

Publication Number: M-260

Publication Title: Records Relating to Confederate Naval and Marine Personnel

Date Published: 1959

REOCRDS RELATING TO CONFEDERAL NAVAL AND MARINE PERSONNEL

On the seven rolls of this microfilm publication, M-260, are reproduced records relating to persons serving in the Confederate Navy and Marine Corps. These records are in three series, as follows: (1) compiled hospital and prison records of naval and marine personnel; (2) reference cards and papers relating to naval personnel; and (3) reference cards and papers relating to marine personnel. The first series, arranged alphabetically by surname of sailor or marine, consists of cards containing abstracts of entries relating to the individual in original Union and Confederate hospital registers, prescription books, and Union prison and parole rolls; and the originals of papers, primarily from prison records relating to the individual. The second and third series consist of reference cards and the originals of any papers relating solely to a particular sailor or marine, arranged alphabetically by surname. The reference cards indicate the rank of the sailor or marine and contain references to vessel papers, payrolls, muster rolls, and volumes in the War Department Collection of Confederate Records.

The hospital and prison records of naval and marine personnel were compiled during the period that the military service records of Confederate soldiers were being prepared. This compilation was begun in 1903 under the direction of Brig. Gen. Fred C. Ainsworth, head of the Record and Pension Office of the War Department. Abstracts were made from documents in the War Department Collection of Confederate Records and from documents borrowed by the War Department in an effort to obtain as nearly complete service records as possible. The abstracts made from the original records were verified by a separate operation of comparison, and every conceivable precaution was taken to ensure that the abstracts were accurate. The exact date that the compilation of the series of reference cards and papers relating to naval and marine personnel was begun is not known. The work was probably performed by the Archive Office of The Adjutant General's Office in the latter part of the 19th century.

Some of the original documents relating to a particular individual were at some time removed from the second and third series; in some instances, however, the envelopes, which show the serviceman's name and rank and from which the original documents were removed, were retained in the files. The documents so removed were transferred to the Navy Department before the War Department Collection of Confederate Records was accessioned by the National Archives and are now part of Record Group 45, Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library, in the National Archives.

The records reproduced in this microcopy are a part of a body of records in the National Archives designated as Record Group 109, War Department Collection of Confederate Records.

Records relating to a Confederate sailor or marine may not appear in this microcopy for several reasons. First, the series containing reference cards and papers relating to naval and marine personnel is known to be incomplete. Second, the sailor or marine may not have served in a naval or marine unit. Third, he may have served under a different name or used a different spelling of his name. Fourth, proper records of his service may not have been made, or, if made, may have been lost or destroyed in the confusion that often attended the initial mobilization, subsequent military operation, or final surrender of Confederate forces. Fifth, the references to the individual in the original records may be so vague that it has not been practicable to determine his correct name or the unit in which he served.

The originals of naval and marine muster rolls, shipping articles, clothing receipts, descriptive rolls, and some payrolls are part of Record Group 45. There is no complete index to these rolls.

Sometimes presumed Confederate naval or marine service is shown by the record to have been service in a civilian capacity, as in the case of government employees. Evidence of such service or of having aided the Confederate cause as a civilian in some other way may sometimes be obtained from a series of records in the National Archives known as the "Citizens File." This series consists of Confederate documents, each of which relates only to a particular civilian. They are arranged alphabetically by name of person and are not indexed. Other information about the activities of Confederate civilians is contained in a similar unindexed series of documents accumulated by Union provost marshals and known as the "Provost Marshal File." The National Archives has still other Confederate records in its custody among which documents may possibly be found relating to particular Confederate civilians or servicemen. The records described in this paragraph are available for examination in the National Archives by inquirers or their agents.

CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	Hospital and prison records of naval and marine personnel A - E
2	F - L
3	M - R
4	S - Z
5	Reference cards and papers relating to naval personnel A - G
6	H - P
7	Q - Z
	Reference cards and papers relating to marine personnel A - Z