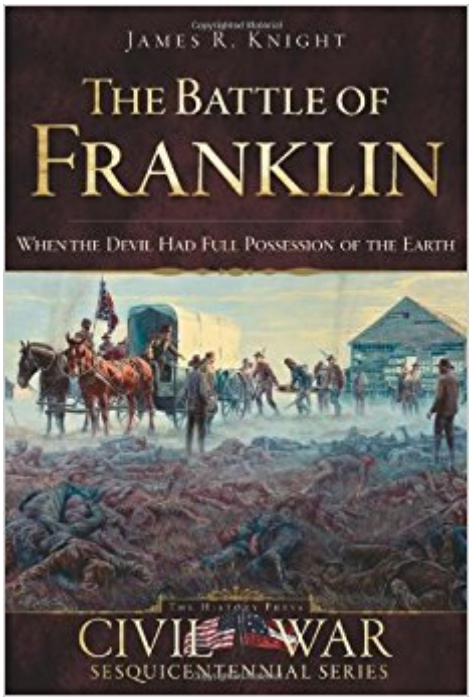
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The Battle Of Franklin: When The Devil Had Full Possession Of The Earth



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Synopsis

In late November 1864, the last Southern army east of the Mississippi that was still free to maneuver started out from northern Alabama on the Confederacy's last offensive. John Bell Hood and his Army of Tennessee had dreams of capturing Nashville and marching on to the Ohio River, but a small Union force under Hood's old West Point roommate stood between him and the state capital. In a desperate attempt to smash John Schofield's line at Franklin, Hood threw most of his men against the Union works, centered on the house of a family named Carter, and lost 30 percent of his attacking force in one afternoon, crippling his army and setting it up for a knockout blow at Nashville two weeks later. With firsthand accounts, letters and diary entries from the Carter House Archives, local historian James R. Knight paints a vivid picture of this gruesome conflict.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James R. Knight is a graduate of Harding University, 1967. He spent five years as a pilot in the United States Air Force and thirty-one years as a pilot for Federal Express, the last twenty years as a DC-10 captain. In the early '90s, he began researching a historical incident in his hometown and wrote an article that was published in the Arkansas Historical Quarterly. In 2003, Eakin Press published his biography of Bonnie and Clyde titled Bonnie and Clyde: A 21st Century Update. In 2007, he published the story and correspondence of a Confederate cavalryman titled Letters to Anna. He retired from Federal Express in 2004 and lives in Franklin, Tennessee, where he works part time as a guide at the Carter House, a local Civil War historic site. He and his wife Judy have

three children and six grandchildren.

The Battle of Franklin, Tennessee, has been called "the worst Civil War battle you've never heard of," but hopefully more people have become aware of it in recent years. If they haven't, they should. I find it one of the most fascinating and tragic battles of the entire war. It involved a frontal assault, larger than the famous one by Pickett at Gettysburg, on a strongly established Union position and resulted in brutal hand-to-hand fighting and huge numbers of casualties which decimated the Army of Tennessee. The Confederate losses included six generals. This book is an excellent depiction of the battle. It is brief--110 pages of text and 48 more pages of epilogue and appendices--but the author makes the most of every word. He makes the strategy and action very clear and he makes the reader understand and feel the horror and devastation of the battle. The book includes many photographs of the people and places involved and several maps. For those unfamiliar with the Battle of Franklin, this is the perfect book to begin your studies. For those who have read many works on the subject, this one should not be missed. I can't recommend it highly enough.

Excellent treatment of this little known battle. While Sherman was beginning his "March to the Sea", Hood was in a race to Nashville where Thomas was vulnerable due to lack of troop concentration. Schofield was rushing to reenforce Nashville with Hood on his heels. The preliminary battle of Spring hill was fought setting the stage for the following day's savage battle in the little town of Franklin, Tennessee. This battle basically destroyed the CSA Army of Tennessee as a viable military entity.Knight, who lives in Franklin, does a masterful job of combining tactical information, geographical issues, and most importantly the profound effect of commander personalities on the outcome. He also presents the human side of this battle making this a readable, interesting, and worthwhile experience for anyone interested in the Civil War or warfare and the human spirit in general.The battle of Franklin also is marked by severe losses in the confederate general officer corps including Major General Patrick Ronayne Cleburne, probably the best division commander in any army of the CSA. Cleburne was cut down leading his division in a charge against the center of the Union defenses. Cleburne always led his men from the front.Also helpful is the inclusion of readable maps, relevant photographs, and the Union and CSA Orders of Battle.

This book is an excellent and accurate account of the Battle at Franklin. The author does an outstanding job describing the conflict and survival of the soldiers and civilians. High recommend this book to others and civil war buffs.

This book gave a less critical view on Hood than most other accounts I have read. This is not to say it does not criticize him, but every other book I have read on the subject is very, very critical of Hood. Only person who I have ever heard not criticize Hood at all was the tour guideI had on a visit to Franklin a few years back, who intimated that Hood followed the only course open to him at the time.

Thank you very much.

Great book!

Well written. I had no idea the Battle of Franklin was of the magnitude written in this book. Mr. Knight is obviously well versed in the Battle details and provides interesting insight from the inner politics between the general's to the difficult trials the foot soldier deals with up to and during the Battle.

Great book for a much overlooked battle.

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