

Publication No.: M-616

Publication Title: Index To Compiled Service Records Of Volunteer Soldiers Who Served During The Mexican War

Publication Date: 1965

INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS WHO SERVED DURING THE MEXICAN WAR

On the 41 rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served during the Mexican War. Each index card gives the name of a soldier, his rank, and the unit or units in which he served. There are cross-references for names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling.

The supposedly correct name of a volunteer soldier who served during the Mexican War may not appear in the index for several reasons. First, he may have served in the Regular Army. Second, he may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Third, a proper record of his service may not have been made; or, if made, it 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 have so vague that it was not practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The compiled service records to which the index applies consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier labeled with his name and containing (1) card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier as found primarily in original muster rolls and returns but occasionally in other records, such as pay vouchers, and (2) the originals of any papers relating solely to the particular soldier. A typical example of a compiled service record is filmed at the beginning of the index. The compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served during the Mexican War in organizations from the State of Texas and in Mormon organizations have been reproduced as Microcopies 278 and 351, respectively.

The compiled service records of volunteer soldiers who served in the Mexican War are arranged alphabetically by State or Territory, followed by the records of soldiers who served in Mormon organizations. The records are further arranged according to an organizational break down ending with the regiment or the independent battalion or company. Under each unit the service records are arranged alphabetically by surname of soldier. 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 volunteer soldiers of the Mexican War was begun about 1891 under the direction of Maj. 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 Record Group 94, Records of The Adjutant General's Office.

The National Archives has other records that contain information relating to soldiers who served in the Mexican War. Another series of compiled service records for volunteer soldiers consists of medical records for volunteer Union and Mexican War soldiers. Information relating to soldiers who served in the Regular Army is recorded in Registers of Enlistment's 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 or a bounty-land warrant was made, additional information about the soldier may be among the pension and bounty-land-warrant application files of the Veterans Administration in Record Group 15.

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