

[Free] Rebel Watchdog : The Confederate States Army Provost Guard

Rebel Watchdog : The Confederate States Army Provost Guard

Kenneth Radley

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Kenneth Radley : Rebel Watchdog : The Confederate States Army Provost Guard before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Rebel Watchdog : The Confederate States Army Provost Guard:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Keeping the troops in lineBy James D. CrabtreeIf you are interested in the role of the Provost in the Confederacy this is the book for you. The Provost Guard served the modern functions of CID and Military Police in the CSA, providing railroad security, counterespionage, jailers, and even court martial authority. Radley does a great job of discussing the legal basis for provost martials and the actual practices in the field. He uses examples gleaned from letters and reports to illustrate the way in which the Provost Guard was organized and how they went about their duties.4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Provost Marshall and Guards of the Confederate ArmyBy Civil War Living historian and lecturer.Fantastic. Some ofthe best information that many CW buffs dont know. I am using this in a lecture series that I am giving this year5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent history of a neglected subject.By A Customer(The numerical rating above is a default setting of 's. This reviewer does not employ numerical evaluations.)The romantic notion of a unified Confederacy, with our gallant soldiers dedicated to the doomed Cause and homefolks sacrificing all in support, is partly true. Also true is hidden Union sentiment, sleazy opportunism, endemic indiscipline, and a tendency to straggle which the author suggests may have cost the South its independence. In its desperation the Confederate government instituted a sort of police state, with internal passports, watchful secret agents, and a level of militaristic intrusiveness reminiscent of other, later regimes. These measures, however necessary, robbed the fighting forces of critical manpower and alienated the

populace further from their government. Written with unusual grace, this necessary account of that other Confederacy is thoroughly researched, with maps, photos, appendices, and index. Highly recommended for military history readers and students of the Civil War.

Details the workings of the Confederate States Army Provost Guard, which was established to discipline the vast numbers of untrained soldiers in the Rebel forces and which became one of the most highly praised and controversial components of the Confederate Army.

From Publishers Weekly Radley investigates a little-known but important aspect of Confederate history: the role of the provost or military police during the four years of the Civil War. The "plug uglies" were a hated feature of wartime life in the South: their varied duties included the suppression of disloyalty and subversion, which gave them a degree of control over civilians unique in American history. The provost's main task, however, was to prevent straggling and desertion in the Southern armies, a mainly unsuccessful effort that Radley contends was a major factor in the Confederate defeat. Supporting his argument well, he presents startling facts. One learns that some 15,000 stragglers were absent from Lee's thin battle line at Antietam, and that by the autumn of 1864 no less than 100,000 men had "seceded" from the war on a permanent basis. According to the author, a Canadian army officer, the only task the provost guard performed "to the satisfaction of all" was its control of the roughly 200,000 Union soldiers captured in the war. Illustrations. Copyright 1989 Reed Business Information, Inc. In *Rebel Watchdog*, Kenneth Radley draws from more than four hundred primary sources to detail the workings of the Confederate States Army Provost Guard. Sanctioned by the Articles of War in 1861 to assist the South in the establishment of discipline over the vast numbers of hurriedly organized and untrained soldiers, the provost system became one of the most highly praised and controversial components of the Confederate army. It was charged with marshalling the South's available resources for war while simultaneously accommodating the region's marked predisposition toward individualism and against any semblance of a strong central government. A masterpiece of Civil War scholarship, *No Civil Wars* studies collection or Confederacy reading list can be considered complete with the inclusion of *Rebel Watchdog*. -- Midwest Book From the Back Cover In '*Rebel Watchdog*, ' Radley draws from more than four hundred primary sources to detail the workings of the Confederate States Army Provost Guard. Sanctioned by the Articles of War in 1861 to assist the South in the establishment of discipline over the vast numbers of hurriedly organized and untrained soldiers, the provost system became one of the most highly praised and controversial components of the Confederated army.