

Send the Alabamians

World War I Fighters in the Rainbow Division

Nimrod T. Frazer

Introduction by Edwin C. Bridges

Send the Alabamians recounts the story of the 167th Infantry Regiment of the WWI Rainbow Division from their recruitment to their valiant service on the bloody fields of eastern France in the climactic final months of World War I.

To mark the centenary of World War I, *Send the Alabamians* tells the remarkable story of a division of Alabama recruits whose service Douglas MacArthur observed had not "been surpassed in military history." The book borrows its title from a quip by American General Edward H. Plummer who commanded the young men during the inauspicious early days of their service. Impressed with their ferocity and esprit de corps but exasperated by their rambunctiousness, Plummer reportedly exclaimed:

In time of war, send me all the Alabamians you can get, but in time of peace, for Lord's sake, send them to somebody else!

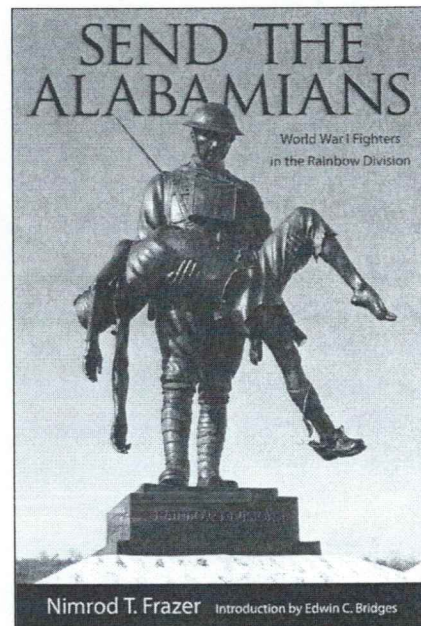
The ferocity of the Alabamians, so apt to get them in trouble at home, proved invaluable in the field. At the climactic Battle of Croix Rouge, the hot-blooded 167th exhibited unflinching valor and, in the face of machine guns, artillery shells, and poison gas, sustained casualty rates over 50 percent to dislodge and repel the deeply entrenched and heavily armed enemy.

Relying on extensive primary sources such as journals, letters, and military reports, Frazer draws a vivid picture of the individual soldiers who served in this division, so often overlooked but critical to the war's success. After Gettysburg, the Battle of Croix Rouge is the most significant military engagement to involve Alabama soldiers in the state's history. Families and genealogists will value the full roster of the 167th that accompanies the text.

Richly researched yet grippingly readable, Nimrod T. Frazer's *Send the Alabamians* will delight those interested in WWI, the World Wars, Alabama history, or southern military history in general. Historians of the war, regimental historians, military history aficionados, and those interested in previously unexplored facets of Alabama history will prize this unique volume as well.

Nimrod "Rod" Thompson Frazer is a retired investment banker, formerly CEO of Enstar. He earned his MBA at Harvard and was awarded the Silver Star for his military service in Korea. His research on the Rainbow Division of WWI stems from his father's stories of the famous team. **Edwin C. Bridges** served for thirty years as the director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

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6 x 9 • 344 pages • 38 figures,
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ISBN: 978-0-8173-8769-3 • ~~\$34.95~~ **\$24.47**
ebook

Mail this form to: The University of Alabama Press, Chicago Distribution Center, 11030 S. Langley, Chicago, IL, 60628 or fax to: 800-621-8476 (773-702-7212) or call: 800-621-2736 (773-702-7000)

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