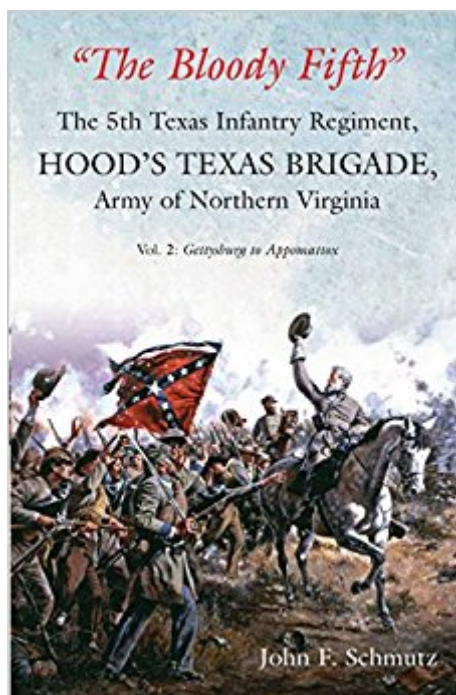


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“The Bloody Fifth” The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood’s Texas Brigade, Army Of Northern Virginia: Volume 2: Gettysburg To Appomattox



Synopsis

The second installment in a sweeping history of the 5th Texas Infantry—“The Bloody Fifth”—one of only three Texas regiments to fight with Robert E. Lee’s Army of Northern Virginia. The 5th Texas established an exceptional combat record in an army known for its fighting capabilities. 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. “The Bloody Fifth” offers the first full-length study documenting this fabled regimental command. The first volume, *Secession through the Suffolk Campaign*, followed the regiment from its inception through the successful foraging campaign in southeastern Virginia in April 1863. *Gettysburg to Appomattox* continues the regiment’s rich history from its march north into Pennsylvania and the battle of Gettysburg, its transfer west to Georgia and participation in the bloody battle of Chickamauga, operations in East Tennessee, and the regiment’s return to Virginia for the overland battles (Wilderness to Cold Harbor), Petersburg campaign, and the march to Appomattox Court House. The narrative ends by following many of the regiment’s soldiers on their long journey home.

Schmutz’s definitive study is based upon years of archival and battlefield research that uncovered hundreds of primary sources, many never before used. The result is a lively account of not only the regiment’s marches and battles but a personal look into the lives of these Texans as they struggled to survive a vicious war more than 1,000 miles from home. “The Bloody Fifth”—The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood’s Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia, with photos, original maps, explanatory footnotes, and important and useful appendices, is a significant contribution to the history of Texas and the American Civil War.

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Customer Reviews

“Covering the regiment’s march into Pennsylvania, the momentous battle of Gettysburg, the violent battle of Chickamauga, and the long marches and difficult campaigns that ultimately concluded with the General Lee’s surrender at Appomattox, "The Bloody Fifth" is a scholarly work enhanced with maps and exhaustive notes, yet thoroughly accessible to readers of all backgrounds. "The Bloody Fifth" Vol. 2 is highly recommended especially for public and college library Civil War history shelves, as is "The Bloody Fifth" Vol. 1” (Midwest Book Review)

John F. Schmutz enjoyed a successful career as a corporate attorney and has maintained a lifelong fascination with all aspects of the Civil War. When he is not researching and writing, John enjoys playing golf and traveling internationally. A veteran of the U.S. Army and a native of Oneida, New York, he lives with his wife in San Antonio, Texas. He holds degrees from Canisius College, the University of Notre Dame, and George Washington University. His first book was *The Battle of the Crater: A Complete History* (2009).

John F. Schmutz narrative includes the military campaigns of the 5th Texas Infantry Regiment of Confederate General Hood’s Texas Brigade from Gettysburg to Appomattox. The soldiers originated from the rural and urban areas of East Texas. The majority of these volunteers never returned to their homes and their loved ones however they will always be known for their bravery, spirit and their support of the Southern cause. Lee indicated that “the Texans are always ready to fight.” This is the first comprehensive account of the 5th Texas Infantry Regiment; an important part of Lee’s most dependable and perhaps preferred brigade. This book’s clarity of organization and accuracy of description, coupled with interpretive insights, enable the reader to grasp both details and the larger picture of the first two years of the Civil War. The author provides fresh analysis that helps us comprehend the motivation, strategies, tensions, controversies, and triumphs that have characterized the work and lives of “The Bloody Fifth” of Hood’s Texas Brigade. An excellent awareness to soldiers thoughts on their loss at Gettysburg was the blame placed on “Bullhead Longstreet.” Interesting since the General felt the combat

of Hood's and McLaws divisions constituted "the best three hours of fighting ever done by any troops on any battlefield." This writer provides readers with a scholarly treatment of The 5th Texas Regiment in battles and campaigns in the Eastern and Western Theaters such as Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Knoxville, Overland Campaign; Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, North Anna, New Market and the Petersburg Campaign. One of the most fabled moments of these men regarding "Lee to the rear!" in The Wilderness is explained and enhanced by this outstanding historian. During the war almost 20 percent of the regiment died from disease and medical difficulties. During this fighting unit's retreat to Appomattox, only 161 men were able to surrender. By the end of the conflict the casualty rate of these men, who lived to fight and gain glory exceeded 62 percent for a total of 81 percent passing away from participating in the Civil War. Savas-Beatie has published an outstanding 384 page treatment on "The Bloody Fifth" and their amazing war record. The author used an abundance of quotes from enlisted men and officers throughout the narrative that allows readers to understand what these renowned men fought for and what they went through to be successful. There is an excellent assortment of 11 images, and 28 helpful maps produced by George Skoch and Hal Jespersen located throughout this work maps illustrating the events, places and people mentioned in the text. Additionally, there are illuminating below page notes, an index and a bibliography. Included are four valuable appendices concerning: Deaths From Disease or Accident; Battle Deaths-5th Texas Regiment; Head Count, and an Interview with Author John F. Schmutz. Schmutz's second of two volumes on one of the best Confederate regiments is interesting, well written, readable and a thoroughly researched examination of hard fighting and extraordinary Texans. This excellent scholarship is based on many years of archival research that used hundreds of primary sources including journals, letters and unpublished papers. The study is extremely detailed, and provides readers with an understanding of what it was like for these brave soldiers. The writer details in stirring and engaging prose provides students with the full dimension of the 5th Texas Infantry Regiment during the final two years of the Civil War. The rich variety of insights and information on The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment and Hood's Texas Brigade served up in this title makes it truly a moveable feast. A lucid, readable summary that brings the key personalities to life and explores the intricate relationship between civilian soldiers and commanding officers such as John Bell Hood, James Longstreet and Robert E. Lee. The writer is successful in describing individual's opinions concerning the conflict, the home front, and loved ones. This tapestry reminds the

knowledgeable and informs the novice in a plain, straight forward style that reads easily and quickly. No Civil War buff will want to miss it. This reviewer highly recommends this work.

Volume II of John Schmutz's 5th Texas masterpiece, covering Gettysburg to Manassas, continues the regiment's story with the same riveting interest and devoted thoroughness as the first volume. Here we have the epic scenes of "Lee to the rear!" and Hood's devastating woundings at Gettysburg and Chickamauga. It was a Texan of Company E who famously declared of Lee, "I would charge hell itself for that old man." But we also meet lesser-known players such as Gus and Molly Bailey, minstrel entertainers, and the slave Levi Miller who, after fighting valiantly at Spotsylvania, was voted in as a full-fledged member of the regiment for the remainder of the War. Another surprise: the Texans narrowly missed being blown up on the Petersburg line (they were moved from the Crater vicinity on July 28). In addition to all of these dramatic accounts, Mr. Schmutz offers some excellent analysis, in particular his angle on Longstreet's refusal to alter the July 2 attack plan after Hood repeatedly urged him to do so, and the subsequent repercussions among First Corps commanders. (For example, he suggests that Lee's pointedly correcting Longstreet's orders to McLaws in front of the latter could have been a primary reason for Longstreet's pique.) Also at Gettysburg, the author shares some wonderful descriptive writing coming from the Texan Col. Micajah Powell: "Smoke from either side rolled in billows, meeting and writhing in conflict in the valley midway the engaging armies." Of course notable tragedies overcame the Texans as the War ground to an end, especially the death of their brigade commander General John Gregg, "the best brigadier in the army" in Lee's eyes. And there is an unforgettable scene at War's end of a Texas private who, before embarking on the long journey homeward, visited Lee at his Franklin Street home in Richmond. When the General came downstairs, the soldier, overcome with emotion parted without uttering a word. Volumes I and II of "The Bloody Fifth" will stand forever as classics in Civil War literature, and I thank the author for his dedication and excellence in producing them, to the grateful edification of Civil War readers.

"The Bloody Fifth" - The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment Hood's Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia Vol. 2: Gettysbug to Appomattox is the second installment of an in-depth history of the 5th Texas Infantry during the Civil War. Covering the regiment's march into Pennsylvania, the momentous battle of Gettysburg, the violent battle of Chickamauga, and the long marches and difficult campaigns that ultimately concluded with the General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, "The Bloody Fifth" is a scholarly work enhanced with maps and exhaustive notes, yet thoroughly

accessible to readers of all backgrounds. "The Bloody Fifth" Vol. 2 is highly recommended especially for public and college library Civil War history shelves, as is "The Bloody Fifth" Vol. 1.- Midwest Book Review (Note: This review was written by Midwest Book Review and posted on at their request)

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