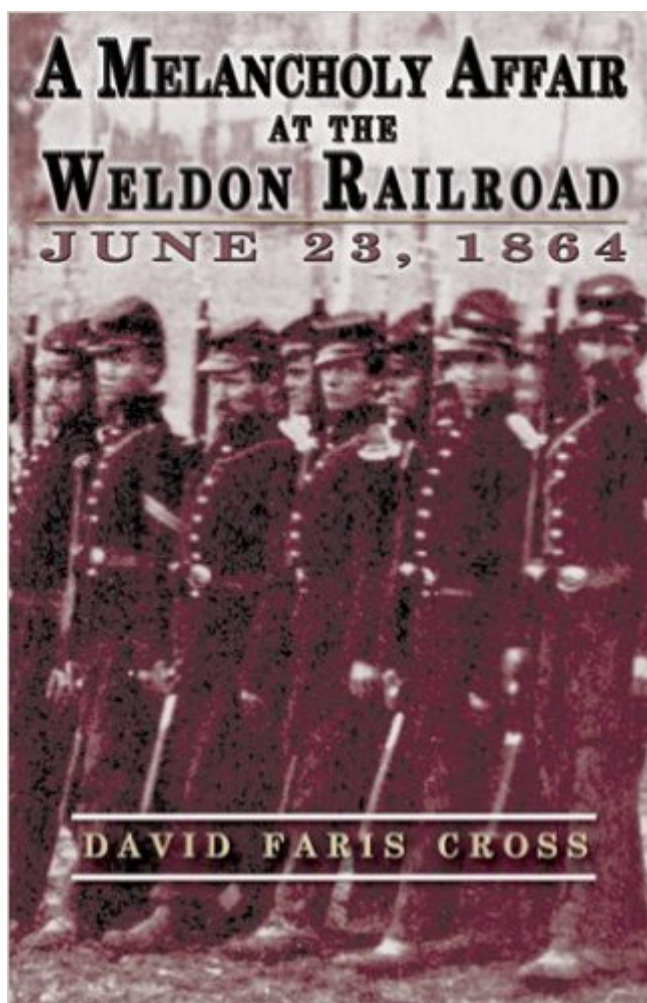


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A Melancholy Affair At The Weldon Railroad: The Vermont Brigade, June 23, 1864



Synopsis

The Vermonters' Andersonville experience is studied to understand the cause of the lethal statistics. The story of the suffering endured by the four hundred Vermonters captured at the Weldon Railroad is a tale of remarkable courage and devotion to country.

Book Information

Hardcover: 267 pages

Publisher: White Mane Publishing Company (May 15, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1572493321

ISBN-13: 978-1572493322

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #889,386 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #75 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > Civil War > Regimental Histories](#) #8858 in [Books > History > Military > United States](#) #17087 in [Books > History > Americas > United States > State & Local](#)

Customer Reviews

Recently, in a series of entries in my blog, <http://petersburgcampaign.blogspot.com/>, I suggested a number of strategies for we amateur historians to employ to add value to our work. One strategy I suggested was narrowing the focus of a book to the point where its author could more easily research his topic as exhaustively as the standard setter for research, Dr. Richard Sommers, researched his masterwork, *Richmond Redeemed*. An example of this strategy I gave was *A Melancholy Affair at the Weldon Railroad: The Vermont Brigade, June 23, 1864*, by David Faris Cross. When Dr. Cross's book was published in 2003, the dust jacket contained a blurb from me: "the definitive account of the Vermont Brigade's disaster on June 23, 1864 will provide a solid foundation for more general historians. The story of the vicissitudes of the Vermonters in Confederate captivity is particularly enlightening." I can still say the same. Dr. Cross's book recounts the disaster that befell the Vermont Brigade of the Army of the Potomac's VI Corps on June 23, 1864, at the hands of Maj. Gen. William Mahone's division of the Army of Northern Virginia. The book contains helpful maps of the action involved, some sketches by participants, and a frontispiece based on a U.S. Geological survey map of the contested ground. There are numerous pictures of individual soldiers, as one would expect in a

history focused on a portion of a single brigade. Dr. Cross methodically depicts the malaise that afflicted the Union command structure that day, one day after the Army of the Potomac's II Corps had met with a catastrophe several times bigger at Mahone's hands. The book moves from strength to strength. After recounting the fiasco, Dr.

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