TEXAS MILITARY

In 12 the Confederate Congress in Richmond, Virginia, passed a conscription law that ordered all men from 18 to 45 years of age to be placed into military service except ministers, state, city, county officers, and certain slave owners; all persons holding 20 slaves or more were exempt from confederate conscription under the "Twenty Nigger Law". The law would prove extremely unpopular with poorer white Confederate men, many of whom did not own any slaves at all, and would contribute to the often-repeated adage of the Confederate war effort being "a rich man's war, but a poor man's fight." [

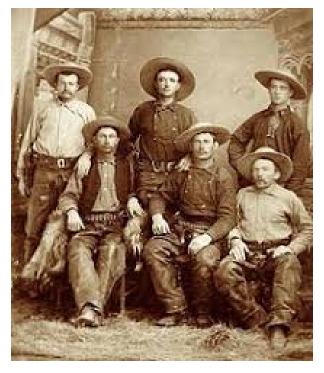
When the first companies of Texas soldiers reached Richmond, Virginia, Confederate President Jefferson Davis greeted them with the words: "Texans! The troops of other states have their reputations to gain, but the sons of the defenders of the Alamo have theirs to maintain. I am assured that you will be faithful to the trust."



"The Texas Brigade" (also known as "Hood's Brigade") was a unit composed of the 1st, 4th and 5th Texas infantry regiments augmented at times by the 18th Georgia Infantry and Hampton's (South Carolina) Legion until they were permanently teamed with the 3rd Arkansas Infantry. Often serving as "shock troops" of General Lee and on more than one occasion Lee praised their fighting qualities, remarking that none had brought greater honor to their native state than "my Texans."



"Walker's Greyhound Division" was a division composed of four brigades with Texan units; the only division in the Confederate States Army that maintained its single-state composition throughout the War. Formed in 1862 under command of Major General John George Walker it fought in the Western Theater and the Trans-Mississippi Department, and was considered an elite backbone of the army.



Among the most famous mounted units were Terry's Texas Rangers, a militia of former rangers and frontiersmen, many of whom later became peacekeepers in the Old West; and the 33rd Texas Cavalry Regiment of Colonel Santos Benavides, which guarded the Confederate cotton trade lines from Texas into northern Mexico.

One Confederate soldier from Texas gave his reasons for fighting for the Confederacy, stating that "we are fighting for our property", whereas Union soldiers were fighting for the "flimsy and abstract idea that a negro is equal to an Anglo".

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Dear wife

Again I am favored with an opportunity of communicating you a few more thoughts in regard to how I am getting in the army. I am still in good health and enjoying myself as well as one could under the circumstances. Never is there a day passes over my head but I think my boy and thee and the pleasant scenes and endearment of home and things around about. I have nothing of interest to communicate only the same old camp news. The boys are all in very good health and in great spirits on account of their being remounted and I hope Capt Cook will succeed in getting our horses here soon with them and I will give you a list of the things wish you would send to me if they are convenient for you to obtain. In the first Place I want a horse Old henry if you have not sold him if you have, Tell Father to send or bring me a good poney a good saddle saddle bags and bridle one pr spurs. Send me two over shirts one pr good home made boots and some socks I have three of the shirts I started from home with two pr pants two pr drawers which are good yet except the pants which are getting thread bear in some places about the knees and seet; But I am in hopes they will last me until I can get a chance to come home Though that may be a long time as Old Abe has ordered out six hundred thousand new troops. He gives half the privilege to volunteer and is drafting the balance. But I think Jeff is getting the heels on the old scamp as we are driving the back into their

Their own territory Gen. Bragg is making them retreat at Chatanooga and we are getting powerfully Scared in Kentucky Tennessee and Masoura And Vallanding ham is making stump speaches in the north against the men volunteering and trying to get the East to seceed from the west and do hope he will succeed in getting them to secede.

Mollie I have not received but two letters from you since I left the city of Memphis I suppose the reason of this was that you supposed that we could not get them by mail. Now let me entreat you to write once every week and start them whether we get them or not they will come through after while and they will give me great satisfaction I have been very uneasy about home ever since the 17th being the time that Add received a from Wm [Truit?] dated Aug 3 which informed us Mrs Peacock's death and others and He also said There was a goodeal of sickness in our neighborhood. But I hope you all have not been visited by the cruel monster. Though we must all die and should be prepared for the unexpected visiter. That we might never dread his grim appearance. And never let our selves be grieved to too great an extent at the loss of a friend or relative Mollie I must bring my letter to a close as I have no more paper Tell Ma to write to me that I have not and never will forget her. You must tell all our relatives to write and write often Tell Ike to send me word how hiw hogs and chickens are thriving Tell my boy to write me a letter as soon as you receive this You must write often or you will please write often and you will be so doing afford me a greatdeal of Pleasure. I remain your affectionate husband until death (I send this by Can Thigpen)

[envelope included addressed to:]

Mrs. M. E. Willeford Dangerfield Texas

[also written on the envelope] Per Urbanitz of Mr. [Thigpen?]

[return address] From B. F. Willeford Private of Co I Whitfield's Texas Legion

Joseph John John Shillesond

The Aurbands & Dangerfield

Mr. Gligfun

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Mr. Gligfun

Mr. Gligf

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REVIEW OF CIVIL WAR LETTER

Who wrote this letter and what was the occupation?
What side of the Civil War did the writer support? Provide evidence.
What was the purpose of the letter?
What important details are provided in this letter?
What is the mental state of the writer? (ex: anger, despair, empathy, joy, sympathy)