



Mosby's Rangers: A Record Of The Operations Of The Forty-Third Battalion Virginia Cavalry, From Its Organization To The Surrender

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Mosby's Rangers were some of the most feared Confederate troops of the American Civil War.

Under the command of Col. John S. Mosby they executed small raids behind Union lines, raiding at will and then vanishing quickly into the countryside to remain undetected.

Formally known as the 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry, they were formed after the Partisan Ranger Act of 1862. By the summer of 1864 Mosby had around four hundred men at his disposal in six cavalry companies and one artillery company.

Their success led to the area around Fauquier and Loudoun counties becoming known as "Mosby's Confederacy", due to the grip that he and his men held on the area.

James Joseph Williamson was private who fought under Mosby from April, 1863, through until the end of the war. He records in fascinating detail the activity of Mosby and his men from their companies organization until the moment that they were disbanded.

Williamson provides brilliant insight into the campaigns that Mosby's men fought, how they were organized, who led them, the difficulties they faced, as well as their greatest victories.

The effectiveness of Mosby and his small band can be seen in these two statements:

General Lee said that Mosby was "zealous bold, and skillful, and with very small resources he has accomplished a great deal."

While on the Union side, "General at one point reported that seventeen thousand of his men were engaged in keeping Mosby from attacking his weak points, and thus away from active service on the firing line. Finally it was not safe to send despatches by a courier unless a regiment was sent along to guard him."

Yet, after the war, Grant held no animosity against his former foe, and stated "I have come to know Mosby personally and somewhat intimately. He is a different man entirely from what I supposed. ... He is able and thoroughly honest and truthful. There were probably but few men in the South who could have commanded successfully a separate detachment in the rear of an opposing army, and so near the borders of hostilities as long as he did without losing his entire command." Thus demonstrating the respect that Mosby and his men engendered with their enemies even after the war.

Mosby's Rangers is a perfect book for anyone interested in the partisan activities of Mosby and his men through the course of the American Civil War.

James Joseph Williamson was one of Mosby's Rangers from 1863 through until the end of the war. His book was first published in New York in 1896 and he passed away in 1915.

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From Reader Review Mosby's Rangers: A Record Of The Operations Of The Forty-Third Battalion Virginia Cavalry, From Its Organization To The Surrender for online ebook

Jeff Ferry says

This book is basically a literary version of a series of after action reports. There is little character development and even the eponymous Mosby is not explored deeply. However, if you are a big Civil War or Mosby fan you will find the story very interesting. It was written by someone who was on the scene so it isn't an egghead from 150 years later giving his opinions which is a nice change of pace.

Kenneth W Ortensie says

Ok

It was like reading a morning report over and over. It had too many names to keep straight in my head.

LARRY FLICK says

Diary Of The Unit

Enjoyed, diary of the unit. and day to day exploits, of this famous unit of the civil war. Nice reading

Phil Clymer says

Interesting book but slightly on the dry side. Consists of lots of casualty lists, numbers of horses and/or mules captured, and wagons either captured or destroyed.

Kenneth Barrett says

This is a very riveting and informative account of the contribution of Mosby' s Rangers

and the adventurous role they played in the war between the States in the Northwestern area of Virginia. It is full of historical facts as well as numerous communications between the forces involved. I highly recommend this book as a historical account of this great country in turmoil.

Thomas says**Vignettes of guerilla escapades In Virginia.**

A difficult read for anyone unfamiliar with Virginia geography and made more so by personality references of unknown participants. Not for a reader who does not want minute accounts.

Grant Ashley says**Fascinating Civil War information.**

The content was superb, but I took off a star because of quite a few mistakes that must have been made in scanning into a file.

Daniel Patitz says

A story of bravery and daring while fighting for the Confederacy. Behind enemy lines their tactics allowed for the supply to his comrades and the taking of hundreds of prisoners.
