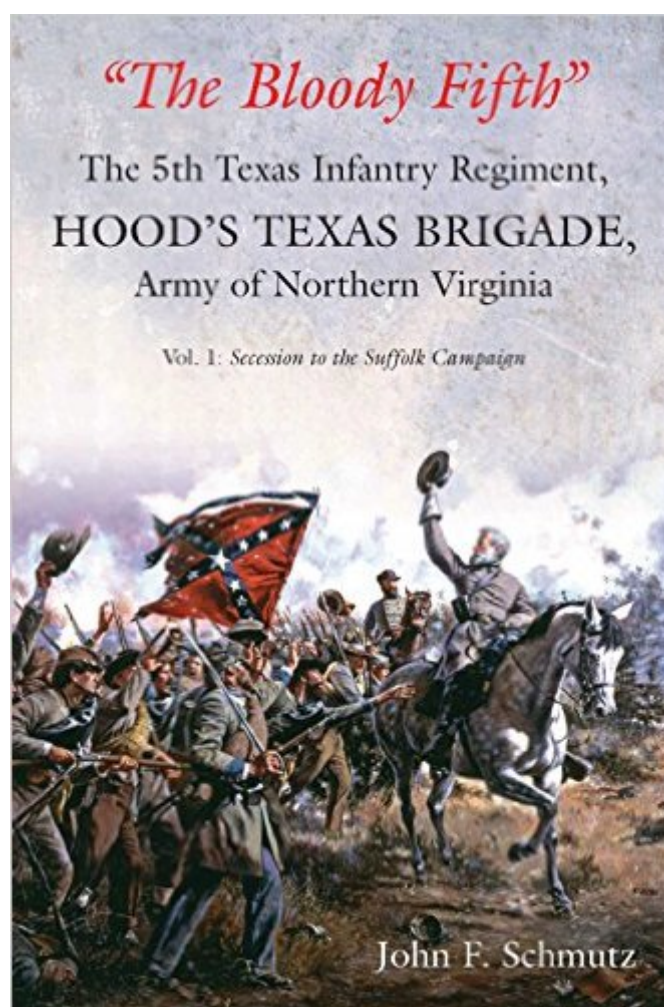


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# "The Bloody Fifth" \_ The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood's Texas Brigade, Army Of Northern Virginia: Volume 1: Secession To The Suffolk Campaign



## 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

John F. Schmutz narrative includes the military campaigns of the 5th Texas Infantry Regiment of Confederate General Hood's Texas Brigade from Secession to the Suffolk Campaign. 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. This is the first comprehensive account of the "Bloody Fifth" - sometimes called the "shock troops" of General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. 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 insight that helps us understand the motivation, strategies, tensions, controversies, and triumphs that have characterized the work and lives of the "The Bloody Fifth" of Hood's Texas Brigade. This writer provides readers with a scholarly treatment of The 5th Texas Regiment in battles such as the Peninsulas Campaign, the Seven Days Battles, The Second Manassas Campaign, the Battle of Sharpsburg/Antietam, The Fredericksburg Campaign and The Suffolk Campaign. During the war almost 20 percent of the regiment died from disease and medical difficulties. By the end of the conflict the casualty rate of these brave men exceeded 62 percent for a total of 81 percent passing away from participating in the Civil War. Savas-Beatie has published an outstanding 344 page treatment on The Fifth Texas Infantry regiment. This book has wonderful anecdotes and fascinating facts about these brave men from Texas.

"The Bloody Fifth: The 5th Texas Infantry Regiment, Hood's Texas Brigade, Army of Northern Virginia, Volume 1: Secession to the Suffolk Campaign, by John F. Schmutz (El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie LLC, 2016, 335 pages). "The Bloody Fifth" by John Schmutz is a welcome addition to the history of General Robert E. Lee's, "Old Guard," Hood's Texas Brigade. Mr. Schmutz's book is Volume 1 of 2 Volumes about the history of the 5th Texas Infantry Regiment. He writes the history

of the regiment in a clear and easy to understand prose, backed up by outstanding footnotes, and editor's comments, and accurate maps. Beginning with the secession of Texas in 1861, thousands of Texans joined The Texas Brigade under Louis T. Wigfall, then John Bell Hood. The men comprised of the 5th Texas mostly were from the east Texas area, Brenham, Independence, Montgomery, etc., Mr. Schmutz tells the history of the officers and men composed of the 5th beginning at their arrival in Richmond in April 1861, and just missing the First Battle of Bull Run (1st Manassas). Texans are and were a boisterous and strong bunch and the officers that commanded the Texas in the 5th Texas Infantry were no difference. Jerome B. Robertson of Independence would rise to command the 5th Texas and at times the Texas Brigade, and he was a beloved leader of the 5th. The author's accurate and fascinating history of the beginning of the war to the Suffolk Campaign, in the months right before the battle of Gettysburg, tells of the camp life, battles, and exploits of the soldiers of the 5th. And as stated before, the author's footnotes enhanced the telling of the 5th's history. It is a pleasure to say that Mr. Schmutz definitely did outstanding research about the 5th.

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