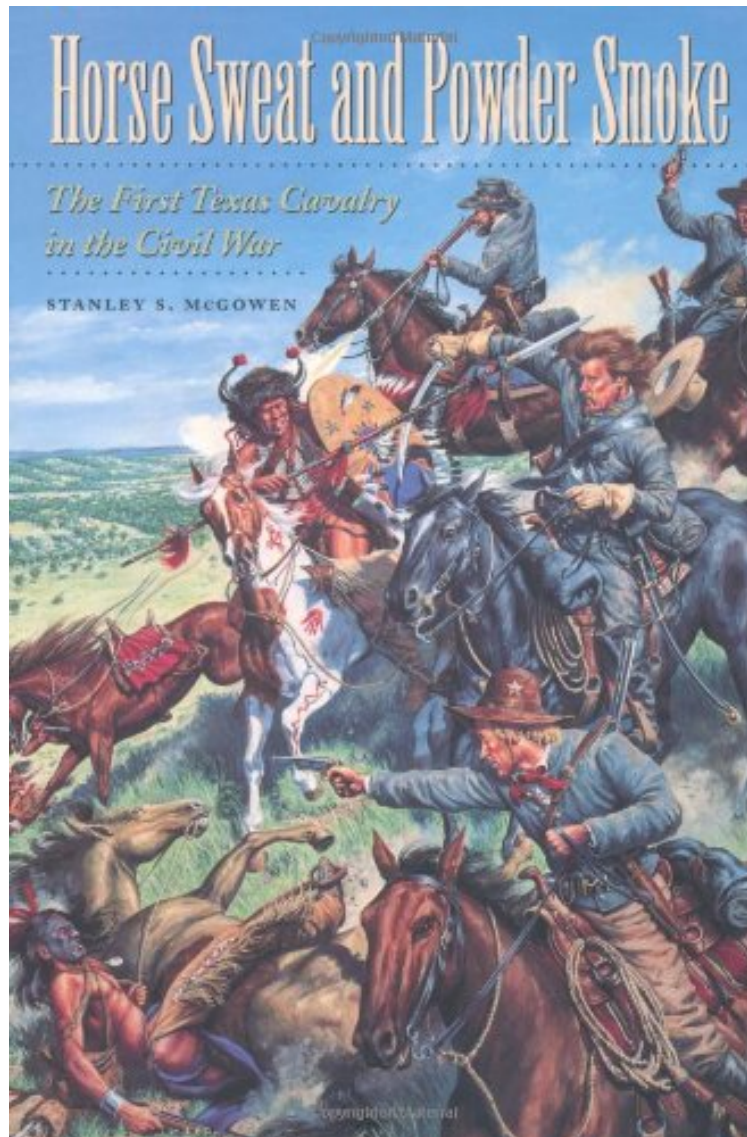


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Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke: The First Texas Cavalry in the Civil War (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series)

Stanley S. McGowen

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Stanley S. McGowen : Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke: The First Texas Cavalry in the Civil War (Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke: The First Texas Cavalry in the Civil War

(Williams-Ford Texas AM University Military History Series):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. GreatBy GunnyThis book covers the First Texas Cavalry through the American Civil War. Made up by primarily Texas Rangers, The 1st TC does Texas proud and one must reimagine the images as seen by the Union troops when, just before battle they would see men with in wide hats, riding small ponies (Texas Cavalry) when compared to other cavalry units of men on big horses with tall hats. These men of the Texas cavalry would exhibit shrill blood-curdling war cries, carried usually 2 revolvers, swords, tomahawks, bowie knives and some type of carbine. Heavily armed and fierce fighters, the 1st TC would have, enforce and maintain a code of honor few other regiments could meet. Good, factual read.2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. An outstanding history of the First Regiment to fight for Texas and the ConfederacyBy Joe Owen"Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke" The First Texas Cavalry in the Civil War" by Stanley S. McGowen (Texas AM University Press, 1999) is a fine book about the history of the first regiment of Cavalry mostly made up from Texas Rangers who fought for Texas and the Confederacy during the Civil War. The regiment was also known as "The First Texas Mounted Rifles" and was the first Confederate Unit organized in Texas and the longest to serve participating from battles with the Kiowas and Comanches inside Texas to participating in battle against Union forces. The author tells the compelling history of the regiment that was first formed in the beginning days of the Civil War right after Texas seceded from the Union. The commanding officer Henry McCulloch was a former Texas Ranger and became its first commanding officer and such notable Texans such as Captains James B. "Buck" Barry, Thomas C. Frost, August Buchel, and William Yager became effective officers who emphasized discipline and chivalry within the regiments. Throughout the war, the First Texas Cavalry became noted for their discipline in camp life and in battle, even during the harshest of conditions when lack of food, terrible sanitation, and disease took many lives. However, within the regiment, they were always a cohesive and outstandingly effective fighting unit that was both admired and feared by the Union troops they fought against. As the author noted, even when the Confederacy was in its last months, the regiment remained loyal to their fellow soldiers and officers within the regiment. Mr. McGowen also gives the excellent history of the various battles the regiment fought in and the areas they were encamped in such as the swamps of Louisiana, the Red River Valley and patrolling the Gulf Coast of Texas and the Rio Grande River. The regiment participated in the Red River Campaign which was successful against the Union Army invading Texas and was in other battles and campaigns which the author describes in fascinating detail. For many decades the exploits of this great regiment remained largely unknown except for those who were in the regiment and those in certain areas of Texas, however, Mr. McGowen did a great service by writing this great history of the regiment and with the passage of time and the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War years, the outstanding history of this outstanding regiment that fought for the Confederacy and the State of Texas is becoming well known. This is an EXCELLENT book about this brave regiment that was the first to fight for Texas during the Civil War and is highly recommended for those who want to know more about Confederate Cavalry history, the Western Theater of the Civil War, Texas History and Civil War History. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on the history of the 1st Texas CavalryBy Karl-Josef SchmeinkCongratulations to Stanley S. MacGowen for this excellent book. I most enjoyed reading it. It gives the most complete and detailed overview on the history, the leaders, and the horsemen of the 1st Confederate Texas Cavalry Regiment (also known as the First Texas Mounted Rifles). The book covers the regimental history from the time the regiment was raised by Colonel Henry McCulloch to defend Texas frontiers against indian warriors over the time the regiment was part of the Confederate Armee under the Colonels Augustus Carl Buchel and William Overall Yager until the end of the Civil War. Even being not correct at some details such as the origin of Colonel William O. Yager (Yager was not a German immigrant. He was born in Virginia and graduated at the Virginia Miliraty Institute) the book has a high value to all interested in the History of Texas and the War between the States. Karl-J. Schmeink, Kiel, Germany EMail: Karl-Josef.Schmeink@1st-Texas-Cavalry.de

The 1st Texas Cavalry Regiment, also known as the 1st Texas Mounted Rifles, was Texas' first contribution of soldiers to the Civil War. The regiment was the first Confederate unit organized in Texas and the longest to serve, participating in Indian skirmishes on the frontier as well as in full battles against the Union. In Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke Stanley S. McGowen describes and honors one of the most unique and successful military units in Texas history. He provides the first complete history of the 1st Texas Cavalry Regiment, documenting their origins from the Confederate Committee on Public Safety's request for mounted units to the appointment of Henry McCulloch to colonel of cavalry. McCulloch, a former Texas Ranger, was swift and effective at motivating his fellow Texans to arms, notably Captains James B. "Buck" Barry and Thomas C. Frost. The regimental commanders, McCulloch, Augustus Buchel, and William Yager, were acknowledged for their emphasis on precise discipline and gentlemanly conduct, and their training methods were valuable in that soldiers learned both cavalry and infantry maneuvers, as well as saber fighting and the proper care of horses and equipment. As many commanders maintained lax rules of propriety and organization, the 1st Texas Mounted Rifles remained a cohesive and loyal unit, disbanding only under the proper orders. Even after, as the Confederacy fell around them, the troops remained steadfastly loyal to their fellow

fighters. McGowen examines the vast range of territory that the unit covered, including Louisiana swamps, the Red River Valley, along the Rio Grande, as well as the Gulf Coast line. He discusses their involvement in the controversial campaign known as the Battle of the Nueces, casting doubts on the common interpretation of the German immigrants, sympathetic to the Union, as defenseless farmers. McGowen asserts that while there was bloodshed on both sides, the Germans were not the innocent victims that many historians have claimed, and that the cavalry was not the bloodthirsty gang many thought. *Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke* clearly portrays the heroism and individuality of Texas' first mounted unit in the Civil War. By combining the history of the unit with profiles of the men who led it and who gave it its unique spirit and character, as well as accounts of the battles, raids, and skirmishes in which the unit participated, McGowen provides a valuable history of men whose recognition is long overdue from those whose homes, values, and way of life were defended by their actions.

"The intensity of the hard fought Red River campaign comes alive in McGowen's well-turned words. Based upon meticulous research in Confederate Army records, letters, diaries, published memoirs, and relevant secondary materials, *Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke* sheds valuable light on a long-neglected aspect of the Civil War in the West, and it will be a welcome addition to the shelves of scholars and other Civil War enthusiasts." - *Journal of Southern History* "*Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke* is a fascinating history of one of the Civil War's most interesting and colorful regiments." - *Library Booknotes* "Readers will find McGowen's book engrossing and thought-provoking, a stimulating study of large questions in microcosm." - *Southwestern Historical Quarterly* "McGowen's style is clear ... a fine book." - *The Civil War News* From the Inside Flap The 1st Texas Cavalry Regiment, also known as the 1st Texas Mounted Rifles, was Texas' initial contribution of soldiers to the Civil War. The regiment was the first Confederate unit organized in Texas and the longest to serve, participating in Indian skirmishes on the frontier as well as in full battles against the Union. In *Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke* Stanley S. McGowen describes and honors one of the most unusual and successful military units in Texas history. He provides the only complete history of the 1st Texas Cavalry Regiment, documenting their origins from the Confederate Committee on Public Safety's request for mounted units to the appointment of Henry McCulloch to colonel of cavalry. McCulloch, a former Texas Ranger, was swift and effective at motivating his fellow Texans, notably Captains James B. "Buck" Barry and Thomas C. Frost, to arms. He and the later regimental commanders, Augustus Buchel, and William Yager, were acknowledged for their emphasis on precise discipline and gentlemanly conduct, and their training methods were valuable in that soldiers learned both cavalry and infantry maneuvers as well as saber fighting and the proper care of horses and equipment. As many commanders maintained lax rules of propriety and organization, the 1st Texas Mounted Rifles remained a cohesive and loyal unit, disbanding only under the proper orders. Even as the Confederacy fell around them, the troops remained steadfastly loyal to their fellow fighters. McGowen examines the regiment's experiences across the vast range of territory that the unit covered, including Louisiana swamps, the Red River Valley, along the Rio Grande, and the Gulf Coast. He discusses their involvement in the controversial campaign known as the Battle of the Nueces, casting doubts on the common interpretation of the German immigrants, sympathetic to the Union, as defenseless farmers. McGowen asserts that while there was bloodshed on both sides, the Germans were not the innocent victims that many historians have claimed and that the cavalry was not the blood-thirsty gang many thought. *Horse Sweat and Powder Smoke* clearly portrays the heroism and individuality of Texas' first mounted unit in the Civil War. By combining the history of the unit with profiles of the men who led it and who gave it its unique spirit and character with accounts of the battles, raids, and skirmishes in which the unit participated, McGowen provides a valuable history of men whose recognition is long overdue from those whose homes, values, and way of life were defended by their actions. About the Author Stanley S. McGowen received his Ph.D. in history from Texas Christian University. He has written more than twenty articles and papers on various topics on military history.