



## ***Troop Movements and Activities of Volunteer Units in the United States Army, 1775–1902***

In the 1890s, the Record and Pension Office of the War Department, directed by Col. Fred C. Ainsworth, created carded records of military service for volunteer soldiers from the Revolutionary War through the Philippine Insurrection. For many volunteer organizations, Ainsworth also prepared carded histories. Referred to as “troop movements” or “record of events,” these carded records contain information relating to stations, movements, or activities, and frequently information about a unit’s organization or composition, strength and losses, and disbandment. Sometimes the names of commanding officers, the unit’s dates of enlistment and muster out, and the terms of service are included. In 1903 Ainsworth compiled carded histories of Confederate units as well, using captured Confederate records from the War Department as well as other privately held Southern sources.

While no carded unit histories for the Revolutionary War were ever created, the original rolls from the War Department’s Collection of Revolutionary War Records provided similar “record of events” and were used to create the military service records.

### **Microfilmed Records**

Carded record of events or troop movements are only available on microfilm for military units from the Revolutionary War and the Civil War.

\_\_\_M246, *Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775–1783*. 138 rolls. DP. Arranged by numbered folder or “jacket” according to three broad categories: regiments raised by states, arranged alphabetically; Continental troops authorized by Congress, arranged by unit; and miscellaneous units. The records of these organizations contain muster rolls, payrolls, strength returns, and other miscellaneous personnel, pay, and supply records.

\_\_\_M594, *Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Volunteer Union Organizations*. 225 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by state or territory, then by type of unit (cavalry, artillery, or infantry), followed by militia, reserves, sharpshooters, and other organizations. The publication concludes with records of units not limited to geographic location, such as the U.S. Colored Troops, U.S. Volunteers, and U.S. Veteran Reserve Corps.

\_\_\_M861, *Compiled Records Showing Service of Military Units in Confederate Organizations*. 74 rolls. DP. Most of the records are arranged alphabetically by state, then by unit type (cavalry, artillery, or infantry), followed by reserves, militia, local defense, conscript, prison guard, instruction, or other organizations. Confederate Government units are grouped together and are not broken down by state. These records are incomplete because many Confederate Army records were lost or destroyed by the end of the Civil War.

**Note:** Union and Confederate carded histories have also been published in Janet B. Hewett, ed. *Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies, Part II: Record of*

*Events*. 80 vols. Wilmington: Broadfoot Publishing Co., 1994–1998. (E 464. U6 Suppl.) This publication is available in the Archives Library Information Center (ALIC) in the National Archives Building. The volumes are arranged alphabetically by state; microfilm publication and roll number citations follow the transcriptions for each unit.

## **Textual Records**

Carded unit histories only in textual form exist for volunteer organizations from the Old Indian Wars (1811–58), the Mexican War (1846–48), the Spanish-American War (1898), and the Philippine Insurrection (1899–1902). These carded histories, filed with the compiled military service records for each volunteer unit, are usually arranged first, followed by the individual service records for the unit. These records are part of Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's–1917.

The carded histories vary in availability for each war or period of conflict. Many, but not all, volunteer units that served in the Old Indian Wars and the Mexican War have record of events cards. All volunteer organizations from the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection have carded unit histories.

**Note:** Volunteer organizations from the post-Revolutionary period (1784–1811) and the War of 1812 (1812–15) do not have record of events cards. Those organizations have “caption cards” that identify the source records (muster and pay rolls) used to create the compiled service records. Caption cards often note the length of service for a particular unit, but do not provide details about troop movements or activities. Some Old Indian Wars and Mexican War volunteer units also have caption cards instead of carded histories. Some have both.

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