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COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF CONFEDERATE GENERAL
AND STAFF OFFICERS AND NONREGIMENTAL ENLISTED MEN

On the 275 rolls of this microfilm publication, M331, are reproduced the compiled service records of Confederate officers and enlisted men who did not belong to any particular regiment, separate company or comparable unit, or special corps. This class of military personnel included general officers, officers and enlisted men of the so-called staff departments, members of army corps, division and brigade staffs, and various appointees with a special status, such as aides-de-camp, military judges, chaplains, agents, and drillmasters. The so-called staff departments were those of the Adjutant and Inspector General, the Quartermaster General, and the Commissary-General, the Medical Department, and the Ordnance Department. The Corps of Engineers, the Nitre and Mining Bureau, and the Signal Corps were considered to be special corps rather than staff departments; compiled service records of their personnel have been reproduced in M258, *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in Organizations Raised Directly by the Confederate Government*.

The compiled service records consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name, his rank, and usually the capacity in which he served. The jacket-envelope typically contains (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found in original appointment registers, lists of staff officers, lists of quartermaster or commissary officers, registers of medical personnel, returns, muster rolls, inspection reports, receipt rolls, hospital registers, Union prison registers and rolls, parole lists, and oaths of allegiance; (2) references to special orders, other orders, and miscellaneous original or published records; and (3) the originals of any papers relating solely to the particular soldier. The jacket-envelopes are arranged alphabetically by soldiers' surnames, and there are cross-references for soldiers' name that appeared in the records under more than one spelling.

These records do not include any earlier or later service of the soldier in a regiment, a separate company or comparable unit, or a special corps. For such service there should be a separate jacket-envelope for the soldier among the compiled service records for each organization in which he served. The compiled service records for organizations from particular States have been reproduced in separate microfilm publications.

The compilation of service records of Confederate soldiers was begun in 1903 under the direction of Brig. Gen. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Office of the War Department. Abstracts were made from documents in the War Department Collection of Confederate Records and from documents borrowed by the War Department in an effort to obtain as nearly complete military service records as possible. The abstracts made from the original records were carefully checked to ensure that the abstracts were accurate.

Two separate indexes contain entries for the service records reproduced in this microcopy. One is an alphabetical card index covering these records specifically and records of soldiers who served in units raised directly or otherwise formed by the Confederate Government. In this index each card gives the name of the soldier, his rank, the unit or capacity in which he served, and often a statement about the origin or background of the unit. Entries in this "non-State" index are duplicated in a "consolidated" or

master index (reproduced as M253) that contains the names of all Confederate soldiers found in compiling the service records, regardless of their position or assignment.

The compiled service records reproduced in this microcopy and the indexes referred to above are part of Record Group 109, War Department Collection of Confederate Records.

Compiled service records that might be expected to be among those in this microfilm publication may not be included for several reasons. First, the soldier may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Second, proper records of his service may not have been made by the Confederate Army; or, if made, they may have been lost or destroyed in the confusion that often attended initial mobilization, subsequent military operations, or the final surrender of the Confederate military forces. Third, the references to the soldier in the original records may have been so vague that it was not practicable to determine his correct name or the capacity in which he served. For personnel not belonging to an organization regularly submitting muster rolls, the service is not documented very systematically; most entries relating to such service are one-time or occasional entries.

The National Archives has other records that contain information relating to Confederate soldiers. Among them are card abstracts and personal papers that were accumulated by the War Department to be interfiled with the regular series of compiled service records but were not interfiled, for one reason or another. The usual reason was that the information was insufficient or contained discrepancies and could not be positively identified with any soldier for whom there was a compiled service record. Other reasons were that no compiled service record had been established on the basis of regular service records and that the item did not provide enough evidence to justify establishing one. These card abstracts and personal papers, which are arranged in alphabetical order by name of soldier, are reproduced in M347. They are not indexed.

Sometimes supposed Confederate military service is shown by the records to have been service in a civilian capacity, as in the case of government employees. Evidence of such service, or of having aided the Confederate cause as a civilian in some other way, may sometimes be obtained from a series of records known as the "Citizens File," consisting of Confederate documents, each of which relates to a particular civilian (reproduced as M346). They are arranged alphabetically by name of person and are not indexed.

Other information about the activities of Confederate civilians is contained in a similar unindexed series of documents accumulated by Union provost marshals and known as the "Provost Marshal File." Some of these documents have been filmed under the title of *Union Provost Marshal's File of One-Name Papers Relating to Citizens* (M345).

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