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The First Battle for Petersburg: The Attack and Defense of the Cockade City, June 9, 1864

By William Robertson

Savas Beatie. Hardback. Book Condition: new. BRAND NEW, The First Battle for Petersburg: The Attack and Defense of the Cockade City, June 9, 1864, William Robertson, Despite its significance, very little has been written about the nearly ten-month struggle for Petersburg, Virginia. It comes as no surprise, then, that few readers are even aware that Petersburg's citizens felt war's hard hand nearly a week before the armies of Grant and Lee arrived on their doorstep in the middle of June 1864. During his ill-fated Bermuda Hundred Campaign, Maj. Gen. Benjamin Butler in late May took note of the Cockade City's position astride Richmond's railroad lifeline and its minuscule garrison. When two attempts to seize the city and destroy the bridges over the Appomattox River failed, Butler mounted an expedition to Petersburg on June 9. Led by Maj. Gen. Quincy Gillmore and Brig. Gen. August Kautz, the Federal force of 3,300 infantry and 1,300 cavalry appeared large enough to overwhelm Brig. Gen. Henry Wise's paltry 1,200 Confederate defenders, one-quarter of which were reserves that included several companies of elderly men and teenagers. The attack on the critical logistical center, and how the Confederates managed to hold...



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