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**COMPILED MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS OF VOLUNTEER UNION SOLDIERS WHO  
SERVED WITH THE UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS:  
Artillery Organizations**

Introduction

On the 299 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1818, are reproduced the compiled military service records of volunteer Union soldiers belonging to the artillery units organized for service with the United States Colored Troops (USCT). The USCT included 7 numbered cavalry regiments; 13 numbered artillery regiments plus one independent battery; 144 numbered infantry regiments; plus Brigade Bands Nos. 1 & 2 (Corps d'Afrique and US Colored Troops); Powell's Regiment Colored Infantry; Southard's Company Colored Infantry; Quartermaster Detachment; Pioneer Corps, 1st Division, 16th Army Corps; Unassigned Company A Colored Infantry; and Unassigned USCT. There are also miscellaneous service cards arranged alphabetically by surname at the end of the unit records. The records reproduced are part of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780'sB1917, Record Group (RG) 94.

Background

United States Colored Troops

Since the time of the American Revolution, African Americans have volunteered to serve their country in time of war. The Civil War was no exception. Official sanction was the difficulty. In the fall of 1862 there were four Union regiments of African Americans raised in New Orleans, LA: the 1st, 2d, and 3d Louisiana Native Guard, and the 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery (African Descent). The 1st South Carolina Infantry (African Descent) was not officially organized until January 1863; however, three companies of the regiment were on coastal expeditions as early as November 1862. Similarly, the 1st Kansas Colored Infantry was not mustered into Federal service until January 1863, even though the regiment had already participated in the action at Island Mound, MO, on October 27, 1862. These early unofficial regiments received little Federal support, but they showed the strength of the African American soldier's desire to fight for freedom.

The first official authorization to employ African Americans in Federal service was the Second Confiscation and Militia Act of July 17, 1862. This act allowed President Abraham Lincoln to receive into the military or naval service persons of African descent and gave him permission to use them for any purpose "he may judge best for the public welfare." However, the President did not authorize use of African Americans in combat until issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

In late January 1863, Governor John Andrew of Massachusetts received permission to raise a regiment of African American soldiers. The pace of organizing additional regiments was very slow. In March Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton sent Gen. Lorenzo Thomas to the lower Mississippi Valley to recruit

free and contraband African Americans. Thomas was given broad authority. He was to explain the administration's policy regarding African American soldiers and recruit volunteers to raise and command them. Stanton wanted all officers of such units to be white, but that policy was softened to allow African American surgeons and chaplains. By the end of the war, in addition to the chaplains and surgeons, there were some 87 African American officers. Thomas's endeavor was very successful, and on May 22, 1863, the Bureau of Colored Troops was established to coordinate and organize regiments from all parts of the country. Created under War Department General Order No. 143, the bureau was responsible for handling "all matters relating to the organization of Colored Troops." The bureau was directly under the Adjutant General's Office and its procedures and rules were specific and strict. All African American regiments were now to be designated United States Colored Troops (USCT). At this time there were some African American regiments with state names and a few regiments in the Department of the Gulf designated as Corps d'Afrique. All these were ultimately assimilated into the USCT, even though some of the regiments, such as the 5th Massachusetts, retained their state designations.

To facilitate recruiting in the states of Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, and eventually Kentucky, the War Department issued General Order No. 329 on October 3, 1863. Section 6 of the order stated that if any citizen should offer his or her slave for enlistment into the military service, that person would, "if such slave be accepted, receive from the recruiting officer a certificate thereof, and become entitled to compensation for the service or labor of said slave, not exceeding the sum of three hundred dollars, upon filing a valid deed of manumission and of release, and making satisfactory proof of title." For this reason, some records of manumission are contained in the compiled service records reproduced in this publication.

The USCT fought in 39 major engagements and over 400 lesser ones. Sixteen African American soldiers received Medals of Honor. As it was in other units, the death toll from disease was very high in the USCT. Deaths from disease and battle totaled 37,000. The last regiment of the USCT was mustered out of Federal service in December 1867.

Important sources for information about African American units in the Civil War are the War Department's *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, DC: 1880B1901; reprinted Harrisburg, 1971 and 1985) and the Navy Department's *The War of the Rebellion; A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies* (Washington, DC: 1874B1922; reprinted Harrisburg, 1971 and 1985). These multivolume works contain reports of operations and other official correspondence.

#### U. S. Colored Heavy Artillery

*1st Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was organized at Knoxville, TN, between February and November 1864. It served in Knoxville, eastern Tennessee, western Virginia, northern Alabama, and western North Carolina. It was mustered out on March 31, 1866.

*2d Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was changed from the 2d Heavy Artillery to the 3d Heavy Artillery on April 26, 1864, and the compiled military service records appear there.

*3d Heavy Artillery:* Organized as the 1st Tennessee Heavy Artillery (African descent) at Memphis and Fort Pickering, TN, from June 5 to December 22, 1863, this regiment's designation was changed to the 3d United States Colored Heavy Artillery in April 1864. It served garrison duty at Fort Pickering and in defense of Memphis, TN. The unit mustered out on April 30, 1866.

*4th Heavy Artillery:* This unit was organized as the 2d Regiment Tennessee Heavy Artillery (African descent) from June 1863 until April 1864. It became the 4th United States Colored Heavy Artillery in April 1864. It served at Fort Halleck; Columbus, KY; and Union City, TN. The regiment had duty near Fort Donelson, TN, and moved to Pine Bluff, AR, where it was mustered out on February 25, 1866.

*5th Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was organized at Vicksburg, MS, between August 1863 and January 1864, as the 9th Louisiana Volunteers (African descent). Its designation was changed to the 5th Heavy Artillery in April 1864. The unit served garrison duty at Vicksburg, MS, and was mustered out on May 20, 1866.

*6th Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was organized as the 2d Mississippi Heavy Artillery (African descent) at Natchez, MS, from September 1863 to January 1864. It was changed to the 6th United States Colored Heavy Artillery on April 26, 1864. The unit served at Natchez, Mississippi, and Vidalia, LA. It was mustered out on May 18, 1866.

*7th Heavy Artillery:* The 7th Heavy Artillery was designated the 11th United States Colored Infantry (New) on January 23, 1865, and the compiled military service records appear there.

*8th Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was organized at Paducah, KY, from April to October 1864. It served garrison duty at Paducah and was mustered out on February 10, 1866.

*9th Heavy Artillery:* This regiment consisted of four companies and was organized at Clarksville and Nashville, TN, during October 1864. It was mustered out on May 5, 1865.

*10th Heavy Artillery:* Organization of this regiment at New Orleans, LA, began in November 1862. First designated the 1st Louisiana Heavy Artillery (African descent) in November 1863, it became the 1st Regiment Corps d=Afrique. In May 1864 the unit became the 10th United States Colored Heavy Artillery. The regiment was on garrison duty at New Orleans during its entire service. It served longer than any other USCT regiment, mustering out on February 22, 1867.

*11th Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was organized at Providence, RI, from August 1863 through January 1864, as the 14th Rhode Island Colored Heavy Artillery. In May 1864 it became the 11th United States Colored Heavy Artillery. The unit served garrison duty at New Orleans, LA, and was mustered out on October 2, 1865.

*12th Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was organized at Camp Nelson, KY, from July 1864 through July 1865. It served garrison duty at Camp Nelson, Bowling Green, and other points in the District of Kentucky. It was mustered out on April 24, 1866.

*13th Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was organized at Camp Nelson, KY, in June 1865, where it served garrison duty. It also served at Smithland and Lexington, KY. It was mustered out on November 18, 1865.

*14th Heavy Artillery:* This regiment was organized at New Bern and Morehead City, NC, from March 1864 to April 1865, as the 1st North Carolina Colored Heavy Artillery. It became the 14th United States Colored Heavy Artillery in March 1865. The unit served garrison duty at New Bern, NC, and was mustered out on December 11, 1865.

## U. S. Colored Light Artillery

The *1st Regiment Light Artillery* was recruited and organized under Maj. Gen. Benjamin F. Butler in December 1863. In February 1864 it was changed to Battery B of the 2d Light Artillery.

The *2d Regiment Light Artillery* consisted of nine batteries, A through I, that were independently organized and deployed.

Battery A was organized at Nashville, TN, in April 1864. The battery served garrison duty at Nashville and participated in the Battle of Nashville December 15-16, 1864. It was mustered out January 13, 1866.

Battery B was organized at Fort Monroe, VA, in January and February 1864. It operated in Virginia and participated in the siege against Petersburg and Richmond. The battery was ordered to Texas in May 1865, and mustered out March 17, 1866.

Battery C was organized at Hebron's Plantation, MS, in November 1863, as the 1st Battery Louisiana Light Artillery (African descent). It was designated Battery C in April 1864. The battery had garrison duty at Goodrich Landing, Vicksburg, and Milliken's Bend. It was mustered out December 28, 1865.

Battery D was organized at Black River Bridge, MS, in December 1863, as the 2d Battery Louisiana Light Artillery (African descent). It was designated Battery D in April 1864. The battery had garrison duty at Goodrich Landing and Vicksburg, MS, and was mustered out on December 28, 1865.

Battery E was organized at Helena, AR, in December 1863, as the 3d Battery Louisiana Light Artillery (African descent). It was designated Battery E in April 1864. The battery had garrison duty at Helena, AR, and was mustered out on September 26, 1865.

Battery F was organized at Memphis, TN, in November 1863, as the Memphis Light Battery. It was designated Battery F in April 1864. The battery had garrison duty at Memphis, TN, until April 1865, when it moved to Bridgeport, AL. It was mustered out on December 28, 1865.

Battery G was organized at Hilton Head, SC, in May 1864 and had garrison duty at Hilton Head for its entire term. The battery was mustered out on August 12, 1865.

Battery H was organized at Pine Bluff, AR, in June 1864, as the 1st Arkansas Colored Battery. It was designated as Battery H in December 1864. The battery had garrison duty at Pine Bluff the entire term and was mustered out on September 14, 1865.

Battery I was organized at Memphis, TN, in April 1864. The battery had garrison duty at Memphis, TN, and operations in Mississippi. It was mustered out on January 10, 1866.

*Independent Battery* was organized at Leavenworth, KS, in December 1864. It had duty at Fort Leavenworth until it was mustered out on July 22, 1865.

Records Description

Compiled service records consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name, rank, unit, and card numbers. The compilation of service records of Union soldiers began in 1890 under the direction of Col. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Office of the Adjutant General's Office, Department of War. Information from muster rolls, regimental returns, descriptive books, and other records was copied verbatim onto cards. A separate card was prepared each time an individual name appeared on a document. These cards were numbered on the back, and these numbers were entered onto the outside jacket containing the cards. The carded information was verified by a separated operation of comparison; great care was taken to ensure that the cards were accurate.

A typical jacket contains card abstracts of entries found in original records relating to the soldier and original documents relating solely to that soldier. Examples of the latter include enlistment papers, substitute certificates, casualty sheets, death reports, prisoner-of-war memorandums, and correspondence. Unique to the records of the USCT are deeds of manumission, oaths of allegiance, proof of ownership, certificates of monetary award, and bills of sale. These items appear most frequently in units recruited in the border states of Kentucky, Missouri, and Maryland. These states remained in the Union but were slave states. Jackets and cards include a section labeled "bookmark" which was reserved for cross-references to other records relating to the individual or his unit. The service records are arranged by arm of service, thereunder numerically by regiment or independent battalion or company, and thereunder alphabetically by name of the soldier. Records for officers are interfiled alphabetically by name with the records of enlisted men. If an individual served in more than one unit, which was typical for USCT officers, there will be a separate service record for each unit in which he served.

The unjacketed miscellaneous cards were accumulated by the War Department with the expectation that they would be incorporated in individual compiled service records. However, the expectation was never fulfilled, because either insufficient or contradictory information made it impossible to associate the cards or papers with a particular soldier's service records.

#### Related Records

Among the records of the Adjutant General's Office in the National Archives are many of the original records that were abstracted or "carded" by the Record and Pension Office. These include the individual unit's muster rolls, returns and descriptive books. Other series in RG 94 that contain information relating to volunteer Union soldiers who served with the USCT include carded records relating to Union staff officers, carded medical records of volunteer Union soldiers, unbound and bound regimental records and "record of events" cards. The regimental records of the 54th Massachusetts Infantry (Colored) have been reproduced as Microfilm Publication M1659, *Records of the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Infantry Regiment (Colored), 1863B1865*.

The "record of events" cards include information copied from the unit's muster rolls and returns. They show the stations of the field and staff and those of the various companies of the regiment at the time the muster roll or return was prepared and sometimes mention battles, skirmishes, or other activities in which the regiment participated. The cards have been reproduced as Microfilm Publication M594, *Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations*.

Record Group 94 also includes a card index for the USCT, reproduced as Microfilm Publication M589, *Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with U.S. Colored Troops*, which may be used to locate the regiment of USCT personnel. An index card gives the name of

the soldier and his rank, as well as the unit in which he served; sometimes there is a cross-reference to his service in other units or organizations. The National Archives is continually producing microfilm publications of volunteer Union compiled military service records. A complete listing of finished publications can be found in the National Archives *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog* which is available online at <http://www.nara.gov>.

The Records of the Colored Troops Division, within RG 94, include division correspondence and records relating to recruiting, the appointment of officers, and the slave or free status of individuals; and a compilation of historical extracts and official papers concerning the military service of African Americans from the colonial period through the Civil War entitled *The Negro in the Military Service of the United States 1639B1886*. This compilation is reproduced as Microfilm Publication M858. The Records of the Bounty and Claims Division, also in RG 94, include correspondence of the division and records relating to bounties and claims paid to loyal owners of slaves by the Slave Claims Commissions of Delaware, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, and West Virginia.

If an application for a pension was made, the pension application case file may be among the Records of the Veterans Administration (RG 15). Indexes to the pension applications have been reproduced as Microfilm Publication T288, *General Index to Pension Files, 1861B1934*, and T289, *Organizational Index to Pension Files of Veterans Who Served Between 1861 and 1900*.

If a soldier or officer was tried before a general court-martial or if an individual or his unit was the subject of a court of inquiry or military commission, transcripts of the proceedings may be among the Records of the Office of the Judge Advocate General (Army) (RG 153). The registers to the proceedings have been reproduced as Microfilm Publication M1105, *Registers of the Records of the Proceedings of the U.S. Army General Courts-Martial, 1809B1890*.

Other record groups having information pertaining to the USCT include Records of the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands (RG 105); Records of the Provost Marshal General's Bureau (Civil War) (RG 110); Records of the Accounting Officers of the Department of the Treasury (RG 217); and Records of U.S. Army Continental Commands, 1821B1920 (RG 393).

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 287 Hunter, Alexander M. B Kennedy, Abram  
 288 Kennel, George B March, George  
 289 Marcy, Anthony B Mobbs, Daniel  
 290 Moffet, John B Pattiller, Alfred  
 291 Pattiller, Patrick B Richardson, Jacob  
 292 Ridgeway, Anthony B Smith, Louis B.  
 293 Smith, Minus B Tucker, Alfred  
 294 Tucker, Sandy B Williams, Calvin  
 295 Williams, Charles B Zinum, John  
 296 Miscellaneous Service Cards  
 Abraham, Francis B Young, Ruben  
 297 Independent Battery, United States Colored Light Artillery  
 Alexander, John B Hancock, George W.  
 298 Hanson, Noah C. B Scott, Andrew  
 299 Scott, Reynolds B Yeager, John  
 Miscellaneous Service Cards  
 Douglass, H. Ford B Minor, P.M.