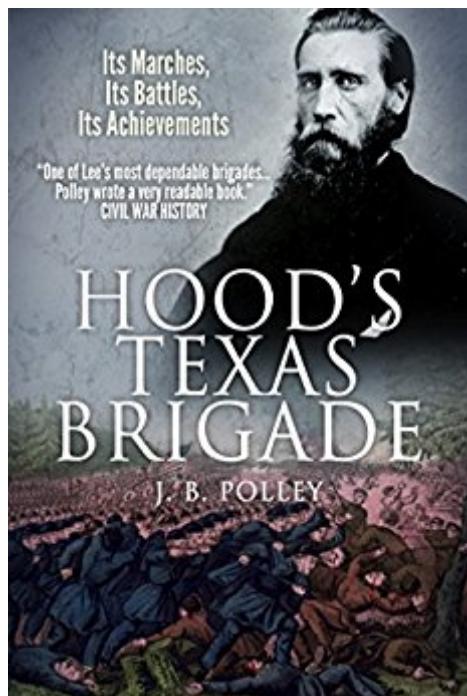


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# Hood's Texas Brigade, Its Marches, Its Battles, Its Achievements



## Synopsis

“One of Lee’s most dependable brigades” Harold Simpson, Civil War History

The Texas Brigade distinguished itself for its dogged tenacity and tremendous fighting ability throughout the American Civil War. As a division of the Army of Northern Virginia these Texans fought in most battles that Lee led his army to, the only exception was Chancellorsville, but the brigade more than made up for it by combatting the Union at Suffolk, Chickamauga, and Nashville. J. B. Polley, at the age of only twenty-one when the war broke out, enlisted in Company F of the Fourth Texas Infantry, a regiment in Hood’s Brigade. His eyewitness account, along with the reminiscences of many of his comrades and numerous battle reports written various generals form the basis of his book. Although commonly known as “Hood’s Texas Brigade” Polley explains that the Brigade was initially formed by John Allen Wilcox and under the command of Louis T. Wigfall before it came under the control of the brave, and at times reckless, leader John Bell Hood who gave the brigade its eponymous name. Polley takes the reader through the actions of the brigade battle by battle, interspersing these engagements with details on their lives through the war. Hood’s Texas Brigade, along with the Stonewall Brigade, were considered to be the Confederate Army’s best shock troops. By the end of the war of those who had enlisted only ten per cent remained to surrender at Appomattox. This book is essential reading for anyone interesting in one of the most important Confederate regiments and the impact that they made on the war between the states. J. B. Polley served valiantly through the American Civil War and saw many major engagements. He was eventually forced out of the army after he lost a foot at the Battle of Darbytown Road in October, 1864. After the war he became a lawyer and was commissioned by the Hood’s Texas Brigade Association to write Hood’s Texas Brigade, which was published in 1910. He died in Texas in 1918.

## Book Information

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## **Customer Reviews**

Truly an authentic history as told through military after battle reports as well as individual remembrances. This marriage between the drier officer reports and the colorful remembrances of lower ranks from Lieutenant to Private makes it human. It also contains for me at least information I had not known before. I always wondered why Lee didn't quit the field after the first day at Gettysburg as he was holding the same ground the union held at Fredericksburg where he shot them to rag dolls from the high ground. Book discloses that two of Lee's Generals decided to sleep in each day and failed to take their objectives which would have turned the battle. The history makes you proud of the gumption of the Texans. With all the turmoil today the reader must view the events from history and not a judgmental view.

Of the brigade, from both a detailed perspective on the ground but in the overall context at the highest level. Worth the read.

Multiple accounts from multiple sources for each battle allow for more well rounded views of what may have happened. The Texas Brigade had an incredible run of playing prominent roles in major battles usually out in front charging as shock troops. From their first real charge in the Peninsula Campaign, through their gritty doomed charge at Devil's Den/ Round Top at Gettysburg and later battles their story is quite remarkable and singular. Hood was also apparently very charismatic and well loved ( and star crossed at times) Great read

This text gets tedious at times, but faithfully represents the story of the several Texas Brigades and their Arkansas compatriots. It is a great tribute to the bravery of all of the soldiers that served on

both side of The War.

A very good read for the Civil War historian. There should be more books like this. It is not dry reading and it probably isn't much help when a historian in trying to pinpoint the location of these regiments (and the brigade) in the different battles in which they participated. Rather, it combines a little of strategy with the personal interpretation of what was happening. Thoroughly enjoyed it but, then, I'm a Texan.

Packed with detailed information about General Hoods role in the bloodiest war in our history. I recommend this for readers familiar with the tactical, strategic, geographical and logistics of this topic.

My husband's great-grandfather, who served in Benavides' Regiment in South Texas during the Civil war, had two brothers who served in Hood's Texas Brigade. John Ephraim Stuart was wounded at Antietam and lost a leg at Gettysburg. He is listed in the Polley book as is his brother Robert who was uninjured throughout the war until the battle of the Wilderness very near the end of the war. The book was scanned and printed. It was not carefully edited, however.

Braver men have hardly walked the planet! Virginia gave more men but Texas stood shoulders with them in the cause of states rights! Awesome book!

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