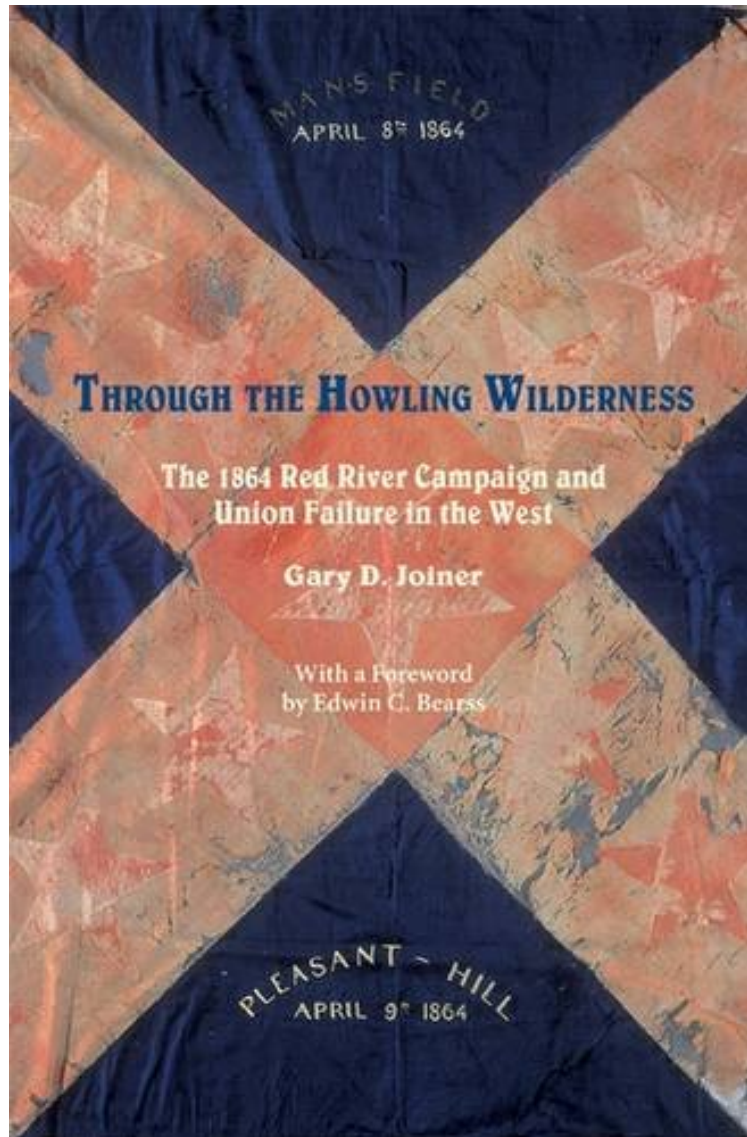


(Free) Through the Howling Wilderness: The 1864 Red River Campaign and Union Failure in the West

## Through the Howling Wilderness: The 1864 Red River Campaign and Union Failure in the West

Gary D. Joiner

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**Gary D. Joiner : Through the Howling Wilderness: The 1864 Red River Campaign and Union Failure in the West** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Through the Howling Wilderness: The 1864 Red River Campaign and Union Failure in the West:

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great Book on Civil War at the western front.By Grover SmithVery

little has been written on this subject, the war in Louisiana, and why Texas was never really invaded by the armies of the northern aggression (a little humor here). This book is very readable the author knows his subject and has a passion for it. He covers tactical facts along side of the strategic. The ingenuity of Americans at war is shown by measures and countermeasures each side took in this tragic war of brothers. This is a small book with a lot of information. This book will hold the attention of anyone interested in the history of The war for southern independence (the American Civil War for you yamn dankees ,a little more of that humor). A really good read.2 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Needs a ghost writerBy Michael B. O'ConnorI really tried to get through this book, but the writing was so poor that I had to stop. As a college professor, I have to coach students in writing and this just wore me out. That's too bad because I was curious to read about the 47th Pennsylvania's role in the battles. Hopefully there is a better-written book out there.I did like the photos included, though.8 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book on a little known piece of Civil War historyBy calvinmeThe purpose of the Red River Campaign had little to do with the Confederacy itself. Northern textile mills were not doing so well without a steady supply of raw material, and the Union had designs on what they thought was a large supply of cotton just waiting for them in Texas and Louisiana. Also, the French had just recently installed their own puppet emperor, Maximillian, on the throne of Mexico. The Union wanted to make sure that France did not decide to use the Civil War as an opportunity to expand its dominance even further.The Louisiana Department fought in the Jacksonian fashion with insufficient troops. The Confederates eventually had no choice but to retreat, and all of the Louisiana territory they left in their wake fell under Union control. The Union forces reached the Natchitoches area, remained there a few days, and then took a road to Mansfield toward Shreveport. On April 8, 1864 the Union forces were stretched out over a wide area when they encountered a concentrated Confederate force just outside of Mansfield. The Confederates attacked, and the Union, even with the arrival of reinforcements, was routed. This was a humiliating loss for the Union resulting in the death of 700 men and 1,500 more being taken prisoner. The Confederates also captured quite a stash of artillery, wagons, and horses from the Union forces. Thus the Union managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. However, the Confederate victory was not complete, thus this really didn't change the slow road to defeat that the Confederacy was on at the time.This book examines all of this, including what might have been and the mistakes that were made on both sides, concerning this lesser known campaign of the Civil War. I found it particularly fascinating, being a native Texan, that Texas actually attracted the Union's military attention. Many Texans fought and died during the Civil War, but the vast majority did so on battlefields far from home in Virginia, Tennessee, and Pennsylvania.

The Red River Campaign of 1864 was a bold attempt to send large Union army and navy forces deep into the interior of Louisiana, seize the Rebel capital of the state, and defeat the Confederate army guarding the region enabling uninhibited access to Texas to the west. Through the Howling Wilderness emphasizes the Confederate defensive measures and the hostile attitudes of commanders toward each other as well as toward their enemies. Gary D. Joiner contends that the campaign was important to both the Union army and navy in the course of the war and afterward, altering the political landscape in the fall presidential elections in 1864. The campaign redirected troops originally assigned to operate in Georgia during the pivotal Atlanta campaign, thus delaying the end of the war by weeks or even months, and it forced the navy to refocus its inland or brown water naval tactics. The Red River Campaign ushered in deep resentment toward the repatriation of the State of Louisiana after the war ended. Profound consequences included legal, political, and sociological issues that surfaced in Congressional hearings as a result of the Union defeat. The efforts of the Confederates to defend northern Louisiana have been largely ignored. Their efforts at building an army and preparations to trap the union naval forces before the campaign began have been all but lost in the literature of the Civil War. Joiner's book will remedy this lack of historical attention. Replete with in-depth coverage on the geography of the region, the Congressional hearings after the Campaign, and the Confederate defenses in the Red River Valley, Through the Howling Wilderness will appeal to Civil War historians and buffs alike.

"This work will have strong appeal across the spectrum of students and be of equal benefit to the casual reader as well as the scholar. His maps are excellent and will aid readers in their study." -- Terrence J. WinschelAbout the AuthorGary D. Joiner is assistant professor of history at Louisiana State University in Shreveport where he is director of the Red River Regional Studies Center. He is also owner of Precision Cartographics in Shreveport. Dr. Joiner is the co-editor of No Pardons to Ask, nor Apologies to Make and the author of One Damn Blunder from Beginning to End: The Red River Campaign of 1864, winner of the 2004 Albert Castel Award and the 2005 A.M. Pate, Jr., Award.