

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS
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**Compiled Service Records
of American Naval Personnel
and Members of the Departments
of the Quartermaster General
and the Commissary General
of Military Stores Who Served
During the Revolutionary War**



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The records reproduced in the microfilm publication

are from

War Department Collection of Revolutionary

War Records

Record Group 93

Compiled Service Records of American
Naval Personnel and Members of the
Departments of the Quartermaster General
and the Commissary General of Military Stores
Who Served During the Revolutionary War

On the four rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the compiled service records of American naval personnel and members of the Departments of the Quartermaster General and Commissary General of Military Stores who served during the Revolutionary War. The compiled service records consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, sailor, or civilian, which contains card abstracts of entries relating to him as found in original records. Both the compiled service records and most of the original records from which they were made are part of the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93.

History of the War Department
Collection of Revolutionary War Records

Most of the records of the American Army in the custody of the War Department were destroyed by fire on November 8, 1800. The War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records was begun in 1873 when Secretary of War William Belknap made the first of several purchases of Revolutionary War records for the Department. By War Department orders of July 3 and 16, 1889, a Record and Pension Division was established to take custody of the military records of the Volunteer Armies of the United States and to transact the pension and other business of the Department connected with those records. The Division was designated the Record and Pension Office of the War Department by an act of May 9, 1892 (27 Stat. 27), and Col. Fred C. Ainsworth became Chief of the Office. At Ainsworth's instigation, Congress passed acts on July 27, 1892 (27 Stat. 275), and August 18, 1894 (28 Stat. 403), that directed the other executive departments of the Federal Government to transfer military records of the Revolutionary War in their possession to the War Department. The last major addition to the Collection occurred in 1914-15 when the War Department made photographic copies of Revolutionary War records in the possession of individuals and institutions in several States to supplement the original records.

Compiled Military Service Records

The compilation of military service records from the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records was begun in 1894 under the direction of Colonel Ainsworth. 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.

The service records reproduced in this publication consist of a jacket-envelope for each soldier, sailor, or civilian, labeled with his name, his rank or profession, and the unit or special corps in which he served. The jacket-envelope contains card abstracts of entries relating to the soldier, sailor, or civilian as found in original muster rolls, payrolls, receipts for pay, assignments of pay, and lists of men and supplies. Abstracts were also made from five of the numbered record books in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, volumes 7, 10, 172, 173, and 175. There are cross-references for names that appeared in the records under more than one spelling.

Three series of compiled military service records have been reproduced in this publication under the following designations: Quartermaster General's Department, Commissary General of Military Stores Department, and Naval.

The Quartermaster General was one of the most important officers of the Continental Army. The office was created by the Continental Congress on June 16, 1775, and the responsibilities of its incumbents included transportation of men and supplies; purchase of forage, firewood, building materials, camp equipment, and other supplies; arrangement of camps; planning and regulation of marches; and sale of surplus property. At one time, the Department had almost 3,000 employees. The Quartermaster General was assisted at various stages of the Revolutionary War by Assistant and Deputy Quartermasters General, a Wagonmaster General, a Commissary General of Forage, and by numerous lower-level assistants, deputies, wagon conductors, forage-masters, storekeepers, superintendents, clerks, express riders, artificers, laborers, and other employees.

The records of the Quartermaster General's Department that were abstracted to form the compiled service records in this publication represent only a small portion of the records of that Department. The 13 unbound records that were abstracted consist only of payrolls of brigades of wagons commanded by David Boggs, James Login, John Patterson, and John Springer; a payroll of "sundry persons employed in the publick service by Hugh Hughes, Deputy Quarter Master for the State of New York"; and a payroll of 27 "Draughted artificers" employed with the Southern Army, January 1, 1782.

The Commissary General of Military Stores was the head of the supply department responsible for procurement of munitions and supervision of weapons repair work in Continental armories. His duties also included receiving and issuing arms, ammunition, and related equipment, and maintaining records of stores. Deputy and assistant commissaries, conductors, armorers, artificers, clerks, laborers, and other persons assisted him in discharging these duties.

Col. Benjamin Flower was appointed Commissary General of Military Stores for the Flying Camp on July 16, 1776. He subsequently became Commissary General of Military Stores and served in that capacity until his death in April 1781. The 17 unbound records that were abstracted to form the compiled military service records in this publication under the designation "Commissary General of Military Stores Department" consist of muster rolls, payrolls, and lists pertaining to Colonel Flower's regiment of artillery artificers. This regiment was composed primarily of civilian and military mechanics, who were organized into companies of artificers and stationed at the various posts, forts, and laboratories within the jurisdiction of the Commissary General of Military Stores Department. Compiled service records are reproduced in this publication for companies commanded by Christian Beackley, Nathaniel Chapman, Alexander Dow, James Gibbon, William Hawes, Nathaniel Irish, John Jordan, Theophilus Parke, Jesse Roe, and Thomas Wylie.

The War Department collected a few naval records but transferred most of them to the Navy Department on November 2, 1906. Before that time, however, 17 unbound naval records were abstracted to form the series of naval compiled service records reproduced in this publication. The records consist of lists of American sailors and vessels, payrolls, portage bills, and assignments of pay. They relate to ships of the Continental and State navies: the frigate *Alliance*, brigantines *Dartmouth* and *Polly*, sloops *Independence* and *Montgomery*, the schooner *Putnam*, and the ship *Raleigh*. There are also lists of American prisoners taken by the British ships *Gibraltar* (Gibleyalter), *Hunter*, and *Felicity*, and lists of vessels arriving and departing from Tribel's Landing in October 1781.

Entries from volumes 7, 10, 172, 173, and 175 in Record Group 93 were also abstracted to form the compiled service records in this publication. These volumes consist of accounts for depreciation of pay of Pennsylvania soldiers, lists of the men in Col. Benjamin Flower's Artificer Regiment, records of the settlement of the pay accounts of Pennsylvania officers, lists of Pennsylvania officers and men entitled to donation lands, and lists of pay and service of New York and Virginia soldiers and sailors.

Indexes

The most comprehensive name index to Revolutionary War compiled service records is available as National Archives Microfilm Publication M860, *General Index to the Compiled Military Service Records of Revolutionary War Soldiers*. The War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records also contains separate name indexes to the compiled service records of naval personnel and members of the Departments of the Quartermaster General and the Commissary General of Military Stores. The name index for sailors is available as M879, *Index to Compiled Service Records*

of American Naval Personnel Who Served During the Revolutionary War. The entries in the three smaller name indexes are usually duplicated in the General Index.

Related Records in the National Archives

Most of the Revolutionary War compiled service records in the custody of the National Archives are reproduced on the approximately 1,100 rolls of M881, *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War*. A few references to sailors, civilian employees, prisoners of war, included in the records reproduced on M881, but most of the Revolutionary War compiled service records for persons other than soldiers are reproduced in this publication (M880).

Most of the original records and copies of records from which the Revolutionary War compiled service records were made are available on M246, *Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783*, and M853, *Numbered Record Books Concerning Military Operations and Service, Pay and Settlement of Accounts, and Supplies in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records*. Notations in the lower left corner of the card abstracts of compiled service records frequently indicate the volume or document number or the original record copied.

Other notations on card abstracts sometimes refer to numbers preceded by the initials "R & P." These references are to file citations in the general correspondence of the Records and Pension Office of the War Department. This correspondence is part of Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, Record Group 94. The index to it is available as M686, *Index to General Correspondence of the Record and Pension Office, 1889-1904*.

Record Group 93 contains other records relating to the Departments of the Quartermaster General and the Commissary General of Military Stores and to naval affairs. Many of these records are available on microfilm as part of M853 and M859, *Miscellaneous Numbered Records (The Manuscript File) in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1790's*. A name index to these two series is available as M847, *Special Index to Numbered Records in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775-1783*.

Naval records relating to the Revolutionary War period can also be found in the Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library, Record Group 45. An important series from this record group is available as M625, *Area File of the Naval Records Collection, 1775-1910*.

Pension and bounty land warrant application files based on the service of Revolutionary War military and naval personnel are

part of Records of the Veterans Administration, Record Group 15. They have been reproduced as M804, *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*, and M805, *Selected Records From Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land-Warrant Application Files*.

Journals, correspondence, and other records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses are in Records of the Continental and Confederation Congresses and the Constitutional Convention, Record Group 360. These records have been microfilmed as M247, *Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*, and M332, *Miscellaneous Papers of the Continental Congress, 1774-1789*. International and Indian treaties are in General Records of the United States Government, Record Group 11, and the Indian treaties have been reproduced as M668, *Ratified Indian Treaties, 1722-1869*. Ledgers and other fiscal records of the Government of the Revolutionary War period are in Records of the Bureau of Accounts (Treasury), Record Group 39; Records of the Bureau of the Public Debt, Record Group 53; General Records of the Department of the Treasury, Record Group 56; and Records of the United States General Accounting Office, Record Group 217.

These introductory remarks were written by Marie B. Allen.

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