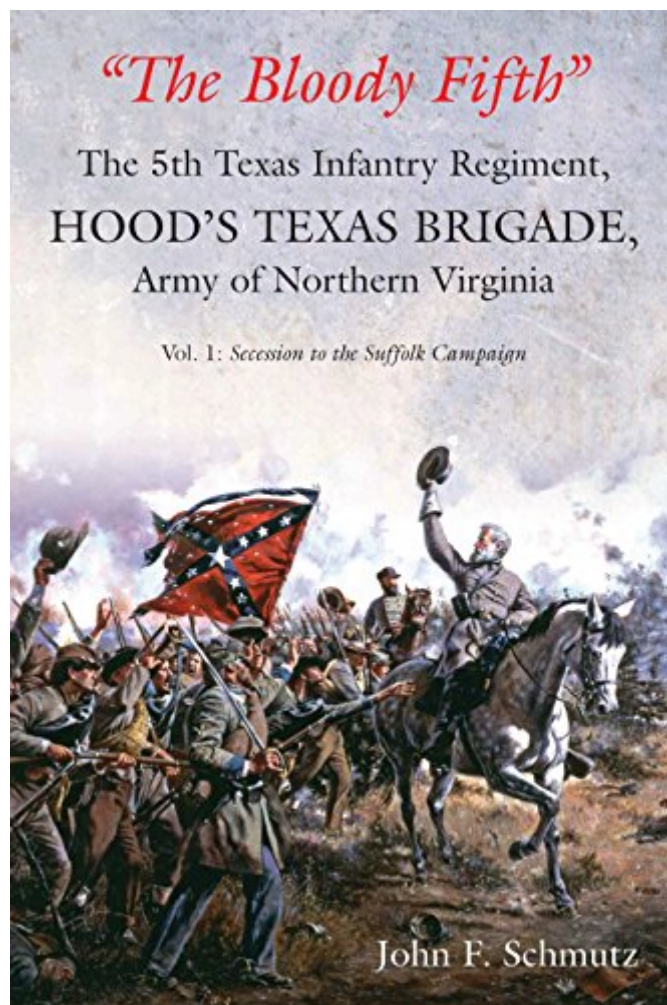


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“The Bloody Fifth” The 5th Texas Infantry, Hood’s Texas Brigade, Army Of Northern Virginia: Vol. 1: Secession To The Suffolk Campaign





Synopsis

The 5th Texas Infantry—“The Bloody Fifth”—was one of only three Texas regiments to fight with Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. Much like the army in which it served, the 5th Texas established a stellar combat record. The regiment took part in 38 engagements, including nearly every significant battle in the Eastern Theater, as well as the Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Knoxville campaigns in the Western Theater. John F. Schmutz’s “The Bloody Fifth”: The 5th Texas Infantry, Hood’s Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia is the first full-length study to document this fabled regimental command. “The Bloody Fifth” presents the regiment’s rich history from the secession of the Lone Star State and the organization of ten independent east and central Texas companies, through four years of arduous marching and fighting. The 5th Texas’s battlefield exploits are legendary, from its inaugural fighting on the Virginia peninsula in early 1862 through Appomattox. At Gettysburg, the Texans suffered horrendous losses repeatedly assaulting Little Round Top’s rocky slopes, and in the Wilderness on May 6, 1864, helped save the collapsing Confederate line while “the eyes of General Lee were upon them.” But it was at Second Manassas where the regiment earned its enduring nickname by attacking and crushing the 5th New York Zouaves. Flushed with victory, the Texans pushed through the disintegrating Federal lines and outdistanced the remainder of the Brigade—as well as the rest of the Confederate army. In his official report on the battle, Gen. John Bell Hood, boasted that the 5th Texas had “slipped the bridle.” Its exploits that day earned the regiment its undying sobriquet “The Bloody Fifth.” Schmutz’s monumental regimental history, which also details the personal lives of these Texas soldiers as they struggled to survive the war some 2,000 miles from home, is based upon years of archival research that has uncovered hundreds of primary sources. Complete with photos and original maps, “The Bloody Fifth”: The 5th Texas Infantry, Hood’s Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia is a significant contribution to the growing literature of the Civil War.

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Customer Reviews

Your book on the 5th Texas came and I have finished it for a second time. While I own about every work on the 5th Texas or Hood's Texas Brigade, I have to say that yours is clearly the definitive work and perhaps one of the best regimental histories I have ever read. I felt every step of the journey of the 5th from Texas to Louisiana and tried to imagine what my great uncle experienced then and in combat. When reading about his death, I felt his loss. If only he had left letters or a diary. I am also grateful that you separated the action of the day he died from the subsequent fight for the Rooster Ears. I am also deeply appreciative of your use of Major Whaley's photograph. Again, it was a great book and well worth the wait. Thank you for all you have done to preserve the deeds and memories of great men during a momentous period of American history. Now, of course, begins the wait for the second volume.

This is an excellent regimental history of the 5th Texas Infantry. It covers the period from its organization to the Siege of Suffolk. I'm anxiously awaiting volume two to complete the story. My favorite character is Lt. Col. King Bryan, who was, I believe, one of the best citizen soldiers in the Confederacy. He was the original captain of Company F and was one of the most hard-driving regimental commanders in the ANV. He briefly led Hood's Texas Brigade during the Knoxville Campaign. His leadership of the regiment at Second Manassas was crucial, up to the point he too was wounded. His report on that battle in the Official Records is highly detailed and excellent. Bryan

was not a professional soldier, but fought in the Texas Revolution, fought outlaws in the Big Thicket as a sheriff of Liberty County and was a state legislator prior to the war. His third wound at the Battle of the Wilderness sidelined him for the rest of the war. I had three collateral ancestors in his company. Hopefully volume two will soon be out.

So good that I will buy his next volume !

I love it

Good reading

The War in the East during the Civil War held many of the great battles we know and remember. It overshadows the War in the West in terms of scholarly works written about the conflict and general knowledge about the eastern war is higher than the west. Many are left to wonder if there is more that Civil War authors can write about and the answer is yes. John F. Schmutz has written *The Bloody Fifth*, a regimental history on the 5th Texas Infantry which was one of only three Texas regiments to fight in Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. This regimental history will be separated into volumes, the first taking the regiment from secession to the Suffolk Campaign. John F. Schmutz is a veteran of the United States Army and hails from Oneida, New York. He has had a successful career as a corporate attorney; while during his career, he had a lifelong passion for the Civil War. His first book was *The Battle of the Crater: A Complete History* which was published in 2009. One of the highlights about *The Bloody Fifth* was the incredible amount of information within the pages. As I was reading, I could tell the painstaking research Mr. Schmutz has put into this regiment. The stories of the men who served during the war with this unit are fascinating. The book is wonderfully organized into the sections which this volume is handling from the organization of the unit to the Suffolk Campaign. One of the points this book offers which I find fascinating was the telling of the events themselves. For example, in the chapter of Fredericksburg, most regimental histories would delve into the actions of the regiment instead of the overall event. Here, Mr. Schmutz tells the readers about the event as a whole which lends more to the understanding of the battles. It also gives a greater understanding of the actions of the regiment as the battle was waning on. In the account on the Battle of Fredericksburg, another interesting point in the book, was the action in which the 5th Texas took part in. The usual stories we read about that battle are in the form of the attack on

Mayre's Heights. But the 5th Texas was about the attack between Meade and Jackson, which is not wholly covered in many books. Lastly, one of the appendices which I appreciated was not only the organization by company of the regiment, but the listing of the important people throughout the regiment's history. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in regimental histories. This is how a regimental history should be written. Properly organized and researched fully without any question, Mr. Schmutz has done his due diligence. The narrative flows quite well always keeping the interest of the reader intact and with the appendices to aid the text made the book even more valuable. Aided with well drawn maps and photographs, I eagerly await the next volume in this fine series. Highly recommended. Matthew W. Bartlett

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