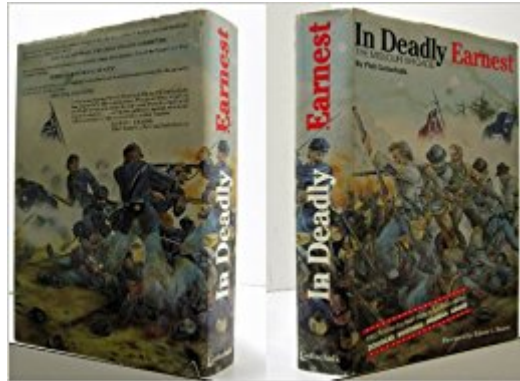


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# In Deadly Earnest: The History Of The First Missouri Brigade, Csa



## Synopsis

In this first comprehensive history of Cockrell's Missouri Brigade written in more than a century, Phil Gottschalk vividly documents its combat record second to none among any brigade North or South. At least 40,000 Missourians fought in the armies of the Confederate States of America and nearly two of every three of the 6,000 who fought east of the Mississippi River died in battle or from wounds or disease. Their 40 month of hard service included 13 major battles and 6 sieges in Missouri, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama. The 540 pages of carefully researched history, fully footnoted and indexed, include 15 maps and 30 photographs. The hopes, fears, emotions of the Missourians, as well as those who fought at their side or against them is movingly revealed in their words from many diaries, letters, manuscripts, memoirs and official records. Testimony of 52 Federal soldiers, 64 Confederates from other states and 35 members of the Missouri Brigade provide a balanced and fair account.

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## Customer Reviews

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Missouri troops at their fighting best.

In *Deadly Earnest: The History of the First Missouri Brigade, CSA*, by Phil Gottschalk, is the essential work on Francis Cockrell's famed Missouri Brigade during the American Civil War. The work is definitely thorough and dense in several spots, but it never really bogs the reader down to a point of losing interest. This amazing body of fighting men has too long been relegated to the back-burners of American history, and I am certain with this book that will be rectified. Phil Gottschalk uses a wide array of sources and documents to bring to life the missions that made the several thousand members of the brave Missouri Tiger Brigade one of the most endearing fighting forces of the war. Missouri, as many will know, never seceded from the Union and as such the roughly 40,000 men who fought for the Southern Confederacy became a second orphan brigade. Though their numbers never swelled to that of Virginia, North Carolina or Georgia, the Missouri Brigade earned a reputation and record that even surpassed the vaunted Stonewall Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia. In *Deadly Earnest* covers every aspect that a casual reader could ever ask for when studying Cockrell's Missouri Brigade. The book is informative and descriptive—sometimes to a fault—but it provides such detailed and hard-to-find information that it makes it worthwhile to trudge through. The book effectively works its way chronologically through the brigade's inception and early campaigns in Missouri and Arkansas, but when the book gets to the battles of Grand Gulf and Champion Hill, in 1863, it begins to shine a light on why these guys are viewed as the elite of the elite. The book guides the reader through all the bitter struggles that Cockrell's Brigade endured during the war, and poignantly showcases the brigade's acrimonious end at the battles of Franklin and Nashville. The record of hard fought campaigns and dedication to duty by the Missouri Brigade is really unsurpassed throughout the war by either side, and reading this book really hammers home the realities of what these brave Americans endured throughout four years of brutal civil war. I have always been fascinated by Francis Marion Cockrell and his brigade of stoic warriors, and reading Gottschalk's book has only increased my admiration tenfold. This book will encompass an extreme amount of detail regarding the formation, recruiting, expansion,

and combat record of the brigade, but in the end it will be all the better for the reader. It is a lot to digest, but it really provides in-depth information on a too long forgotten body of elite warriors. This book is definitely for any fans of the American Civil War and especially the western theater of operations. The book provides overview and depth of this amazing brigade of Missouri warriors, and after reading this book I am certain that if Francis Marion Cockrell and his Brigade of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, and 6th Missouri Infantry had served with Robert in Virginia, they would have made units like the Texas and Stonewall Brigades look like amateurs. This is just a great book that sheds much needed light on an amazing group of American warriors. I suggest you get it and read it; and then you can argue with your friends or roundtable groups about what unit really was the most elite throughout the South during the war.

In 1990, while working in the Missouri Historical Society, I came across an accession card referring to the flag of the Missouri Brigade. The flag apparently had not been well cared for and was nothing remained but tatters wrapped around a staff. But the description of a rampant tiger was thrilling. In the years that followed, I became very interested in the accomplishments of this fabled Confederate Brigade. As many know, there are scarce books about the Missouri Brigade. Well Gottschalk's book redresses this more than adequately. The volume covers the entire history of the Missouri Brigade from its inception as part of the Missouri Home Guard to its bloody end at Franklin. It is the definitive accounting of one of the "Orphan Brigades" of the Southern Confederacy. And truly, the Missouri Brigade fought with courage and competence throughout the maelstrom of the American Civil War. It remains one of the most cherished volumes in my Civil War Library. Add it to yours today!

This book tells the story of those that are, in my opinion, the finest soldiers in the Confederate Army. They are the unsung heroes of the Western Army. One only needs to begin reading to see they have not received the praise that is due them. Mr. Gottschalk has painstakingly researched the history of these intrepid Missourians and their untarnished record. According to the NPS' most preeminent historian, Ed Bearss "the Missouri Brigade made the Stonewall Brigade look like the Little Sisters of the Poor". Read this excellent history of this unit and you will wonder how they were lost to history and brigades with catchy names are recalled and this "orphaned brigade" was forgotten. Excellent Read for any Civil War buff or historian.

Very thorough - yet readable - account of this magnificent Confederate Brigade from Missouri.

These men were elite troops on both Parade Ground and more importantly on the battlefield. Without this book their sacrifice and actions would remain largely unknown today.

An outstanding piece of work. Gottschak's effort is heavily researched, well written and very readable. This book covers the formation and combat history of the 1st Missouri Brigade (CSA) during the Civil War, and is richly detailed throughout. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the often obscure and overlooked western battles of our Civil War.

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