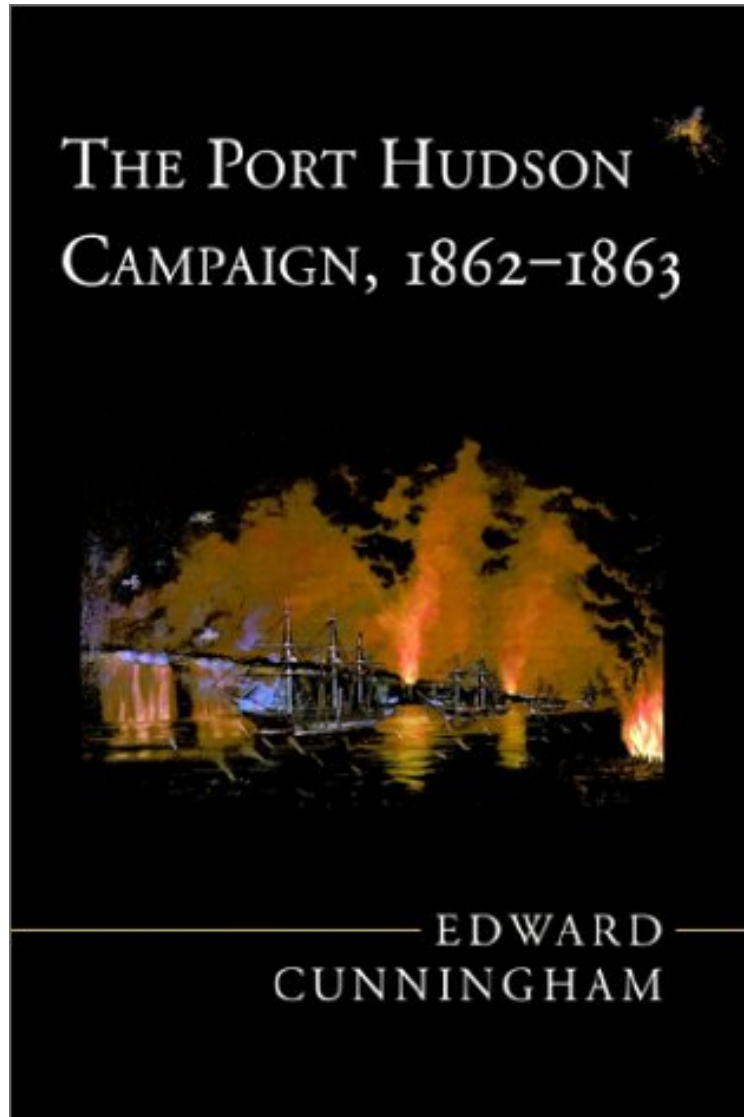


[Download pdf ebook] The Port Hudson Campaign, 1862-1863

The Port Hudson Campaign, 1862-1863

Edward Cunningham

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Edward Cunningham : The Port Hudson Campaign, 1862-1863 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Port Hudson Campaign, 1862-1863:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good book By BDWell written and well sourced. I recommend checking the footnotes as you read along because some are quite extensive. It was a good introduction to the battle/siege and very fair treatment. The descriptions of the action was often down to the regiment and company level. Only a couple maps in the book. I printed a few online to help as I read the book. 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Nice Introduction to the Siege of Port Hudson By Brett R. Schulte Anyone who has a decent

understanding of the war knows about the Vicksburg Campaign. However, not as many know about a simultaneous Siege happening to the south in Louisiana at Port Hudson. General Nathaniel Banks and his Army of the Gulf (XIX Corps) besieged 6,000-odd men under Confederate Major General Franklin Gardner from May 23-July 9, 1863. After these 48 days, the Confederates surrendered, not because they were defeated, but because Vicksburg had fallen and they now had no hope of a rescue. Cunningham's book is a good introduction to this topic except for one important detail: maps. There are only two maps. One shows the larger area of operations along the Mississippi River from Cairo, IL to New Orleans. The other shows the siege lines in such a zoomed out map that I had trouble reading everything. This makes for a difficult time while following along. I pulled out my Official Records Atlas several times during my reading. The Order of Battle is slightly above average, with no strengths but with regimental commanders listed. Cunningham has adequate notes and a solid bibliography. The book was originally published in 1963, so that might explain the lack of maps. I enjoyed Cunningham's delivery. It was smooth and kept me interested throughout. However, he tended to make some grandiose claims from time to time regarding the ability of the Confederates to break the Siege. If you read it, you'll know what I'm talking about. This is a solid introduction to the Campaign, but it is by no means definitive. I would recommend the two-volume *The Guns of Port Hudson* by David C. Edmonds for that label. The books are not cheap and they're difficult to find, but judging by the second volume (which I own), they are worth it. 174 pp., 2 maps

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, Succinct read
By jlw
One of the last defenses of the invasion of Louisiana. The bravery and valor of the men of the Confederate forces defending the important, but seldom recognized, position on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Vicksburg is here related. A succinct yet compelling book relating the last Confederate defense on the Mississippi River. The soldiers of Port Hudson, Louisiana held their position despite overwhelming odds and only surrendered their position when Vicksburg fell to the hands of U. S. Grant and it was obvious that there would be no reinforcements from Gen. Johnston. At that point the invading forces could simply wait and starve them out. In order to save the lives of the soldiers under his command, Gen. Gardner capitulated to Banks and surrendered Port Hudson to the invaders. Well written and interesting read. From every demographic the Confederates won the battle at Port Hudson. But as one of the soldier's shouted to the invaders, "You couldn't take us by fighting. You had to starve us out." Because the Union army was at the brink of breaking down and not able to withstand another bloody repulse morale was extremely low. Had the weather not delayed the Union assault planned for July 7th, or the news of the fall of Vicksburg been delayed, the outcome may have been much different along the Mississippi river just north of Baton Rouge. Lost one star for lack of maps (as stated by a previous reviewer). Nevertheless, a must read for any Louisiana History buff.

The determination with which the Confederate garrison of Port Hudson, Louisiana, held out--for seven weeks, fewer than 5,000 Confederate troops fended off almost 30,000 Yankees--makes it one of the most interesting campaigns of the Civil War. It was, in fact, the longest siege in U.S. military history. Edward Cunningham tells for the first time the complete story of the Union operation against this Confederate stronghold on the Lower Mississippi.

From the Back Cover
The determination with which the Confederate garrison of Port Hudson, Louisiana, held out - for seven weeks, fewer than five thousand Confederate troops fended off almost thirty thousand Yankees - makes it one of the most interesting campaigns of the Civil War. It was, in fact, the longest siege in United States military history. In *The Port Hudson Campaign, 1862-1863*, Edward Cunningham tells for the first time the complete story of the Union operation against this Confederate stronghold on the Lower Mississippi. The initial phase was the costly attempt by the Union fleet to run the Port Hudson batteries - the naval engagement in which the historic warship *Mississippi* was lost. The second phase was the even more costly effort by General Nathaniel P. Banks to take the stronghold from the landward side. The third and final phase, the siege itself, culminated in surrender, less than a week after the capture of Vicksburg. Cunningham has unearthed in his research a greater abundance of sources and more information on the campaign than most historians thought existed. The resulting dramatic story of Port Hudson, told with great clarity and verve, reveals the importance of that campaign to the course of the Civil War.

About the Author
Edward Cunningham, a native of Mississippi, studied under T. Harry Williams, Boyd Professor of History at Louisiana State University, who wrote the foreword to this book. Cunningham was the author of a number of articles on the Civil War, and himself did the foreword to a reprint edition of Edward Bacon's *Among the Cotton Thieves*.