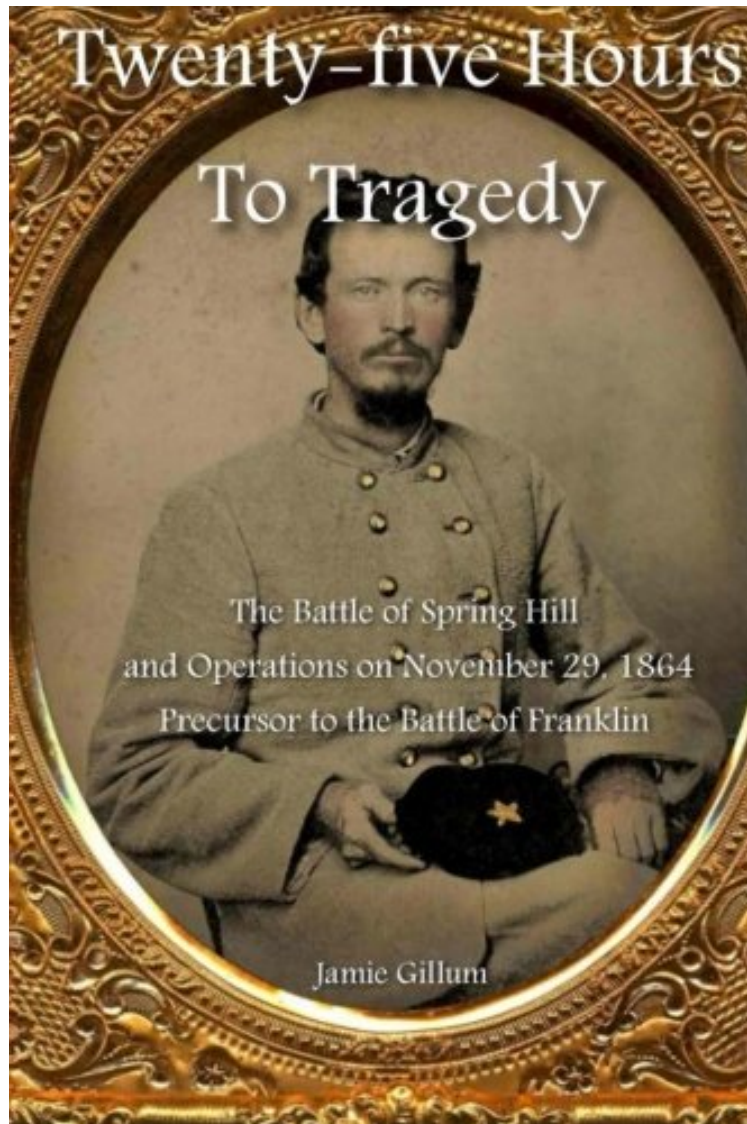


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## Twenty-five Hours to Tragedy: The Battle of Spring Hill and Operations on November 29, 1864: Precursor to the Battle of Franklin

Jamie Gillum

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**Jamie Gillum : Twenty-five Hours to Tragedy: The Battle of Spring Hill and Operations on November 29, 1864: Precursor to the Battle of Franklin** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my

time, and all praised *Twenty-five Hours to Tragedy: The Battle of Spring Hill and Operations on November 29, 1864: Precursor to the Battle of Franklin*:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. It shows the how the fog of war can influence great events. By J Graf The book highlights the action, or rather non action, at Spring Hill. It shows the how the fog of war can influence great events. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A fine, fine book about a series of events, that if unfolded just slightly differently, possibly could've changed how the war en By Kevin What an outstanding book! Very well researched, compiled, written, and edited. My hat is off to Mr. Gillum. Once I began to read the book, I didn't want to put it down. But, I had to. I was being wheeled into surgery to have my left hip replaced and the doctor was on his schedule, not mine. Oh well. I resumed reading as soon as I became coherent enough to find my glasses. Still, I had way too many interruptions to allow me the time needed to finish one section before another bny interruption arrived, in the form of another hospital person asking me the same set of questions the previous person had asked my just 20-30 minutes earlier. What's wrong with these people!? Why don't they compare notes if they insist on asking the same questions. What could've possibly changed between now and 2 minutes ago that would necessitate me changing my initial answer and causing me to lose my place and need to re-read the previous two paragraphs? I believe it's a conspiracy to keep me from reading. Anyway, I found the book to be an excellent read and well worth anyone's time should they be even the least bit interested in our Civil War history; and, especially toward the events that led to the Battle of Franklin and Nashville, in late 1864. If I were to identify a ne thing of fault about the book, it would be that the book needs to be offered in e-book format, specifically in Kindle format as that format is the format that reaches the most readers our e-books. I've one more item, though; since I've lived in Middle Tennessee for the past 18 years myself (not being a native), and I, too, share a deep love for Civil War history, it would've been a huge help to me and others not familiar with the way this area looked during the Civil War, if some sort of over-lay of the present roads and highways could've been added to the book. In the past, nearly -5- years since the battles occurred, some of the roads and highways have been altered. The overlay would give the reader(s) an idea of actual locations of the various units as it relates to present-day roads and structures. Recently, many roads have been added to the Spring Hill area and some roads have had their names changed. I don't mean this as a negative about this book. I simply feel, from talking to people who've been in the area all of their lives, that due to modern construction and "the shifting sands of time," that an overlay of the present roads would better serve the reader. Perhaps Google Earth could be used somehow. (Hence the 4-Star rating.) 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. 4 1/2 stars By Kenneth The author gives a very good account of the battle (or non-battle) of Spring Hill, TN in the American Civil War. The rebels had made a masterful flanking march and were just about to cut off the federal army, but the "fog of war" intervened and left the rebels 100-250 yards away from Franklin Pike unmoving as night fell. The federal army marched by all night long. This book tells of the command maneuvers mistakes and the fortunes of the troops involved on both sides. Gillum uses a great many first hand accounts to illustrate small things. The only thing I did not like about the book is that the maps are all at the center of the book and not with the text that references the action the map illustrates.

*Twenty-five Hours to Tragedy: The Battle of Spring Hill and Operations on November 29, 1864 - Precursor to the Battle of Franklin* is a compilation of eyewitness testimony linked by narrative telling the story of the great missed opportunity by the Confederate Army of Tennessee on November 29, 1864. Led by General John Bell Hood, a Confederate envelopment around Columbia, Tennessee left Union Major General John McAllister Schofield's Fourth and Twenty-third Army corps strung out and beyond supporting distance of their wagon train. One lone division that had been sent to Spring Hill to protect the Union Army's wagon train found itself confronting nearly 25,000 Confederate soldiers by mid-afternoon. While Union Major General David S. Stanley did all in his power to stop the Confederate attack, it seemed nothing could save them. Suddenly the fog of war set in, and as the sun sank on the western horizon, the Confederate high command found itself paralyzed with inaction, indecision, poor judgment and finally darkness. This maneuver forced General Schofield to conduct a harrowing forced march to Spring Hill past nearly 22,000 highly motivated Rebel soldiers within a few hundred yards of Columbia-Franklin Pike as darkness cloaked the field. While the Federals marched into a set Confederate trap that was never fully sprung, Confederate commanders stumbled through the starlight, and the Union army slipped past the lion's den. The next day brought about the Battle of Franklin - a direct result of Confederate inaction and miscommunication the night before at Spring Hill. *Twenty-five Hours to Tragedy* is the largest and most in depth account of the actions that took place at Spring Hill. This account adds more testimony and sheds even greater light on a night filled with confusion and disappointment for the Confederate high command. Told by over one-hundred-and-fifty eyewitness participants, the accounts are linked by narrative that place the reader on the field in the midst of enthusiastic Confederate and anxious Union soldiers. The events of November 29, 1864 sealed the fate of the Confederate Army of Tennessee. Only twenty-five hours after the Confederate Army's arrival on the battlefield of Spring Hill, the decision to assault the heavily defended fortifications at Franklin was made. It was a decision that would not have to be made had the Confederates followed through with their plans at Spring Hill. Follow the armies in their race to Spring Hill, the combat there and

the critical decisions that led to the Federal escape and a total Confederate command breakdown in the most devastating blunder of the American Civil War.