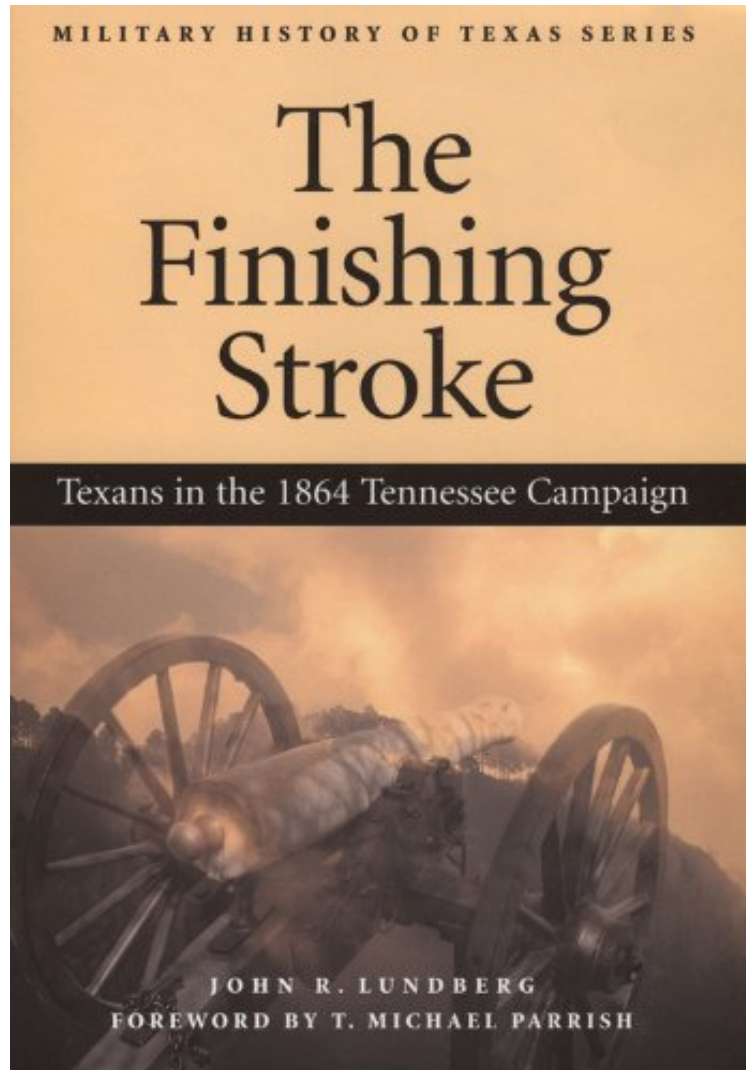


(Pdf free) The Finishing Stroke: Texans in the 1864 Tennessee Campaign (Military History of Texas Series)

The Finishing Stroke: Texans in the 1864 Tennessee Campaign (Military History of Texas Series)

John R. Lundberg

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John R. Lundberg : The Finishing Stroke: Texans in the 1864 Tennessee Campaign (Military History of Texas Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Finishing Stroke: Texans in the 1864 Tennessee Campaign (Military History of Texas Series):

8 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Light and Pleasing Despite Texas BiasBy DDSCThe introduction to this first in a series on Texas' military history, hints at the series' bias stating "Of all the fifty states, Texas has by far the most colorful and dynamic history." The forward laments that Hood's Texas Brigade had overshadowed the Texans who had fought in the Army of Tenn. but adds that "This book restores those Texans to their rightful place alongside

Hood's brigade as the finest group of soldiers who wore Confederate gray." Luckily for the North and the Union, there weren't more Texans or else the contest would have ended differently. Interestingly at no place in the book was Gen. John Bell Hood described as a Texan, though he had adopted the state as his own. The fact that Hood was the villain and scapegoat of the campaign probably was a factor in this oversight. Hood was so unpopular that the men changed the words of the song "The Yellow Rose of Texas" to end with, "But the Gallant Hood of Texas played Hell in Tennessee." Overall the book is written with style and flows well. It is not intended to be a detailed study, but instead a narrative of the Texas troops in Hood's Tennessee Campaign of 1864. The primary focus is on Granbury's Texas Brigade. The bulk of this unit had not seen much action until the battle of Chickamauga, but they were excellent infantrymen. Were they the best? The argument could be made, but what would be the point? There were other outstanding brigades. Granbury's men were dependable and never lacked for courage. Interestingly one of the most admired figures in this book is the Arkansan, Gen. Patrick Cleburne. Truly one of the great men of the Civil War his reputation continues to grow and grow. The fact that Granbury's men were led by this Arkansan did much to enhance their reputation. Several historians have lamented that it was the Texan, Hood, rather than the Arkansan, Cleburne who led the Army of Tennessee. The author rightfully treats Cleburne as a hero. This work relies primarily on previously published works so no new material is provided, but the author makes good use of his sources. The author noted that a more thorough history of Granbury's Brigade by Dr. Danny Sessums will be published in the future. As an overview this is a decent effort, but the brave Texans who fought in the Army of Tennessee did not need any bias to prove their worth. Just the facts would have sufficed and honored them more. 6 of 11 people found the following review helpful. An excellent book.... By Chris Todd Davidson I really enjoyed this book. What the writer conveys in the little known contribution of the Texans to the fighting history of the Army of Tennessee. It highlights the courage and determination of these soldiers. They fought under, I believe, under the best Division on the Confederate side, Gen. Patrick Cleburne. The book also documents the needless sacrifice of the Battle of Franklin. I would encourage anyone to read this book...

The annals of Texan bravery hold few better examples of bold determination and sheer audacity under impossible circumstances than the Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, on November 30, 1864. On this one afternoon, a few thousand sons of the Lone Star State stood shoulder to shoulder and stepped off neatly in line of battle, their bands playing while Hardee Pattern blue battle flags filled out in a crisp autumn breeze. Within a few minutes, hundreds would be dead and dying, as would their beloved leaders, Hiram Granbury and Pat Cleburne. Virginians have Pickett's Charge as an example of unflinching nerve; for Texans, the field at Franklin became an immortal monument to courage in the face of long odds. The opening volley of the eagerly anticipated Military History of Texas Series is *The Finishing Stroke*. The book chronicles the actions of Texas troops in the Army of Tennessee from September 1, 1864, the Fall of Atlanta; until January 1, 1865, when the last of the Army of Tennessee recrossed the Tennessee River following the defeat at Nashville. It follows them through the lull following the end of the Atlanta Campaign, the advance into Tennessee, and the battles of Allatoona Pass, Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville, as well as the retreat from Nashville. *The Finishing Stroke* covers an area largely ignored in works on the American Civil War. In the literature of Texas history, Texans serving in the Army of Tennessee have lived in the shadows of Hood's Brigade in Robert E. Lee's army. Among histories of the Western Theater, the 1864 Tennessee Campaign is often given short shrift because of the generally held premise that following the loss of Atlanta in September the Confederacy was doomed. This study moves the battles and sacrifices of this band of Texas heroes from the periphery of the Civil War to center stage. *The Finishing Stroke* shows Texas warriors at their best, from Sul Ross's Texas Brigade at the head of Forrest's cavalry to Matt Ector's Texans cracking open the Federal position at Allatoona Pass. In all of these fights, men from west of the Sabine and south of the Red served in the post of honor. Now these Texans and their accomplishments, too long ignored in the realm of Civil War history, have been given their due.

". . . the information in this volume is valuable and more accessible than it has been previously. . . . a worthy effort." -- Clay Reynolds, of Texas Books About the Author JOHN LUNDBERG is a student at the University of Texas at Austin, where he also works as an archives aide at the Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library. A long-time member of the Austin Civil War Round Table, Lundberg has also developed living history demonstrations, representing the life of a Confederate soldier, for middle and elementary schools throughout the Austin area.