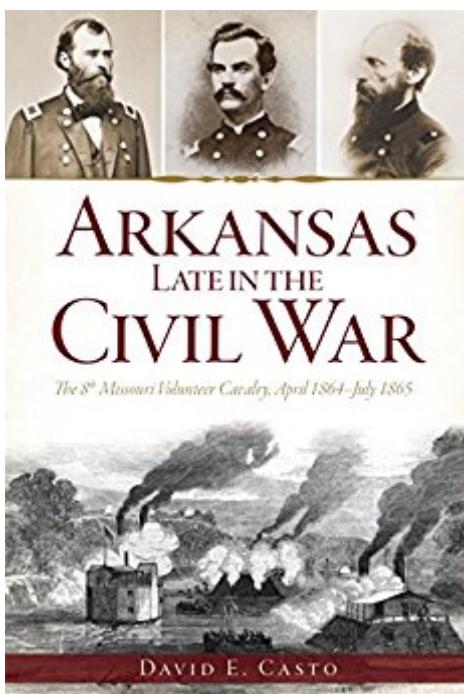


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Arkansas Late In The Civil War: The 8th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry, April 1864-July 1865 (Civil War Series)



Synopsis

At the request of Union general Ulysses S. Grant, in 1864 Major General Frederick Steele stripped the Department of Arkansas of twelve thousand men--half its strength--to support an expedition in Louisiana. And while the depleted infantry remained largely in garrison, the 8th Missouri Cavalry and its counterparts were ordered to patrol central Arkansas under horrid conditions and protect the state from guerrilla Rebels. The regiment spent nine long months battling against Confederate general Jo Shelby's efforts to raid the White River Valley behind Union lines while simultaneously battling to secure Arkansas' borders. Join author David Casto as he explores the 8th Missouri Volunteer Cavalry's perilous excursion into enemy territory.

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Customer Reviews

I am always excited when I see a new work appear on the Civil War in Arkansas; so I bought this book soon after it was published. This book proved interesting to me because of the angle it takes to the war in Arkansas. It is not focused on one of the major battles or campaigns that occurred in the

state, rather it focuses on the activities of a typical cavalry regiment during the last year or so of the war. By taking this approach Casto demonstrates what it was like for the many regiments occupying various posts in Arkansas: the numerous scouts, short skirmishes, and frustrating chases after Rebel guerrillas. No major battles are fought, but that is part of the charm of the story the book tells, giving us insight into the less-glorious aspects of occupying a frontier Confederate state. Casto does do a good job of explaining the role these smaller-scale military activities played within the larger context of other events that were taking place in Arkansas and the Trans-Mississippi Theatre at the same time. The narrative of the book makes for an easy read; the story flows well and the chapters are a convenient length. The author is diligent about noting his sources, which is responsible historical writing. The book seemed to be well edited, I did not notice any typos. However, the authors habit of regularly referring to DeValls Bluff as "the Bluff" and Little Rock as "the Rock" did get a little annoying. The maps are hand-drawn, and are therefore a little on the crude side and a little difficult to read. However, they are adequate. It would be nice to have had the maps professionally made, though.

As a Civil War buff, I ordered this book for the research information. It is probably not for anyone looking for a novel about the romance of the "Woah" in Arkansas but I found it to be a well-documented and interesting book about the Civil War in an area that was all-but abandoned by the Confederacy early on in the conflict.

Since David Casto is a relative and had no training as an author, I think he did rather well! If you love history I would recommend.

One of the few books to tell the story of Arkansas late in the Civil War. This is a part of the war that isn't very well known outside of scholars. This book does a very good job of telling that story.

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