

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 390

INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF
VOLUNTEER UNION SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN
ORGANIZATIONS FROM THE STATE OF
MISSOURI



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VOLUNTEER UNION SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN
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MISSOURI

On the 54 rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer Union soldiers belonging to units from the State of Missouri. The index contains most of the names of Missouri soldiers to whom references were found in the records used in compiling the service records. An index card gives the name of the soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served. There are cross-references for soldiers' names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling and to show service that soldiers may have had in other units or organizations.

The supposedly correct name of a volunteer Union soldier from Missouri may not appear in the index for several reasons. First, he may have served in a unit from another State or in the Regular Army. Second, he may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Third, proper records of his service may not have been made; or, if made, they may have been lost or destroyed in the confusion that often attended the initial mobilization, subsequent military operations, and disbandment of troops. Fourth, the references to the soldier in the original records may be so vague that it is not practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The compiled service records to which the index applies are reproduced in Microcopy 405. They consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name and typically containing (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found in original muster rolls, returns, descriptive books, and records of the Hawkins Taylor Commission; and (2) the originals of any papers relating solely to the particular soldier. A typical example of a compiled service record is filmed on the first roll of the index reproduced in this microcopy.

The compiled service records of soldiers belonging to units from the State of Missouri are arranged according to an organizational breakdown ending with the regiment or the independent battalion or company. Under each unit the service records are arranged alphabetically by soldiers' surnames. Unless the unit in which a soldier served is known, his compiled service record can be located only through the use of an index, such as the one reproduced in this microcopy, which gives the name of the unit in which he served.

The compilation of service records of Union soldiers was begun in 1890 under the direction of Capt. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Division of the War Department. The abstracts made from the original records were verified by a separate operation of comparison, and great care was taken to ensure that the abstracts and the indexes were accurate.

Reproductions of specific compiled service records corresponding to entries in the index reproduced in this microcopy may be obtained from the National Archives for a fee. Requests for such reproductions should give the name of the State, the regiment or battalion, and the company for each soldier, exactly as shown in the index.

The index and the compiled service records referred to above are part of a body of records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 94, Records of The Adjutant General's Office.

The National Archives has other records that may contain information relating to Union soldiers from Missouri. Other series of compiled service records for volunteer soldiers are (1) an alphabetical series of records of Union staff officers, (2) medical records for volunteer Union and Mexican War soldiers, and (3) records for non-State organizations, such as U. S. Sharp Shooters, Signal Corps, U. S. Colored Troops, and Veterans Reserve Corps. Information relating to soldiers who served in the Regular Army is recorded in Registers of Enlistments in the U. S. Army, 1798-1914 (reproduced as Microcopy 233), and in other records of The Adjutant General's Office. If an application for a pension was made, additional information about the soldier may be among the pension application files of the Veterans Administration in Record Group 15. Supposed Union military service is sometimes shown by the records to have been civilian service as a scout, guide, or spy. Evidence of such service may be among the records of the Provost Marshal General in Record Group 110.

CONTENTS OF MICROCOPY 390

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Range and Price</u>	<u>Roll</u>	<u>Range and Price</u>
1	A - Ar \$4.	28	L - Leu \$4.
2	As - Bar \$4.	29	Lev - Ly \$4.
3	Bas - Ber \$4.	30	M - Mau \$4.
4	Bes - Bon \$4.	31	Mav - McJ \$4.
5	Boo - Bre \$3.	32	McK - Mex \$4.
6	Bri - Bry \$3.	33	Mey - Mi \$3.
7	Bu - By \$3.	34	Mo - Muk \$4.
8	C - Ch \$4.	35	Mul - Ni \$4.
9	Ci - Coo \$4.	36	No - O \$4.
10	Cop - Cz \$4.	37	P - Ph \$4.
11	D - Dh \$4.	38	Pl - Q \$4.
12	Di - Duf \$4.	39	R - Re \$4.
13	Dug - Em \$4.	40	Rh - Rod \$4.
14	En - Fir \$4.	41	Roe - Ry \$4.
15	Fis - Fr \$4.	42	S - Schm \$4.
16	Fu - Gig \$4.	43	Schn - Se \$4.
17	Gil - Go \$3.	44	Sh - Sk \$4.
18	Gr - Gy \$4.	45	Sl - Sp \$4.
19	H - Hap \$3.	46	Sq - St. K \$3.
20	Har - Haz \$4.	47	Sto - Sz \$4.
21	He \$4.	48	T - Tl \$4.
22	Hh - Hoo \$4.	49	To - Vd \$4.
23	Hop - Hy \$4.	50	Ve - Wan \$4.
24	I - Jol \$4.	51	War - We \$4.
25	Jom - Kem \$4.	52	Wh - Will \$4.
26	Ken - Kn \$4.	53	Wilm - Wy \$4.
27	Ko - Ky \$3.	54	X - Z \$2.

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