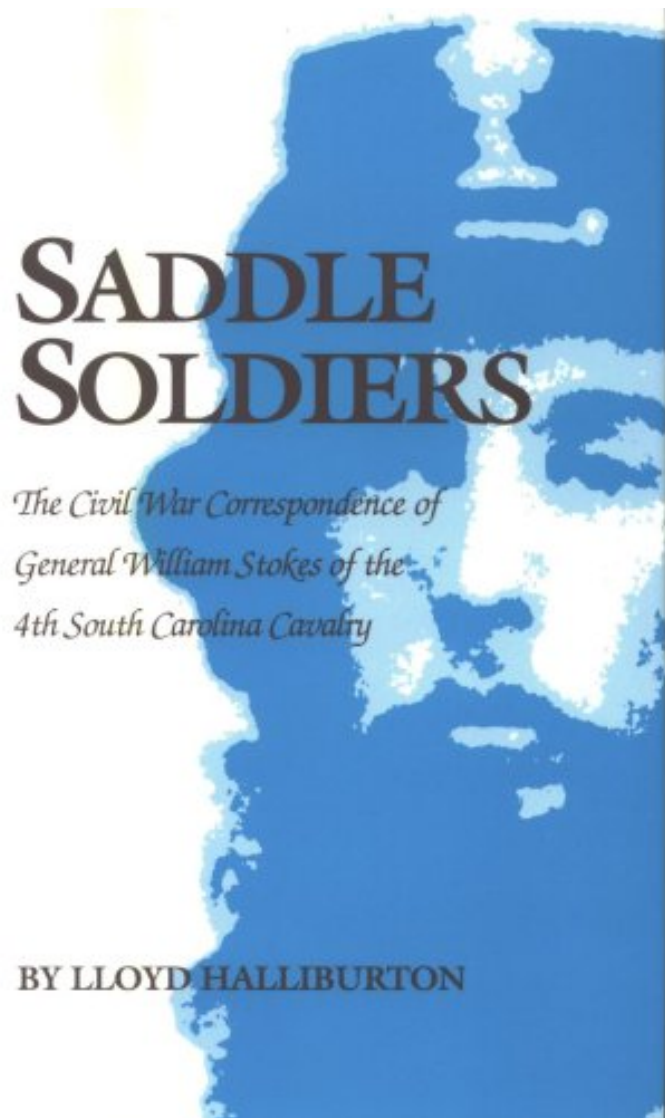


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Saddle Soldiers: The Civil War Correspondence of General William Stokes of the 4th South Carolina Cavalry

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William Stokes, Lloyd Halliburton : Saddle Soldiers: The Civil War Correspondence of General William Stokes of the 4th South Carolina Cavalry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Saddle Soldiers: The Civil War Correspondence of General William Stokes of the 4th South Carolina Cavalry:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Letters Home from a Calvary Officer of the 4th S.C. Calvary By Dr. Edward R. Scott This book is an organized collection of letters Colonel Stokes wrote home to his wife. As the author's purpose was to present factual information on the military objectives of this Regiment, the unit's records having been burned by Colonel Stokes himself to prevent their falling into enemy hands, the personal content of these documents has been edited out. Tracing his career from the early days of the war when the objective was to prevent an invasion of South Carolina along her coast to their attachment to the Army of North Virginia in 1864 these letters provide a view of the challenges, courage, and sacrifices made by these men of the 4th S.C. Calvary. The book would have been considerably enhanced had the author taken the time to provide greater perspective on the military engagements the unit found itself involved in. Also, the exhibits providing geographical detail are barely legible in some instances. Nevertheless, the book is a useful "window" into this unit's contribution to the history of South Carolina

These letters, dating from 1861 to 1865, give us a personal account of Civil War activities in South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia. General Stokes' outfit saw some of the heaviest fighting of the war, including numerous battles that were connected with the defense of Petersburg Richmond. In his letters, however, he underplays the danger of death, sparing the reader the gruesome details of combat the morbidity of his surroundings, focuses instead on the facts, providing an eloquent account of the operations of war. Although 2nd in command of his outfit, the frequent absence of his superior officer forced primary responsibility of command on Stokes. His cool, unselfish leadership is evident his confidence in his men, the war's cause, his own abilities is steadfast--right through to the final painful disbanding of the regiment in April 1865 the inevitable surrender of the South. Although all Regiment records were burned at the end of the war, the letters memorabilia of General William Stokes, made available by his great granddaughter, preserve the history of South Carolina's 4th Calvary.