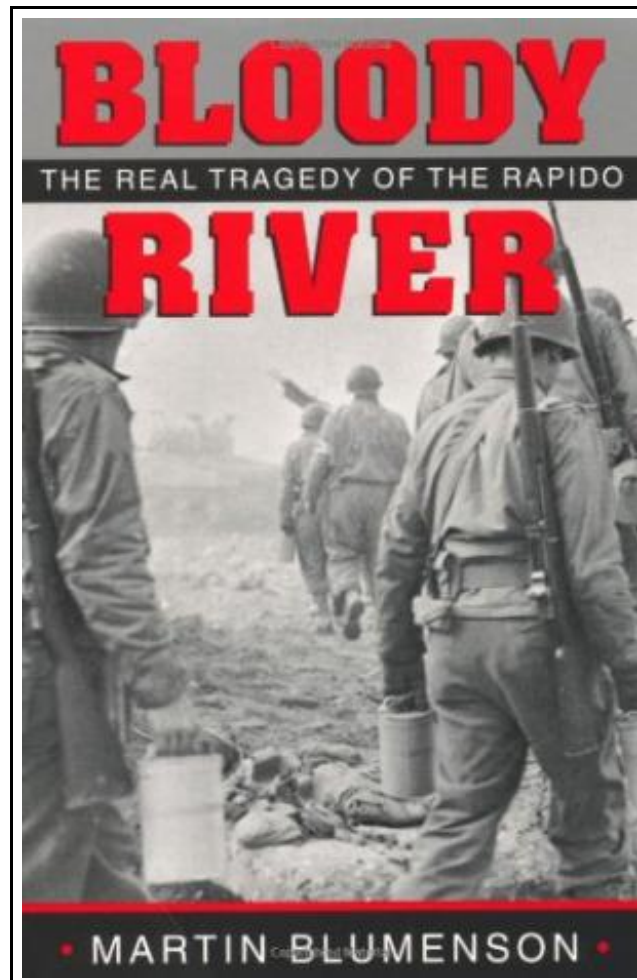


Bloody River



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Texas A&M University Press. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 176 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.5in. In the shadow of Monte Cassino on January 2122, 1944, the U. S. Armys 36th Texas Division tried to cross Italys Rapido River. The rout of this former National Guard unit from Texas was one of the worst defeats Americans suffered on the battlefields of World War II, one that prompted veterans to present charges of incompetent leadership before Congress. In *Bloody River*, first published in 1970, Martin Blumenson presents his view of how the personal equation figured into the debacle. Focusing on the generals responsible for the ill-fated attack, Blumenson traces key points in the personal profiles of the diffident 36th Division commander Fred L. Walker; Gen. Mark Wayne Clark, the imperious commander of American ground forces; and the tactful and tactically gifted former cavalry officer Gen. Geoffrey T. Keyes, commander of II Corps and Walkers immediate superior. Walker, serving under the younger Clark and Keyes, witnessed the destruction of villages and the exhaustion of the non-Regular Army soldiers in his division. Blumenson argues that Walker, relatively far down the chain of command, saw his soldiers and the civilians suffering and lost confidence and respect for his superiors and constantly questioned their fitness to devise appropriate strategy and tactics. Despite reports of the severe situation in the Rapido Valley, General Clark, responsible for ensuring the success of the Anzio landing, would not cancel the 36th Divisions supporting attack across the Rapido. In two days, the two front-line infantry regiments of the division suffered severe casualties, as did the attached units of engineers, quartermaster troops, and artillerymen. Meanwhile, General Clarks Anzio landing was accomplished with relatively little resistance. Blumenson argues that Walkers pessimism about the Rapido attack plan may have permeated his troops and...



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