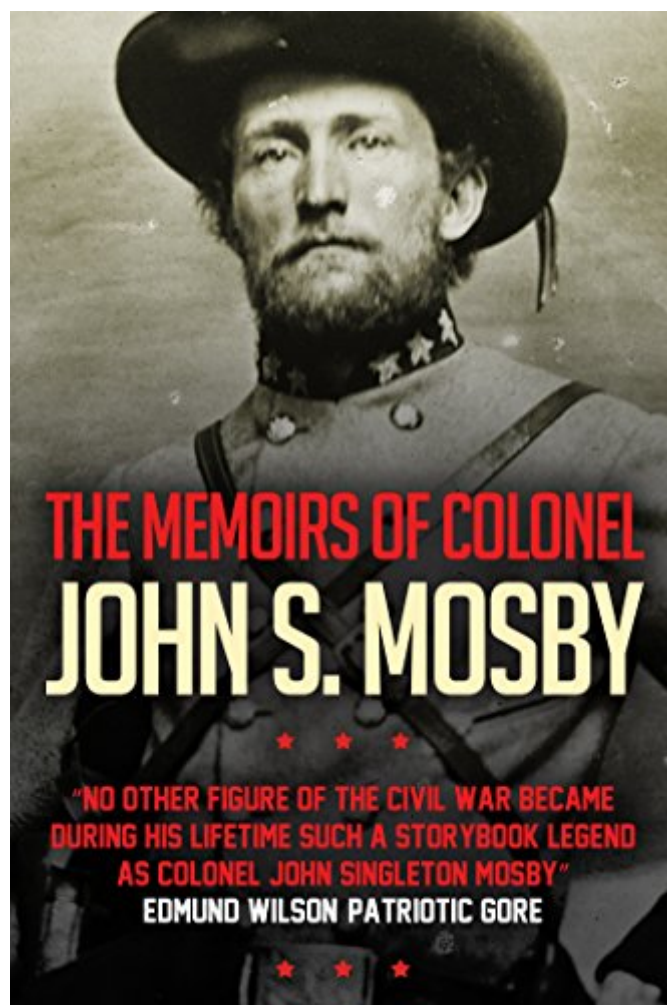


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The Memoirs Of Colonel John S. Mosby



Synopsis

John Singleton Mosby, the "Gray Ghost", was one of the most effective military leaders of the American Civil War. Leading his cavalry unit, known as Mosby's rangers, he hit the Union Army time and time again with lightning raids. After these raids were done his troops would seemingly melt away, blending in with local farmers and townspeople. In his memoirs, first published in 1917, he gives a thrilling account of his tactics. This book is a fascinating account that covers Mosby's entry into the Confederate army, daily life within it and major battles including Manassas and Gettysburg. "No other figure of the Civil War became during his lifetime such a storybook legend as Colonel John Singleton Mosby, the audacious and resourceful Confederate soldier who, operating in sight of the Capitol dome with a handful of undisciplined guerrillas, performed prodigies in breaking up Union communications and capturing or putting to flight detachments of Union troops that were often far larger than his own." --Edmund Wilson, *Patriotic Gore* "Since the close of the war, I have come to know Colonel Mosby personally, and somewhat intimately. . . . There were probably but few men in the South who could have commanded successfully a separate detachment, in the rear of an opposing army and so near the border of hostilities, as long as he did without losing his entire command." --Ulysses S. Grant

John Singleton Mosby (1833-1916) studied at the University of Virginia and was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 1854. Upon the secession of Virginia he entered the Confederate military service and subsequently formed an independent cavalry unit which operated behind Union lines in a region that came to be known as Mosby's Confederacy. After the war, Mosby held several U.S. Government posts, including a consulship in Hong Kong.

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Book Information

File Size: 2047 KB

Print Length: 225 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 1533199116

Publisher: Albion Press (October 28, 2015)

Publication Date: October 28, 2015

Sold by: Â Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B017BME19U

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #69,800 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #6

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Customer Reviews

I purchased the Kindle format of this book and, as with many other reviewers, was disappointed with the Ebook format. The text was replete with typos, symbols and complete omissions. In many cases, footnotes were inserted into the text with no indication that they were not part of the narrative. The absence of ANY maps made it difficult for the reader to appreciate the description of troop movements. This was particularly frustrating when trying to understand the discussion about Stuart's movements in the Gettysburg campaign. I would have been lost without my West Point Atlas of the Civil War. That being said, Mosby's story was exciting and very informative. Until I read this book, I had little appreciation of his many and varied contributions to the Confederacy and the ANV. I was a little surprised, and disappointed, to read the allegations that Lee's aides, Marshall, Long and Taylor, falsified reports and letters to protect Lee and disparage Stuart. The book is a "must read" for Civil War buffs. I'd investigate the paper formats before buying. The may be better edited, and contain maps

In addition to providing insights on one of the most effective Confederate special operations and guerrilla efforts, Col. John S. Mosby's memoirs reveal some surprising beliefs possessed by a hardcore Southern partisan. As a reader would expect, Mosby gives worthwhile details about specific fights he was involved in as well as the tactics he employed. He also relates personal

anecdotes about key Confederates he fought for, most notably Army of Northern Virginia cavalry commander Gen. J.E.B. Stuart and Gen. Robert E. Lee. The most unexpected aspects of his memoirs are the regrets he has about slavery which he illustrates with some bad memories from his childhood; one unpleasant memory concerned how a black friend and playmate was humiliated by white children who "sold" him in a pretend slave auction. Mosby is also highly critical of demagogue pushers of secession in the antebellum South. Equally interesting is his account of his reconciliation to former Union Army enemies.

Col. John S. Mosby, AKA The Gray Ghost, rose through the ranks of the Confederate States Army from his enlistment as private to ultimately commanding eight brigades of cavalry. He conducted asymmetrical warfare behind the Union Army of General Sheridan for over two years, capturing over thousand men, horses, mules, supply wagons, and destroying railroads, equipment, and communications. Much is written just as he experienced it but official letters from his superiors and his Union opponents reveal the true effects of his outstanding leadership under incredible disadvantages. Mosbey does not brag about his exploits that were truly heroic, but gives much credit to the men he trained and led into battle for his successes. He also goes to great lengths to absolve the reputation of his mentor, Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, who was falsely accused of disobeying Gen. Robert E. Lee's orders at Gettysburg.

Interesting story of the man called the Grey Ghost during the Civil War. Mosby was a lawyer before the Civil War. When the Civil War started, he signed up with Virginia and the Confederate forces. Mosby was a member of the Confederate Cavalry, and early in the war he fought with conventional cavalry units. He was a talented scout, and very good at finding out intelligence information on the actions of the Union troops. Later in the war, he took a small group of men and established what was essentially a guerilla force composed of regular troops, behind the Union lines. He operated in Fairfax County Virginia, and went over to the Shenandoah Valley, to the west and to Alexandria and Arlington to the east. He recruited men for his force, and eventually it became perhaps two to three hundred men. His men were mounted as cavalry, and used captured pistols only, no sabers or carbines, which was unusual for cavalry of the era, or any era. He captured many Union men, as well as guns, horses, mules and cattle. He equipped his own force and sent the excess to Lee who at the time was pinned up outside Richmond and Petersburg by Grant and the Union Army. He was a very effective leader, and kept the union army and the politicians in Washington in a tizzy on a regular basis with his raids. He tied down thousands of Union cavalry and other troops in the

Washington area by his actions. After the Civil War, he became a Republican and wanted the country to heal. He supported LtGeneral Grant when he became president as he considered that the right thing to do. Good biography of a very interesting man.

My husband and I are interested in civil war history and we really enjoyed this book. The first hand reports are very interesting. Colonel Mosby gives differing reports and opinions on several battle strategies than is generally reported but he backs up his ideas with evidence such as field reports and letters to piece together his opinion. He makes you feel like you're getting insider information not generally known. He reveres his commander JEB Stuart and is rankled that Stuart is blamed for the loss at Gettysburg. He wants to set the record straight! His writing style is common English and easy to read, not the stilted prose of the times. The only reason I didn't give this 5 stars is it could use better editing. I read the Kindle version, so I don't know if that is different than the printed version. Frequently the book would be quoting a document or letter; there would be no quotes around it so the reader wouldn't know where the quote ended. I would be reading along and suddenly realize the quote was over and I was back into the text that Mosby wrote. It was confusing at times and I would have to go back and re-read the passage. Overall, though, it was a very enjoyable read and increased my knowledge of the civil war. From his straight-forward talk, common sense and attitude (especially after the war) I came to like and admire this man.

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