

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910780325203321
Autore	Hunt Jeffrey Wm (Jeffrey William), <1962->
Titolo	The last battle of the Civil War [[electronic resource] ] : Palmetto Ranch // Jeffrey Wm. Hunt
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Austin, : University of Texas Press, 2002
ISBN	0-292-79834-2
Edizione	[1st ed.]
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (234 p.)
Collana	Clifton and Shirley Caldwell Texas heritage series ; ; no. 4
Disciplina	973.7/38
Soggetti	Palmito Ranch, Battle of, Tex., 1865
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Bibliographic Level Mode of Issuance: Monograph
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references (p. 195-198) and index.
Nota di contenuto	Frontmatter -- CONTENTS -- ACKNOWLEDGMENTS -- PROLOGUE -- ONE. QUESTIONS OF WAR ON A DISTANT RIVER -- TWO. BORDER COTTON -- THREE. EFFORTS TO END A WAR -- FOUR. "NOTHING LEFT TO US BUT TO FIGHT" -- FIVE. AN UNEXPECTED ADVANCE -- SIX. THE FIRST DAY'S FIGHT -- SEVEN. FIGHTING TO NO PURPOSE -- EIGHT. TRIUMPH AND DISASTER -- NINE. A HARRIED RETREAT -- TEN. THE LAST SHOT -- ELEVEN. PRISONERS, FLAGS, PAROLES, AND PEACE -- TWELVE. THE BLAME FOR FAILURE -- THIRTEEN. COURT-MARTIAL -- FOURTEEN. EPILOGUE -- APPENDIX 1. ORDER OF BATTLE -- APPENDIX 2. BARRETT'S FIRST REPORT -- APPENDIX 3. BARRETT'S SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT -- NOTES -- BIBLIOGRAPHY -- INDEX
Sommario/riassunto	More than two months after Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865, the New York Times reported a most surprising piece of news. On May 12-13, the last battle of the Civil War had been fought at the southernmost tip of Texas—resulting in a Confederate victory. Although Palmetto Ranch did nothing to change the war's outcome, it added the final irony to a conflict replete with ironies, unexpected successes, and lost opportunities. For these reasons, it has become both one of the most forgotten and most mythologized battles of the Civil War. In this book, Jeffrey Hunt draws on previously unstudied letters and court martial records to offer a full and accurate account of the battle of Palmetto Ranch. As he recreates the events of the fighting that pitted the United States' 62nd Colored Troops and the 34th Indiana Veteran Volunteer Infantry against Texas

cavalry and artillery battalions commanded by Colonel John S. "Rip" Ford, Hunt lays to rest many misconceptions about the battle. In particular, he reveals that the Texans were fully aware of events in the East—and still willing to fight for Southern independence. He also demonstrates that, far from fleeing the battle in a panic as some have asserted, the African American troops played a vital role in preventing the Union defeat from becoming a rout.

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