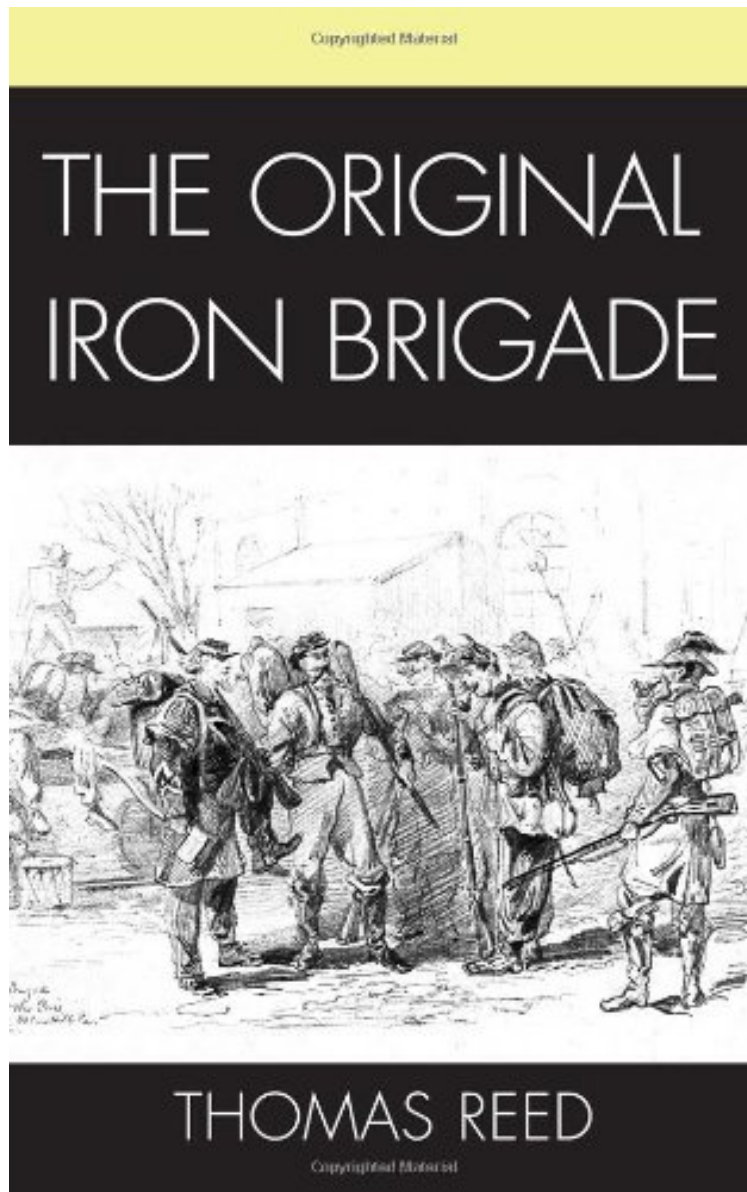


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The Original Iron Brigade

Thomas J. Reed

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Thomas J. Reed : The Original Iron Brigade before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Original Iron Brigade:

Alan Nolan's 1961 Iron Brigade, the classic study of Brigadier General John Gibbon's Black Hat Brigade composed of

the 19th Indiana, the 2nd, 6th, and 7th Wisconsin and the 24th Michigan, drew public attention to the superior unit during the Civil War Centennial. Since then, much has been written about Gibbon's Iron Brigade but nothing has been published on the original Iron Brigade from which Gibbon's brigade inherited its name. In *The Original Iron Brigade*, author Thomas Reed discusses the history of the 1st Brigade, 1st Division, 1st Corps, Army of the Potomac, composed of three New York two-year regiments, the 22nd, 34th, and 30th New York Infantry, the 14th Brooklyn Militia (84th New York Infantry) and the 2nd United States Sharpshooters. The brigade's story begins with the 14th Brooklyn's role during the First Battle of Manassas in 1861 and ends with the disbanding of the brigade in June 1863. Based on original unpublished diaries and letters of the men of the brigade, this book describes how the Original Iron Brigade earned its name by its hard marching during the spring of 1862. The brigade attacked Stonewall Jackson's troops along the unfinished railroad line during the Second Battle of Manassas, stormed Turner's Gap during the Battle of South Mountain, and attacked Stonewall Jackson's men again at the Dunker Church in the Battle of Antietam.

Throughout, Reed provides pertinent statistics concerning things like the brigade's 10% desertion rate and colors the narrative with thought-provoking opinions. This is more of a social than military history, but there is much here of value for those interested in the off-the-battlefield activities of the men in the five regiments. (Civil War History) About the Author Thomas J. Reed is professor emeritus of law at Widener University's Delaware campus.