THE LOUISIANA TIGERS

Although many Louisiana companies referred to themselves and were referred to as "The Louisiana Tigers," the most widely known of all was the 1st Special Battalion, Louisiana Infantry, commanded by Maj. C. R. "Bob" Wheat until his death in 1862.

Being composed of Frenchmen, Irishmen, Spaniards, Germans, backwoodsmen, riverboatmen, sons of wealthy planters, farmers and plain American Southerners, Wheat's Tigers stood out from the other Confederate soldiers—especially when many of them showed up in colorful French and Algerian "zouave" uniforms.

Wheat's Tigers, along with other Louisiana companies also known by the name, were in the thick of things in almost every major battle in the east, as well as at Vicksburg and in their own state.
P. G. T. Beauregard (1818-1893) was a Louisiana Creole and one of the eight full generals in the Confederacy. He opened the war by firing on Ft. Sumter, and later commanded troops at Bull Run and Shiloh. Buried in Metairie, New Orleans.

**1861**

JAN. 10 - Governor Moore seizes federal property in Louisiana
26 - Louisiana secedes from the United States of America

FEB. 12 - Louisiana secession convention adopts State Flag of Louisiana
27 - P. G. T. Beauregard is made Brigadier-General in Confederate States Army

MAR. 7 - Braxton Bragg is commissioned Brigadier-General in Confederate States Army
21 - Louisiana joins Confederate States of America

JUNE 10 - Louisiana capitol moved from Baton Rouge to Opelousas

**1862**

APR. 12 - Braxton Bragg is promoted to full general in Confederate army
24 - Federal fleet slips past Forts Jackson and St. Philip
25 - General Lovell evacuates New Orleans
29 - Formal surrender of New Orleans to Admiral David G. Farragut

MAY 1 - Louisiana capitol moved from Baton Rouge to Opelousas
1 - General Benjamin F. Butler takes possession of New Orleans

AUG. 21 - Federal forces evacuate Baton Rouge

**1862**

MAY 26 - Confederate States of America creates Trans-Mississippi Department which includes Louisiana

JUNE 7 - William B. Mumford is hanged by order of General Butler for tearing down US flag from US mint
11 - General George F. Shepley is appointed military governor of Louisiana

DEC. 3 - Michael Hahn and B. F. Flanders elected to United States Congress from federally occupied New Orleans
17 - General N. P. Banks replaces General Butler as head of Department of the Gulf

17 - Federal forces re-occupy Baton Rouge
30 - Capitol at Baton Rouge is burned

Henry W. Allen (1820-1866) gave up his rank of general after being severely wounded in the Battle of Baton Rouge. In 1864, he became governor of the Confederate State seated at Shreveport. He went into self-exile to Mexico after the war and is buried in Baton Rouge.

Thomas O. Moore (1805-1876), native North Carolinian, was elected Louisiana's 14th governor in 1860, in which year he led the special assembly which voted for secession. When the Federals occupied Southern Louisiana, he dismissed the legislature and resigned.
Edmund Kirby Smith (1824-1893), the third four-star general from Louisiana, was in command of the Trans-Mississippi Department from 1863 to 1865. He held the honor of being the last Confederate general to surrender his command, on May 26, 1865.

Richard "Dick" Taylor (1826-1879), son of the former President, became one of the best officers in the Confederacy and was promoted to lieutenant general. Commander of Western Louisiana and, later, the Lower South area, he is buried in Metairie, New Orleans.

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1863
- JAN. 1 - Louisiana capitol moved from Opelousas to Shreveport
- JAN. 1 - President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation goes into effect
- MAR. 7 - Shreveport is made headquarters for Confederate Trans-Mississippi Department, with General Edmund Kirby-Smith as commander
- AUG. 19 - Henry Watkins Allen is made Brigadier General in Confederate Army
- NOV. 21 - Henry W. Allen is elected Governor of Confederate Louisiana

1864
- JAN. 25 - Allen is inaugurated governor of Confederate Louisiana
- FEB. 22 - Michael Hahn elected governor of federally occupied Louisiana
- MAR. 4 - Hahn inaugurated as governor of federal Louisiana
- MAR. 17 - Alexandria is captured by federal forces
- APR. 8 - Confederates defeat Union forces under General N. P. Banks at Mansfield, stopping Union advance in Red River Campaign
- 9 - Confederates defeat Union forces at Pleasant Hill
- 16 - Richard Taylor is commissioned Lieutenant General
- MAY 13 - Alexandria is burned

1865
- FEB. 17 - State legislature of federally occupied Louisiana ratifies Thirteenth Amendment to United States Constitution
- MAR. 4 - J. Madison Wells succeeds Michael Hahn as governor when latter elected to United States Senate
- JUNE 2 - Formal surrender of General Kirby-Smith's army of the Trans-Mississippi West, the last Confederate army to surrender

Judah P. Benjamin (1811-1880), former U. S. Senator from Louisiana, was called the "brains of the Confederacy," and served as both Secretary of State and Secretary of War. He later achieved international fame as a lawyer during his exile in England.
In the spring of 1862, David Farragut, commanding a powerful Union naval fleet, sailed up the Mississippi River and forced the surrender of New Orleans. Farragut ran by Forts St. Philip and Jackson—which defended the entrance to the River from the Gulf of Mexico—and attacked New Orleans from downstream.

The Confederates expected the attack from upstream, and the city of New Orleans, left virtually undefended and taken by surprise, surrendered.

Farragut then proceeded upstream and forced the surrender of Baton Rouge. For the remainder of the war, all of the southeast parishes were held by the Federal forces.

After the North had gained control of southern Louisiana, Shreveport was set up as the capital of the Trans-Mississippi Confederacy. In that city was housed the Confederate state government and the military command headquarters of the entire theatre.

One year later, in the summer of 1863, the Confederacy had one small link remaining on the Mississippi River—a stretch bordered by Vicksburg, Miss., on the north and Port Hudson, La., on the south. This link was the only means of communication between the Confederate forces on both sides of the River.

General Grant was assigned the task of capturing Vicksburg. General Banks moved north from New Orleans with 30,000 men to strike at Port Hudson, and between them they hoped to sever the link and isolate the Trans-Mississippi Department from the rest of the South.

Both strongpoints underwent weeks of siege warfare; finally, on July 4, 1863, Vicksburg fell. General Franklin Gardner, commandant of Port Hudson, held on until he was sure that the other River fortress had surrendered. Four days later, during which time Northern troops tossed newspapers over the walls telling of the fall of Vicksburg, Gardner surrendered his garrison.

The Red River Campaign in the spring of 1864 undoubtedly helped prolong Confederate resistance and the war. In a pincers movement designed to squeeze out Confederate defenders, General Banks launched an offensive up the Red River toward Shreveport at the same time as another large Federal force moved south from Arkansas.

Louisiana's General Dick Taylor—son of the former President—attacked the Federals at Mansfield; and, although outnumbered by about 18,000 to 11,000, badly mauled the spread-out Union troops. Banks retreated to Pleasant Hill where, the next day, Taylor attacked again. Completely shaken, Banks retreated further south to Alexandria where his forces and a large Union fleet barely escaped capture.

The Federal attack from Arkansas turned back upon hearing of Banks's defeat. The Confederates had so badly damaged Banks's army that it could not be utilized in the great Northern offensives later that year.
Dear Friend:

The hundred years that have passed since Louisiana embarked upon the most momentous adventure in its history have been a century of progress.

The farms that were left untended, to languish for four long years today thrive under the watchful eye of a benign providence. Those who perished have been replaced many fold, and the energies of their successors are now directed toward the pursuits of progress. The swords that were brandished during the charge of Pickett and Thomas and Stuart were long ago beaten into plowshares—the instruments of economic recovery...

This Civil War Centennial will be observed in the hearts and minds of our citizens. It will be observed with a continuing rededication to those principles for which our grandfathers fought. It will be observed without malice and without bitterness...with a jealous regard for the heritage written with blood and bayonet on the battle fields of the South.

Jimmie H. Davis
Governor of Louisiana