

M1824

COMPILED MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS OF VOLUNTEER UNION
SOLDIERS WHO SERVED WITH THE UNITED STATES COLORED
TROOPS: INFANTRY ORGANIZATIONS, 26TH THROUGH 30TH,
INCLUDING THE 29TH CONNECTICUT (COLORED)

Introduction by Budge Weidman.
Regimental histories and roll list by Michael F. Knight.

Records prepared for microfilming by volunteers of
the Civil War Conservation Corps.

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INTRODUCTION

On the 108 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1824, are reproduced the compiled military service records of volunteer Union soldiers belonging to the 26th through 30th infantry units, and the 29th Connecticut Infantry (Colored), organized for service with the United States Colored Troops (USCT). The service cards are arranged by regiment and thereunder alphabetically by surname, followed by miscellaneous cards. These records are part of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's–1917, Record Group (RG) 94.

In all, the USCT consisted of 7 numbered cavalry regiments; 13 numbered artillery regiments plus 1 independent battery; 144 numbered infantry regiments; Brigade Bands Nos. 1 & 2 (Corps d' Afrique and U.S. Colored Troops); Powell's Regiment Colored Infantry; Southard's Company Colored Infantry; Quartermaster Detachment; Pioneer Corps, 1st Division, 16th Army Corps; Pioneer Corps, Cavalry Division, 16th Army Corps; Unassigned Company A Colored Infantry; and Unassigned USCT.

BACKGROUND

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, four Union regiments of African Americans were raised in New Orleans, LA: the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd 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. 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 (12 Stat. 592). This act allowed President Abraham Lincoln "to employ as many persons of African descent as he may deem necessary and proper for the suppression of this rebellion, and for this purpose he may organize and use them in such manner as he may judge best for the public welfare." The use of African Americans met with varying reactions and treatment. In the trans-Mississippi West, they saw some combat, while in the Department of Tennessee and in the South they were frequently assigned fatigue work. In the East, they drew both combat and fatigue duty. The President did not authorize use of African Americans in combat, however, until issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863.

In late January 1863, Gov. John Andrew of Massachusetts received permission to raise a regiment of African American soldiers. Because the pace of organizing additional regiments was very slow, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton sent Gen. Lorenzo Thomas to the lower Mississippi Valley in March 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 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 Orders 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. The Corps d'Afrique units ultimately became numbered regiments in the USCT. The 54th and 55th Massachusetts Infantries (Colored), the 5th Massachusetts Cavalry (Colored), the 29th Connecticut Infantry (Colored), the 6th and 7th Louisiana Infantries (African Descent), the 3rd Tennessee Volunteer Infantry (African Descent), and the 1st South Carolina Volunteers (Colored) retained their numbers and state designations, but served under the Bureau of Colored Troops.

To facilitate recruiting in Maryland, Missouri, Tennessee, and eventually Kentucky, the War Department issued General Orders 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 the Medal 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 approximately 37,000. The last regiment of the USCT was mustered out of Federal service in December 1867.

26th United States Colored Infantry

The 26th United States Colored Infantry was organized from February through March 1864 at Riker's Island, New York. The regiment was ordered to the Department of the South in April 1864, and saw most of its service in South Carolina. It participated in the expedition to Johns and James Island, South Carolina, in July 1864, and was ordered to assault Battery Pringle on July 7. On November 30, 1864, the 26th USCT provided support at the Battle of Honey Hill. The regiment was stationed at Fort Duane, South Carolina, from August 1864 until May 1865, and was mustered out August 1865.

27th United States Colored Infantry

The 27th United States Colored Infantry Regiment was organized from January through March 1864 at Camp Delaware, Ohio. The regiment was assigned to the 9th Corp of the

Army of Potomac and stationed at Manassas Junction, Virginia, in April 1864. During the Battle of the Wilderness it guarded the wagon trains of the Army of the Potomac. The 27th was transferred to the siege of Petersburg in July 1864, and was heavily engaged at the Battle of the Mine on July 30, 1864. The regiment saw action in the fighting at Weldon Railroad (August 18–21), Poplar Grove Church (September 29–30), and Hatcher's Run (October 27–28). The 27th participated in the capture of Fort Fisher on January 15, 1865, and the occupation of Wilmington, North Carolina, on February 22. In April 1865, the regiment participated in the capture of Raleigh and was present at the surrender of Joseph Johnston's army. The 27th USCT mustered out of service in September 1865.

28th United States Colored Infantry

The 28th United States Colored Infantry Regiment was organized at Camp Freemont, Indianapolis, Indiana, between December 1863 and March 1864. The regiment was stationed near Alexandria, Virginia, from April to June 1864, before being transferred to the siege of Petersburg. The 28th saw extensive combat during the explosion of the mine at Petersburg on July 30, 1864, as well as at Weldon Railroad (August 18–21), Poplar Grove Church (September 29–30), and Hatcher's Run (October 27–28). The regiment was active in operations before Richmond, and entered the city on April 3, 1865. From April 6 to May 12 the regiment was assigned guard duty at Point Lookout Prison, Maryland. In June it was transferred to Corpus Christi, Texas, and mustered out from Texas in November of 1865.

29th United States Colored Infantry

Organized at Quincy, Illinois, from April to May 1864, the 29th United States Infantry Regiment was transferred to Alexandria, Virginia, in June. The regiment participated in the siege of Petersburg and saw extensive combat during the explosion of the mine at Petersburg on July 30, 1864, as well as at Weldon Railroad (August 18–21), Poplar Grove Church (September 29–30), and Hatcher's Run (October 27–28). The 29th was actively involved in operations before Richmond and in the Appomattox Campaign in March and April 1865. The regiment was ordered to Texas in May and mustered out of service in November 1865.

29th Connecticut Infantry Regiment (Colored)

The 29th Connecticut Infantry Regiment (Colored) was organized at a conscript camp near Fair Haven, Connecticut, from December 1863 to March 1864. In April the regiment was ordered to Hilton Head, South Carolina, and it performed guard duty in Beaufort until June 1864. Beginning in June, the regiment participated in siege operations before Petersburg, Virginia. The 29th Connecticut (Colored) saw action at the Battle of New Market Heights (September 28–29), Fort Harrison (September 29–30), Chaffin's Farm (September 29–30), Darbytown Road (October 13), and the Battle of Fair Oaks (October 27–28). The regiment was ordered to the trenches before Richmond and served there until April 1865, when it was one of several regiments to claim the honor of first to enter Richmond. After the occupation of Richmond, the regiment was assigned to Point Lookout Prison, Maryland, for guard duty until June when it was transferred to Texas. In October and November it was stationed in New Orleans before returning to New Haven, Connecticut, where it mustered out in late November 1865.

30th United States Colored Infantry

The 30th United States Colored Infantry was organized at Camp Stanton, Maryland, from February through March 1864. After a brief assignment at Manassas Junction, Virginia, from March to April, the regiment supported the Army of the Potomac's overland campaign to the James River from May to June 1864. In June the regiment saw action in the trenches before Petersburg and was heavily engaged at the Battle of the Mine, July 30, 1864. It saw combat at Weldon Railroad (August 18–21), Poplar Grove Church (September 29–30), and Hatcher's Run (October 27–28). In December 1864 the regiment was assigned to the first expedition against Fort Fisher in North Carolina and the second expedition against the fort during January 7–15, 1865. The regiment saw combat at Sugar Loaf Hill on January 19, and at Federal Point on February 11. The 30th United States Colored Infantry participated in the capture of Wilmington, North Carolina, on February 22 and the capture and occupation of Raleigh in April. The regiment was assigned occupation duties in North Carolina until it mustered out in December 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. Clerks copied information from muster rolls, regimental returns, descriptive books, and other records verbatim onto cards. They created a separate card for each instance an individual name appeared on a document. The 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, proofs 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 in this publication are arranged numerically by regiment, 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. The expectation was never fulfilled, however, because either insufficient or contradictory information made it impossible to associate the cards or papers with a particular soldier's service record.

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 Record Group (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 "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 of the 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 National Archives Microfilm Publication M594, *Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations*.

A card index for the USCT, also in RG 94, has been reproduced as Microfilm Publication M589, *Index to Compiled Military Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served with U.S. Colored Troops*. It 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 locator and *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog*, both of which are available online at www.archives.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, as well as a compilation of historical extracts and official papers concerning the military service of African Americans from the colonial period through the Civil War. This compilation, titled *The Negro in the Military Service of the United States 1639–1886*, 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 a soldier applied for a pension, 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, 1861–1934*, 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, 1809–1890*.

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, 1821–1920, RG 393.

Published Sources and Guides

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: 1880–1901; reprinted Harrisburg, PA, 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: 1874–1922; reprinted Harrisburg, PA, 1971 and 1985). These multivolume works contain reports of operations and other official correspondence.

Holdings of the National Archives relating to the Civil War are outlined in Kenneth W. Munden and Henry Putnam Beers, *Guide to Federal Archives Relating to the Civil War* (Washington, DC: National Archives, 1962), and Henry Putnam Beers, *Guide to the Archives of the Government of the Confederate States of America* (Washington, DC: National Archives, 1968), which were reprinted as *The Union* (1998) and *The Confederacy* (1998).

ROLL LIST

| ROLL | DESCRIPTION |
|------|---|
| | 26th United States Colored Infantry |
| 1 | Abbott, Richard – Bohemus, James |
| 2 | Bowsell, Josiah – Chambers, Jacob |
| 3 | Chambers, Stephen – Demun, Soloman |
| 4 | Denegall, Romeo – Ewell, Joseph E. |
| 5 | Feeler, George – Halsey, Anselem |
| 6 | Halsey, Oliver – Jackson, Aaron |
| 7 | Jackson, Abram – Johnson, Joseph |
| 8 | Johnson, Josiah – Ludley, Israel |
| 9 | Ludlow, John – Parker, Francis |
| 10 | Parker, Robert – Roats, Joseph |
| 11 | Robbins, Charles H. – Smith, Augustus |
| 12 | Smith, Charles – Tartson, John |
| 13 | Taulman, Dowe D. – Van Buren, William H. |
| 14 | Vandeline, William – Williams, Benjamin |
| 15 | William, Charles – Young, Thomas |
| | 26th United States Colored Infantry, Miscellaneous Cards |
| 16 | Abbott, Richard – Young, Thomas |
| | 27th United States Colored Infantry |
| 17 | Adams, Alexander – Blanchard, Charles |
| 18 | Blanchard, William – Cain, Zebadee |
| 19 | Caldwell, Alexander – Cowell Samuel |
| 20 | Cowles, Robert – Elliott, Martin |
| 21 | Fayton, Azeniah – Grayson, James H. |
| 22 | Grayson, William – Hill, James |
| 23 | Hill, John – Johnson, Lucius |
| 24 | Johnson, Martin – Lord, Jerome |
| 25 | Louis, Charles – Miles, John |
| 26 | Miles, William – Palmer, George |
| 27 | Palmer, Levi – Ricks, Charles A. |
| 28 | Ricks, Martin V. – Smith, Frederick |
| 29 | Smith, George – Tanner, AJ |
| 30 | Tapisco, James H. – Ward, Henry |
| 31 | Ward, Henry – Wilson, Lewis J. |
| 32 | Wilson, Moses – (Misc.) Ferguson, William |
| | 27th United States Colored Infantry, Miscellaneous Cards |
| 33 | Gaines, John – Zimmerman, C. |

ROLL DESCRIPTION

28th United States Colored Infantry

34 Abram, John – Beaufort, Jackson
35 Beech, James – Brown, Isaac N.
36 Brown, James – Carter, Washington
37 Carter, William – Cook, Preston
38 Cooksey, Henry – Dorsey, James (Samuel)
39 Dorsey, Louis B. – Frame, Thomas H.
40 Francis, James – Griffin, Allen
41 Griffin, Calvin – Hill, John
42 Hill, Lewis – Johnson, James
43 Johnson, James E. – Lawter, Alfred M.
44 Lawter, Jennings – Mason, Samuel
45 Mason, William – Morgan, John
46 Morgan, John A. – Partridge, Lorenzo D.
47 Partridge, Merideth – Richardson, Joseph
48 Richey, Abraham – Scott, Robert
49 Scott, Sylvester R. – Stone, William
50 Stout, Caleb – Tracey, John
51 Trail, Benjamin F. – Weems, James
52 Welborn, Thomas R. – Zeek, Silas B.

28th United States Colored Infantry, Miscellaneous Cards

53 Adams, Charles – Zeek, Silas B.

29th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (Colored)

54 Aary, Charles B. – Bowman, John Henry
55 Boyd, George W. – Butler, Frank
56 Butler, Henry – Cosden, Charles H.
57 Costaloe, Saml – Duncan, Samuel
58 Dunham, Joseph – Freeman, James W.
59 Freeman, John H. – Griere, William H. H.
60 Griffin, James – Henson, Samuel
61 Hewitt, Edmund B. – Jennison, William H.
62 Johnson, Abram – Lockwood, John
63 Logan, William H. – Myers, Richard
64 Myers, Thomas – Porter, Christopher
65 Porter, George F. – Rogers, Edward P.
66 Rogers, George – Smith, Henry
67 Smith, Isaac B. – Taylor, William
68 Taylor, William J. – Ward, Frank
69 Ward, Henry C. – Williams, Thomas
70 Williams, William – Zebriskey, Samuel

29th Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (Colored), Miscellaneous Cards

71 Abbott, Wesley – Zabriskie, Joseph

| ROLL | DESCRIPTION |
|------|---|
| | 29th United States Colored Infantry |
| 72 | Abrams, John – Bee, John |
| 73 | Beed, William – Brown, James |
| 74 | Brown, James A. – Carter, Harvey |
| 75 | Carter, Henry (Harry) – Cooper, James |
| 76 | Cooper, Peter – Dorsey, Thomas |
| 77 | Dorson, John – Furfoot, Mark T. |
| 78 | Ferguson, Henry – Hammond, Theodore |
| 79 | Hammond, William – Hyton, Henry |
| 80 | Jackson, Albert – Jones, Cornelius |
| 81 | Jones, David – Long, Richard |
| 82 | Long, Rodney – Millender, William |
| 83 | Miller, Clarence – Owens, Elijah |
| 84 | Page, Silas – Rivers, Lewis |
| 85 | Rixon, Chalkey – Skinner, Wesley |
| 86 | Skinner, William – Tate, Benjamin |
| 87 | Taylor, Alfred – Vanss, Caswell |
| 88 | Veal, Madison – White, Samuel |
| 89 | White, Solomon M. – Yuguando, Jacob |
| | 29th United States Colored Infantry, Miscellaneous Cards |
| 90 | Abrams, John – Yuarando, Jacob |
| | 30th United States Colored Infantry |
| 91 | Abel, Samuel – Blake, George H. |
| 92 | Blake, George T. – Brown, Thomas J. or I. |
| 93 | Brown, William – Cleaver, Edward J. |
| 94 | Cleaver, George T. – Dickson, Frisby |
| 95 | Dickson, John W. – Foot, William |
| 96 | Forbes, James L. – Griffin, Robert |
| 97 | Gross, Jacob – Hill, George |
| 98 | Hill, Isaiah – Jenkins, William |
| 99 | Jerrett, Edward – Key, John |
| 100 | Key, Jonas – Miller, Joseph H. |
| 101 | Mills, John – Pennington, Frank A. (H.) |
| 102 | Pennott, Danire – Reed, John |
| 103 | Reed, Nelson – Sevoy, Joshua |
| 104 | Sevrell, Thomas – Stanley, George |
| 105 | Stanley, Newberry – Tilgham, Abram |
| 106 | Tilgham, George – Williams, Wesley |
| 107 | Williams, William – Young, William |
| | 30th United States Colored Infantry, Miscellaneous Cards |
| 108 | Adams, Aaron, – Young, William |