

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Pamphlet Accompanying
Microcopy No. 636

INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF
VOLUNTEER UNION SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN THE
VETERAN RESERVE CORPS



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**INDEX TO COMPILED SERVICE RECORDS OF
VOLUNTEER UNION SOLDIERS WHO SERVED IN THE
VETERAN RESERVE CORPS**

On the 44 rolls of this microfilm publication is reproduced an alphabetical card index to the compiled service records of volunteer Union soldiers who served in the Veteran Reserve Corps. Each index card gives the name of the soldier, his rank, and the unit in which he served. There are cross-references for names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling and for service in more than one unit or organization.

The Veteran Reserve Corps was composed of deserving officers and enlisted men who were unfit for active field service because of wounds or disease contracted in the line of duty but still capable of performing garrison duty, and of officers and enlisted men borne on the Army rolls who were absent from duty and in hospitals, in convalescent camps, or otherwise under the control of medical officers, but who were capable of serving as cooks, nurses, clerks, or orderlies at hospitals and as guards for hospitals or other public buildings. When the Corps was first authorized on April 28, 1863, it was known as the "Invalid Corps." Its name was changed to the Veteran Reserve Corps on March 18, 1864.

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 in the original muster and descriptive rolls, returns, and lists of deserters; 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 soldiers serving in the Veteran Reserve Corps are arranged according to an organizational breakdown and thereunder alphabetically by surname. 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 regiment, battalion, and company for each soldier, exactly as shown in the index.

The index and the compiled service records to which it relates are part of Record Group 94, Records of The Adjutant General's Office.

The National Archives has other records that may contain information about Union soldiers who served in the Veteran Reserve Corps. Other series of compiled service records of volunteer soldiers are (1) series containing records of units belonging to the various States and Territories--units in which most of the soldiers served before they were assigned to the Veteran Reserve Corps (some have been reproduced as microcopies), (2) an alphabetical series of records of Union staff officers, (3) medical records of volunteer Union and Mexican War soldiers, and (4) records of other non-State organizations, such as the U.S. Colored Troops (reproduced as Microcopy 589), the U.S. Sharp Shooters, and the Signal 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.

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