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Polignac's Texas Brigade

Alwyn Barr

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Alwyn Barr : Polignac's Texas Brigade before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Polignac's Texas Brigade:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Full of interesting factsBy TX Reader - ReviewerFor an author of historical fiction, I appreciate a history book that delivers concise information that's full of interesting facts and well-fleshed-out character studies. Polignac's Texas Brigade is exactly that.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Bettye MatthewsMy great grandfather was in this Texas Brigade, I found it very interesting..11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. An Excellent StudyBy Arthur W. Bergeron, Jr.The Confederate army in the Trans-Mississippi Department has long been neglected by historians. Alwyn Barr wrote a wonderful account of the Texas brigade commanded by Camille Jules Marie, Prince de Polignac. Not only was his research meticulous, but his writing flows through the pages. Polignac's men fought in some of the largest battles west of the Mississippi--Sterling Plantation, Mansfield, Pleasant Hill, and Yellow Bayou--and proved themselves good soldiers. This book deserves to be on the shelves of anyone with an interest in the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy or in Confederate brigades in general.

For three years during the American Civil War an oddly assorted brigade of Texans served the Confederacy in the Trans-Mississippi theater and then, for one hundred years, disappeared from history. Some five thousand men, raised largely from the communities and farmsteads of North Texas, served in cavalry and infantry units, and were commanded for part of that time by the only foreign general of the Confederacy, Prince Camille de Polignac.This

group of soldiers fought in numerous skirmishes from Missouri to Louisiana. They endured a fearfully cold winter march through Indian Territory, were bombarded by gunboat shells along the banks of the Mississippi, Ouachita, and Red Rivers, and engaged in a stand-up, no-quarter fight along Yellow Bayou. By the summer of 1864, the brigade was engaged in little fighting, and in 1865 returned to Texas, where it was disbanded in May. More than a hundred men had been killed on the battlefields, and many others had died of disease and cold. "Our trail," wrote one brigade member, "was a long graveyard." First published in 1964 by the Texas Gulf Coast Historical Association, Alwyn Barr's study of this previously little-known brigade not only detailed an aspect of the less-studied war in the West, but also showed in stark, first-person accounts the toll of war at the level of the common fighting man. Available again after only a limited print run in its first edition, this little masterpiece of Civil War history now includes a new preface by Barr that updates what is known of the brigade and its significance to the Trans-Mississippi campaign.

From Library Journal Originally published in 1964 for the Texas Gulf Coast Historical Association, this slim volume tells the story of Camille Armand Jules Maries, Prince de Polignac. This son of a French prime minister was the only foreign citizen to serve as an officer in the Civil War, leading a rag-tag group of Texans for the Confederacy. This edition includes a new preface updating his story. Copyright 1998 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author ALWYN BARR is a professor of history at Texas Tech University and a past president of the Texas State Historical Association. He has published three other books and some forty articles on Texas, African American, and military history.