army") has made an important contribution to the history of the Mexican War with "Panting for Glory." Perhaps the best known volunteer regiment during that conflict, the story of the Mississippi Rifles has really seldom been told. This story is crucial to anyone studying the American

soldier during the Mexican War or anyone writing about its commanding officer, Colonel Jefferson Davis, who just fifteen years later would become President of the Confederate States of America.

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