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Captain Joseph Boyce And The 1st Missouri Infantry, CSA



CAPTAIN JOSEPH BOYCE
and the
1ST MISSOURI INFANTRY, C.S.A.

Edited by
William C. Winter



Synopsis

The role of the Missouri Confederate in the Civil War is too often typified as that of the Bushwhacker, guerrilla, or partisan ranger. Although these soldiers are certainly part of Missouri's Confederate history, Missouri soldiers also fought for the South at Shiloh and Corinth, from Vicksburg to Atlanta, in the assault at Franklin, and in defense of Fort Blakely in Mobile Bay. Printed primary accounts about these Confederate regiments from Missouri are few. In this new book, author and editor William C. Winter presents the story of the 1st Missouri Infantry, one of the best of these regiments, through the words of Captain Joseph Boyce of Company D, the St. Louis Greys. Less than two decades after the war, Boyce began presenting his history of the regiment to the Southern Historical and Benevolent Society of St. Louis. His text appeared in the Missouri Republican after each lecture, resulting in a serialized account spread over several years. Boyce's narrative addresses his service from his involvement as a member of the Missouri Volunteer Militia in the Camp Jackson massacre on May 10, 1861, until the regiment's surrender at Fort Blakely near Mobile, Alabama, in April 1865. Boyce's history is offered here in full and as a continuous story for the first time. Winter has written the necessary introduction to each chapter, adding background to Boyce's narrative that to Boyce was unneeded because many in his initial audience had shared the experience of war. Through extensive footnotes and the incorporation of other writings by Boyce, Winter has significantly expanded Boyce's history but has maintained the focus on the regiment's service in the war's western theater.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Presents the story of the 1st Missouri Infantry, one of the best of these regiments, through the words of Captain Joseph Boyce of Company D, the St. Louis Greys.

William C. Winter has written on Civil War topics for Gateway Heritage and the Missouri Historical Review and is the author of The Civil War in St. Louis: A Guided Tour, also published by the Missouri History Museum.

Captain Joseph Boyce was an officer in the 1st Missouri Infantry Regiment who wrote an excellent diary of his and his regiment's actions during the Civil War. It is a great history of the regiment during the bloody conflict of the Civil War. Captain Joyce's diary is edited by William C. Winter and he adds great information at the beginning of each chapter of what the regiment was doing during the time-frame that Captain Boyce was writing about. Missouri had soldiers who fought for the North and The South and it was officially a "border" state who stayed in the Union, however, thousands of men along with Captain Boyce decided to join the Confederate cause and fight the North. Captain Boyce joined Company D of the St. Louis Greys that later became a part of the famous 1st Missouri Regiment that fought at Shiloh, Corinth, Vicksburg, Atlanta, the disastrous assault at Franklin, and other historical battles of the Civil War. Captain Boyce tells what he and other soldiers did during these battles, as well as the endless marches, camp life, and what he thought of his men, the officers he served with, and those in rank above him. As I stated before, editor William C. Winter enhances Captain Boyce's diary by describing the background of the battles, the areas, and other important circumstances and facts before every chapter that helps the reader understand more of what Captain Boyce was going through as well as the rest of the regiment. The editor also has excellent footnotes and bibliography that helps the great accuracy of what he is telling before the Captain's recollections and it can also help the reader of this book find more information of interest about the areas, theatre of battle, and other regiments that fought along with the 1st Missouri Infantry. At the final chapter, Captain Boyce, years after the war ended gives his thoughts about why this regiment and its history should not be ignored but studied. He also tells about his reunions with his comrades and what he thinks should be done to remember his regiment. Great photos, maps, roster of the companies, and editorial footnotes enhance this book even more. This is an outstanding book about a very courageous regiment of the western theatre of the Civil War. Captain Boyce's diary is an

important history of the Civil War and is highly recommended reading to all Civil War enthusiasts and makes a fine addition to any Civil War Library. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!

This is a well written book about a regiment that has not been well covered in the literature. It is based on letters from a member of the regiment, and the author has done a good job of annotating the letters. I recommend this book to anyone interested in the 1st MO or Missouri infantry units during the Civil War.

Book was in great shape.

A first hand account and unit history by an educated man that was a witness to it all. A wonderful narrative and filled with information for researchers as well. A must have book for those researching the Army of the TN, MO in Confederate service, or just the Civil War in general.

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