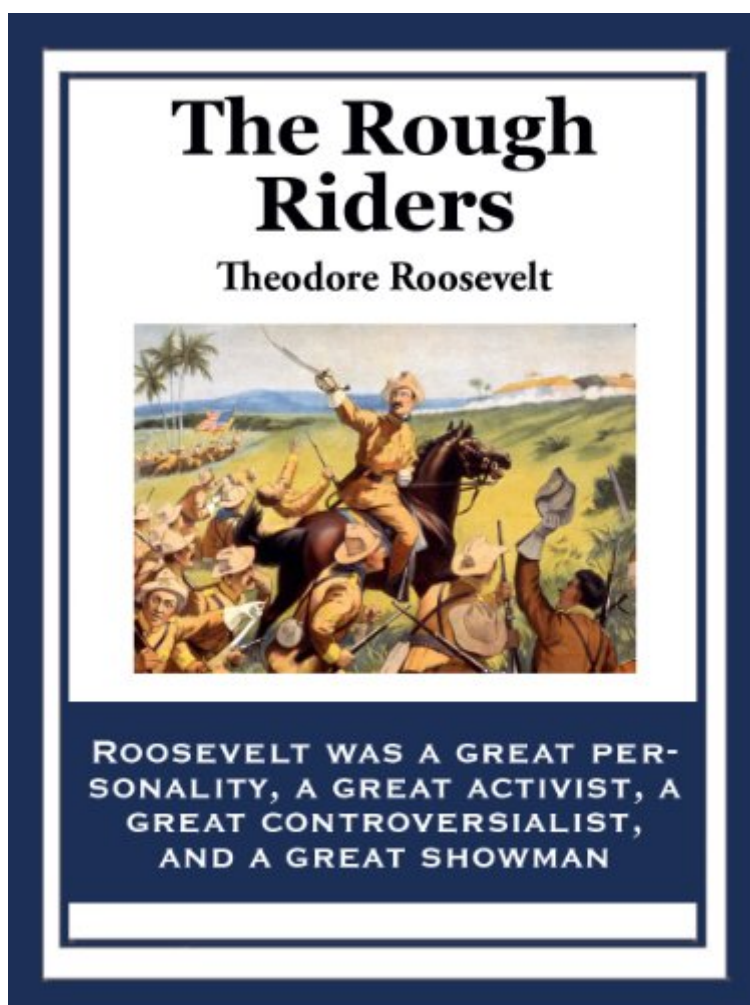


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The Rough Riders



Synopsis

The Rough Riders was the name bestowed on the 1st United States Volunteer Cavalry. Roosevelt had resigned as Assistant Secretary of the Navy to fight in the war, and his forceful personality and notoriety among the popular press of the period were probably the main driving factors resulting in the fame of this regiment. Here is the exciting story of the Rough Riders in the words of Theodore Roosevelt.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First of all, the kindle edition is free so this is an excellent start. Having read the book version this is an exact copy with no additional commentary or changes. Roosevelt is a great storyteller and it comes through in his book. You feel as if he is sitting in front of you while you are both seated in a large red leather chair in front of a fireplace in his library (surrounded by African hunting trophies) drinking cognac and smoking a good cuban cigar. You don't know if it is all true or parts of his imagination but you don't care because it is a good time. Take a trip into a little known war that helped transform a unique individual into a President that is a familiar name to all.

My grandfather was a member of Troop A of the Rough Riders and wrote a series of articles for our local newspaper (Champaign, IL) on his experiences. After reading his comments and then reading the book written by Roosevelt I know first hand that Col. Roosevelt told it like it was. "Rough" was putting it mildly. My grandfather survived but had re-occurring bouts of malaria throughout his life. I transcribed his accounts into a family album for my children and grandchildren so he would not be forgotten. I would definitely recommend this book to everyone wanting to learn about our history.

This is the best formatted public domain book I've found. The book itself is very good, and I found it upbeat enough to read while at the gym. It's also pretty short, the last 1/4 is the Appendix and reference section.

I found it to be very descriptive and spellbinding. History has been the majority of the time very dry, and therefore lacks in holding my attention. I like it when the page becomes alive, and you feel like you are right there with them, at the time it is happening. My grand father in law rode with Teddy Roosevelt and much of the description appears to be similar to what was passed down through the family since his death. I highly recommend it, as a historical reading piece.

The 1st USV (the Rough Riders) has to be one of the most interesting units in US military history. The collection of characters who filled its ranks could spawn dozens of other titles. This book is WELL written by Teddy Roosevelt, one of our most colorful presidents, is a frank and great account of the life of this unit. I found it quite enjoyable, and didn't feel that the book was TR blowing his own horn, he cared very much for his men and this shows through in this book. A must for any history buff.

My comments are based on the 1997 hardback version of this book. The following may have been corrected in the 2000 paperback. Richard Bak collected many photographs of the Rough Riders to illustrate Roosevelt's text, and this is good. However, he wasn't very careful with his captions. For example, the photograph leading off Chapter One "Raising the Regiment" is captioned "Colonel Wood and Roosevelt in Texas. Roosevelt's paunch would disappear in Cuba after he lost twenty pounds in the tropical heat." However, other photographs of Roosevelt at this time do not show a paunchy man. Also, both he and Wood seem younger than the men in this photo. Later in this chapter, there is a photograph again showing the man identified as Wood, captioned "Colonel Leonard Wood (second from right)..." In the background of this photograph, there is an automobile

(looking closer in style to a Model A than a Model T), and the other three men in the photograph are dressed in Army uniforms from the 1920s. The conclusion is that these men are NOT Roosevelt and Wood, but the actors who played them in the 1927 silent movie about the Rough Riders that was filmed in San Antonio with the assistance of the US Army's Second Division stationed at Fort Sam Houston. In the section "The Mystery of the Maine," the photograph identified as the Maine is not the Maine that blew up in Havana Harbor, which only had two smoke stacks. This is probably the later World War I Maine. So, Roosevelt's text is good. The collection of photographs are good. But verify those captions and the conclusions based upon them.

"The Rough Riders," by Theodore Roosevelt, is the author's memoir of his experiences as part of the First United States Volunteer Cavalry during the Spanish-American War. The book's title comes from the nickname earned by the unit. The copyright page notes that the text was originally published in 1899. TR tells about the recruitment and training of the Rough Riders, their voyage to Cuba, their battles, and their return home. Much of the book concerns what, in TR's opinion, makes for good soldiers and good leaders. Although the book first appeared over a century ago, I found many of TR's observations startlingly relevant to contemporary warfare; he discusses wartime refugees, guerrilla warfare, wartime atrocities, and battlefield news correspondents. Other topics covered include illness among the troops and the impact of weather and terrain on warfare. He also discusses occasional humorous material, such as the nicknames some soldiers earned. Roosevelt includes fascinating technical details about the weapons of this era. Although he frankly discusses the violence, wounds, and deaths of the battlefield, overall I got a sense that TR saw the war as a grand adventure—even fun on a certain level. The writing style is very engaging and has a clear, matter-of-fact quality. TR's admiration and love for his troops ultimately gives the book a real warmth and humanity. This is truly a landmark in the rich canon of American military memoirs.

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