



***Let Us Die Like Men.*** William Lee White. Savas Beatie. 2019. 177 pages, 12 maps, 198 images. A Tennessee Valley Civil War Round Table Review by John Scales

This book is one of the paperback series put out by Savas Beatie as guides to specific campaigns, in this case starting with the evacuation of Atlanta and ending with the battle of Franklin. It does an excellent job of setting up the campaign, starting with the reorganization of the Confederate forces and the decisions made by Sherman. Discussed in some detail are the movements by Hood to cross the Chattahoochee and attempt to cut Sherman's supply lines, in particular Altoona Pass and Dalton. Afterwards, Hood moved into Alabama, first to Guntersville and then Decatur, where a futile attack persuaded Hood to move west all the way to Florence, where he could reconnect with supply lines.

From there, of course, Hood's path led north. His movements are not documented in detail and the cavalry fights and maneuvers almost neglected (a significant fault overall in the book), but some mention is made of Columbia and the failures at Spring Hill. The bulk of the book is devoted to the battle of Franklin itself, and it provides an excellent overview of the fight with several maps and descriptions of the terrain, plus some description of specific incidents taken from participant's accounts.

The narrative ends on the battlefield of Franklin itself at the conclusion of the battle (I presume another volume is in preparation for the rest of the Nashville Campaign) and is followed by directions for a guided tour of the battlefield itself and some ancillary matter.

Overall, I think the volume is well-written and interesting, although of course not in any great depth given its length. It would be most useful for those who would like a background introduction to the campaign and the battle and those who want to visit the key points on the battlefield itself. Many of the illustrations are portraits of the various participants whose quotes the author includes. There are also photographs of various landmarks. Recommended for almost everyone except those who really want to dive into the nitty-gritty.