



The Commandos The Lone Star Sessions

The Commandos released only one album, 1987's *Edge Of Night*, before dissolving. Thankfully, lead singer Suzy Elkins has made this '83 session available for download.

The ES-150-wielding Elkins and lead guitarist Gerry "Phareaux" Felton were formidable roots-rockers with a splash of melodic power pop. The Austin-Mississippi connection they belonged to is well illustrated; nine of the dozen songs were written by some combination of Elkins, Felton, Omar Dykes, Webb Wilder, and R.S. Field. Covers of the Sonics' "Psycho" and an instrumental medley of Cecil Moore's "Diamondback" and

Scotty Moore's "Have Guitar Will Travel" demonstrate Felton's mastery on his '69 Custom Esquire.

Wes Starr and LeRoi Brother Mike Buck alternate drum duties, with guests Dykes (harp and guitar), Tail Gator Don Leady (guitar), and even Al "Grandpa Munster" Lewis (on Field's "Baby Loves Monster Movies").

Citing Creedence Clearwater, the Pretenders, Dave Edmunds, Tony Joe White, and the LeRois as influences, the band aptly described its sound as "rock and roll without the gooey drippings on it."

Felton, who passed away in 2007, appeared on *More Big Guitars From Texas* ('86), while Elkins released a solo album in '03. But anyone who caught them in the '80s remembers one of Austin's very best bar bands. — **Dan Forte**

