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COMPILED MILITARY SERVICE RECORDS OF VOLUNTEER UNION SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE STATE OF DELAWARE

Introduction

On the 117 rolls of this microfilm publication, M1961, are reproduced the compiled military service records of volunteer Union soldiers belonging to units organized for service from the State of Delaware. The organizations for which compiled military service records are reproduced are: 1st Battalion Cavalry, Milligan's Independent Company Cavalry, Crossley's Half Company Artillery, Ahl's Independent Company Heavy Artillery, Nield's Independent Battery Light Artillery, 1st Infantry (3 months), and the 1st through 9th Infantry organizations. Also included are records for Unassigned Delaware soldiers, Miscellaneous Personal Papers, Miscellaneous Enlistment Papers, and Miscellaneous Muster Cards. The records reproduced are part of the Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group (RG) 94. Funding for this publication was provided by the State of Delaware and the National Archives Trust Fund.

Background

In April 1861 President Abraham Lincoln called for 75,000 men from the loyal states and territories to suppress the rebellion in the Southern states. Subsequent proclamations and acts of Congress provided for additional increases in the size of the Regular Army and Navy and called for additional volunteers and militiamen. The states and territories met the requirements through activating the militia, voluntary enlistments, and later the draft. During the first 2 years of the war, many units were mustered for short periods (1 to 9 months), but normal enlistments were for 1 to 3 years. Delaware had no militia, and the first body of soldiers from the state enlisted for 3 months. Most soldiers served from units formed within their neighborhoods and states of residence. A reenlisting soldier was not necessarily assigned to the same unit in which he had previously served, or even to the same branch of service. Disabled soldiers still capable of performing a service were often assigned to the Veteran Reserve Corps (VRC).

Many organizations adopted or used a unique name; however, when a unit was mustered into the Union Army, the name was changed to conform to regulations. A unit designation usually consisted of a number, a state or territory name, and the arm of service, for example, 1st Delaware Infantry. Some unit designations included the name of the officer who formed the company, or its commanding officer, for example, Ahl's Independent Company Delaware Heavy Artillery. Some units had two or more successive designations. Records are generally filed under the final designation for a particular unit. There are compiled military service records for nearly all volunteer soldiers who enlisted in the Union Army, even if the actions, such as Indian warfare, were unrelated to the war.

Additional published works containing information about Civil War units include the War Department's *War of the Rebellion: Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies* (Washington, DC, 1880-

1901; reprinted Harrisburg, PA, 1971 and 1985). This 128-volume work reproduces in printed formats many of the battle reports and correspondence of Union and Confederate regiments. Frederick H. Dyer, *A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion* (Des Moines, IA, 1908; reprinted New York, NY, 1959, and Dayton, OH, 1979) contains brief histories of Union regiments.

1st Battalion Delaware Cavalry

The 1st Battalion Delaware Cavalry was composed of seven companies organized at Wilmington, DE, on January 20, 1863, to serve 3 years. It was consolidated into four companies and retained in service until June 30, 1865, when the unit mustered out in accordance with orders from the War Department. The regiment served provost duty at Baltimore, MD, and the surrounding area until June 1864, when it was assigned to join the Army of the Potomac in the field. The unit participated in actions at Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and Ream's Station during this time. Losses included 47 men by disease and 2 officers and 2 enlisted men killed in the line of duty.

Milligan's Independent Company Delaware Cavalry

Milligan's Independent Company Delaware Cavalry was organized at Wilmington, DE, for 30 days' service on July 15, 1864. It performed patrol duty in defense of Baltimore, MD, and Middleburg, VA, during its month of service. The company mustered out on August 15, 1864.

Crossley's Half Company Delaware Artillery

Crossley's Half Company Delaware Artillery was organized at Wilmington, DE, to serve 3 months. The unit mustered in on July 1, 1863, and mustered out on September 30, 1863.

Ahl's Independent Company Delaware Heavy Artillery

Ahl's Independent Company Delaware Heavy Artillery was organized at Fort Delaware on July 27, 1863, to serve 3 years. It performed garrison duty at the fort its entire service and mustered out on July 25, 1865.

Nield's Independent Battery Delaware Light Artillery

Nield's Independent Battery Delaware Light Artillery was organized at Wilmington, DE, on August 30, 1862, and ordered to Washington, DC, where it served in defense of the city until April 1863. The battery incurred duty at Norfolk, VA, in the spring of 1863 and was sent back to Washington until February 1864, when it was ordered to the Department of the Gulf. Among the actions the unit participated in were the Red River Campaign, including the Battles of Sabine Cross Roads and Pleasant Hill. The battery was ordered to Arkansas, where it served until mustering out on June 23, 1865.

1st Delaware Infantry (3 months)

The 1st Delaware Infantry (3 months) mustered in on May 22, 1861, and was assigned to duty on the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad, guarding bridges and the right-of-way. It mustered out on August 30, 1861.

1st Delaware Infantry (3 years)

The 1st Delaware Infantry (3 years) mustered in from September 10 until October 19, 1861. The regiment moved to Camp Hamilton, VA, and then to Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Suffolk, where it was on duty until September 10, 1862. After moving to Washington, DC, the 1st Delaware began participation in the major battles of the war including Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Cold Harbor, and the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg. On April 7, 1865, the 1st Delaware Infantry was deployed near Farmville, VA, and was instrumental in preventing the escape of the Army of Northern Virginia. The regiment was present at the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House. Pvts. Bernard McCarren and John Mayberry received Medals of Honor for gallantry, each capturing an enemy flag at the Battle of Gettysburg, PA. The 1st Delaware marched in the Grand Review in Washington, DC, on May 23, 1865. On the expiration of its term of service, the original members (except veterans) mustered out; the veterans and recruits were retained in service until mustering out on July 12, 1865. The regiment lost 12 officers and 146 enlisted men killed and mortally wounded and 3 officers and 118 enlisted men by disease.

2d Delaware Infantry

The 2d Delaware Infantry was organized at Wilmington, DE, from June 12 until October 7, 1861, to serve 3 years. In 1862 the regiment served at Baltimore, MD, until June, when it joined the Army of the Potomac and participated in the Peninsula campaign. Like the 1st Delaware, the 2d took part in many major battles of the war: Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Spotsylvania Court House, and Cold Harbor. On July 1, 1864, their term of service expiring, companies A–G inclusive mustered out. Companies H, I, and K, together with the veterans and recruits, were transferred to the 1st Delaware. The regiment lost 6 officers and 93 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 1 officer and 101 enlisted men by disease.

3d Delaware Infantry

The 3d Delaware Infantry was organized at Camden, DE, from December 30, 1861, to May 15, 1862, to serve 3 years. The regiment participated in operations in the Shenandoah Valley, including the Battle of Cedar Mountain in August 1862. Other battles in which the organization took part include Second Bull Run, South Mountain, Antietam, Cold Harbor, and the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg. The unit was present at the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House. The regiment marched in the Grand Review, May 23, 1865, in Washington, DC, and mustered out on June 3. The losses included 7 officers and 46 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 2 officers and 80 enlisted men by disease.

4th Delaware Infantry

The 4th Delaware Infantry was organized at Wilmington, DE, from June to November 1862, to serve 3 years. The regiment served duty in the defenses of Baltimore, MD, and Yorktown, VA. It participated in the Battle of Cold Harbor, the Battle of the Crater at Petersburg, and actions leading to the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee at Appomattox Court House. It also marched in the Grand Review in Washington, DC, May 23, 1865. The 4th Delaware mustered out on June 3, 1865. Losses included 4 officers and 80 enlisted men killed or mortally wounded and 1 officer and 79 enlisted men by disease.

5th Delaware Infantry

The 5th Delaware Infantry was organized in Delaware at large from October 23 to November 26, 1862, to

serve 9 months. The unit had garrison duty at Fort Delaware and guard duty on the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad. It mustered out on August 12, 1863. The regiment lost three men by disease.

6th Delaware Infantry

The 6th Delaware Infantry was organized in Delaware at large from October 25 to December 18, 1862, to serve 9 months. It served as railroad guard on the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad until mustering out on September 5, 1863.

7th Delaware Infantry

The 7th Delaware Infantry was organized at Wilmington, DE, for 30 days on July 12, 1864. It served guard duty on the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad. It also served on duty in defense of Baltimore, MD, until August 12, when the regiment mustered out.

8th Delaware Infantry

The 8th Delaware Infantry was organized at Wilmington, DE, in October 1864. It was composed of three companies to serve 1 year. The companies were on duty in defense of City Point, VA, and participated in the Appomattox Campaign. They were present at the surrender of Gen. Robert E. Lee and also marched in the Grand Review in Washington, DC, May 23, 1865, before mustering out on June 5, 1865. The unit lost 3 enlisted men killed and 10 by disease.

9th Delaware Infantry

The 9th Delaware Infantry was organized at Wilmington, DE, for 100 days on August 30, 1864. It was assigned to duty guarding prisoners at Fort Delaware. The regiment mustered out January 23, 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 numbers were used by the War Department only for control purposes while the compiled service records were being created; the numbers do not refer to other records regarding a veteran nor are they useful for reference purposes today. The carded information was verified by a separate 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. Original documents relating solely to that soldier may also be part of that file. Examples of the latter include enlistment papers, substitute certificates, casualty sheets, medical descriptions, death reports, prisoner-of-war memorandums, and correspondence. 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 by unit number or name, and thereunder by name of the soldier. Records for officers are interfiled with the records of enlisted men. If an individual served in more than one unit, 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 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 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 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 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. These records have been reproduced as Microfilm Publication M594 *Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations*.

No general comprehensive name index to the compiled service records of Union volunteer soldiers exists. Indexes are available for each state and territory. The index card gives the name of the soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served; sometimes there is a cross-reference to his service in other units or organizations. All the indexes are reproduced as National Archives microfilm publications. The index for Delaware is reproduced as M537, *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Delaware*. The National Archives is continually producing microfilm publications of volunteer Union compiled military service records. A listing of publications can be found in the National Archives *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog*, which is available online at <http://www.nara.gov>.

If a soldier applied for a pension, the pension application case file may be among the Records of the Veterans Administration (RG 15). Alphabetical indexes to the pension applications have been reproduced as Microfilm Publications 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 Union volunteers include 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).

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* (1986) and *The Confederacy* (1986).

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