

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying  
Microcopy No. 404

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



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COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF  
VOLUNTEER UNION SOLDIERS WHO SERVED  
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MISSISSIPPI

On the 4 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the compiled service records of volunteer Union soldiers belonging to the First Battalion of Mississippi, Mounted Rifles. This battalion is the only organization of Union troops from Mississippi for which the National Archives has separate compiled service records, except those organizations redesignated as U. S. Colored Troops. These records consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, labeled with his name, his rank, and the unit in which he served and typically containing (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found in original muster rolls, returns, hospital rolls, and descriptive books; and (2) the originals of any papers relating solely to the particular soldier. There are cross-references to show other spellings under which a soldier's name may appear in the records and to show service that he may have had in other units or organizations.

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. Abstracts were made from original documents in the custody of the War Department and then verified by a separate operation of comparison to ensure that the abstracts were accurate.

The compiled service records of soldiers belonging to the First Battalion of Mississippi, Mounted Rifles, are arranged alphabetically by soldiers' surnames.

Preceding the jacket-envelopes for the individual soldiers there are some envelopes containing record-of-events cards giving the stations and sometimes the movements or activities of the battalion or a part of it.

Following the series of jacket-envelopes are separate series of card abstracts and personal papers of soldiers whose names were not listed on the regular rolls of the battalion and consequently there was not enough evidence to justify establishing individual compiled service records for them. The series of card abstracts and personal papers are arranged in alphabetical order.

There is a card index that may be used to locate the compiled service record of a Union soldier from Mississippi. This index, reproduced as Microcopy 389, contains the names of Mississippi soldiers for whom there are regular compiled service records. An index

card gives the name of the soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served. The separate series of card abstracts and personal papers are not indexed.

The compiled service records reproduced in this microcopy and the index 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 compiled service record of a volunteer Union soldier from Mississippi may not appear in this microcopy 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 National Archives has other records that may contain information relating to Union soldiers from Mississippi. 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 found among the pension application files of the Veterans Administration in Record Group 15. Sometimes supposed Union military service is 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.

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