

## **SAMPLE REVIEW – 2022**

### **TITLE WITH Bibliographic INFORMATION:**

*Sleeping with Custer and the 7th Cavalry: An Embedded Reporter in Iraq.* By Walter C. Rodgers. Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2005. ISBN 0- 8093-2672-8. Photographs. Maps. Appendix. Pp. xiii, 224. \$29.50.

**REVIEWER:** John Smith

**WORD COUNT RANGE:** 600-750 Words

**FONT/FONT SIZE:** 12 point, Times New Roman

**SPACING:** Single with space between paragraphs **Note:** If you have any questions regarding the format of the template, please contact Dallas Looney at [Dallas.Looney@armyhistory.org](mailto:Dallas.Looney@armyhistory.org)

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### ***Tullahoma: The Forgotten Campaign That Changed the Course of the Civil War, June 23 - July 4, 1863***

By David A. Powell and Eric J. Wittenberg. El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2020. ISBN 978-1-61121-5045. Maps. Images. Notes. Bibliography. Index. Pp. xi, 395. \$34.95.

Authors David A. Powell and Eric J. Wittenberg provide an excellent analysis of the Tullahoma Campaign and effectively argue it was indeed the campaign which changed the course of the war. Powell and Wittenberg provide sufficient detail to satisfy the most avid Civil War buff while engaging casual readers.

Tullahoma is frequently overlooked as it concluded just as Vicksburg fell and the Gettysburg Campaign was coming to an end. Tullahoma did not culminate in a final, sanguinary battle despite Union Commander Major General William S. Rosecrans' Army of the Cumberland's attempts to trap Confederate General Braxton Bragg's Army of Tennessee and force it to fight.

Powell and Wittenberg provide keen insights on both armies and commanders, give extensive detail on troop movements, and draw on-target conclusions in the final chapters on the campaign's impact on the course of the war. They look at the personalities and experience of commanders at all levels of command and how this influenced their decisions. They also make clear the impact that heavy rain had on each army's ability to move throughout the campaign.

Powell and Wittenberg make clear the severe logistic challenges Rosecrans faced in preparing his army for the campaign to clear Middle Tennessee, especially after the Battle of Stones River badly damaged his army. Facing a large, capable Confederate cavalry force, Rosecrans was determined to build his own effective cavalry force with which to counter. This took time and strained his relationships with Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; General in Chief Henry Halleck, and President Abraham Lincoln, who were pushing for an early launch to support Major General Ulysses S. Grant's Vicksburg campaign. He failed to understand his continuous stream of demands and continued delay in his forward movement squandered any capital he held in Washington and set the stage for what would happen to him in September 1863 after the lost Battle of Chickamauga, despite having conducted a masterful campaign that bagged Chattanooga, a key Confederate railroad center.

One of Rosecrans's challenges discussed in the book is the need to secure his line of supply, particularly the railroads which remained vulnerable to Confederate cavalry raids. He needed to repair tunnels, bridges, and stretches of rail. While building his cavalry arm, he employed significant numbers of infantrymen to secure the most vulnerable points. The barrenness of the Cumberland Plateau prevented Rosecrans from relying on forage and forced him to build a stockpile of supplies close to his forward forces, further delaying his attack.

Powell and Wittenberg also note that Bragg faced many challenges: rebuilding his weakened army after Stones River, managing difficult subordinates, losing combat power to the Confederate forces defending Vicksburg, and fighting health issues. Although his defensive positions in Middle Tennessee limited Rosecrans' possible axes of advance, Bragg did not have sufficient forces to cover all possible movements, relying heavily on his cavalry to screen his extended frontage. Bragg's cavalry failed this critical mission. Rosecrans' masterful maneuver exploited Bragg's blindness and deftly dislodged the Army of Tennessee from its positions in Middle Tennessee, at minimal cost in lives. There were a series of sharp minor engagements which proved the worth of the Army of the Cumberland's improved cavalry. Of particular effectiveness was the Union brigade commanded by Colonel John Wilder armed with Spencer repeating rifles, nicknamed the "Lightning Brigade", whose firepower proved overwhelming in its engagements.

The Army of the Cumberland's success at Tullahoma opened the Confederate heartland to Union forces and denied the agricultural bounty of Middle Tennessee to the Confederacy. In the authors' own words, "Tullahoma was one of the most remarkable campaigns of the Civil War. It was a brilliantly conceived and executed piece of strategy in a conflict better known for command snafus and artless bloodbaths. As such, it deserves closer study. It was a masterpiece of organization, logistics, deception, maneuver, and it will stand as William Rosecrans' most impressive military achievement."

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