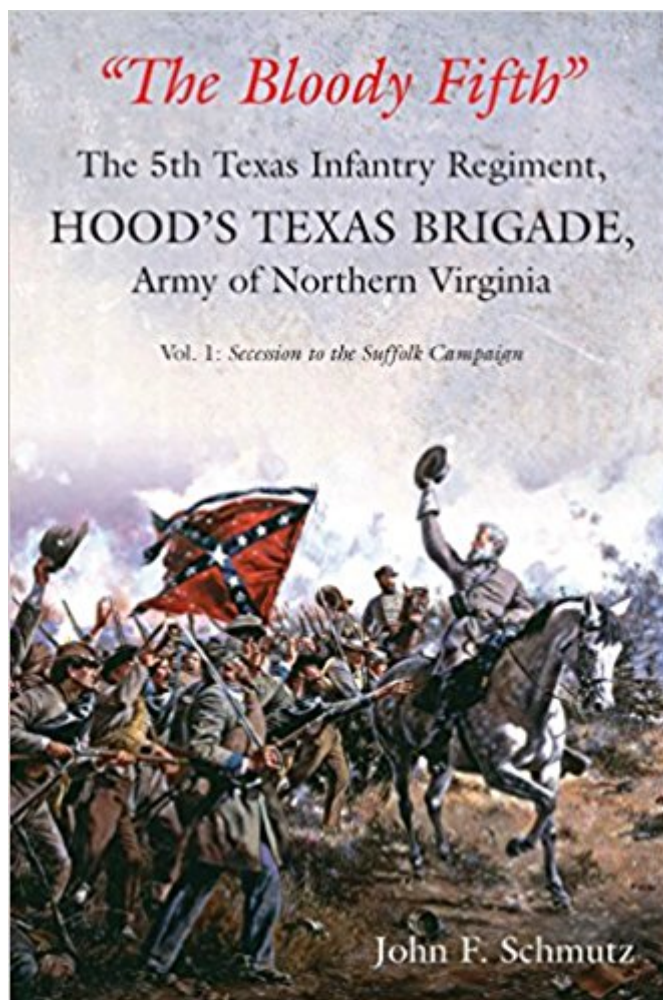


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# “The Bloody Fifth” The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood’s Texas Brigade, Texas Brigade, Army Of Northern Virginia: Volume 1: Secession To The Suffolk Campaign





## Synopsis

Vol. 1: Secession to the Suffolk Campaign 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. 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, before laying down its arms forever at Appomattox. “The Bloody Fifth”, in a pair of magnificent volumes, is the first full-length study to document this fabled regimental command. The first installment, *Secession to the Suffolk Campaign*, opens the regiment’s rich history from the withdrawal of the Lone Star State from the Union and the organization of ten independent east and central Texas companies, through the spring of 1863 and its complex and often-misunderstood mission around Suffolk, Virginia. The 5th’s battlefield prowess was demonstrated early in its inaugural fighting on the Virginia peninsula in early 1862, but it was at Second Manassas later that year 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 not only the remainder of the brigade but the rest of the Confederate army. The 5th Texas, boasted Gen. John Bell Hood in his official report, had “slipped the bridle.” The undying sobriquet “The Bloody Fifth” was now part of American military history. Schmutz’s definitive study is based upon years of archival 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 also a personal look into the lives of these Texans as they struggled to survive a vicious war 2,000 miles from home. The second installment, *Gettysburg to Appomattox*, will complete the history. “The Bloody Fifth” The 5th Texas Infantry, 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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"A thoroughly researched account of a legendary Confederate infantry regiment that will be of deep interest to the legion of Civil War buffs who follow the exploits of Hood's Texas Brigade."-- Richard M. McMurry, author of *Two Great Rebel Armies, Atlanta 1864*, and *John Bell Hood and the War for Southern Independence* "John F. Schmutz's *The Bloody Fifth* is, to date, the most comprehensive, thoroughly researched account of the 5th Texas Infantry and belongs in the library of every serious student of the Civil War."-- John Michael Priest, author of *Stand to It and Give Them Hell: Gettysburg as the Soldiers Experienced it From Cemetery Ridge to Little Round Top* "The *Bloody Fifth* is everything a regimental history should be: diligently researched, well-written, and brimming with hard to find factual detail and personal experiences. The author deftly weaves the history of the Fifth Texas into the overall tale of the war without straying from his primary goal--telling the very human story of one regiment whose members lived those events hour-by-hour for many years. Whenever possible he lets the Texans tell their story in their own words and allows the reader to walk alongside some of the best soldiers--perhaps THE best soldiers--in the Army of Northern Virginia. This is an enormous achievement."-- Jeffrey Wm Hunt, Director, Texas Military Forces Museum and author of *The Last Battle of the Civil War: Palmetto Ranch* "From their mustering in the towns and farms of east and central Texas to the killing fields of Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Georgia, the stories of the men of the Fifth Texas Infantry Regiment are brought to life in impeccable detail. Although not elite in appearance or demeanor, these rough-hewn and rugged men and their leaders were Robert E. Lee's elite shock troops, repeatedly called upon to fight where the fighting would be the most difficult. This is the story of the *Bloody Fifth* and the soldiers whose blood was spilled, attaining not ultimate victory, but more importantly, eternal glory."-- Stephen M. Hood, author of *John Bell Hood: The Rise, Fall, and Resurrection of a Confederate General* and *The Lost Papers of Confederate General John Bell Hood*

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. His first book was *The Battle of the Crater: A Complete History* (2009).

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 Roasting 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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