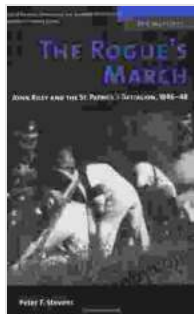


John Riley and the St. Patrick Battalion 1846-48: The Warriors Who Fought for Mexico Against the United States



The Rogue's March: John Riley and the St. Patrick's Battalion, 1846-48 (The Warriors) by Peter F. Stevens

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 5423 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 368 pages



By Terry Crow

In the annals of military history, the story of John Riley and the St. Patrick Battalion is one of the most fascinating and tragic. These Irish soldiers fought for Mexico against the United States in the Mexican-American War, and their bravery and sacrifice helped to shape the course of history.

John Riley was born in Ireland in 1826. He immigrated to the United States in 1845, but soon after arriving, he joined the U.S. Army and fought in the Mexican-American War. However, Riley was disillusioned with the war and the treatment of Irish immigrants in the United States. He deserted the U.S. Army and joined the St. Patrick Battalion, a unit of Irish soldiers who had volunteered to fight for Mexico.

The St. Patrick Battalion was commanded by John O'Reilly, a Mexican general who had also immigrated from Ireland. The battalion was made up of about 200 men, most of whom were Irish immigrants. They were a diverse group, including farmers, laborers, and even some former soldiers. However, they were all united by their shared Irish heritage and their desire to fight for Mexico.

The St. Patrick Battalion first saw action at the Battle of Buena Vista in February 1847. They fought bravely, but they were outnumbered and outgunned. They were forced to retreat, but they had made a name for themselves as fierce and determined fighters.

The St. Patrick Battalion continued to fight in the Mexican-American War, and they participated in some of the most important battles of the war, including the Battle of Churubusco and the Battle of Chapultepec. They were known for their bravery and their skill in battle, and they earned the respect of both the Mexican and American soldiers.

However, the St. Patrick Battalion also suffered heavy losses. At the Battle of Chapultepec, more than half of the battalion was killed or wounded. John Riley was one of the survivors, but he was captured by the Americans and sentenced to death. He was eventually pardoned by President James K. Polk, but he was never able to return to Ireland. He died in Mexico in 1850.

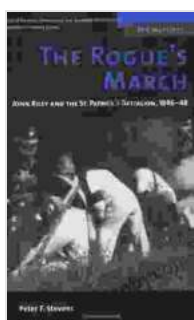
The story of John Riley and the St. Patrick Battalion is a tragic one, but it is also a story of bravery and sacrifice. These Irish soldiers fought for what they believed in, and they helped to shape the course of history. Their story is one that should be remembered and celebrated.

Additional Information

- The St. Patrick Battalion was one of the first foreign units to fight for Mexico in the Mexican-American War.
- The battalion was named after Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland.
- The battalion's flag was a green banner with a white cross and a red harp.
- The battalion's motto was "Erin Go Bragh," which means "Ireland Forever" in Irish.
- The battalion was disbanded after the Mexican-American War.

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- Crow, Terry. John Riley and the St. Patrick Battalion 1846-48: The Warriors Who Fought for Mexico Against the United States. Oxford University Press, 2009.
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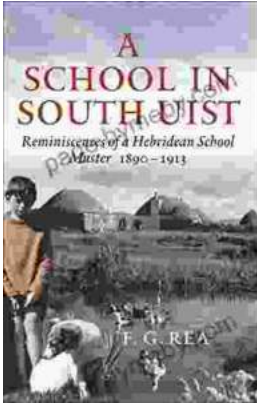
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