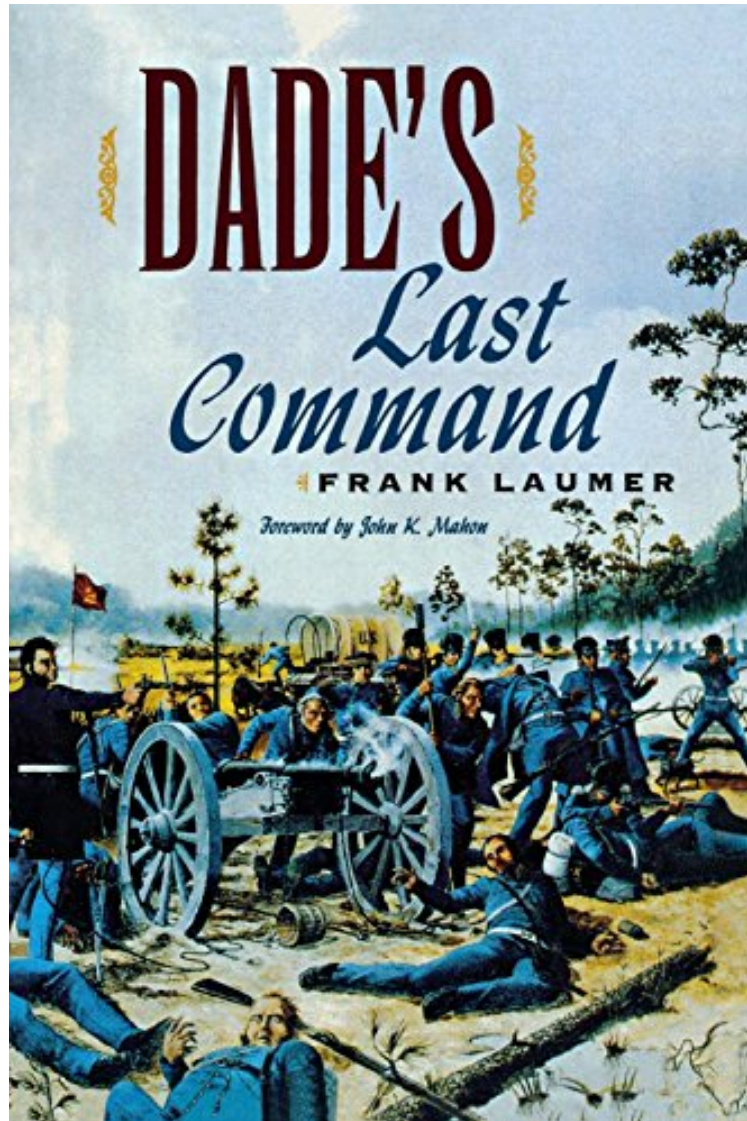


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Dade's Last Command

Mr. Frank Laumer

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Mr. Frank Laumer : Dade's Last Command before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dade's Last Command:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Battle that Started a Florida WarBy Douglas DillonThis book is a "must read" for anyone interested in Florida's Seminole Wars. Meticulously researched, it is the best documentation of the Dade battle, the massacre that began the Second Seminole War (1835-1842), ever written. It is a relentless tale that shoves the reader directly into the political world of early nineteenth century America. Author Frank Laumer pulls no punches as he offers readers a stark look at the precursors to war, slavery and Native American removal in frontier

Florida. Liberally quoting letters, interviews and other period documents, Laumer eventually shoves the reader headlong into the battle itself. Using the actual words of soldiers, Native American warriors and an African American participant, Laumer brings all that action into a chillingly vivid focus. The desperation felt by all the participants is made painfully clear and is only exceeded in Laumer's descriptions by their ill-fated bravery. The author demonstrates his research and carefulness with detail by including extensive end notes, a solid bibliography and a very useful index. The dust jacket of the book is a reprint of Florida artist Jackson Walker's painting depicting the Dade battle. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. had a great impact on the future of Florida and the United ...By Ranger243 The definitive work on a battle that was of huge import in its time, had a great impact on the future of Florida and the United States, and has been all but forgotten in the sweep of American history. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Obscure History ...unless it's a part of your families past. By john dade This book is well worth the read. Very detailed account of Major Francis Langhorne Dade's last command and hardship that followed afterwards.

From the Foreword: "The definitive account of the march and annihilation of Major Francis Dade's column of 108 men in December 1835. . . . Extensive knowledge of the soldiers, the Seminoles, and the terrain is woven into the text. There does not exist a more vivid, but at the same time historically accurate account of a single action in U.S. military literature." "...a gripping account of the infamous Dade Massacre and probably the best book ever written about the Second Seminole War."--Matt Percy, *The Journal of America's Military Past* Dade's Battle in December 1835 precipitated the Second Seminole War. It was the first American war fought over the issue of slavery, Frank Laumer writes, and it occurred principally because of white determination to protect the institution. In their search for runaway slaves, white citizens of Georgia and Florida invaded Seminole land and met with resistance; the violent encounters that followed led to Dade's Battle. As a result, Laumer says, the escape hatch was closed, Native Americans were removed from the land, and Florida was made "safe" for white expansion. Coupling thirty years of research with a passion to understand the fate of Major Dade's command and the motivations of the attacking Seminoles, Laumer has written a vivid account of a battle that changed Florida's history. After walking Dade's route on the Fort King Road from Tampa to the battlefield north of the Withlacoochee River--wearing the complete woolen uniform of an enlisted man, carrying musket, canteen, pack, bayonet, and haversack--Laumer can describe not only the clothing and weapons of the soldiers but also the tension and fear they felt as they marched through Seminole territory. He has also assessed the position of the Seminoles, sympathizing with the choices forced by their leaders. Laumer also describes the backgrounds of the soldiers who marched under Dade and the role of much-maligned black interpreter, Louis Pacheco, and he offers new insights on the mistakes made by the commanders who ordered the march. More than the account of a single military action, *Dade's Last Command* is the story of good and decent men "who died violent and terrible deaths to perpetuate a political and social evil."

From Booklist Laumer's latest history on the annihilation of a column of soldiers led by Major Francis Dade across Florida in 1835 "supersedes *Massacre!* [his 1968 work] as the definitive account" because the author has tracked down previously unrecorded documents, letters, and period interviews. Also new to this narrative is Laumer's own experience walking the trail in full gear as part of a reenactment. Laumer's focus is on the slaughter of Dade and most of his company, more than 100 soldiers and 3 survivors. The soldiers were marching specifically to quell the rebellious Seminoles who were aiding escaped black slaves. The successful attack on Dade's company triggered a brutal clampdown on the Seminoles. It has been said that the war in Florida was "a slave-catching enterprise for the benefit of the citizens of Georgia and Florida." It is noteworthy that the Second Seminole War, precipitated by Dade's battle, was the first American war fought over the issue of slavery, and it resulted in the removal of the Seminoles from their land, leaving the country "safe" for white expansion. Denise Perry Donavin "The definitive account of the march and annihilation of Major Francis Dade's column of 108 men in December 1835.... Extensive knowledge of the soldiers, the Seminoles, and the terrain is woven into the text. There does not exist a more vivid, but at the same time historically accurate account of a single action in U.S. military literature." - From the Foreword by John K. Mahon "Combing letters, diaries, newspapers, and government documents, Laumer provides us with excellent biographical sketches of both the Seminole leaders and their white adversaries. His painstaking research and vivid writing allows us to enter and recreate the world of the Seminoles, officers, and enlisted men." - *Georgia Historical Quarterly* "Frank Laumer, with the persistence of lead prosecutor, continued to follow the trails provided in his first book, determined to find the whole truth of the story of Dade's Last Command. And now, with this book we have the rest of the story." - *Florida Historical Quarterly* "From the Back Cover Dade's Battle in December 1835 precipitated the Second Seminole War. It was the first American war fought over the issue of slavery, Frank Laumer writes, and it occurred principally because of white determination to protect the institution. In their search for runaway slaves, white citizens of Georgia and Florida invaded Seminole land and were met with resistance; violent encounters followed that led to Dade's Battle. As a result, Laumer says, the escape hatch was closed, Native Americans were removed from the land, and Florida was made "safe" for white expansion. Coupling thirty years of research with a passion to understand the fate of Dade's

command and the motivations of the Seminoles, Laumer has written a vivid account of the battle that changed Florida's history. After walking the Fort King Road (the route followed by Dade) from Tampa to the battlefield north of the Withlacoochee River - in the complete woolen uniform of an enlisted man, carrying musket, canteen, pack, bayonet, and haversack - he can describe not only the clothing and weapons of the soldiers but also the tension and fear they surely felt as they marched through Seminole territory. He also assesses the position of the Seminoles, sympathizing with the choices faced by their leaders. Laumer also describes the backgrounds of the soldiers who marched under Dade and discusses the role of the much-maligned black interpreter Louis Pacheco, and he offers new insights on the mistakes made by the commanders who ordered the march. More than the account of a single military action, Dade's Last Command is the story of good and decent men "who died violent and terrible deaths to perpetuate a political and social evil".