

East Texas Historical Journal

Volume 3 | Issue 1

Article 5

3-1965

East Texas Companies in Hood's Brigade

Col Harold B. Simpson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj>



Part of the [United States History Commons](#)

[Tell us](#) how this article helped you.

Recommended Citation

Simpson, Col Harold B. (1965) "East Texas Companies in Hood's Brigade," *East Texas Historical Journal*: Vol. 3 : Iss. 1 , Article 5.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.sfasu.edu/ethj/vol3/iss1/5>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by SFA ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in East Texas Historical Journal by an authorized editor of SFA ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact cdsscholarworks@sfasu.edu.

EAST TEXAS COMPANIES IN HOOD'S BRIGADE*

COLONEL HAROLD B. SIMPSON (RET.)

For the purposes of this presentation "East Texas" is generally defined as the area east of the Trinity River. Since that river does not always follow county lines, however, those counties such as Walker and Liberty, which are traversed or dissected by the Trinity will be included in the area under discussion.

Even with this narrow interpretation, East Texas counties contributed fourteen companies—almost forty-five percent of the thirty-two companies of Texans that were in this world famous Brigade. Most of these fourteen companies were in the First Texas Infantry Regiment—ten of them to be exact. The usual strength of a Confederate Regiment was ten companies; however, the First Texas with twelve companies was one of the few over-strength regiments in the Army of Northern Virginia. In addition to the ten companies of the First Texas, there were two companies from east of the Trinity in the Fourth Texas Infantry Regiment and two companies in the remaining Texas Regiment of the Brigade, the "Bloody Fifth."

Three counties, Polk, Marion, and Anderson, each contributed two companies to Hood's Texas Brigade, and Harrison, Tyler, Houston, San Augustine, Trinity, Henderson, Liberty and Walker counties each contributed one company to the Brigade.

The initial strength of these fourteen companies from East Texas was 1,306 men. During the war 481 recruits were added to these companies, bringing the total East Texas contribution to Lee's incomparable Army of Northern Virginia to 1,787 men—a notable effort! Of this number 322 (or over seventeen per cent) were killed in battle or died from battle wounds. Over nine per cent (186) died from sickness, thus giving the East Texans a very respectable twenty-seven per cent fatality rate. Battle casualty rate, it is assumed, includes the number of killed, wounded, missing and captured. Of the 1,787 men assigned to the fourteen East Texas companies, 679 (or thirty-six per cent) were wounded and 110 (or almost six per cent) were either listed as missing or captured. Thus by adding the number killed, 322, to these last two figures the figure 1,111 (or fifty-nine per cent) is obtained as a sum of casualties for these companies. These are indeed fearful losses and are worthy of explanation. Perhaps they may be understood in the light of the heavy engagement of the Brigade in the affairs of Lee's famous forces, some account of which is given herein.

Several of the boys from east of the Trinity just seemed naturally to attract Yankee lead and steel. Private Willis Watts, from Anderson

*This article in essence was presented as a paper at the October 10, 1964, meeting of the East Texas Historical Association. The editors wish to go on record, however, that they will adhere in the future to articles with regular footnotes. The author's bibliography, supporting this article, is presented at the end of the paper.

County, was wounded three times at the battle of Chickamauga and was hit again for good luck at The Wilderness eight months later. Another magnet for the Minie ball was Third Sergeant E. C. Powell from Marion County who was wounded first at Malvern Hill, again at Antietam and then three times at Chickamauga. Corporal W. E. Strother of San Augustine County had all ten of his toes shot off at The Wilderness, and Corporal R. H. Blalock, another San Augustine County boy, was the only known member of Hood's Texas Brigade to be killed by a bayonet thrust. Blalock suffered this dubious honor at Spotsylvania Court House during May 1864.

East Texas companies which fought in Virginia traveled to the eastern theater by various routes. All of those companies which later were assigned to the First Texas, except Company M of that regiment, "straggled" to Richmond during May and June 1861. They were the first soldiers from Texas to reach Virginia. Those companies that were formed in the northern counties of East Texas marched to Jefferson in Marion County or to Shreveport, Louisiana, then went down the Red River by boat to New Orleans, and eventually to Richmond via the railroad. East Texas companies raised in counties south of Henderson County, and which were later to become members of the First Texas, marched to Alexandria, Louisiana where they took the boat to New Orleans from whence they "journeyed" to Richmond over the jumping strap iron. Company M, the twelfth and last East Texas company to join the First Texas, was not organized until the spring of 1862 and then joined the First Texas from Trinity County in August 1862, just prior to the Second Battle of Manassas. The other two Texas regiments in the Brigade, the Fourth and Fifth Texas, as stated previously, included two companies each from East Texas. These two regiments marched, boated and railroaded from their rendezvous camp at Harrisburg near Houston, across lower Louisiana to New Orleans during August 1861. Then like the other East Texas companies before them they traveled by rail to Confederate camps near Richmond.

These companies from East Texas destined to be part of Hood's Brigade had in most cases been formed in early 1861 as drill or local defense units in their respective communities. Upon formation they adopted local designations or nicknames designed to popularize Texas heroes, sing the praises of their local communities or strike fear in the hearts of their enemies. Thus we find these companies bearing such names as *The Marion Rifles*, *The Marshall Guards*, *The Reagan Guards*, *The Crockett Southrons*, *The Texas Invincibles* and *The Sumter Light Infantry*. One local company poet was so impressed and inspired with the various nicknames adopted by those companies assigned to Hood's Brigade that he incorporated them into the following song/poem entitled, "The Bayou City Guard's Dixie":

Our country calls for volunteers,
And Texas boys reply with cheers—
The "Henderson Guards" and "Leon Hunters,"
Friends in peace—in war like panthers.

The "Tom Green Rifles" and "Lone Star Guards"
In a cause that is just, nothing retards:

The "Echo Company" and the brave "Five Shooters,"
Will deal out death to all free booters.

The northern vandals will learn to their sorrow,
Of the "Porter Guards" and the "Rifles of Navarro"—
The "Mustang Grays" O, they never fight for bounty,
Nor do the other grays—those from Milam County.

The "Liberty Invincibles" and "Hardeman Texans"
Can whallop ten to one, whether Yanks or Mexicans;
From the "Waverly Confederates" and the "Dixie Blues"
And the "Bayou City Guards" you can expect good news.

Once those companies arrived in Virginia and were formed into regiments their fancy hometown names were exchanged for drab, alphabetical army designations; thus, the gallant "Texas Polk Rifles" became plain Company K, of the Fifth Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiment, and by this homey designation it was known throughout the war. All the other companies made the same unromantic transition.

East Texans in Hood's Brigade provided some interesting studies in human relations, genealogy, and battlefield behavior. *The Marshall Republican* of July 30, 1862, reported that John Lloyd, elected an Ensign or Second Lieutenant of Company E of the First Texas before it left Harrison County, borrowed heavily from company members on the march through Louisiana and also swindled some of his comrades in various ways before deserting at New Orleans. *The Marshall Republican* wrathfully referred to this wayward son as "The Wretch"!

Ike Battise, an Alabama-Coushatta Indian, was a member of Company B, the Polk County Company of the First Texas, and the only known Indian in the Texas Brigade. Ike was a good soldier; like others after him he could stand small arms fire but had a mortal dread of those screaming artillery shells which seemed to squeal out a question as they passed over, "Where you, where you?" Ike often told his comrades, "Yankee shoot little gun, me kill 'em. Yankee shoot big gun, me run." Sure enough he was true to his promise for at Eltham's Landing (May 7, 1862) when the Yankee gunboats started to shell the First Texas and a shell burst over Company B, Ike fled the battlefield and was never seen again. He was officially discharged thirteen days after this incident and dropped from the rolls.

Some of the East Texans carried unusual and interesting names with them into the Brigade. Argyll Campbell, for example, Third Corporal of Company A of the First Texas, sounds as Scottish as "Bobby Burns." The First Sergeant of the Marion County Company of the First Texas was Winkfield Shropshire; a private in this same company was named John Drumgoole. Company F of the First Texas from Tyler County had the three Chance brothers: Doc, Zeke, and Dan. The "Reagan Guards," one of the two Anderson County Companies of the First Texas, featured three privates, Smith Bottoms, Jasper Stalcup, and Elbert E. Pugh. Company H of the same regiment, the other Anderson County contingent, listed on its muster roll Romulus T. Rhome, George Washington Culpepper and two evident Teutons, Johan Steincipher and Ignatz Honingsburger. Company M of the First Texas, raised in Trinity County, boasted such names as

Reason Hutto, Bolewar J. Capps, J. Pink O'Rear, and three privates whose names sound like a Damon Runyon script: "Button" Evans, "Mutt" Morgan, and "Shady" Roach.

An interesting member of the company from Houston County was First Sergeant Russell C. Mitchell. He was the grandfather of Margaret Mitchell, the authoress of the all-time book and box office smash, *Gone With the Wind*. Mitchell was wounded at Antietam, reduced to the ranks for inefficiency during February 1863, and then detailed to a hospital in Atlanta. It was his first hand, vivid accounts of the evacuation of Atlanta and his familiarity with wartime conditions in that beleaguered city that induced his granddaughter to write her famous Civil War novel.

Toward the end of the war when the Brigade was down to less than six hundred effectives many of the East Texas companies were reduced to a handful of gaunt scarecrows. Company B of the First Texas from Polk County reported but one private, G. A. Walker, present for duty on the muster roll dated April 20, 1864. This company had a top strength of over 100 at one time. Company F of the same regiment from Tyler County, boasting of a top strength of 122 in the spring of 1862, was reduced to but seven effectives in November of 1864. This same company had no officer present for duty from February to August of that year. At Appomattox the fourteen companies from East Texas could muster only 194 officers and men, a mere ten per cent of the number enrolled and mustered during the war. Company K of the First Texas from San Augustine County claimed at the end of the war that all of the 139 men who had been mustered into the company had been either killed in battle, had died from sickness, had been wounded, or had been discharged for disability. Polk County advertised that it furnished more troops to the Confederacy than it had voters. The county had 600 registered voters in 1860 and furnished 900 men for the army. About 300 of these were in Hood's Texas Brigade.

Almost all of the East Texas counties appropriated special war funds to clothe and arm their young men before sending them to the front. However, many of the companies, especially those going to Virginia, were up and away so fast that they were caught in the usual lag between the appropriation and the procurement, and were generally either poorly armed or clothed—many times both. I have special reference to the case of companies G and K of the First Texas. Company G from Anderson County must have presented a ludicrous sight as the boys marched away from Palestine decked out in dark blue uniforms adorned with "bright red stripes"—a concoction that could only have resulted from combined efforts of the local Ladies Aid Society and the Busy Bee Sewing Circle. On the other hand, the troops from San Augustine County bound for Virginia, the "Texas Invincibles," were appropriately clothed in "good grey wool with blue collars and cuffs" but carried a conglomeration of firearms that would have to be seen to be believed. Sergeant O. T. Hanks of the "Invincibles" reported that the company was armed with double barreled shotguns of many makes and assorted gauges, squirrel rifles of all calibers—many homemade, Mississippi rifles and old army muskets from previous wars that had rusted above the fireplaces for years. For bayonets the San Augustinians mounted a vicious butcher knife affair that had been

hammered out of files by the local blacksmiths. Fortunately all of the East Texas companies except Company M of the First Texas, passed through New Orleans on the way to Richmond and were properly uniformed and armed from the Confederate arsenals and depots there.

From these statistics, facts and incidents it can be readily seen that the East Texas companies probably played a significant role in the great success achieved by Lee's Grenadier Guard—Hood's Texas Brigade. To appreciate fully, however, the contribution made by the boys east of the Trinity to the Confederate effort in the East it is essential that some of the detail of the part played by Hood's Texas Brigade in the war be known and understood.

* * * * *

Hood's Texas Brigade, as the name implies, was composed primarily of Texans—the First, Fourth and Fifth Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiments, but did include at various times during the war, a regiment of Georgians (the Eighteenth), a regiment of Arkansans (the Third) and a regiment of South Carolinians (Hampton's Legion). Up to and including the Battle of Gettysburg this famed Brigade was supported by a hot-firing North Carolina battery of six guns commanded by a rotund Irishman, named Captain James Reilly.

During my research I have found over thirty songs and poems dedicated to the exploits of this Brigade. I personally know of no other military unit that has been so profusely honored by the poet and the song writer. I think that the one verse in all of these poems and songs that most typifies the role that the Brigade played in the war, is the one that goes like this:

We led the charge on many a field,
Were first in many a fray,
And turned the bloody battle tide,
On many a gloomy day.

Of all the military units that Texas contributed to the Confederate cause, no other held as high a place in the hearts of the Texans as did this Brigade. Four reasons possibly can be given for this. First, the thirty-two Texas companies that were in the Brigade were recruited from twenty-six different counties—thus representing a great many Lone Star communities; hence, interest in this military unit was state-wide. Second, these soldiers were the only Texans who fought in the Army of Northern Virginia under the indomitable Robert E. Lee—a legendary army under a legendary leader. Third, Hood's Texas Brigade compiled a fantastic war record—successes that were accomplished under the most adverse conditions—so, to the Texans back home, every man in this Brigade was a hero. And fourth, the Brigade was made up entirely of volunteers. It included the first men in their respective communities to volunteer for duty in an active theater, and these were the first Texas troops to reach a major theater of operations. Naturally, the consequence was the great esteem with which this fighting unit was regarded in the Lone Star State and in the South.

The Texas Brigade was formally organized on or about November 1, 1861, at Dumfries, Virginia, near the present site of the famous Quantico

Marine Base. Soon after this date, the Eighteenth Georgia Volunteer Infantry Regiment joined the three Texas regiments to complete the Brigade organization. The Eighteenth Georgia fought with the Texas Brigade through the bitter battles of the summer of 1862 but was transferred to a Georgia Brigade (Cobb's) during the reorganization of Lee's army the latter part of that year. The eight infantry companies of Hampton's South Carolina legion were assigned to the Texas Brigade after the Battle of Seven Pines on June 1, 1862. Like the Eighteenth Georgia, Hampton's Legion fought with the Texans through the bloody summer of 1862, and when the army was reorganized, the Legion was placed with a South Carolina Brigade (Jenkins'). Thus Hood's Texas Brigade in the fall of 1862 was left with but three regiments, one short of authorized brigade strength. This situation was soon rectified, however, when the lone "Porker" Regiment now fighting in the Eastern Theater, the Third Arkansas, was assigned to the Texas Brigade. The Third Arkansas plus the three Texas regiments would remain brigaded together until the final curtain at Appomattox.

How good was the Texas Brigade? An evaluation of their service to Lee and the Confederacy and its efficiency as a combat unit has been recorded for posterity by both contemporary observers and writers and present day writers.

In a letter to Senator Wigfall of Texas, following the Battle of Antietam, Lee wrote:

I have not heard from you with regard to the new Texas regiments which you promised to raise for the army. I need them very much. I rely upon those we have in all our tight places and fear I have to call upon them too often. They have fought grandly and nobly and we must have more of them. With a few more regiments such as Hood has now, as an example of daring and bravery, I would feel more confident of the coming campaigns.

On still another occasion the great Southern leader had an opportunity to praise the Texans. While reviewing his army in the presence of Col. Wolseley, an observer from the British Army, who chanced to remark how ragged were seats of the pants of the Texas Brigade, Lee quickly retorted, "Never mind their raggedness, Colonel, the enemy never sees the backs of my Texans." Lee was impressed with the fighting ability of "his Texans," as he often referred to them.

John H. Reagan, a man greatly esteemed throughout the South, who served as Postmaster-General of the Confederacy and after the war as a legislator and senator from Texas and finally as the state's railroad commissioner, was generous with his praise for the Texas Brigade. Said Reagan, "I would rather have been able to say that I had been a worthy member of Hood's Texas Brigade than to have enjoyed all of the honors which have been conferred upon me. I doubt if there has ever been a Brigade or other military organization in the history of the world, that equalled it in the heroic valor and self-sacrificing of its members and in the brilliancy of its services."

John Bell Hood, the eighth and last Confederate general to be promoted to four-star rank, and who commanded the Brigade for some six months,

was profuse in his praise for his old command. In writing his memoirs after the war, Hood remarked, "[I]n almost every battle in Virginia, it [the Brigade] bore a conspicuous part. . . . [I]f a ditch was to be leaped or a fortified position to be carried, General Lee knew no better troops upon which to rely. In truth, its signal achievements in the War of Secession have never been surpassed in the history of nations."

Modern writers such as Bruce Catton, Ben Ames Williams, and Douglas Southall Freeman, after almost a hundred years in retrospect, have echoed these same sentiments. Catton recently referred to the Texas Brigade as "The Grenadier Guard of the Confederacy" and said that the troops of Hood's division were considered to be the "hardest fighters in all of Lee's army." Williams called the Texas Brigade the "greatest single fighting unit in Lee's army," and Freeman, the dean of Confederate historians, remarked that the Brigade contained, "man for man, perhaps the best combat troops in the army."

The combat record of the Brigade was one of the best, if not the best, for any like unit during the war. As one member of the Brigade quipped toward the end of the conflict, "[T]he break-through at Gaines' Mill nearly exhausted [us] to achieve and [the reputation as fighters thus gained] nearly finished [us] to maintain."

The Brigade was present at thirty-eight engagements during the period from Eltham's Landing, April 7, 1862, to Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865, and which ranged in intensity from the two casualties at Rice's Depot (April 6, 1865) to the 638 casualties at Second Manassas (August 29-30, 1862).

Not included in this figure of thirty-eight were the Roasting Ears Fight on August 23, 1862, and the Great Snowball Fight that took place January 9, 1863. In the former scrap the Texans and Yanks bombarded each other with ears of corn in the midst of a hundred-acre cornfield in a fight for food. In the second hassle the Texas Brigade started a snowball fight that eventually involved almost 15,000 "rebel yelling" Confederates and had the Federals across the Rappahannock saddling up awaiting what appeared to be a Confederate attack on their position.

The Brigade participated in six of the greatest battles of the war, and in these six battles sustained estimated total casualties (killed, wounded, captured, and missing) of 3,470. A breakdown of this casualty figure shows the loss at Gaines' Mill to be 623, Second Manassas—638, Antietam—519, Gettysburg—597, Chickamauga—570, and The Wilderness—523. I have termed the period from June 27 to September 17, 1862, as the "Eighty-three Bloody Days." In this short span of time during the summer of 1862 the Brigade fought in three major battles (Gaines' Mill, Second Manassas, and Antietam) and suffered an estimated 1,780 casualties. Strengthwise the Brigade was never to recover fully from this early blood-letting.

At the Battle of Antietam (the costliest one day of fighting for Americans in modern warfare) the First Texas Infantry Regiment suffered the greatest casualty rate of any regiment, North or South, for a single day's action during the war. Over eighty-two per cent of its men on September 17, 1862, were either killed, wounded, captured or missing—most

of the casualties being sustained within a one-hour period. At this same engagement, the Texas Brigade, as a whole, suffered over sixty-four per cent casualties, which was the third highest casualty rate for any brigade, North or South, for a single day's action during the war.

Besides the hell of shot and shell that rained on the Brigade, its members were exposed to the rigors of long marches and inclement and intense weather during their numerous campaigns. The East Tennessee Campaign conducted during the winter of 1863-64 was a particularly trying one. The temperature was often freezing with snow on the ground, and while one-fourth of the men were actually without shoes, all had to be content with tattered uniforms, threadbare blankets and rancid rations, if any at all. Wherever they marched the jagged ice and frozen roads cut their feet and gave the snow a crimson hue. During the march from Texas to New Orleans in the summer of 1861, the companies of the Fourth and Fifth Texas had to wade through the swamps and mud of lower Louisiana during the rainy season and combat alligators, snakes and swarms of mosquitoes in the process.

While the members of Hood's Brigade amassed an enviable record on the battlefield they also gained the reputation of being the best foragers in the Army of Northern Virginia. Foraging, which abounds in wartime, is a time-honored practice for armies in the field. Foraging is the polite military term which embraces such disreputable civilian practices as: rustling, shoplifting, smuggling and stealing, filching and fleecing, and pillaging, plundering, poaching and "pinching"—as our English cousins call it. Foraging is often spoken of as "moonlight requisitioning" but it was carried out during daylight hours as well.

The deftness of Hood's Texans in raiding barnyards and chicken coops, in particular, was recognized by the Confederate High Command. It was either General Longstreet or General Dick Anderson who, when asked by a *London Times* reporter what kind of fighters the Texans in Hood's Brigade were, replied, "The Texas boys are great fighters—none better. But they are purely hell on chickens and shoats." Robert E. Lee, one evening after Fredericksburg, remarked in Hood's presence that he was alarmed at the depredations committed on the local farmers by the Army of Northern Virginia. Hood, no doubt with tongue in cheek, immediately protested the innocence of his men to such delinquencies. Lee, with a twinkle in his eye, turned toward Hood and remarked, "Ah, General Hood, when you Texans come about the chickens have to roost mighty high."

Many stories abound of the ingenious attempts made by the Texans to replace their ragged raiment and their crushed chapeaus, and to augment their poor rations at the expense of local civilians North and South. In most instances the boys from the Lone Star State were eminently successful in their endeavors and thus deserved the reputation that they enjoyed in this area of military pursuit. If something moved, had recently moved, or looked like it was going to move, it was fair game for the Texans.

Surely the anonymous lyricist who composed the following parody of "Maryland, My Maryland" had Hood's Texans in mind when he wrote:

Hark! I hear a rooster squall;
The vandal takes it hen and all,
And makes the boys and women bawl,
Here's your mule, O here's your mule.

Besides being great combat troops and successful foragers, Hood's Texans had a fine sense of humor, a trait which helped to make bearable the hard life of soldiering. The following incident I think well illustrates this trait: On June 27, 1863, on their way to the Battle of Gettysburg the Texans passed through Chambersburg, Pennsylvania. The fair sex of the town lined the streets, hanging over the front-yard fences, talking back and forth hurling taunts and jibes at the ragged Rebel Army as it tramped through. Many of the women had miniature United States flags pinned to their dresses and others were waving small flags. One particularly well-proportioned female standing in the front door of her home had draped a large American flag across her bulging bosom. Thus she stood at attention with contempt written on her face as Lee's Army passed by. As the Texans marched by, one of them, noting the magnificent matron, said in a solemn voice, raised above the noise of shuffling feet, "Take care, madam, for Hood's boys are great at storming breastworks—particularly when the Yankee colors is on them." Needless to say, perhaps, the luxum beauty made a bashful retreat.

It has been estimated that some 4,500 men fought under the shredded battle flags of the three Texas regiments of the Brigade. At Appomattox, after almost four years of arduous service, only 476 or a little over ten per cent of the soldiers were left to surrender. Bullets and disease had killed hundreds, and hundreds more had been invalidated home from crippling wounds or prolonged sieges of sickness.

After Appomattox, the veterans of Hood's Brigade straggled back to Texas—some individually, others in small groups and still others in large parties. They walked, they went by boat and they rode the rails back to the Lone Star State, each eager to see his family and again take up his interrupted civilian pursuit. However, the comradeship that had been forged on the anvil of battle and bivouac was not long in reasserting itself.

In 1872, some sixty-six members of the famed Brigade met at the old Hutchins' House in Houston to organize Hood's Texas Brigade Association. This association was one of the strongest and most active veteran's groups to be formed after the Civil War. It met in regular annual reunions for sixty-two years (through 1933) with the exception of the years 1899 and 1918—the two war years. June 27 was the date selected for the annual reunions of the Association as this was the anniversary of the Brigade's great breakthrough at Gaines' Mill—its first big victory in the war! Lt.-Col. C. M. Winkler served as the first president of the Association but General J. B. Robertson filled that office the greatest number of times—eleven.

Communities in Central and East Texas vied with each other to host these annual meetings of the old soldiers. Twenty-nine different Texas towns and cities during the association's sixty-two years of existence shared in this hosting honor. In East Texas reunions were held in Huntsville, Palestine, Jacksonville and Dallas twice, and in Crockett, Livingston, Rusk, Jefferson and Alto once. Commencing in 1919 and every year thereafter until the last reunion in 1933, Hood's veterans met in Bryan, Texas, which has termed itself, and rightfully so, the "Last Home of Hood's Texas Brigade."

It was customary for governors, senators, and generals to attend the

annual reunions of the Brigade Association and pay homage to those veterans in gray, who, for four long years, had excited the imagination of the entire world with their dash, devotion and determination.

John H. Roberts of Company E of the Fifth Texas was the last known survivor of Hood's Texas Brigade.* Roberts, a nonagenarian, passed away at his home in Arcadia, Texas, on March 10, 1934.

With the death of John Roberts the last tattoo for Hood's Texas Brigade was sounded; an era in Confederate and Texas history ended, and another Brigade of the Army of Northern Virginia was dropped from the muster rolls of veterans.

The muffled drums sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.

On fame's eternal camping ground
Their silent tents are spread
And glory guards with solemn sound
The bivouac of the dead.

Whether acting in the capacity of scouts, skirmishers, sharpshooters or line-of-battle fighters, the soldiers of Hood's Texas Brigade had few, if any, equals in the annals of American fighting men from the Battle of Bunker Hill to the Battle of the Bulge. This unit was a credit to its American heritage, a credit to the famous army in which it fought and a credit to the state which it represented. East Texans may well be proud of the gallant part taken by their representatives in this famous organization.

*The editors believe it necessary to remind readers that Walter W. Williams, who died December 19, 1959, claimed to have served with Hood's Brigade.

East Texas Companies in Hood's Texas Brigade

(Area East of Trinity River and Counties Bisected by Trinity River)

<i>Regt.</i>	<i>Local Designation</i>	<i>Co.</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Point of Rendezvous</i>	<i>Original Captain</i>
First Tex	Marion Rifles or Texas Volunteers	A	Marion	Jefferson	H. H. Black
	Livingston Guards	B	Polk	Livingston	D. D. Moore
	Star Rifles	D	Marion	Jefferson	A. J. Clopton
	Marshall Guards	E	Harrison	Marshall	F. S. Bass
	Woodville Rifles	F	Tyler	Woodville	P. A. Work
	Anderson County Guards or Reagan Guards	G	Anderson	Palestine	J. R. Woodward
	Texas Guards	H	Anderson	Palestine	A. T. Rainey
	Crockett Southrons	I	Houston	Crockett	D. E. Currie
	Texas Invincibles	K	San Augustine (also Sabine, Nacogdoches, Newton, & Harrison)	San Augustine	B. F. Benton
Fourth Tex	Sumter Light Infantry or Silver Grays	M	Trinity	Sumter	H. Hallenger
	Porter Guards	H	Walker (also Grimes & Montgomery)	Huntsville	P. P. Porter
	Sandy Point Mounted Rifles	K	Henderson	Athens	W. H. Martin
Fifth Tex	(No local designation)	H	Liberty (also Polk)	Liberty	J. C. Cleveland
	Polk County Flying Artillery & Texas Polk Rifles	K	Polk	Livingston	Ike N. M. Turner

Note: Average fatality rate and average battle casualty rate for the 10 Co's of the First Texas was projected against the total strength of the Fourth and Fifth Texas Companies to arrive at their respective rates.

Regt./Co.	Initial	Total	Desertions	Losses & Casualties			
	Strength	Strength		Killed	Died	Wounded	Missing
First Tex							
Co A	100	134	4	29	6	43	6
				(26.1)		(58.0)	
Co B	80	104	0	25	2	38	4
				(26.0)		(64.0)	
Co D	116	137	14	24	8	47	7
				(24.1)		(57.0)	
Co E	78	124	11	15	8	40	9
				(19.0)		(53.0)	
Co F	59	122	3	24	19	45	7
				(36.1)		(62.0)	
Co G	91	162	28	24	20	64	11
				(27.2)		(61.0)	
Co H	93	168	20	31	7	58	14
				(22.7)		(61.25)	
Co I	103	160	11	27	19	52	7
				(28.8)		(53.8)	
Co K	112	139	16	17	8	58	14
				(18.0)		(61.25)	
Co M	115	135	15	20	40	48	9
				(39.3)		(51.3)	
				(27.2) ¹		(60.2) ¹	
Fourth Tex							
Co H	103	141	9	24	14	52	8
Co K	72	103	16	18	10	38	6
Fifth Tex							
Co H	83	123	25	21	12	46	7
Co K	101	135	22	23	13	50	7
Total	1306	1887	194	322	186	679	116
			(10%)	(26.9) ²		(58.9) ³	

¹Average for all Co's First Texas

²Average fatality rate, battle plus sickness

³Average casualty rate, battle only

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Boatner, Mark M. III, *The Civil War Dictionary*. New York, 1959.
- Catton, Bruce, *Mr. Lincoln's Army*. Garden City, New York, 1959.
- Chesnut, Mary Boykin, *A Diary from Dixie*. Edited by Ben Ames Williams. Boston, 1950.
- Chilton, Frank B., ed., *Official Minutes of Hood's Texas Brigade Monument Dedication*. Houston, Texas, 1911.
- Crockett, George L., *Two Centuries in East Texas*. Dallas, 1932.
- Davis, Nicholas A., *Campaign from Texas to Maryland*. Richmond, 1863.
- Evans, Clement A., ed., *Confederate Military History*. Twelve volumes, Atlanta, 1899.
- Field and Staff Muster Rolls, the Texas Brigade, Washington: Confederate Collection, National Archives.
- Fox, William F., *Regimental Losses in the Civil War*. Albany, New York, 1889.
- Freeman, Douglas Southall, *Lee's Lieutenants*. Three volumes, New York, 1944.
- Fremantle, Arthur James Lynn, *The Fremantle Diary*. Reprint: Boston, 1954.
- Hanks, O. T., "History of Captain B. F. Benton's Company, 1861-1865." Manuscript. A copy of this manuscript is in the possession of William Utsman, Philadelphia, Pa.
- Haynes, Emma, *The History of Polk County*. N.P., 1937.
- Hohes, Pauline Buck, *Centennial History of Anderson County*. San Antonio, 1936.
- Hood, John B., *Advance and Retreat*. New Orleans, 1880.
- Johnson, Robert Underwood and Clarence Clough Buel, eds., *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*. Four volumes, New York, 1884-88.
- Longstreet, James, *From Manassas to Appomattox*. Reprint edition, Bloomington, Indiana, 1960.
- Miller, Francis Trevelyan and Robert S. Lanier, eds., *The Photographic History of the Civil War*. Ten volumes, New York, 1911.
- Polley, Joseph B., *Hood's Texas Brigade*. New York, 1910.
- Reagan, John H., *Memoirs*. New York, 1906.
- Simpson, Harold B., *Gaines' Mill to Appomattox*. Waco, 1963.
- War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*. 128 volumes, Washington, D. C., 1880-1901.
- Warner, Ezra J., *Generals in Gray*. Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1959.
- Winkler, A. V., *Confederate Capital and Hood's Texas Brigade*. Austin.