

Dread Danger

When confronted with the abject fear of going into battle, Civil War soldiers were expected to overcome the dread of the oncoming danger with feats of courage and victory on the battlefield. The Fire Zouaves and the 2nd Texas Infantry went to war with high expectations that they would perform bravely; they had famed commanders and enthusiastic community support. How could they possibly fail? Yet falter they did, facing humiliating charges of cowardice thereafter that cast a lingering shadow on the two regiments, despite their best efforts at redemption. By the end of the war, however, these charges were largely forgotten, replaced with the jingoistic rhetoric of martial heroism, a legacy that led many, including historians, to insist that all Civil War soldiers were heroes. *Dread Danger* creates a fuller understanding of the soldier experience and the overall costs and sufferings of war.

Lesley J. Gordon is the Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History at the University of Alabama. Her publications include *General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend* (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 1998) and *A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War* (Baton Rouge, LA: Louisiana State University Press, 2014).

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Cowardice and Combat in the American Civil War

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Acknowledgments

The idea of this book began years ago, originating with my continued interest in the antiheroic, non-triumphant approach to war. Its early roots also stemmed from my exploration of wartime myths and the creation of historical narratives. I see it reemphasizing the complicated lived experience of Civil War soldiers that did not (and does not) always fit widely held popular expectations, then as much as now.

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Abbreviations

ADAH	Alabama Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, AL
AGNY	<i>Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of New York for the Year 1899</i>
ALPL	Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
CCWIC	Corinth Civil War Interpretive Center
CMSR	Compiled Military Service Records
DBC	Dolph Briscoe Center for American History
JCCW	Joint Committee on the Conduct of War
LOC	Library of Congress
MNHS	Minnesota Historical Society
NARA	National Archives and Records Administration
NYHS	New York Historical Society
NYSA	New York State Archives
NYSL	New York State Library
NYSM	New York State Military Museum and Veterans Research Center
OR	<i>Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies</i>
ORN	<i>Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies</i>
OWCC	Old Warren County Courthouse
RM	The Rosenbach Museum
SNMP	Shiloh National Military Park
THM	Texas Heritage Museum
TSLAC	Texas State Library and Archives Commission