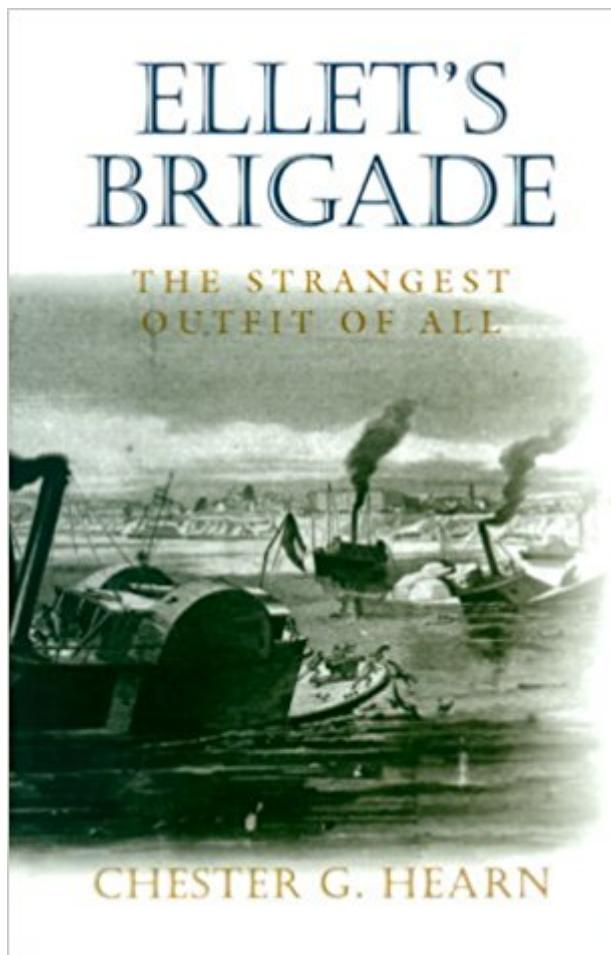


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Ellet's Brigade: The Strangest Outfit Of All



Synopsis

Soon after the start of the Civil War, during the naval buildup on the central Mississippi River, celebrated civil engineer Charles Ellet, Jr., formed the Ram Fleet under U.S. secretary of war Edwin M. Stanton. Perhaps the most bizarre unit organized by the Union, the rams were shunned by both the army and navy as superfluous instruments of war. However, on June 6, 1862, they proved their worth by defeating the Confederate River Defense Fleet ironclads at Memphis while the U.S. Navy simply watched. In this lively study, Chester G. Hearn details the formation and wartime exploits of Ellet's fleet, reviving the history of this fascinating but forgotten brigade. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Louisiana State University Press; First Edition edition (May 2000)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0807125598

ISBN-13: 978-0807125595

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 6.4 x 1.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #864,880 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Naval Operations #1738 in Books > History > Military > Naval #8835 in Books > History > Military > United States

Customer Reviews

Chester G. Hearn is the author of many books on the Civil War, including *Gray Raiders of the Sea*; *The Capture of New Orleans, 1862*; *When the Devil Came Down to Dixie: Ben Butler in New Orleans*; and *Six Years of Hell: Harpers Ferry During the Civil War*. He lives in Erie, Pennsylvania. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This review is not about style or writing ability. It is simply about the fact that my Great Grandfather served in the Mississippi Marine Brigade and then in the 9th Marines, prior to ending up in the Indiana Volunteer Infantry as a part of the Army of Cumberland. I had wondered about this for years. Was my Great Grandfather a leatherneck? Why would he travel from Northern Ohio to St. Louis to join the fight? What made this outfit different from the units his brothers joined in Ohio and

Michigan? Why was he issued tools to build barracks at Vicksburg? This is a fascinating story of a little-known unit that eventually became the forerunner of the task-organized special forces units of today. It's not just about Ellet and his vision, it tells me something about my forefather.

Excellent Price and Quickly Shipped !

CHRISTMAS PRESENT

When many people think of naval action in the Civil War, they likely think of the battle of the Monitor and the Merrimack. Ellet's Brigade is about the "brown water" action that took place around Vicksburg before and after the seige of that Confederate city. The brigade was run by a visionary, Charles Ellet, Jr., who believed the way to defeat the Confederate river navy was to use inexpensive, expendable rams. His thinking led to the Union victory at Memphis, where he was killed. After Ellet's death, no one knew what to do with the fleet of rams. Rear Admiral Porter, with the help of Ellet's relatives, developed a Marine unit and used the rams as part of a counter insurgency group against rebel guerrilla activities. Ultimately this effort failed, because there was no effective chain of command over the brigade. The brigade essentially ran itself and during the years following Memphis hurt the Union effort in the west as much as it helped it. Author Chester G. Hearn does a great job moving the story forward and documenting the facts. This is a good read and well worth any Civil War buff's time. I strongly recommend it.

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