



Mr. Polk's Army: The American Military Experience in the Mexican War (Texas A & M University Military History)

Richard Bruce Winders

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Drawing on numerous diaries, journals, and reminiscences, Richard Bruce Winders presents the daily life of soldiers at war; links the army to the society that produced it; shares his impressions of the soldiers he “met” along the way; and concludes that American participants in the Mexican War shared a common experience, no matter their rank or place of service.

In addition to the soldiers’ mundane complaints—bad food, hard marches, and long periods of incredible boredom—Winders discovers a political awareness among the soldiers that, with some, led to displaying their political affiliations while in uniform.

Taking a “new” military history approach, *Mr. Polk’s Army: The American Military Experience in the Mexican War* examines the cultural, social, and political aspects of the regular and volunteer forces that made up the army of 1846–48, presents the organizational framework of the army, and introduces the different styles of leadership exhibited by Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott.

Historians and those interested in the Mexican War and its participants will find this an important addition to nineteenth-century military history.

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