



Drummer

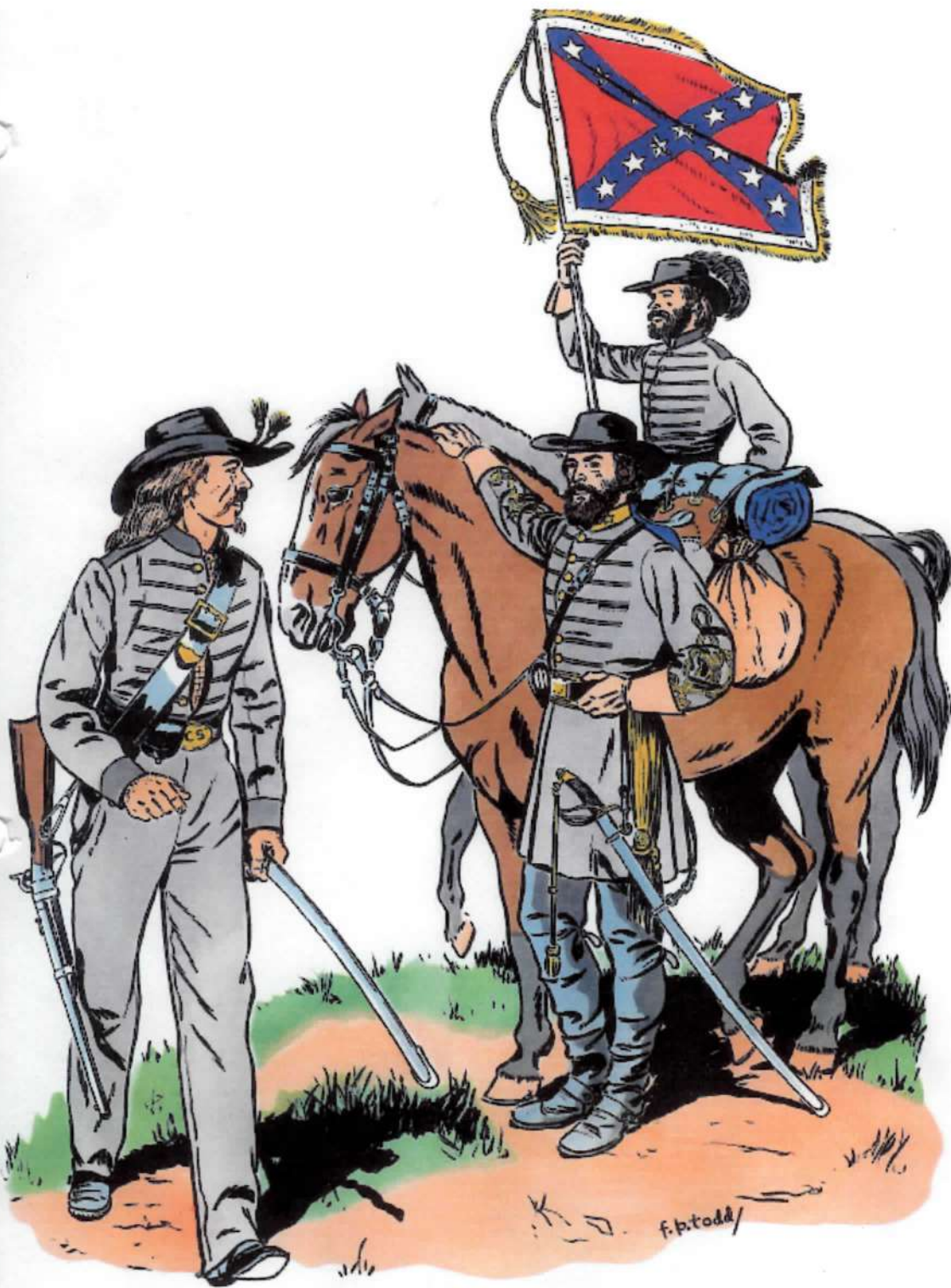
Enlisted Men

Company Officer

22nd Regiment, New York State Militia, 1862

Plate 3

LE



Trooper

Field Officer

Regimental Standard

1st Virginia Cavalry Regiment, 1861-1862

Plate 10
LE



155th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1864-1865

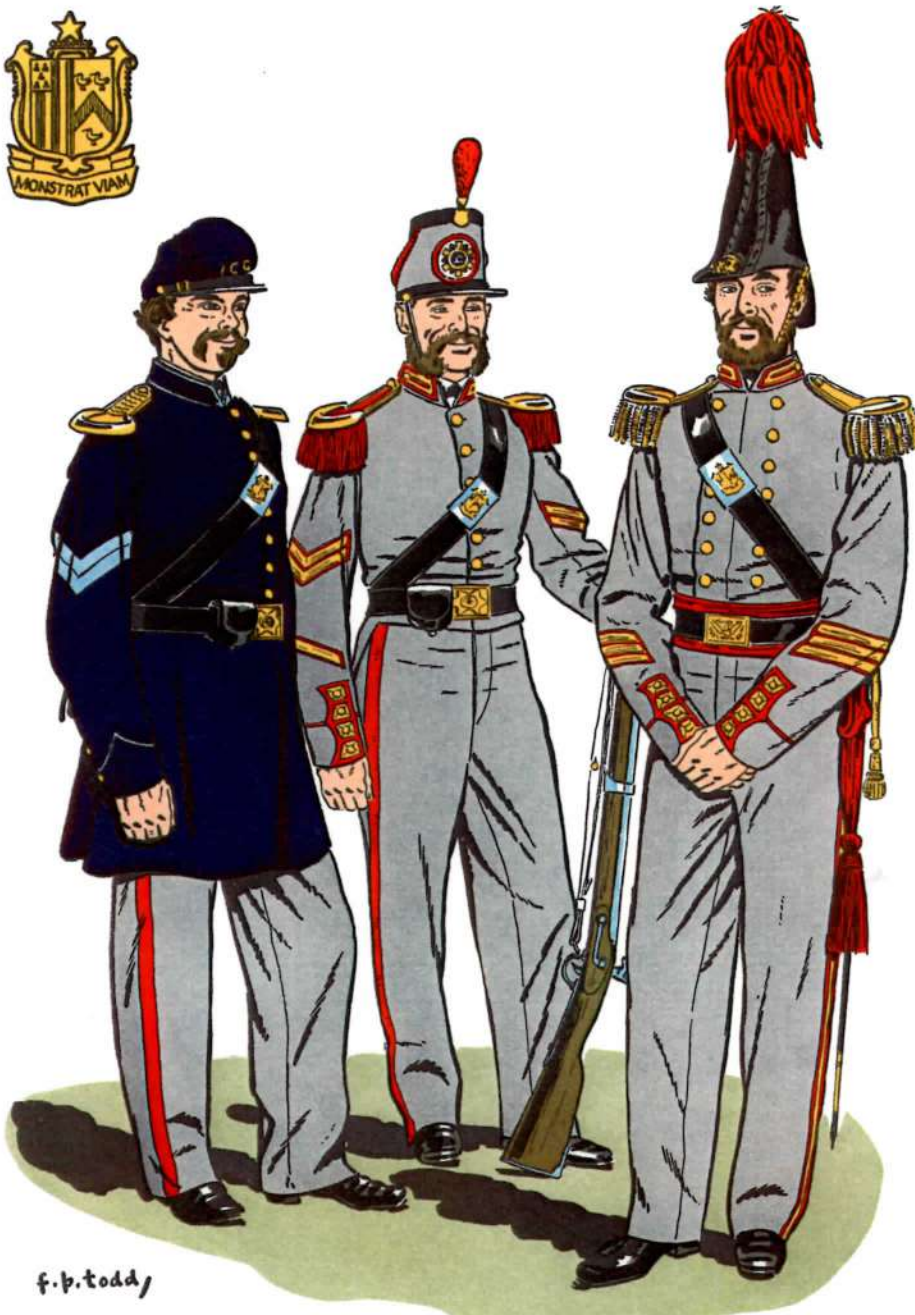
Plate 11
LE



Musician, Privates and Sergeant, Full Dress

Company Officer, Undress

U.S. Marine Corps, Full Dress, 1859-1875

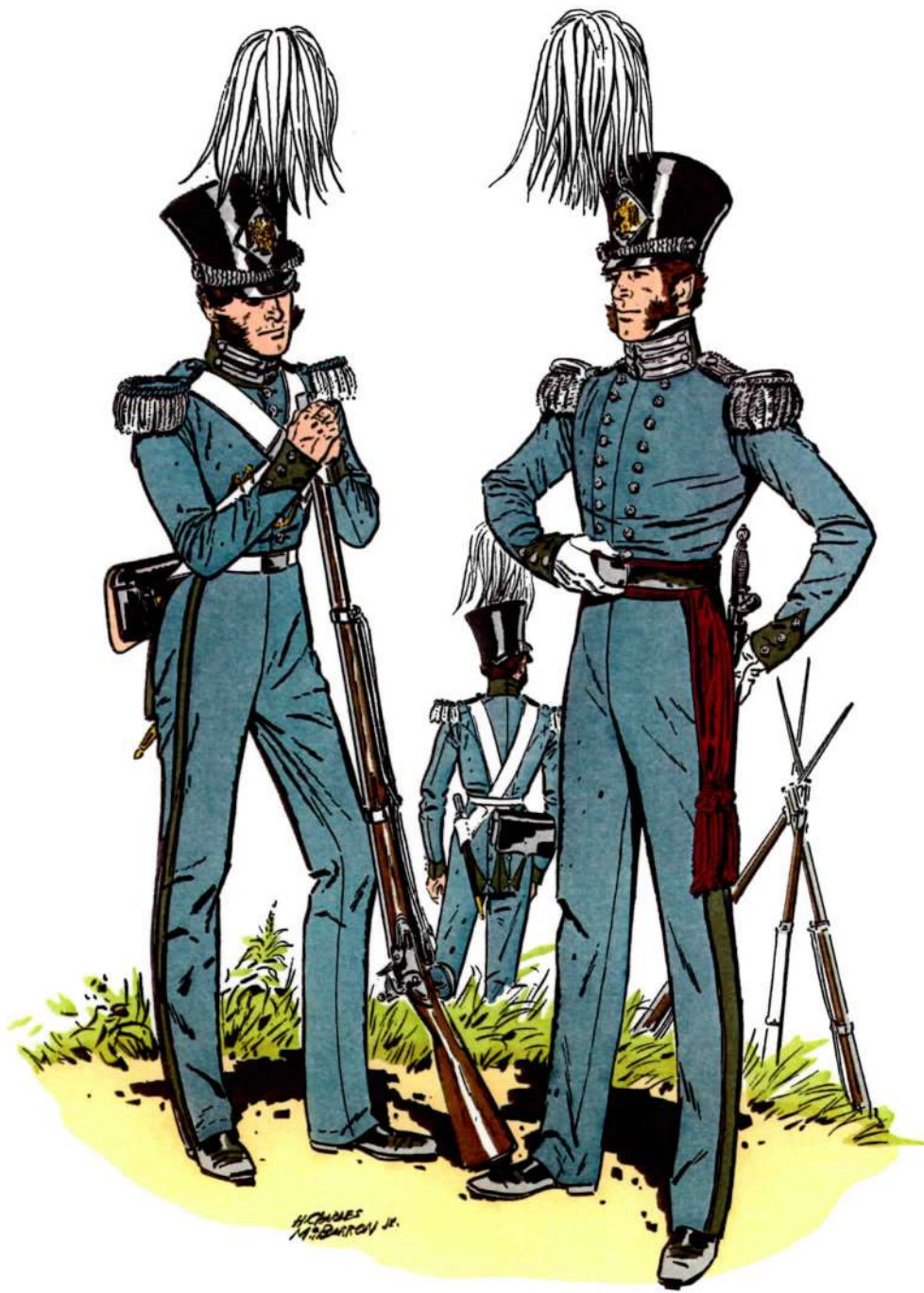


f.p.toddy

Corporals, Fatigue and Full Dress

Field Officer, Full Dress

Independent Corps of Cadets, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, 1858-1864



St. Louis Grays, 1832-1858

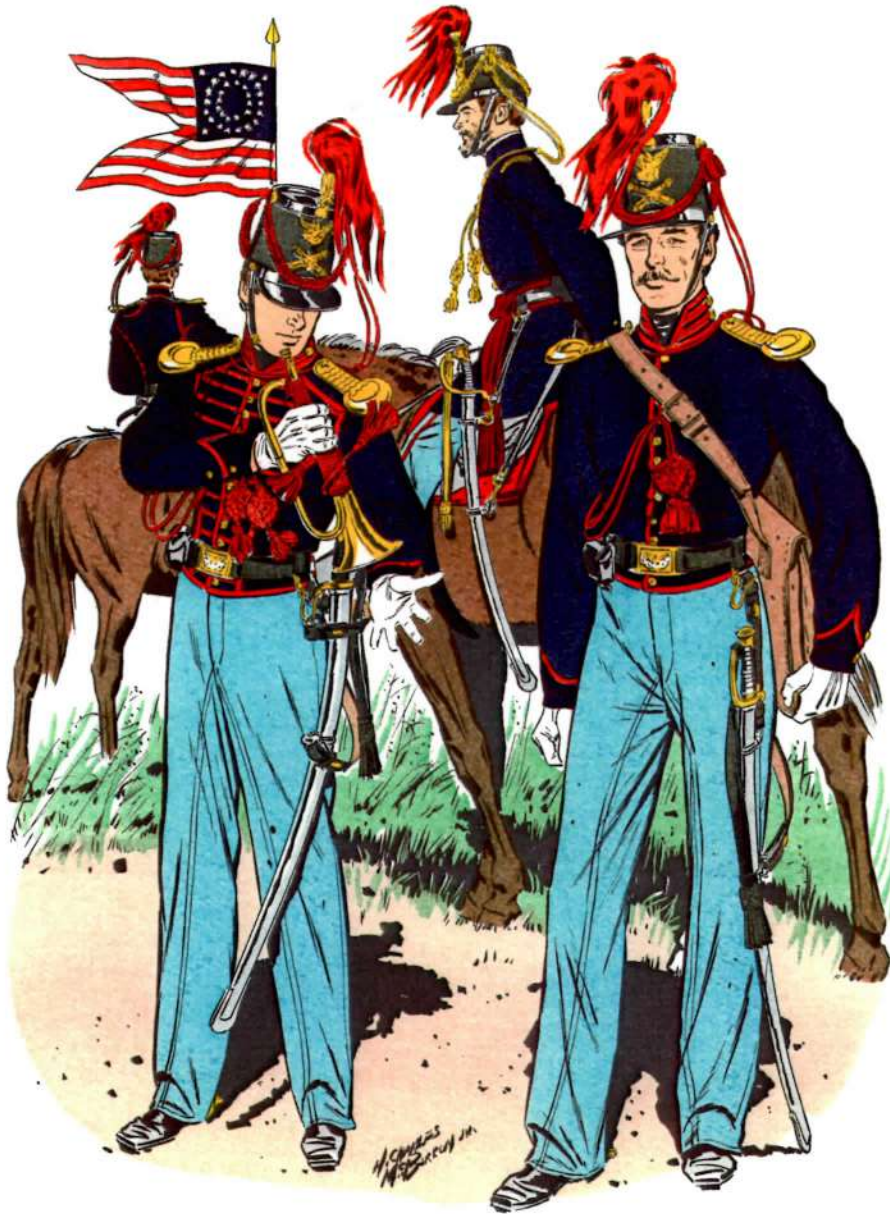
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Plate No. 26

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Company Guidon

Musician

Officer

Cannoneer

U. S. Light Artillery Companies, Dress Uniform, 1857-1872

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Plate No. 37

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Professor Captain

Cadet Officer

Cadet

Virginia Military Institute, 1864

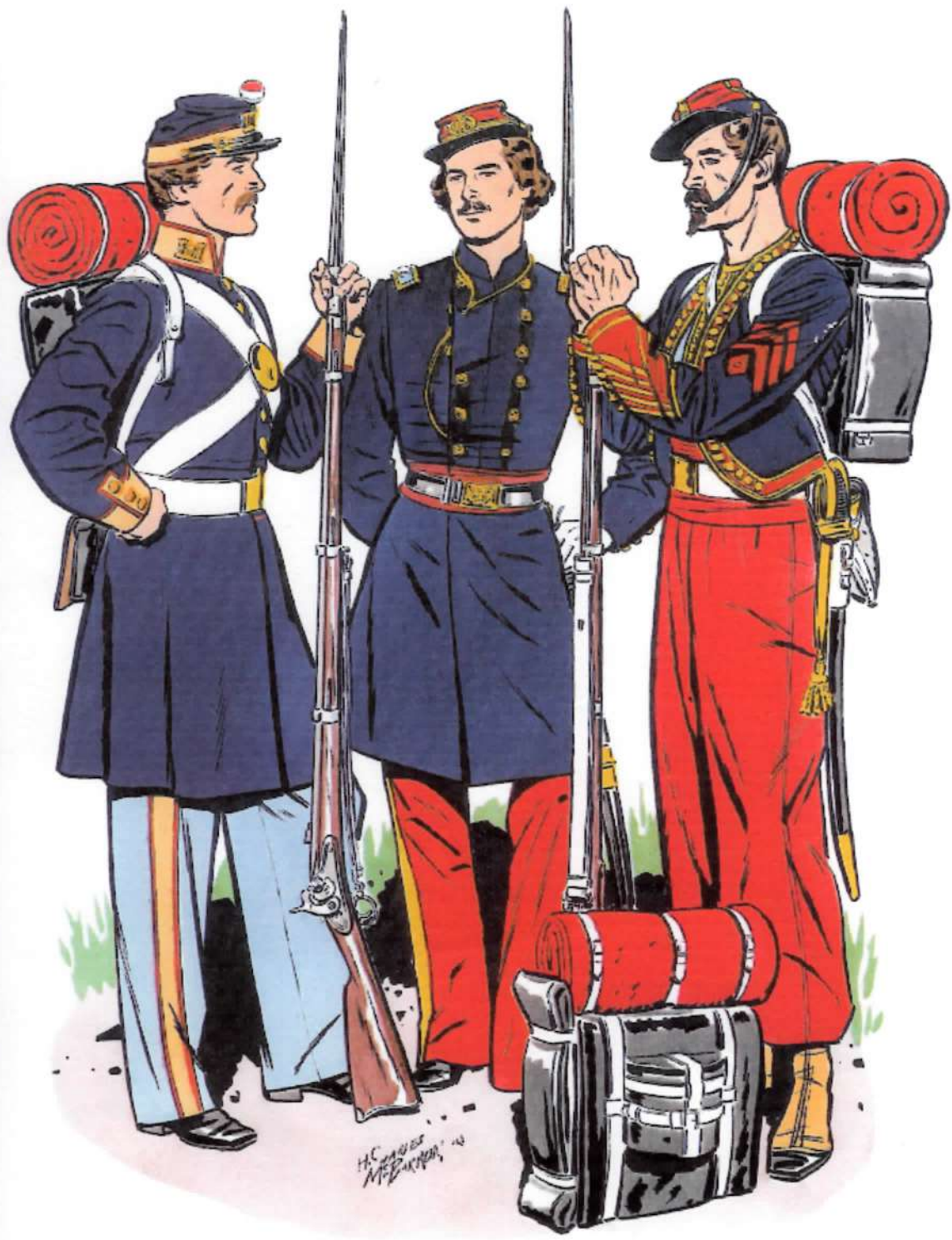


Standard, Cavalry Company C

Guidon, Battery A

Legion Color, carried by Infantry Company

Hampton Legion, South Carolina Volunteers, 1861



Private, Full Dress

Commanding Officer

First Sergeant, Zouave Dress

United States Zouave Cadets, 1859-1860



Private

Colonel

Captain

11th Indiana Volunteers (Wallace Zouaves), 1861



Principal Musician

Viandiere

114th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (Collis Zouaves), 1862-1865

Military Collector & Historian

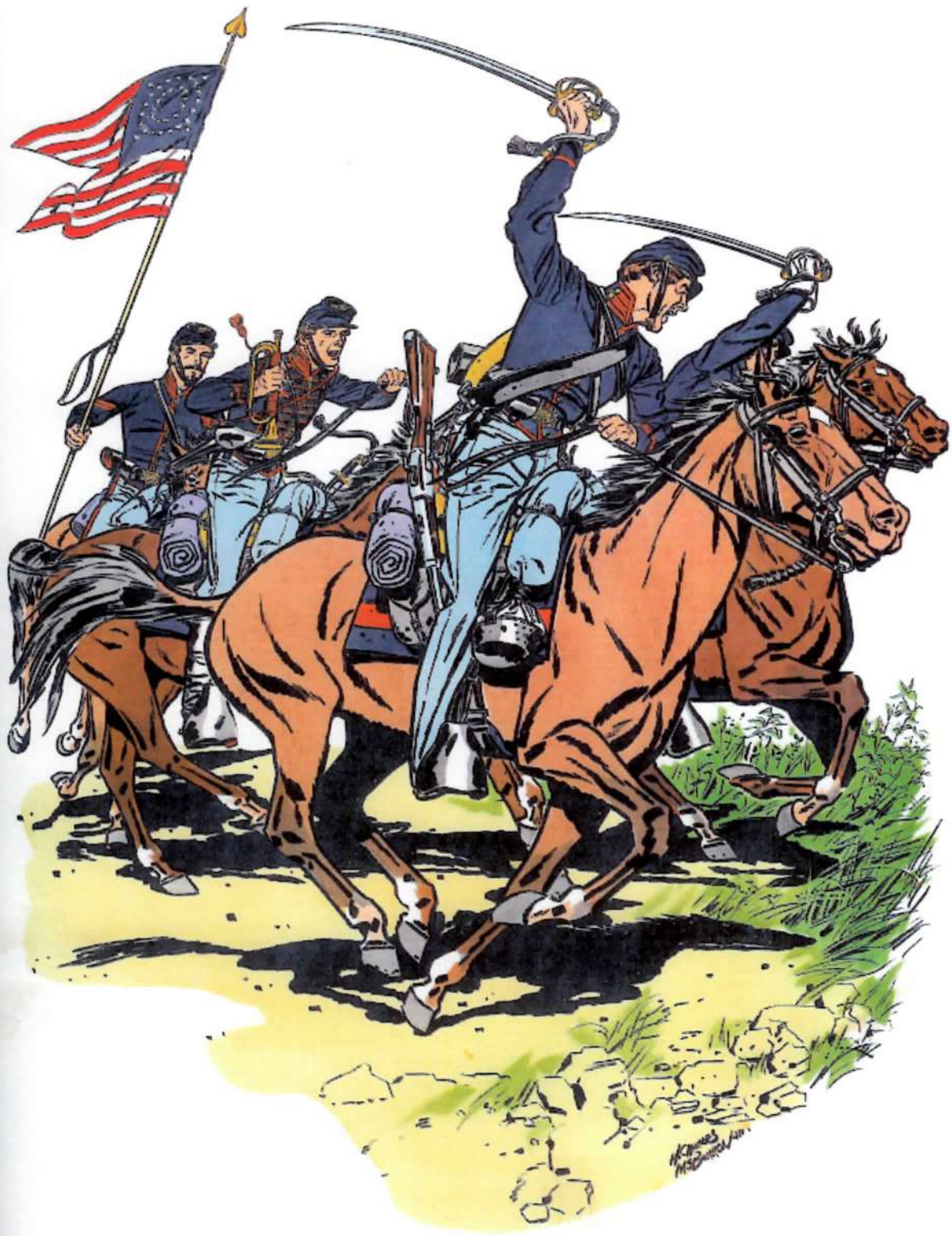
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LE



2nd U.S. Cavalry Regiment, 1861-1865

Plate ⁶⁰
LE



*Drum Major
(full dress)*

*Field Officer
Drummer*

*Private, Line Company, (Chasseur Uniform)
Sergeant, Sappers & Miners (Chasseur Uniform)*

12th Regiment, New York State Militia, 1861-1869

12th Regt., N.Y.S.M.

by Michael J. McAfee

The common wisdom seems to be that militia soldiers were somehow not soldiers. This perception grew in the 19th Century along with the concurrent feeling that regulars were the scum of the earth, unable to find gainful employment except as hiring mercenaries.

Both points of view were, of course, like all common wisdom, lacking in true wisdom. The militia of the immediate pre-Civil War years was a far cry from the common militia essentially demolished by Jacksonian Democracy and the rise of the "common man" it entailed.

Today the very word "militia" conjures images of gun-toting, anti-government, survivalist red-necks, but in 1860 the average militiaman was a substantial, prop-



This pre-war officer of the 12th wears the white uniform adopted in 1852. (Copied from Report, Annual Reunion and Dinner of the Old Guard Association, Twelfth Regiment, NGSNY, 1894.)

erty-owing member of the middle class who saw it as his civic duty to help instill law and order, especially in the chaos of America's burgeoning cities, rife as they were with all sorts of foreign "riff-raff." In the South the militia soldier was also a protector of another type of property rights, with the added duty of providing control over the slave population.

The 12th Regiment, New York State Militia, had been created, along with nearly every other New York militia regiment, in 1847. In that year a new law essentially consolidated each of the volunteer companies originally attached to the regiments of common militia into regiments, and then in turn abolished the common militia. What this act did was to make the citizen soldiers who actually wanted to voluntarily in the militia serve into the state active militia. The rest of the population would be counted as there to serve in the militia if called upon, but in truth they would never be called. It was obvious that 50 or 70 regiments of dedicated men, at least basically trained, were worth much more than two to three hundred untrained, drafted militia regiments.

The 12th early on provided the core of men used to fill New York's 1st Regiment, sent as volunteers to the Mexican War. At Chapultepec that regiment's colonel, a militia officer, was mortally wounded.

Thereafter the 12th saw only riot-suppression duty until

called to the defense of the nation in 1861. In common with other Northern militia units, the 12th was among the first to volunteer to defend the nation's capitol, coming to Washington, D.C., at the end of April 1861. The regiment served for three months in and around Washington before returning to New York. Many of its officers and a large number of its men then volunteered for federal service and formed a new "12th Militia" that was later consolidated with companies of the 12th Volunteer Infantry and served through much of the war.

The original 12th was called out for service two more times. In the fall of 1862, after



The ordnance sergeant of the 12th wears a privately purchased pleated smock-shirt. The star above his chevrons is metal. (CDV in the author's collection)

ding its term of service, the
ent was captured along with
Harpers Ferry garrison by
Wall Jackson. Paroled and
ed by January of the fol-
g year, it again went out and
d in the defenses of
sburg, Pennsylvania, during
Gettysburg Campaign.

Despite engaging in battles
at Harpers Ferry in 1862 and
at skirmishes in 1863, the
lost no men to enemy action.
men, however, did succumb
to disease. While these statistics
do seem to indicate that the
men had it easier, remember that
many of the regiment's younger
less-encumbered men were in-
voluntarily serving in the 12th Volunteer
Regiment and later some in the 5th
New York Veterans. These men
had been simply "militia," but
they fought on the battlefields of the
Battle of the Potomac as "volun-
teers."

In fact the 12th contributed
many famous men to the war. The
regiment's original colonel was
Dan Butterfield, and Francis
Butterfield joined the regiment as a
lieutenant in Washington in 1861.
Many men figured prominently in
the war as general officers.

It should always be
remembered that the pre-Civil War
North and South, provided
opportunities for many volunteer offi-
cers. At home, of course, the mili-
tias acted as a home guard. It was
not until that New York City had
nearly drained of its militia
to meet the needs of the Gettysburg
Campaign that allowed the infa-
mous Draft Riots to grow into an
insurrection, there being no mili-
tary force on hand to quell the dis-
orders. The militiaman of the
19th century was every bit a
"Minute Man" as his 1775 coun-



Top: This unidentified private wears the 1861 chasseur uniform of the 12th. The white cord trim is clearly visible. (CDV in the author's collection)

Bottom: The Engineer Company (Co. A), of the 12th wore "engineer yellow" trim on its coats along with engineer castles on the collar and cap. (Unmounted CDV in the author's collection)



terpart.

The 12th also wore at least two very distinctive uniforms. In 1852 the regiment adopted its first regimental uniform. Prior to that the different companies had their own uniforms. The uniform the regiment first adopted was a white frock coat with blue facings, blue trousers, and a blue cloth shako.

By 1861, however, this uniform had been replaced with a more standard blue one. The influx of volunteers prior to its leaving for Washington made it impossible to obtain uniforms for all. As a result the men were armed with Minie rifles and accouterments, but wore civilian clothes. They were described as "guerrilla-like" as a result. In Washington, however, a new uniform was distributed to the entire regiment. The new clothing was of the chasseur pattern, and Dan Butterfield's regiment was splendidly attired.

The chasseur uniform consisted of a dark blue coat with slit skirts in true chasseur fashion, trimmed with white cord. The baggy trousers were of a lighter blue and also trimmed in white about the pockets. Yellow leather leggings covered the shoes, while a light blue chasseur kepi with blue band and white trim topped off the suit.

This garb was so popular that the regiment wore it for many years after the Civil War. It was perhaps due to Butterfield's influence when he sat on a uniform board during the war that the Union Army picked, but never acquired, a complete chasseur uniform to replace that of 1858. But whatever their uniform the men of the "Independence Guard" would typify the American soldier in their devotion and sacrifice. ●



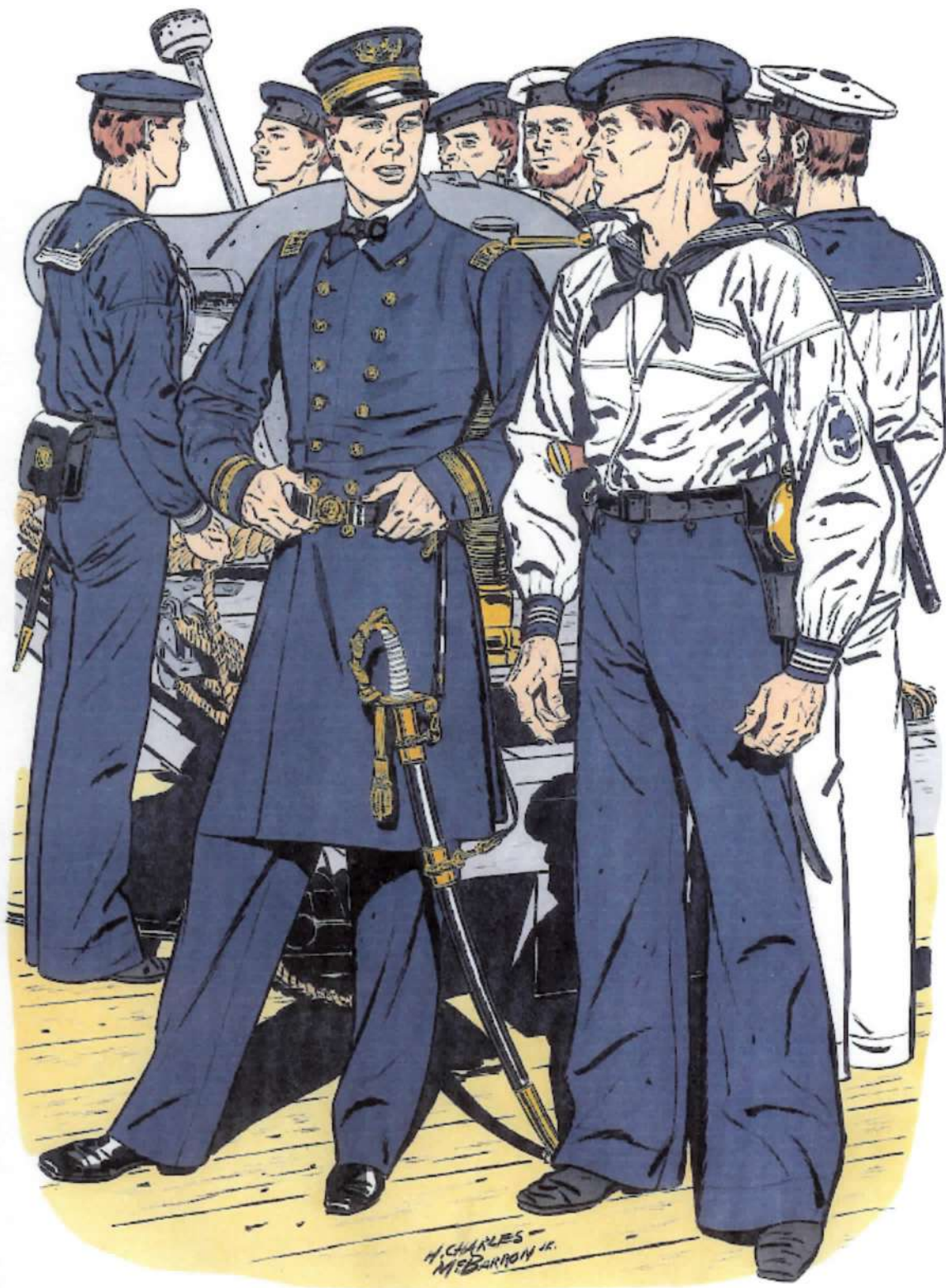
Sergeant

Company Officer

Nurse

Privates

2nd Regiment, New Hampshire Volunteer Militia, 1861



Seaman

Lieutenant

Petty Officer

U.S. Navy, Service Dress, 1862-1863

Plate 70
LE



Captain in Fatigue Jacket

Private, Musician and First Sergeant, Undress

U.S. Marine Corps, Field Service Dress, 1859-1868

Plate 71
L6



Private, summer full dress

Colonel, sergeant and Company officer (as officer of the day), winter full dress

8th Regiment, New York State Militia (Washington Grays) circa 1850-1870

Military Uniforms in America

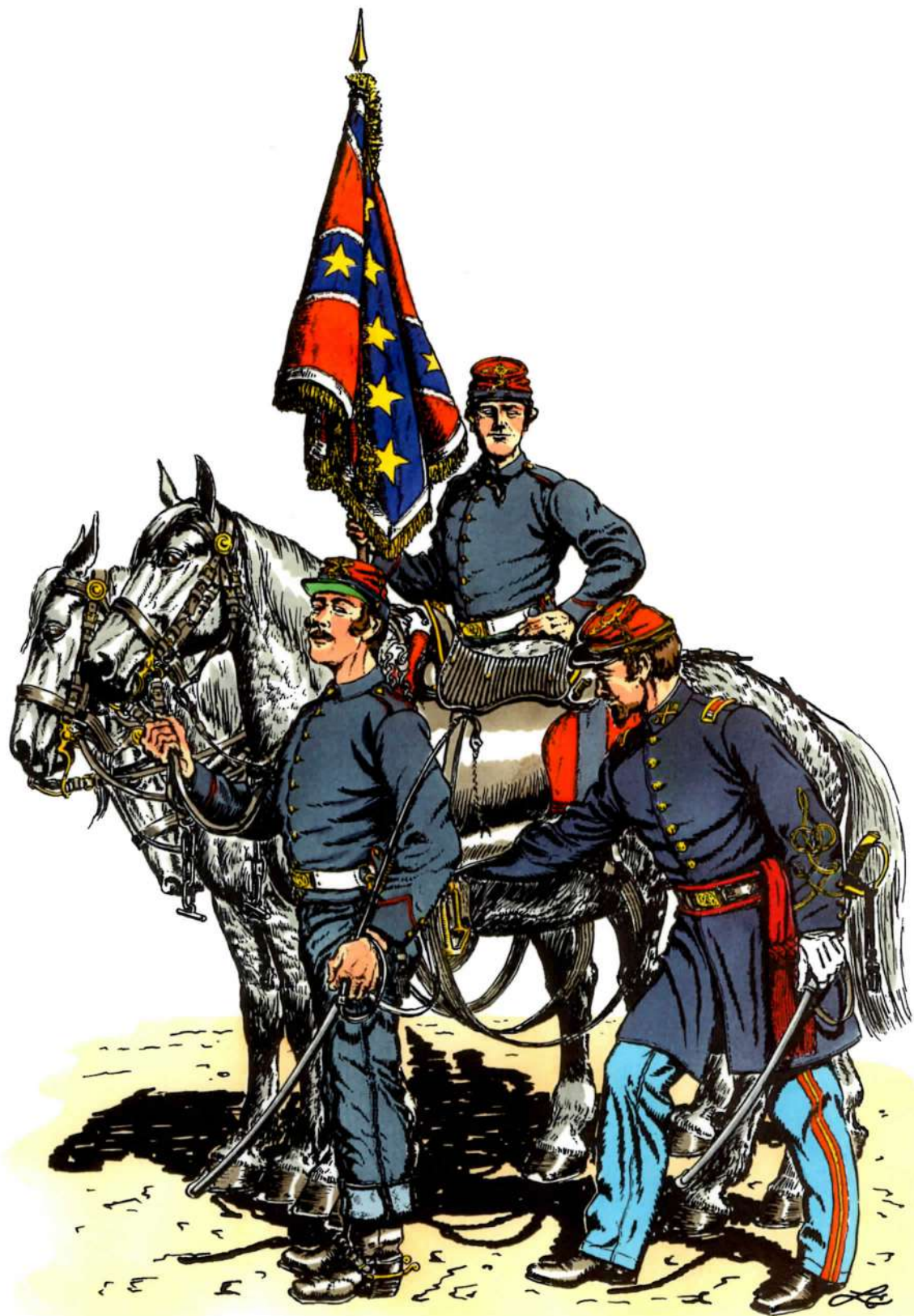
Plate No. 79

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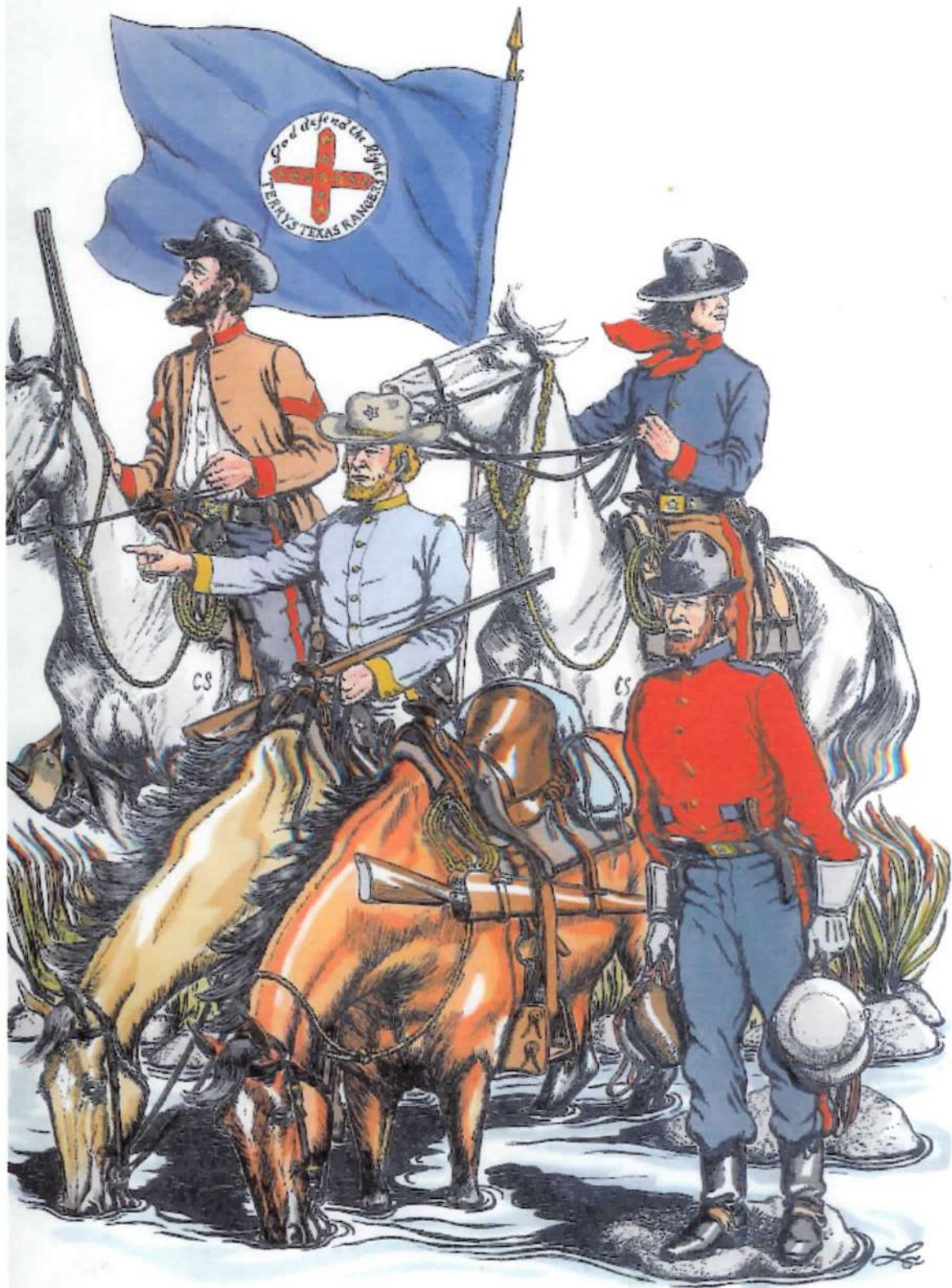


Lead Driver and Pair

Battle flag

Captain

5th Company, Washington Artillery of New Orleans, 1862-1864



Sergeant

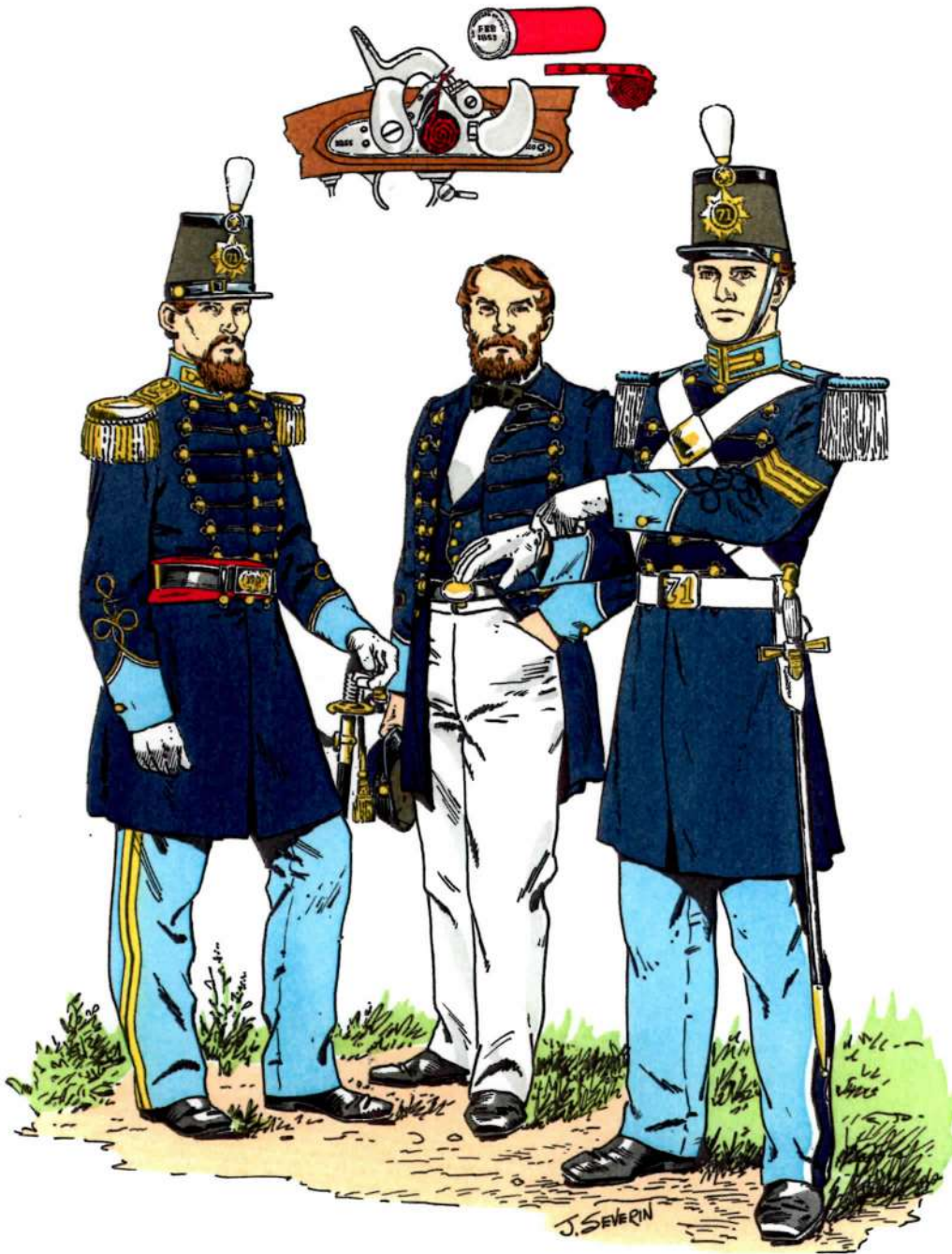
Company Officer

Standard Bearer with "Wigfall" Flag

Ranger

Terry's Texas Rangers (8th Texas Cavalry Regiment), 1864

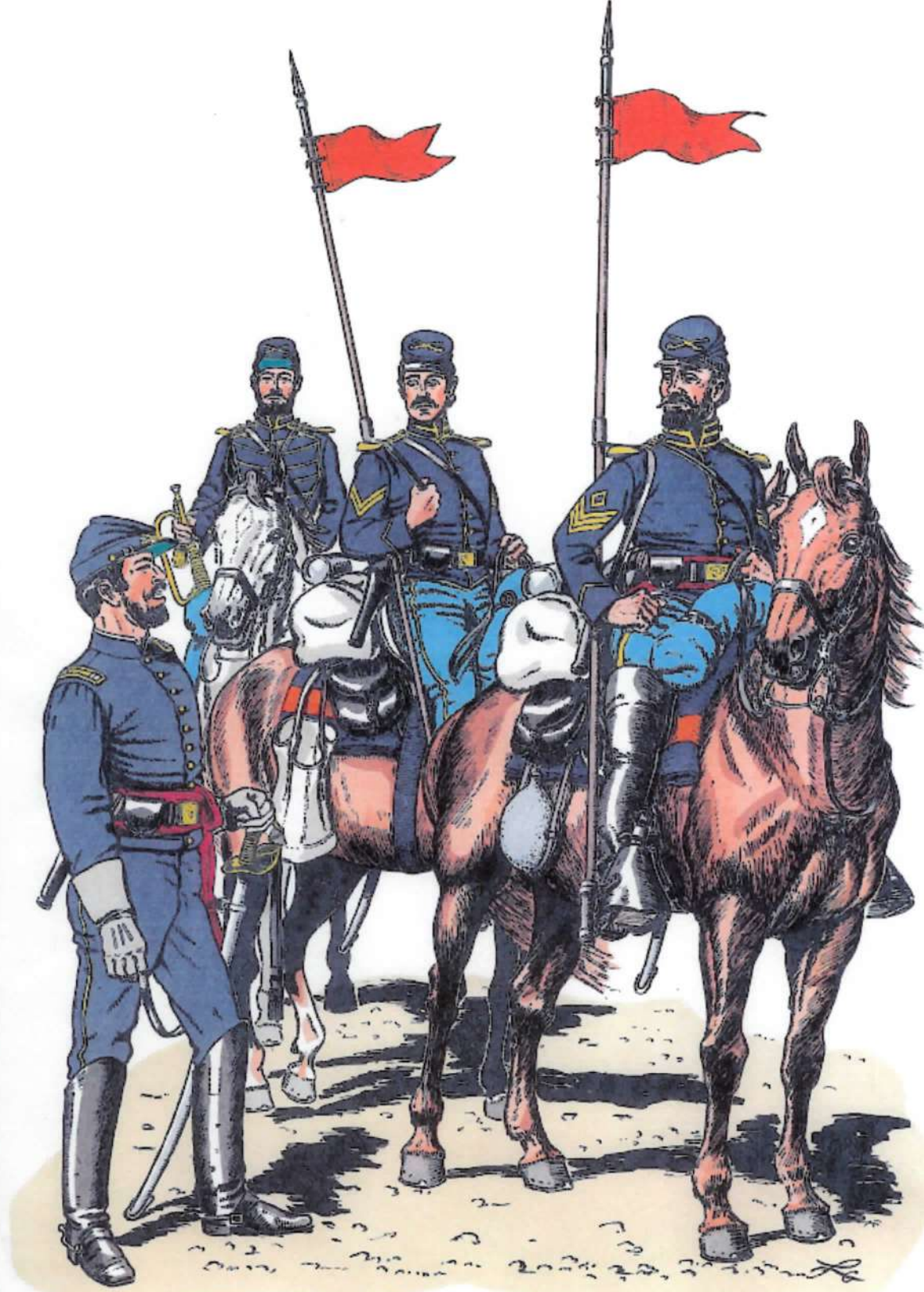
Plate 83
LE



Company Officers, Full Dress and Off Duty Dress

Sergeant, Full Dress

71st Regiment, New York State Militia, 1857-1861



Captain

Trumpeter

Corporal

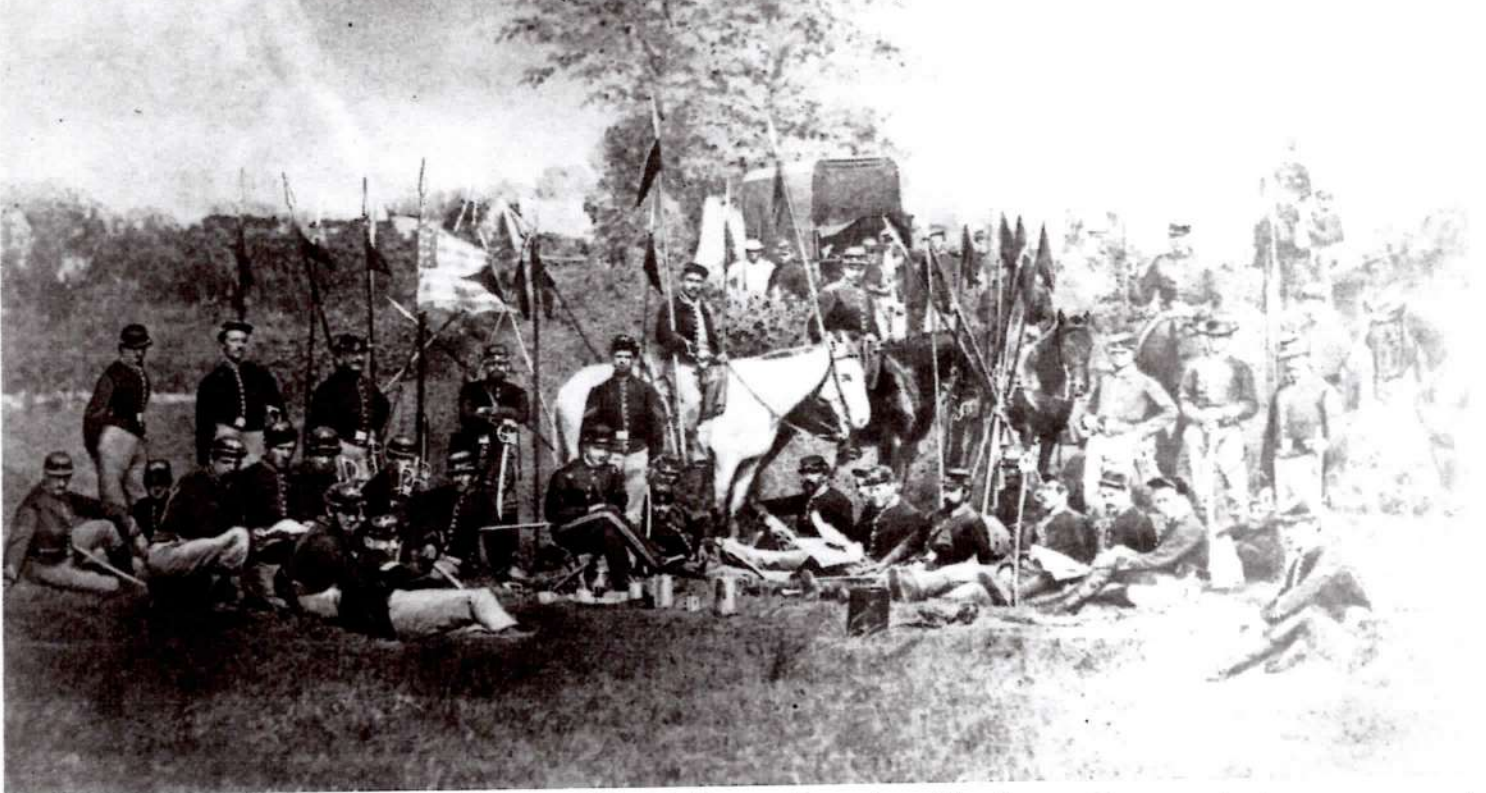
First Sergeant

6th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry Regiment (Rush's Lancers)
1862

Plate 96
LE

Uniforms & History

**BRAVE LANCERS: SIXTH REGIMENT PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER CAVALRY,
(RUSH'S LANCERS) 1861-1865.**



In most histories of the American Civil War, several regiments are always mentioned because of their distinctive dress or equipage. Whether it is the Iron Brigade's black hats, the 14th Brooklyn's red trousers, or the lances of Rush's Lancers, these strange and fascinating factual tidbits overlook the fact that the artifacts were a part of what inspired pride within those units, all of which became famous fighting regiments of the war.

The Sixth originally was recruited as the "Philadelphia Light Cavalry" by Richard H. Rush (U.S.M.A. 1846) and was armed with light cavalry sabers and Colt revolvers. At the suggestion of Maj. Gen. George B. McClellan, lances of the European mode were manufactured for the regiment. Described as nine feet in length, the new weapons were tipped with an eleven inch triangular blade and a scarlet swallow-tailed pennant. The lances arrived at the end of November 1861 and were carried in a parade in

Philadelphia on December 4th after the presentation of the state flag:

The regiment paraded on the occasion on the streets of Philadelphia, and attracted much attention. The lance was new and highly burnished, and the scarlet pennon, bright and attractive; the new uniforms and tidy appearance of the men, and the well-groomed and trained horses, made it a beautiful and imposing pageant.

Shortly thereafter the regiment moved to Washington, assigned to Camp Barclay on Meridian Hill, near Columbia College. By early May of 1862 the lancers were part of McClellan's ill-fated Peninsular expedition. Their active campaigning culminated three years later with the surrender of Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia in 1865. In May of 1863 the regiment discarded its lances as being impractical on the wooded battlefields of the eastern United States and of little use in a war where infantry rarely formed squares for lancers to charge. Colonel Rush left the regiment at the same time due to illness; he

This retouched, post-war copy of 1862 view of Rush's Lancers is captioned "Captain Emlen Newb Carpenter, taken at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania." It was actually taken on Virginia peninsula in 1862, when Carpenter was still a Lieutenant. The photo was retouched to show him as Captain and to enhance the image generally. Original in the author's collection; copy print courtesy Don Spaulding.

continued to serve his country organizing the Veteran Reserve Corps and commanding a brigade in the defenses of Washington. The regiment campaigned on with the Army of the Potomac, sans original Colonel's lances.

Without its long lances, the regiment blended with the other cavalry regiments. Now armed with Sharps carbines, the former Lancers continued to wear cavalry uniform jackets albeit reworked by tailors in miscellaneous non-regulation styles, and light

trousers and standard forage caps. Some officers wore a crossed lance insignia, but gone were the patent havelock caps of 1861. The regiment now looked like any other hard fighting cavalry outfit. At Gettysburg they occupied a position on the extreme left of the Union lines near Round Top, causing twelve officers and men killed and wounded. Thereafter the list of battles would include, among others, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Yellow Tavern, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, Dinwiddie Court House, Five Forks, and Appomattox. As the regiment ended its service, no less a cavalry luminary than Philip H. Sheridan lauded it:

No organization in either regular or volunteer service enjoyed a more enviable reputation in every respect, and its service was of so valuable a character to the Government that every endeavor was made by me, after its muster out, to have an organization formed, the nucleus of which should be such officers and men of the original regiment as were desirous of again entering the service.

In total the Sixth Pennsylvania had lost ten officers and 158 enlisted men to death from wounds or disease, with another 210 captured or missing. They were indeed Brave Lancers.

— **Michael J. McAfee**

Right: Colonel Richard Rush served in the 2nd U.S. Artillery in the Mexican War. He resigned in 1854, then came back into service in 1861 to raise the 6th Pennsylvania Cavalry. Here he wears a patent "havelock" hat which featured a fold-down brim.

Carte de visite in the author's collection.



AMERICAN HISTORICAL AUCTIONS

On October 18, 1997 ended with a new record being set for an autographed carte de visite. A large offering of Civil War material did well but was overshadowed by the record carte. Signed "A. Lincoln," Brady's three-quarter length portrait of the President sold for \$60,375!



BEHOLD #27 offered a number of unusual images on November 6, 1997. An outdoor view, ¼ -plate ambrotype of soldiers playing chess in front of a wall tent was knocked down for the estimated minimum of \$3,500, while a more mundane studio portrait of an unarmed soldier in white gloves brought \$125. Another Yank in a CDV sized tintype with a painted backdrop did not reach the minimum of \$135. Among a host of cartes de visite, two Brady views of Abraham Lincoln brought \$625 and \$1,150 respectively, far above the expected minimum. Half a dozen common Confederate generals were not sold, while Roger Hanson of Kentucky

THE AUCTION BLOCK
Prices realized on military images.

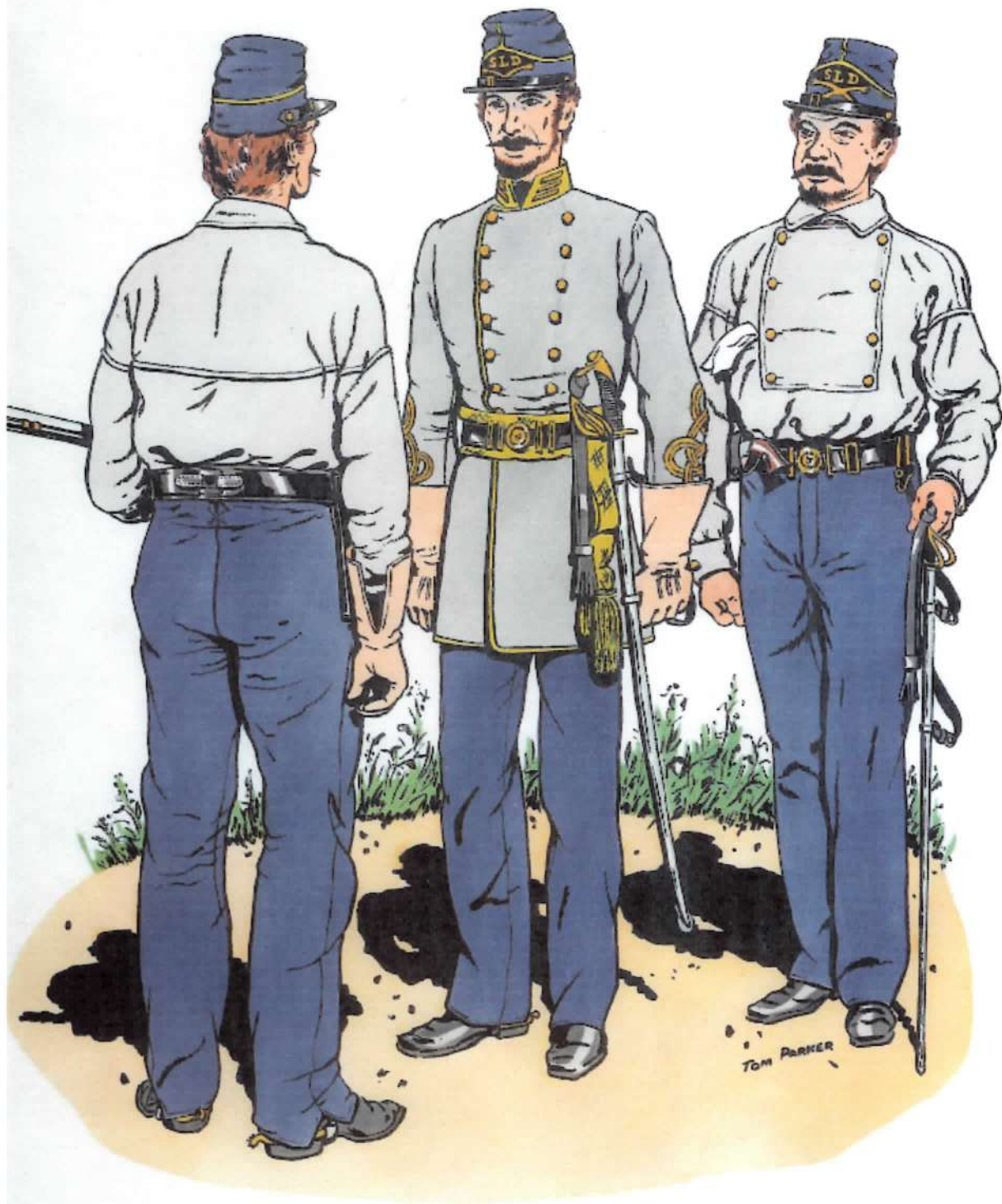
brought \$100. Common Union generals brought \$45 to \$90. Junior officers and enlisted men fell into the same price range, with the exception of one "J.K. Alter," who may be John K. Alter of the 155th Pennsylvania. The

possibility that he may be a member of a zouave regiment raised the bidding to \$225. Two Brady cartes of French observers in camp with the Army of the Potomac brought \$165 and \$245 respectively. Union naval vessels in cartes continue to do well: *Mississippi*, \$175; *Essex*, \$265; and *Richmond*, \$270. Topping the list is a 7x9 albumen of General Nelson Miles, Buffalo Bill Cody, and other mounted men at Pine Ridge in 1891: \$2700.



Buffalo Bill also did well in **AMERICAN SOCIAL HISTORY'S** December 4, 1997 auction. Three cabinet cards of Cody brought \$39, \$275, and \$787. A wealth of Civil War material demonstrated that images with unusual features brought uncommonly high prices: a carte of an unidentified U.S.C.T. with a Massachusetts backmark reached \$1,331 on the mere possibility that he was a member of the 54th or 55th Mass. Likewise, a quarter plate tintype of an unknown Yank brought \$1,832 on the strength of a nice painted backdrop

continued on next page



Dragoon Privates and Captain

Sussex Light Dragoons, Virginia State Cavalry, 1861

Plate 99
LE



Private

Company Officer

Corporal

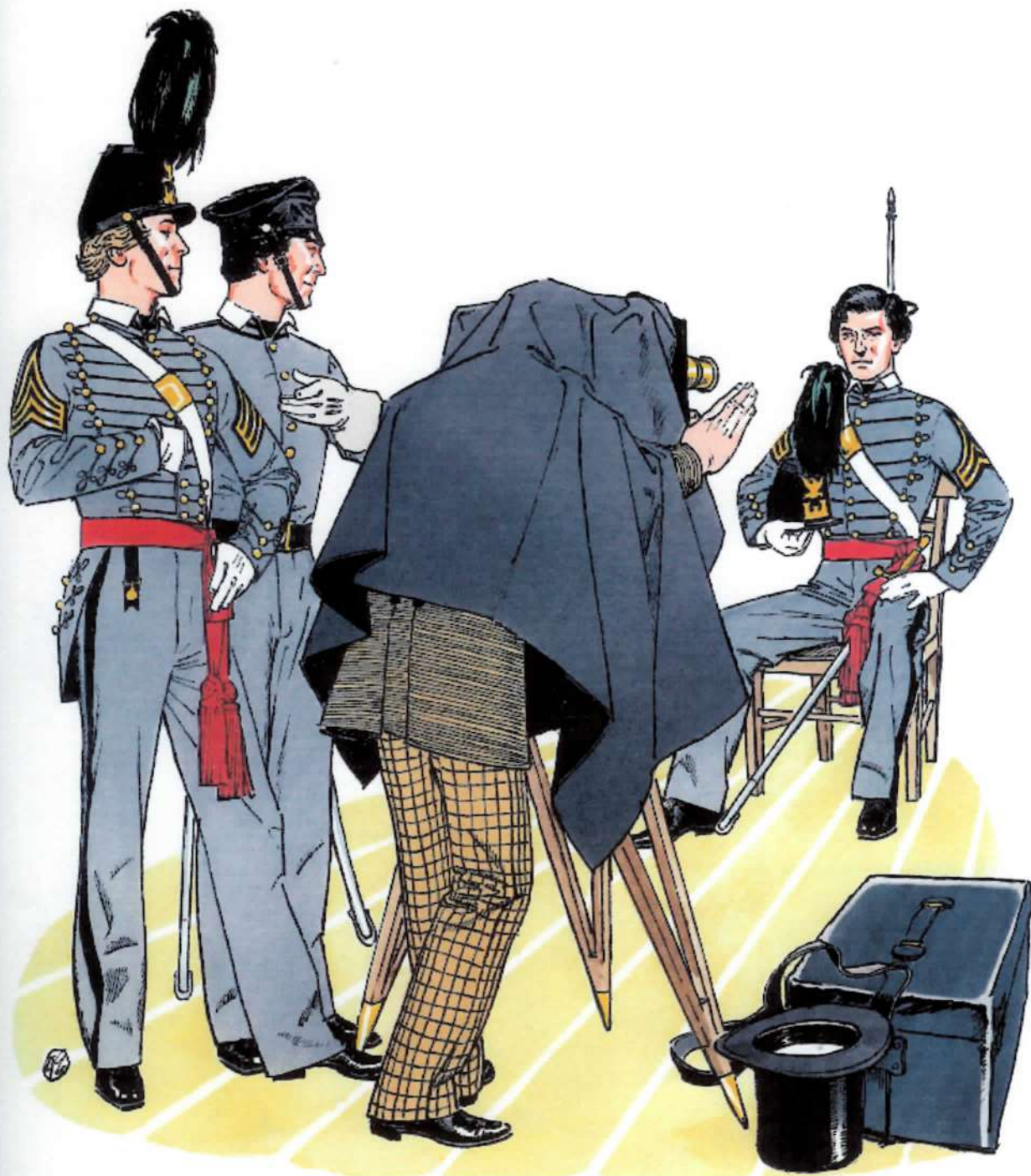
Privates

1st Regiment, Rhode Island Detached Militia, 1861

Plate 103
LE



The City Guard, Petersburg, Virginia 1860



Cadet, Riding Dress
Cadet Instructor

Cadet Lieutenant, Winter Full Dress

U.S. Corps of Cadets, U.S.M.A., 1853-1861

Plate III
LE

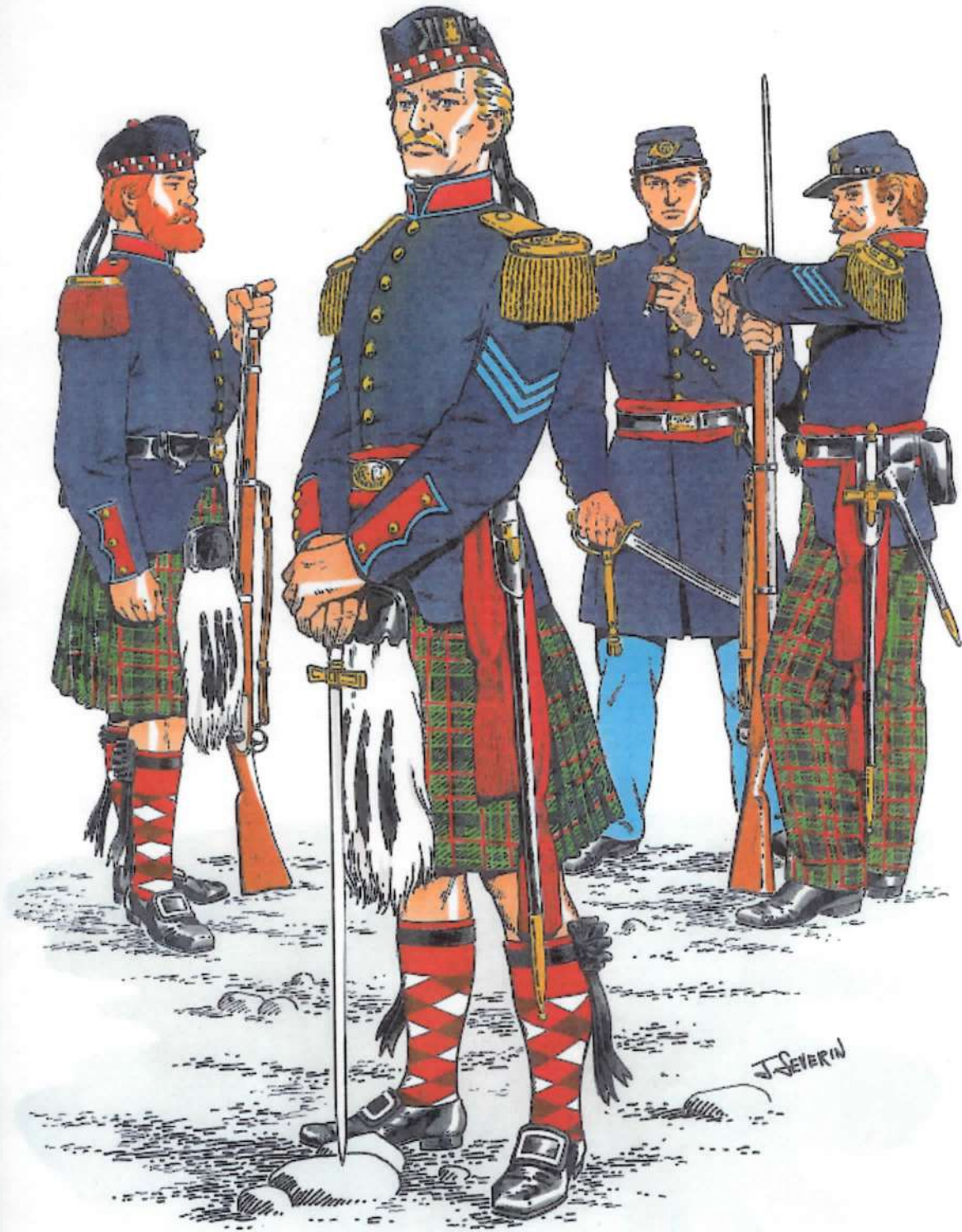


Privates, Company Full Dress

Private, Regimental Dress

Officers, Regimental and Company Dress

New York City Guard, 1857-1861



Private and Sergeant, Full Dress

Officer and Sergeant, Undress

79th Regiment, New York State Militia, 1860-1861

Plate 116

LE

UNIFORMS & HISTORY

79th Regiment, New York State Militia

Bagpipes screeched and kilts swirled as the 79th Regiment wheeled into column by platoons on the afternoon of July 2, 1861. The regiment was on its way to Washington to become part of the forces gathering to defend the Union. The 79th numbered nearly 900 men as it marched down Broadway to the Cortlandt Street ferry, cheered on by patriotic crowds and enthusiastic friends. The regiment had missed out on the initial call for troops, and when it was ready to enlist only three year volunteers were accepted. As a result, while most of the city's militiamen would return in July and August of 1861, the 79th would not see Broadway again until May of 1864. They would fight through several theaters of operations, and in the process leave nearly 200 dead officers and men behind them. Throughout their service they were known as Highlanders, even though the entire regiment never wore the kilt during the war. Indeed they had almost not been allowed to wear the kilt as a militia regiment either, and that is the story of those "barbarous" kilts.

The concept of the 79th as a Highland regiment originated sometime before 1859, when the regiment was added to the First Division of the New York State Militia. The First Division was a New York City unit, and in 1859 included the 1st through 12th, 23rd, 55th, 69th, 71st and 73rd Regiments as well as the 79th. It was commanded for many years by Maj. Gen. Charles Sandford, a cantankerous, pompous and otherwise typical general officer.

The acting colonel of the proposed 79th Regiment was Thomas McLeay. Highland units were not new to the New York State Militia, and several earlier companies had worn kilts and feather bonnets, dressing in the style of contemporary British Army Highland regiments. However, McLeay's proposed regiment and its use of Highland dress came at an inopportune time. It seemed to run counter to efforts to create uniformity of dress and purpose within New York's militia system. The editor of New York's *Military Gazette* complained bitterly:

Whether this is a Scotch uniform, or only a uniform to catch a Scotchman, we are alike opposed to it, and upon the broad ground that it is contrary to regulation, and our established system. The other regiments are obliged to comply with the law, why should not this also? We oppose any special indulgence in this respect, because it will cause jealousy and dissatisfaction, and destroy all that has been begun so well.

This was only the opening round in the battle which was to ensue over the possible "kilting" of an Empire State militia regiment. The opposition to such a distinctive unit is understandable if one considers the efforts which had been made since the late 1840s to gain control of the independent and politically influential volunteer companies which made up the official state militia.

The few regiments which had existed without having to be created from a number of previously independent companies, such as the famed 7th New York, clearly demonstrated a superior morale and effectiveness. Thus efforts were made to reduce the independence of older companies and subordinate them to regimental discipline. The main vehicle to enforce this change was uniformity of dress and regulation. The creation of a band of wild Highlanders with distinctive dress in the midst of a tenuously-gained regimental system seemed to go counter to all the gains made against nonconformity.



Although undated, this carte shows the basic Highland uniform worn by the 79th in the 1860s: glengarry cap, sporran, diced stockings, doublet and kilt. Although not clear here, the doublet's collar was not solid red, edged in light blue, as commonly depicted in modern reconstructions. Instead, the dark blue collar had a red patch at the front, with its scalloped rear edge piped in white. The red cuff patches were also piped in white. The entire doublet was piped in red along all edges, as was the small watch pocket just above the cap box. This Highlander is armed with the M1842 musket. Author's collection.



The 79th, with pipers in front, marching in Tryon Row, Manhattan, July 4th, 1860—one of the earliest parades of the Highlanders. The regiment looked much the same when it went off to war a year later, though greater in numbers. Anthony stereocard 433, from the author's collection.

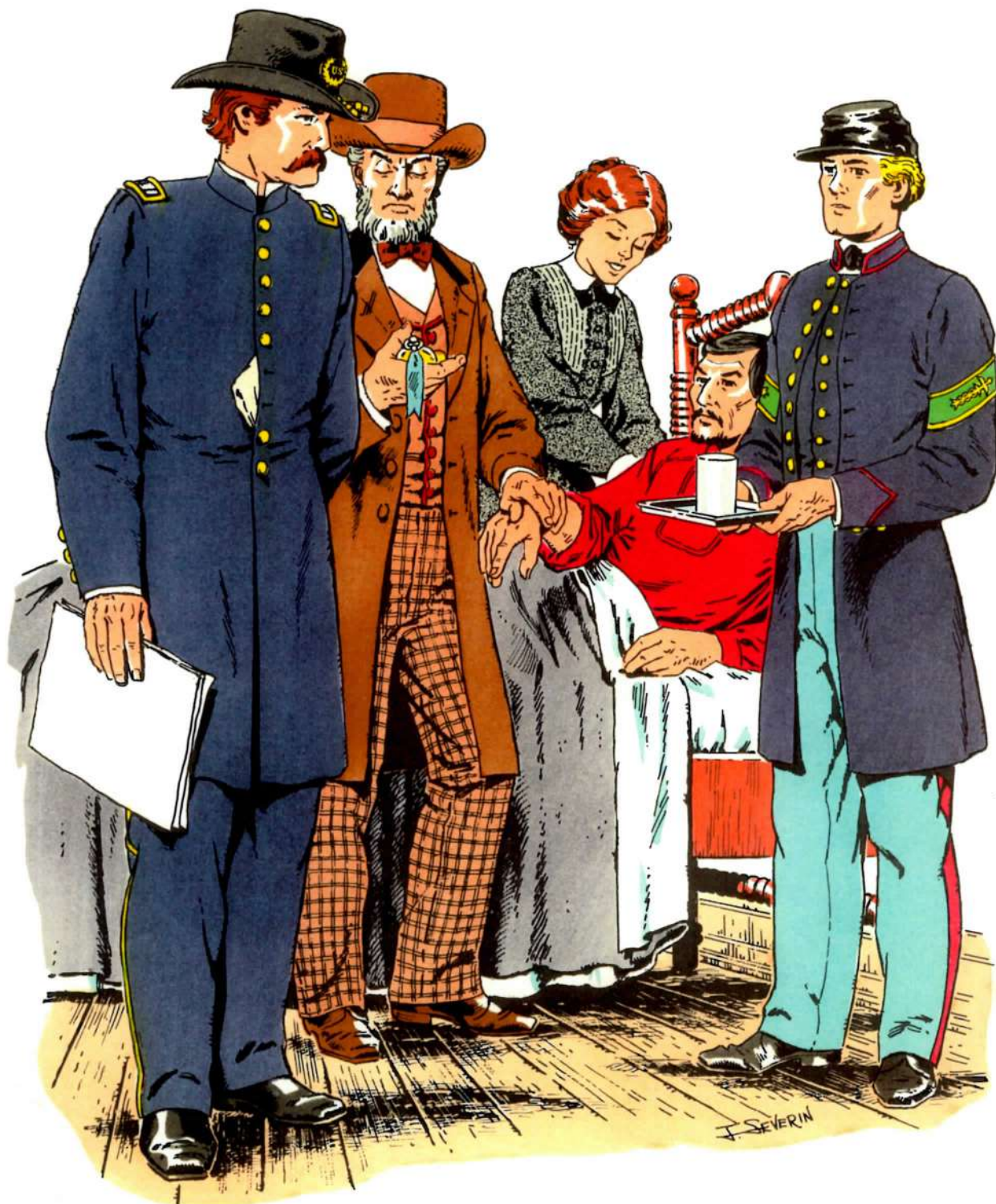
In January of 1859, New York's governor directed McLeay to adopt a bill of dress of the "regulation hat and ornaments, buttons, badges of distinction, frock coats, fatigue coats and plaid pants." The editor of the *Military Gazette* was ecstatic. Uniformity seemed to have triumphed with only the concession of "chequered trousers." By October of 1859 Colonel McLeay reported the regiment had an aggregate of 223 officers and men, and was awaiting the arrival of the "stuff" for trousers from Scotland.

Somehow, and probably by unilateral decision, the 79th went ahead with the adoption of kilts. In all likelihood McLeay realized that the political advantage of turning a blind eye to the kilts would be obvious to the governor. At any rate, the 79th wore kilts to its first major parade. The *Military Gazette* commented about "disrespect of the General Regulations and the orders of the Commander-in-Chief," but could only scold. The visit of the first Japanese Embassy to New York in September of 1860 again saw the 79th parading in kilts. The *Gazette's* description was of "short petticoats and bare knees . . . in poor taste, and barbarous."

However, the kilts had prevailed, and the indomitable Scots continued to wear them proudly. The reorganization of the regiment prior to enlisting as three-year volunteers was accomplished hurriedly and the procurement of kilts for new recruits was impractical. Still, when the regiment left New York City in 1861, the older members who had enlisted for the war and all the officers were in kilts. Contemporary illustrations clearly show the continued use of the doublet and tartan trews throughout the war.

The "barbarous" kilts never saw combat. After the war the reactivated militia regiment did, of course, once again adopt the kilt for its dress uniform. The kilt remained in spite of its opponents until declining enrollments forced the disbanding of the regiment in the 1870s. While it lasted it stood as a symbol of an independent spirit which does not easily accept arbitrary discipline, a spirit that is as much American as it is Scots.

— Michael J. McAfee



Surgeon

Contract Surgeon

Nurse

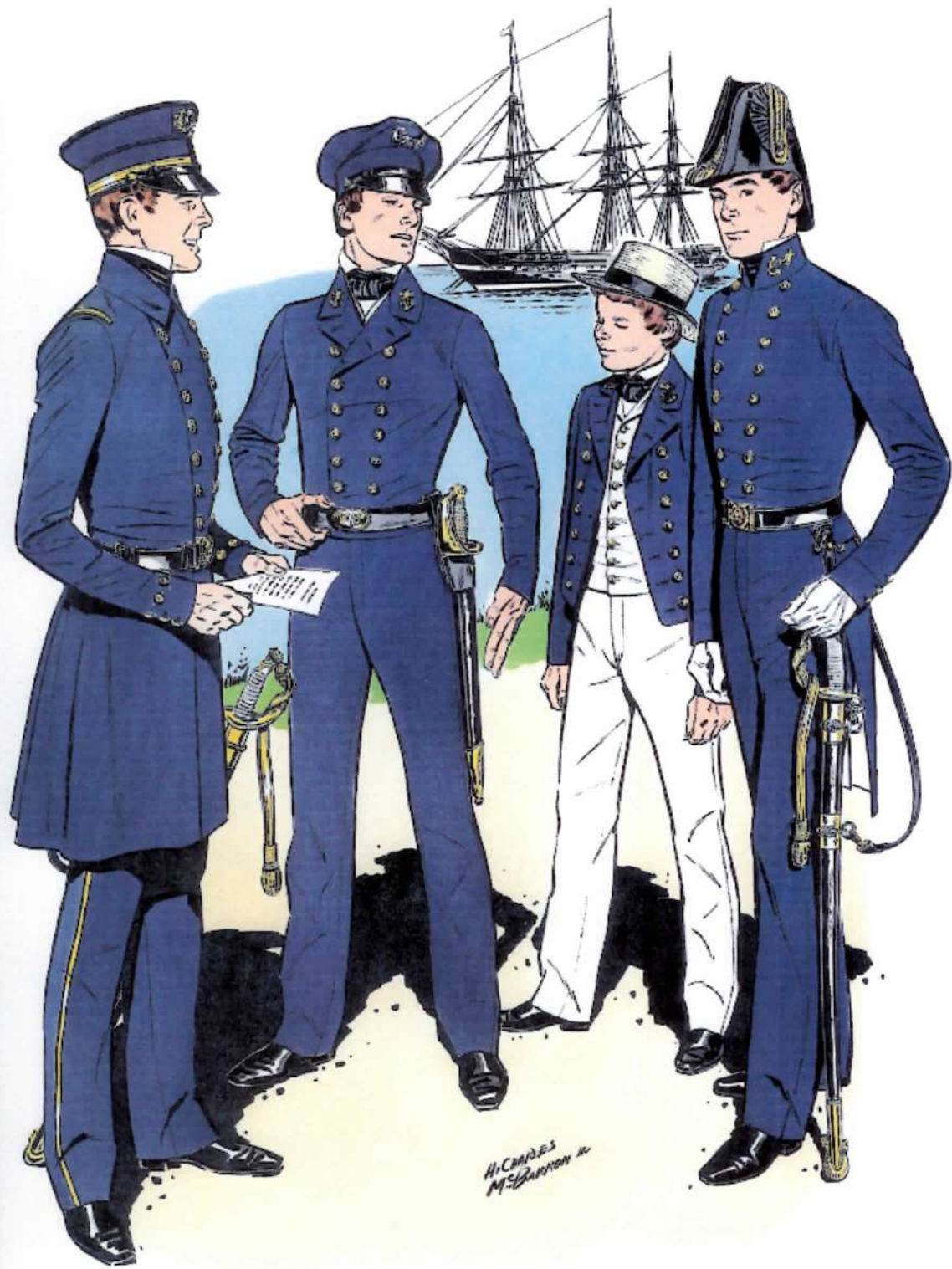
Hospital Steward

Medical Department, U. S. Army, 1861-1865



Variations of officers' and enlisted men's uniforms

9th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Hawkins' Zouaves), 1861-1863



Passed Midshipman, Undress

Midshipman, Service Dress

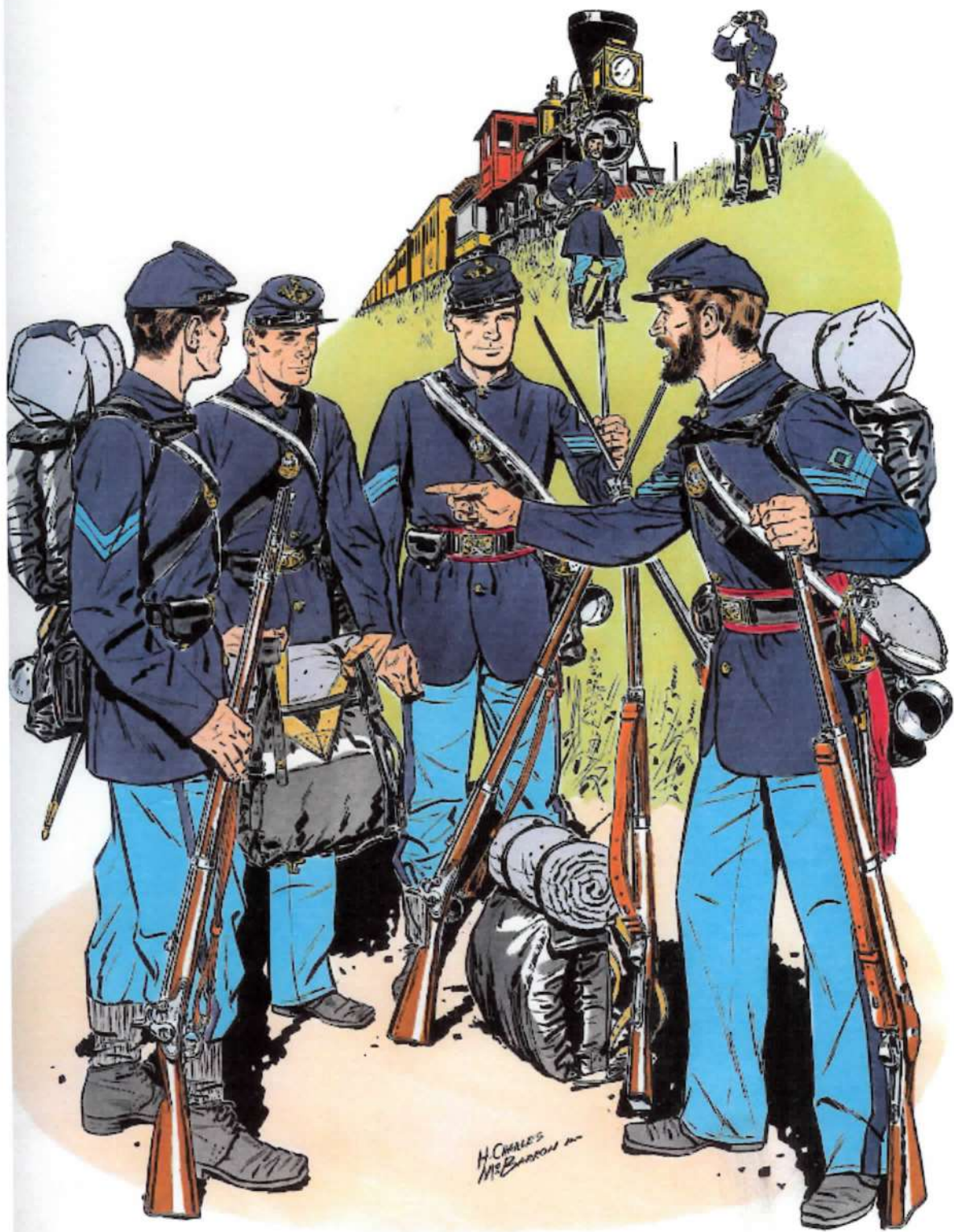
Midshipman, Full Dress

Midshipmen, U.S. Navy, 1852-1869

Plate 126
LE



Guilford Grays, North Carolina Militia, 1860



36th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1863

Plate 133
LE



3rd New Jersey Volunteer Cavalry Regiment (1st U.S. Hussars), 1864-1865

Plate 136

LE



H. CHARLES
M. B. BROWN

Citadel Cadet Battery, Charleston, South Carolina, 1861

Plate 138
LE



Captain

Commander

Lieutenant

U.S. Navy Sea Officers in Full Dress, 1852-1862

Plate 143

LE



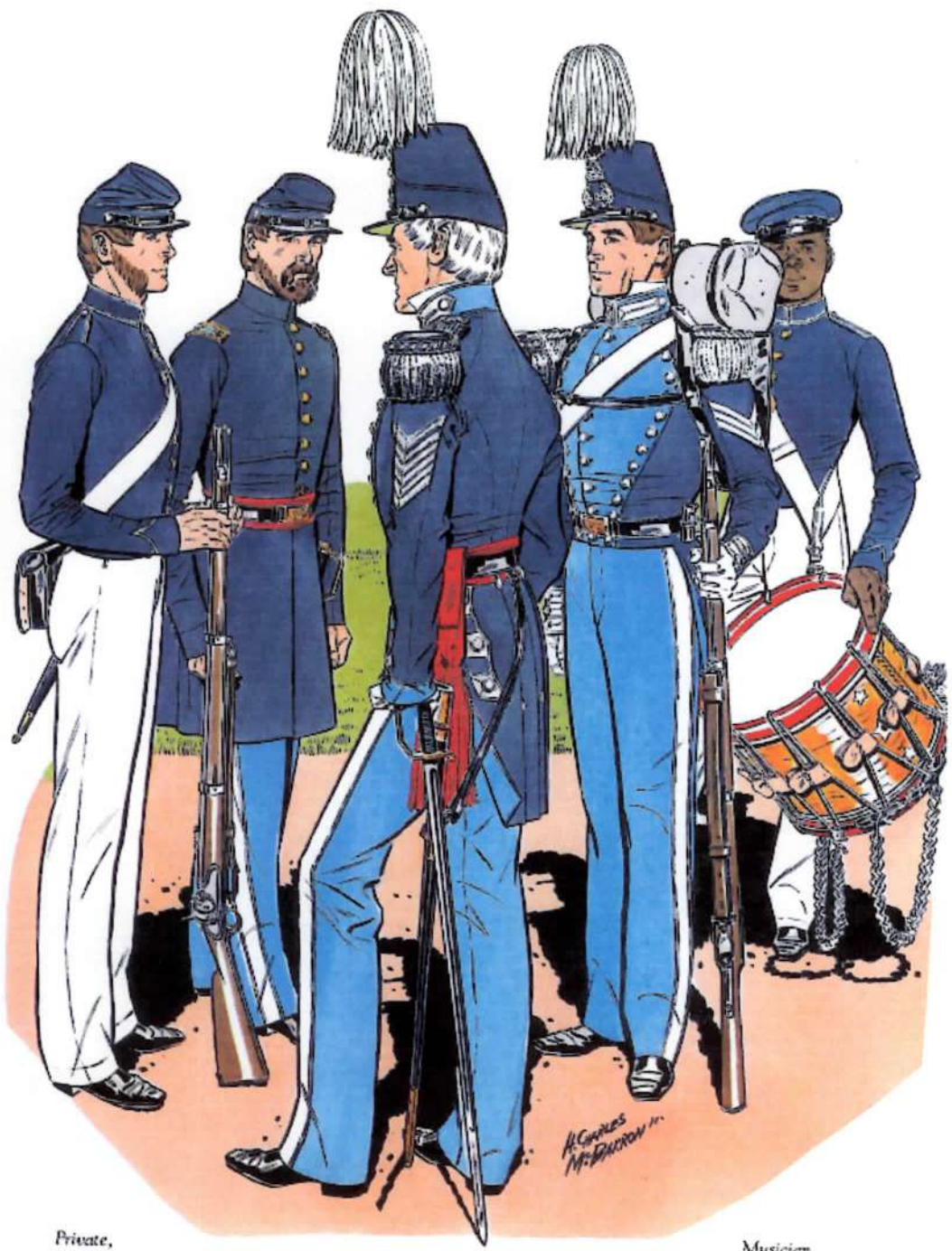
Private

Officer of the Day

Sergeant

Battalion of Washington Artillery of New Orleans, 1861

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Private,
Summer Fatigue Dress

Officer, Undress

Captain and Sergeant, Winter Dress

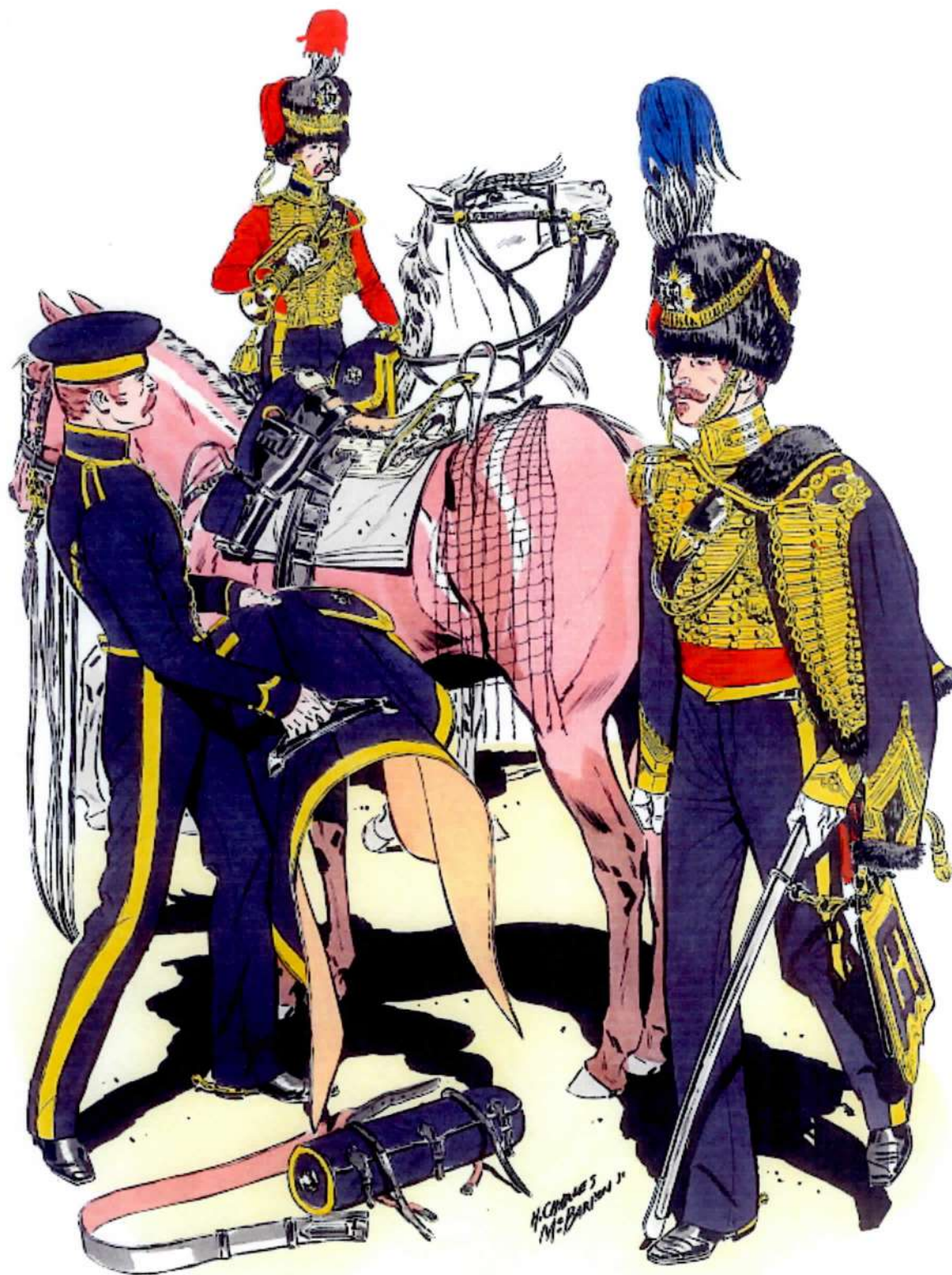
Musician,
Summer Dress

Republican Blues (1st Regiment, Georgia Volunteers), 1860

Plate 151
LE



14th Regiment, New York State Militia
1861-1864



Hussar in stable jacket

Musician and Officer in full dress

3rd Regiment, New York State Militia (Hussars), 1850-1860



Privates, Zouave and fatigue uniforms

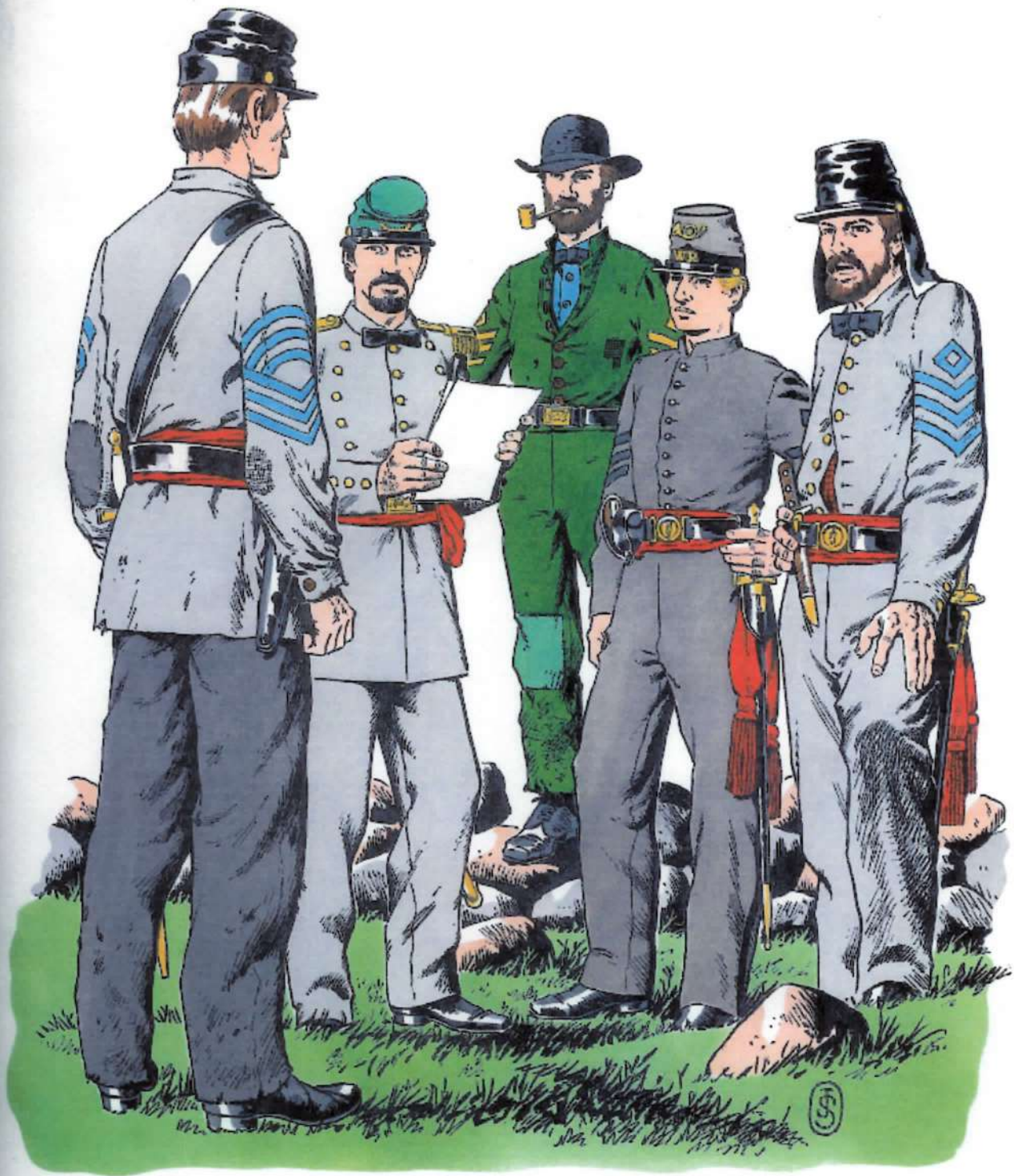
First Sergeant, Zouave uniform

44th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment
(People's Ellsworth Regiment), 1861-1864

Plate 158
LE



1st Special Battalion, Louisiana Infantry



Sergeant Major
(Co. C, Loudoun Guards)

Adjutant (Co. A,
Alexandria Riflemen)

First Sergeants (Co. G, Emmett Guards; Co. K,
Warrenton Rifles; Co. E, Mount Vernon Guards)

17th Regiment, Virginia Volunteer Infantry, 1861

Plate 163
LE



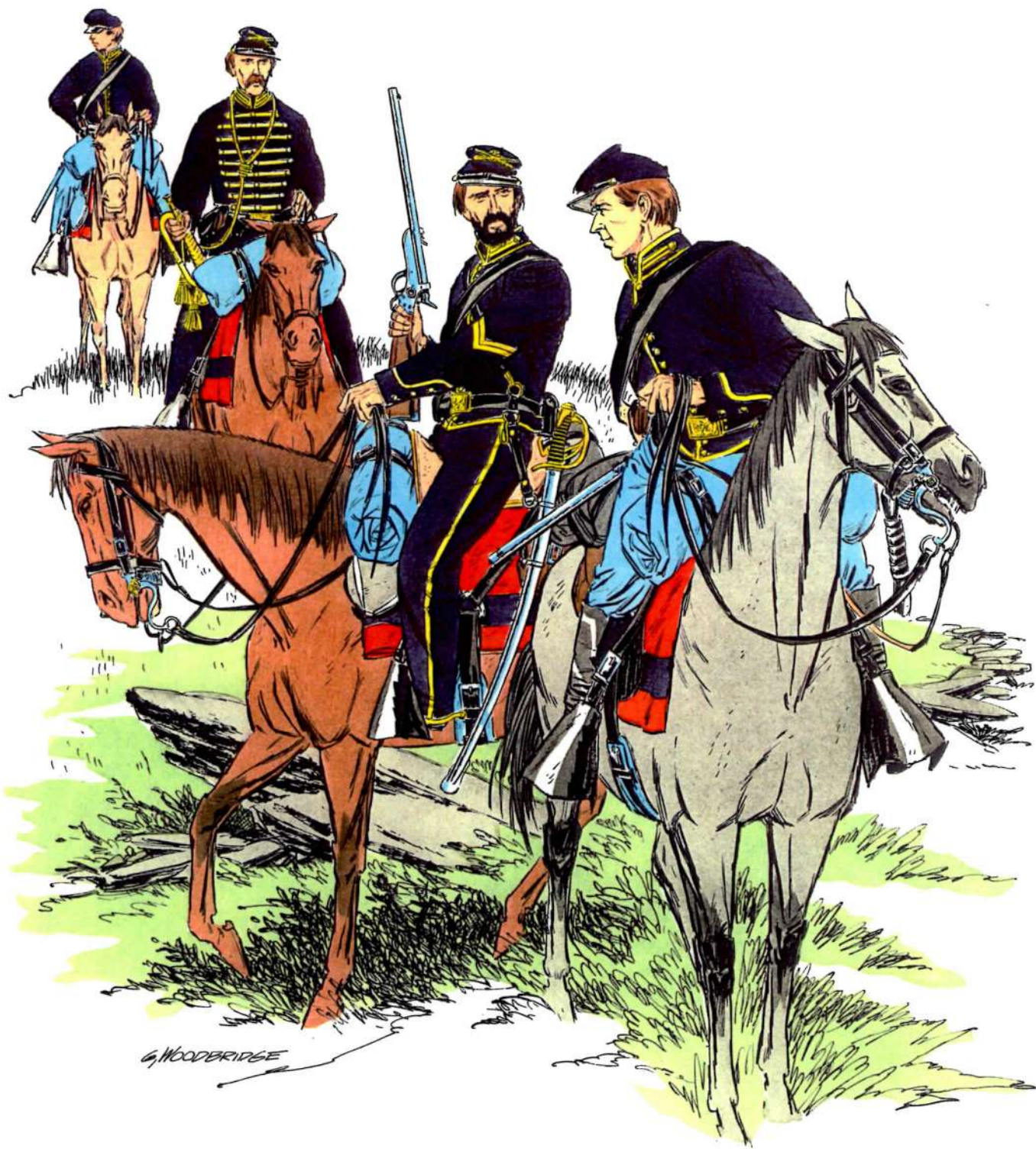
Colonel

Private

Vivandiere

Private in fatigue dress

39th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Garibaldi Guard), 1861-1862



11th New York Volunteer Cavalry Regiment (Scott's 900), 1862-1865

11th New York Volunteer Cavalry

by Michael J. McAfee

At the beginning of the Civil War the cavalry was an unappreciated branch of service. Winfield Scott discouraged the formation of volunteer cavalry regiments as unneeded and expensive.

In truth, until settlement of the vast reaches of the American West began in the 1830s the United States Army had had no cavalry since the end of the War of 1812. When the first dragoons were recruited in 1808, Congress refused to appropriate money for horses and they served as infantry until the exigencies of the war brought them a limited supply of horses.

Cavalry in the early nineteenth century was not popular, although there were many volunteer militia companies of cavalry existence, some with long and respectable histories such as the Philadelphia Troop of Light Horse (1st City Troop).

So when James B. Swain, who held a lieutenant's commission in the regular army, was authorized to raise a cavalry regiment in New York and serve as its colonel he hoped to add his regiment to the regular establishment. In that mood he named his regiment "Scott's 900" after a friend, Thomas A. Scott, who was then Assistant Secretary of War.

The regimental rendezvous on Staten Island, but recruiting stations were set up throughout the state. Swain's regiment assembled

at Quarantine Landing, Staten Island, over the winter of 1861-1862. It was finally brought to strength in March of 1862, moving to Washington, D.C., in May of that year. The regiment served in the defenses of that city until the spring of 1864 when it was transferred to the Department of the Gulf. It was mustered out of service in Memphis, Tennessee, on September 30, 1865, and returned



James Monroe mustered in as a bugler, Co. D of "Scott's 900" on January 16, 1862. He mustered out on January 17, 1865. In this portrait he wears the regiment's dark blue uniform with the distinctive cuff trim and musician's lace on the breast. His forage cap appears to have the letters "US" in the upper fork of the crossed sabers insignia. (CDV by Brady, Washington; author's collection)

to Albany where it disbanded.

In total it lost 344 men, only 25 of whom were killed or died of wounds. The rest (including 43 who drowned at sea) were victims of accident or disease.

Swain refused to consider his regiment anything but a "regular" regiment, and would not acknowledge the rights of the State even after the federal government turned the "900" over to the State of New York in October 1862. Swain refused to submit any paperwork to Albany and it was not until February 20, 1864, that the regiment received its numerical designation as the 11th New York. Swain's stubborn skirmish with authorities was an interesting example of unit pride, and not at all atypical during any era.

When "Scott's 900" was originally uniformed and equipped the men wore an interesting variant of the regulation cavalry uniform. The jacket's collar had only a single button and tape loop, and the cuff trim was not in the inverted "V" of the regulation pattern. Instead the lace paralleled the cuff edge, then curved upward over three cuff buttons. Some photographs indicate only 11 buttons on the jacket's front as well. Initially the men wore dark blue trousers to complete a distinctive and business-like cavalry uniform.

"Scott's 900" may not have been a glory regiment, but it served with pride of regiment. ●



Petersburg Greys
Co. A. Corporal

Petersburg
Rifleman Pvt.

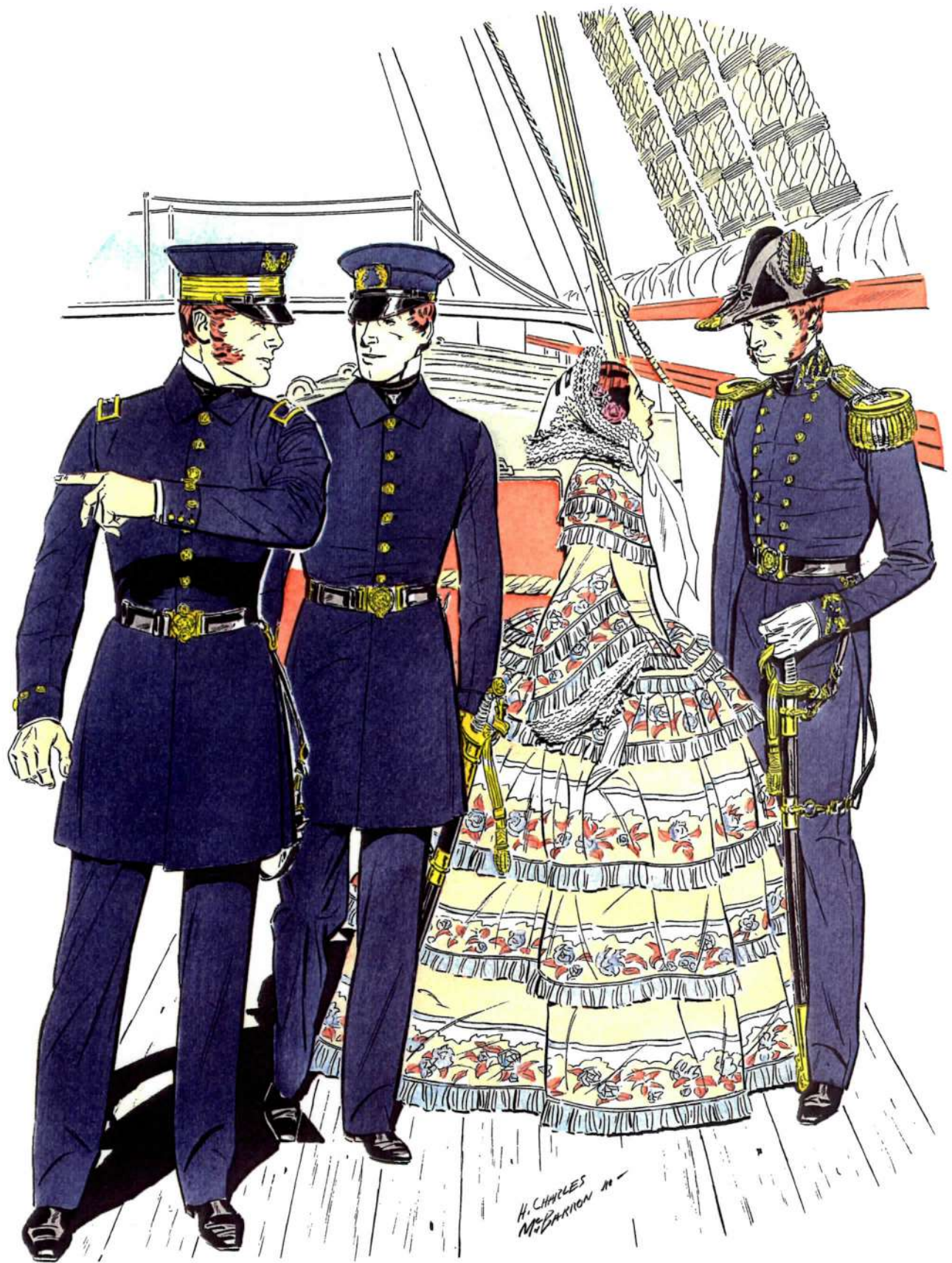
Petersburg Greys
Co. B Pvt.

City Guard
Captain

City Guard
Sergeant

4th Battalion, Virginia Volunteers, Petersburg, Virginia, 1861

Plate 176
LE



Chief Engineer Service Dress

Clerk Undress

Surgeon Full Dress

Civil Officers, U.S. Navy, 1852-1862



2nd Wisconsin Volunteer Infantry Regiment of the "Iron Brigade," 1862-1863

Plate 185
LE



1st Regiment U.S. Sharpshooters (Berdan's), 1862

Plate 187
LE

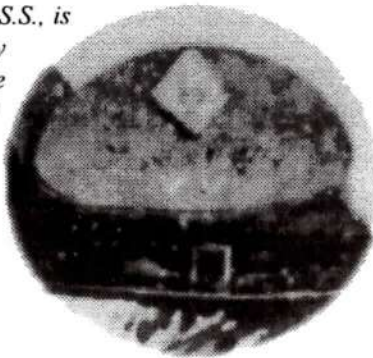
FIRST & SECOND REGIMENTS

UNITED STATES SHARPSHOOTERS

"The Green Coats"



This portrait of Henry L. Campbell, Co. H, 2nd U.S.S.S., is a good example of how black-and-white photography cannot tell us the color of a uniform. Taken sometime after December 21, 1863, when Campbell reenlisted as a veteran volunteer (see "VV" on his cap below the corps badge) but probably before his promotion to sergeant on November 1, 1864, in the photo he could be wearing either a blue or green uniform. Carte de visite in the author's collection.



Author's Preface: Despite earlier articles on the two regiments of United States Sharpshooters, it is worth repeating in this series some information on these distinctive Civil War uniforms. Many earlier attempts at reconstructing the Sharpshooter uniform were hampered by the lack of original clothing. Now, thanks to the generosity of noted artist Don Troiani, we can better understand how the Sharpshooters actually looked. A uniform coat of Sergeant William F. Tilson, Second Regiment of Sharpshooters, from Mr. Troiani's extensive collection is currently on exhibit in the West Point Museum as a part of a temporary exhibit on Civil War sharpshooters and their weapons. Also on display is the regimental color of the First Regiment, on public view for the first time since 1865. Tilson's coat clearly shows that the Sharpshooters' green uniforms were of the traditional bottle green worn by European riflemen since at least the Napoleonic Wars. The Sharpshooter exhibit will be open through February of 1998.

Created as the brainchildren of Hiram Berdan, a mechanical engineer from New York City, the Sharpshooters were recruited from several northern states. To qualify, a recruit had to place ten bullets in succession within a ten inch circle at two hundred yards. So many recruits were successful that two full regiments were recruited.

From the start the Sharpshooters were given a distinctive uniform, described in the New York Herald of November 10, 1861, as "a green frock coat, with emerald green cord trimmings, green cap, sky-blue trousers - everything else according to army regulations." The green colors of these uniforms, however, were not the bright green we see in modern reconstructions. Both coat and trim were of such dark hues as to appear green only in direct light. The trim was originally so dark as to nearly be indistinguishable from the coat, thus making it virtually unnoticeable in a black and white photograph. *continued*

With the dark green uniform (frock) coat the Sharpshooters were issued the standard dark blue flannel wool sack coat. Thus a Sharpshooter could have worn dark green cap and trousers with his blue sack coat. Yet we are left with the very real question of what did they actually wear during the war.

Officers, because they privately purchased their clothing, could have worn green as long as they wished. One general, Alexander Hays, who had adopted green trousers in honor of the Sharpshooters in his command, was killed wearing them at the Wilderness in 1864. What though of the enlisted men who depended upon the quartermasters for their supplies? Well, in January of 1864 Colonel G.H. Crossman, A.Q.M.G. at Philadelphia inquired of Rufus Ingalls, Q.M. of the Army of the Potomac, if the Sharpshooters wanted any of the 1000 suits of green uniforms he had prepared the previous year. By February Crossman was dispatching 500 dark green uniform coats, trousers and forage caps to the Army of the Potomac for distribution to the remaining Sharpshooters. Clearly, as late as their last year in the war, the "Green Coats" were literally still green.

Moreover, by carefully reading various accounts it can be determined that their green clothing had been noted at several earlier campaigns. In Stevens's *Berdan's United States Sharpshooters...*, he records that after the Battle of Antietam a woman seeking the body of Adjutant Parmalee recognized a group of officers of the regiment by their green uniforms. In the same book Stevens comments upon Confederate prisoners recognizing the regimental uniform in April of 1863. Later, in May of 1864, while recrossing the Chancellorsville battlefield, members of the Sharpshooters found relics of their comrades, including "pieces of green clothing" on the field. Finally, a member of the Eleventh Massachusetts remembered later that at Chancellorsville, during a lull in the fighting, that the Sharpshooters and the Eleventh "were constantly

exchanging their dark green caps for the regulation hats worn by the [Eleventh] regiment."

Because of surviving privately-retained copies of clothing issue forms we know, for example, that in January of 1864 Company F, First Regiment, received among other things two flannel sack coats, five pairs of cavalry trousers and eleven pairs of private's foot trousers, probably all sky blue as no distinctive color is noted. In October of the previous year the same company had drawn sixteen forage caps, again probably regulation blue as no color is noted.

So what then did the Sharpshooters actually wear? We know they always had supplies of their green uniforms available. We also have record of them receiving standard enlisted clothing. It is most likely that in keeping with the individualistic temperament of the men themselves, they wore whatever they liked.

—Michael J. McAfee



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P.O. Box 707M, Marietta, OH 45750





Enlisted Man
Full Dress

Enlisted Man
Undress Uniform

Officer
Full Dress

Enlisted Man
Full Dress

The Cincinnati Rover Guards, 1853

Plate 190
LE

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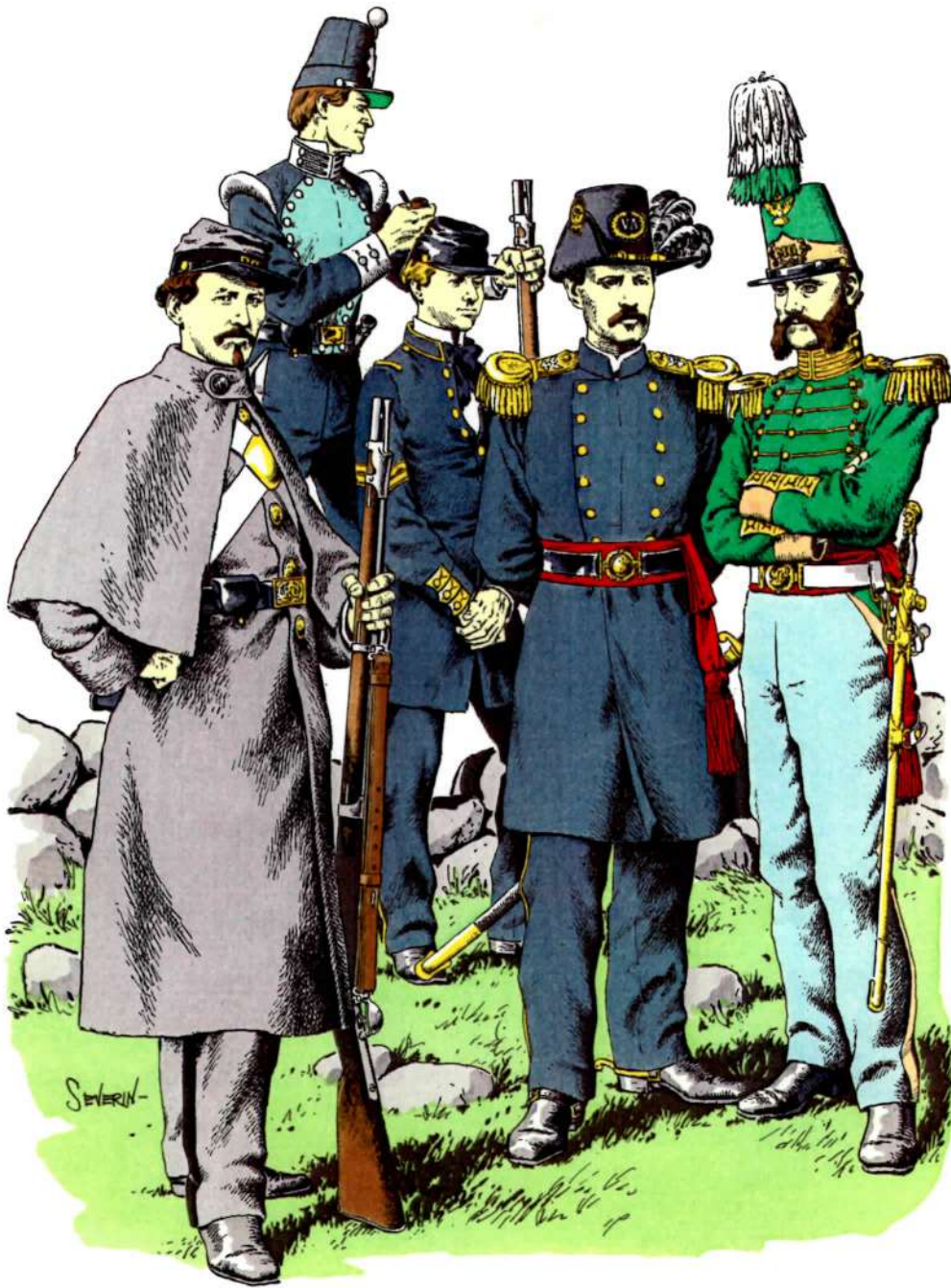
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*Richmond Grays
Co. A Private
Winter Undress*

*Richmond Light Infantry Blues
Co. E Private
Full Dress*

*Virginia Rifles
Co. K Corporal
Off Duty Dress*

*Colonel
Full Dress*

*Montgomery Guard
Co. C Captain
Full Dress*

**First Regiment of Virginia Volunteers, Richmond, Va.
1858-1859**

Military Uniforms in America

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Plate No. 198



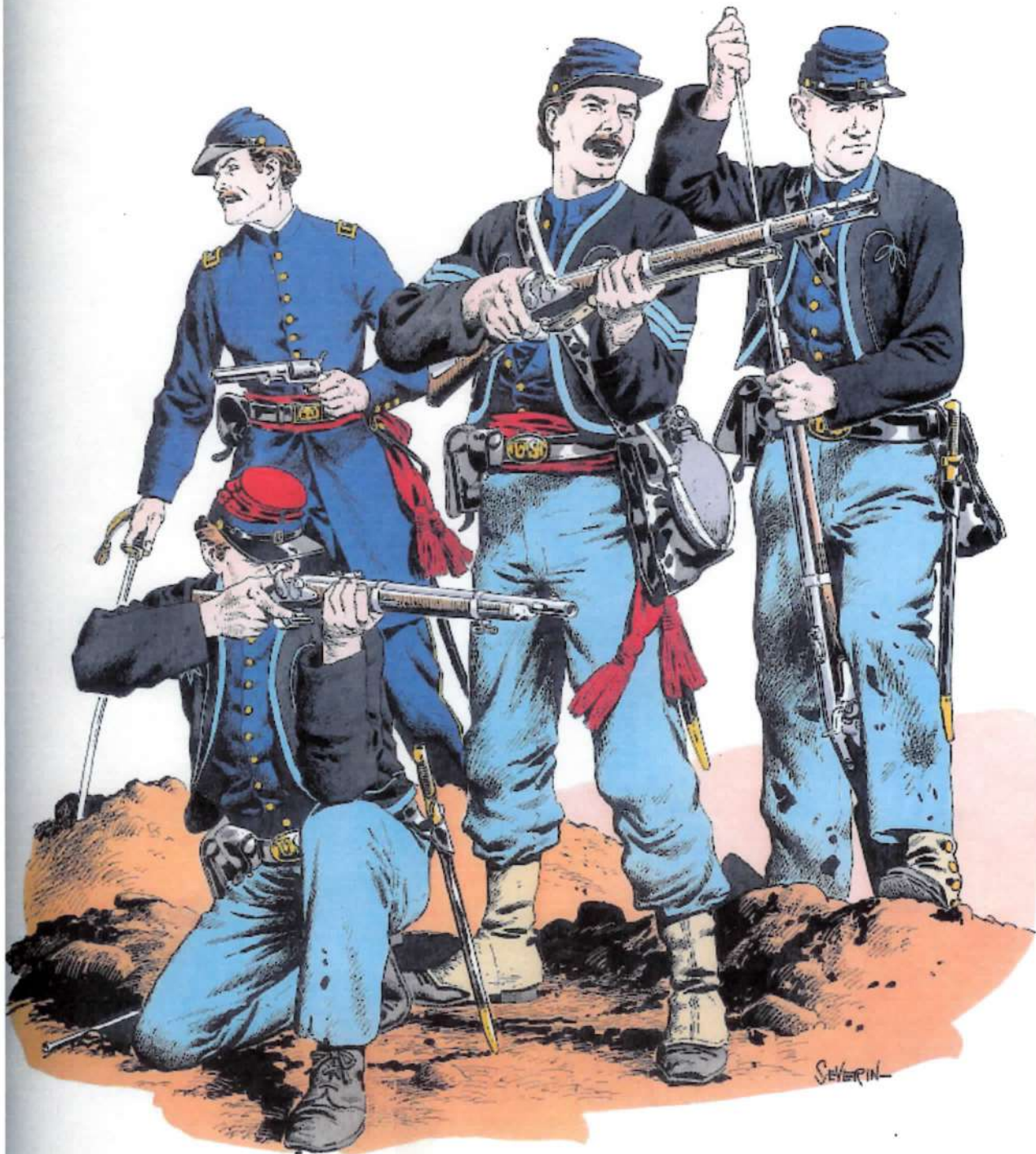
First Sergeant

Private

Captain

Private

23rd. Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry (Birney's Zouaves), 1861



Company Officer

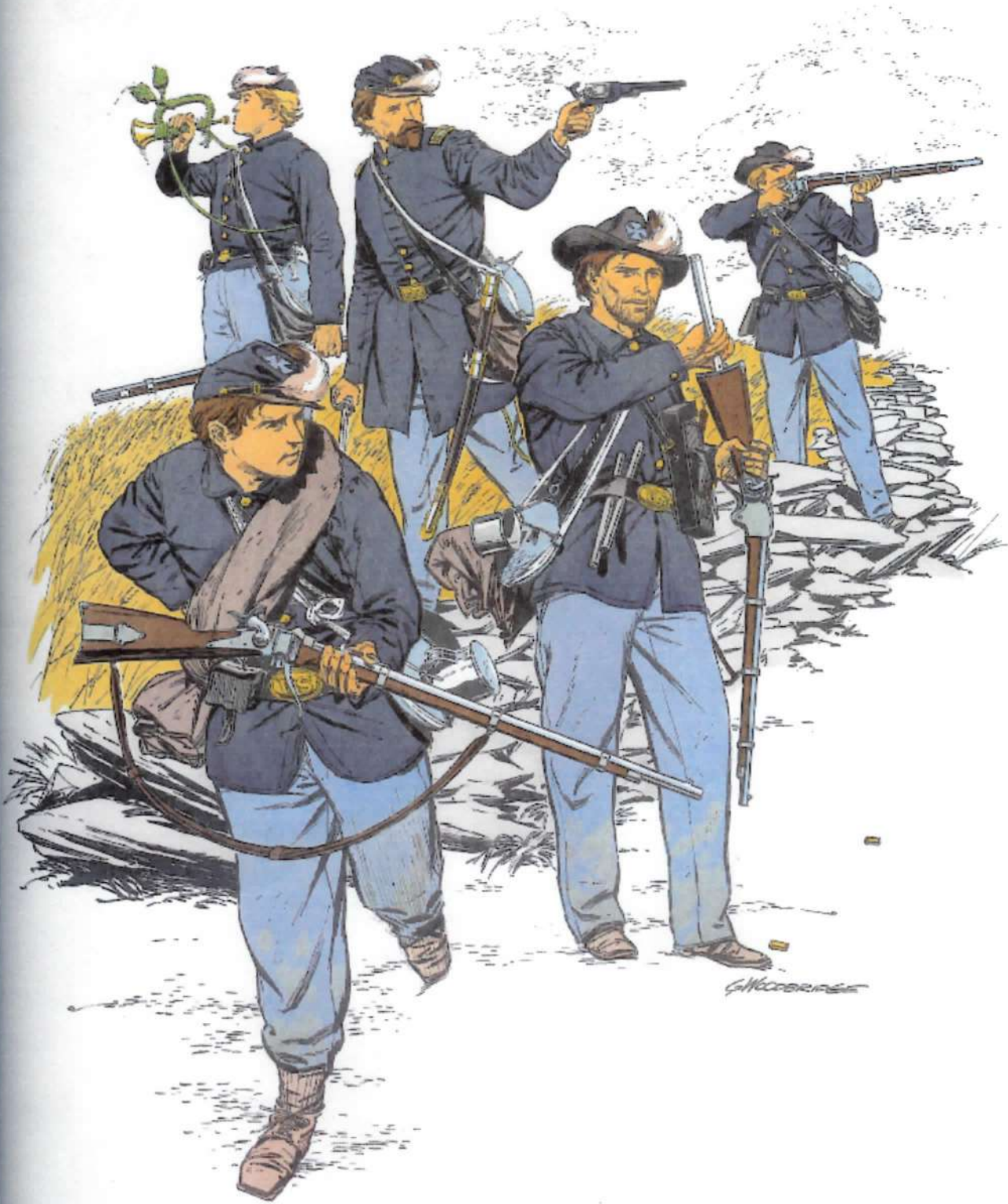
Private

Sergeant

Private

11th Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment (Wallace's Zouaves)
1861-1865

Plate 206
LE



42nd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment ("The Bucktails"), 1863



Cannoneers

Captain Poague

Rockbridge Artillery, Virginia, 1862

Plate 223
LE



Alexandria Artillery

Old Dominion Rifles

Alexandria Riflemen

Mount Vernon Guards

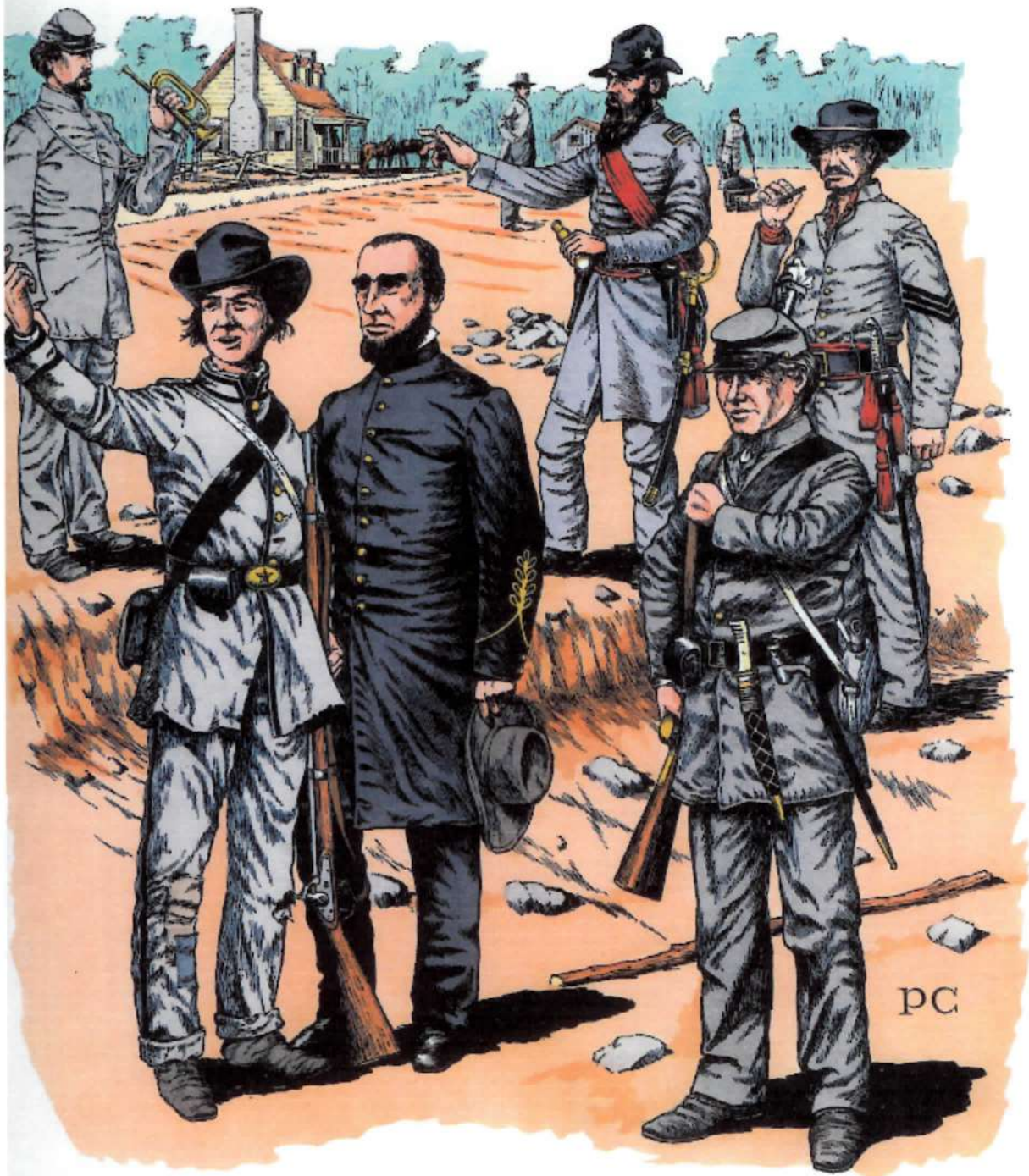
Sixth Battalion of Virginia Volunteers, Alexandria, Va., 1861

Military Uniforms in America

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Plate No. 236

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Chief Bugler

Private, Co. B
Tom Green Rifles

Chaplain

Officer of the Day
First Lieutenant

Private, Co. H
Porter Guards

Sergeant, Co. A
Hardeman Rifles

4th Texas Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861

Plate 252
LE



*Sergeant
12th Indiana*

Officer

*Private
100th Indiana*

*Private
12th Indiana*

12th and 100th Indiana Volunteer Infantry, 1863-1864

Military Uniforms in America

Plate No. 270



The Camel Expedition to California, 1857



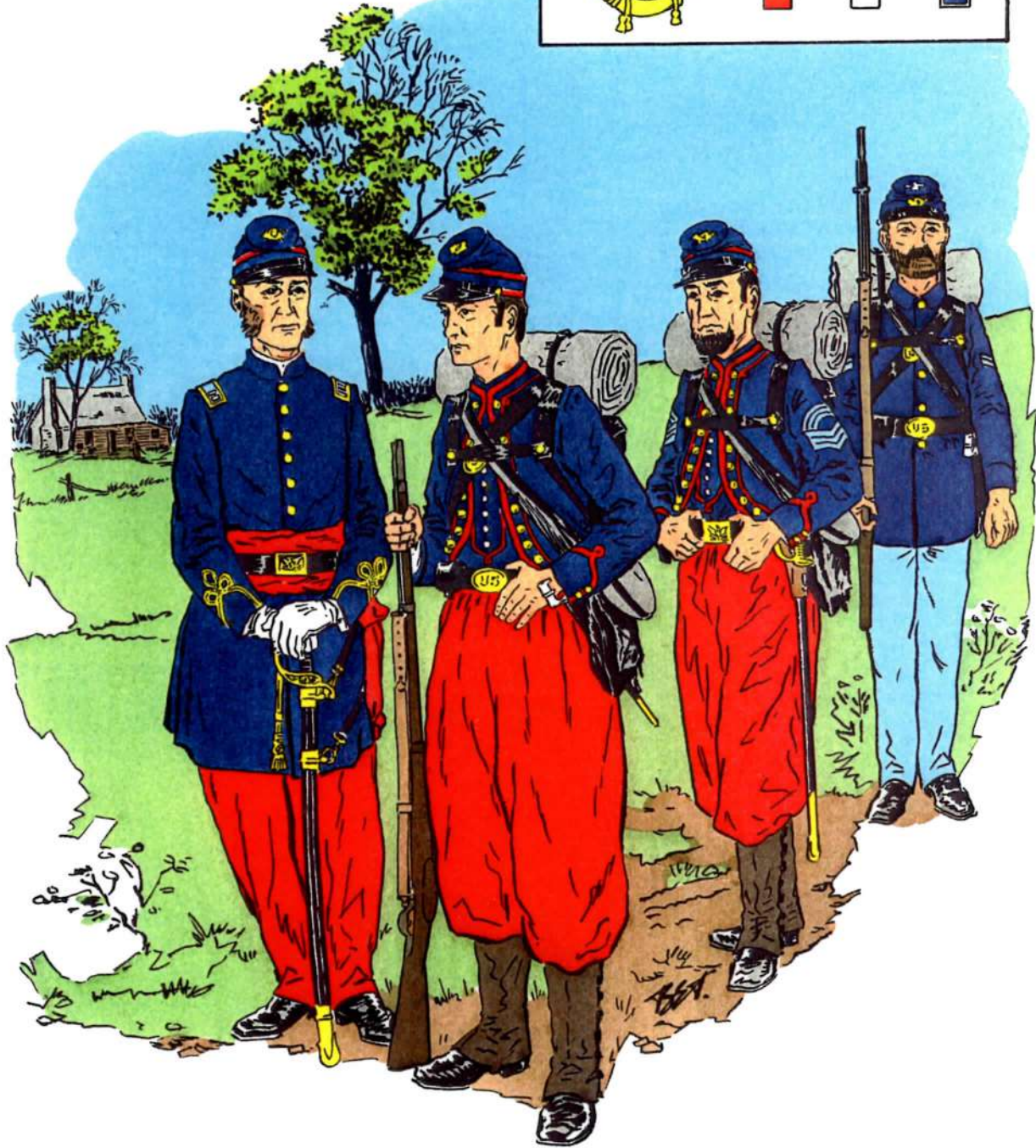
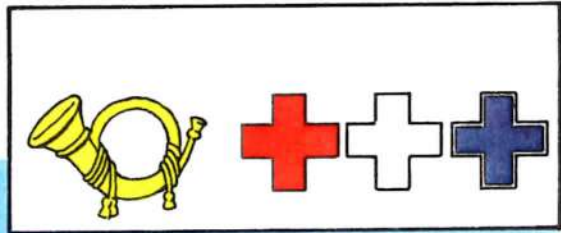
Hospital Steward

Corporal

Sergeant

Officer

165th New York Volunteer Infantry, 1860



Infantry Insigne

*VI Corps Badge, 1862-1865
1st, 2nd and 3rd Divisions*

95th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 1860



Private

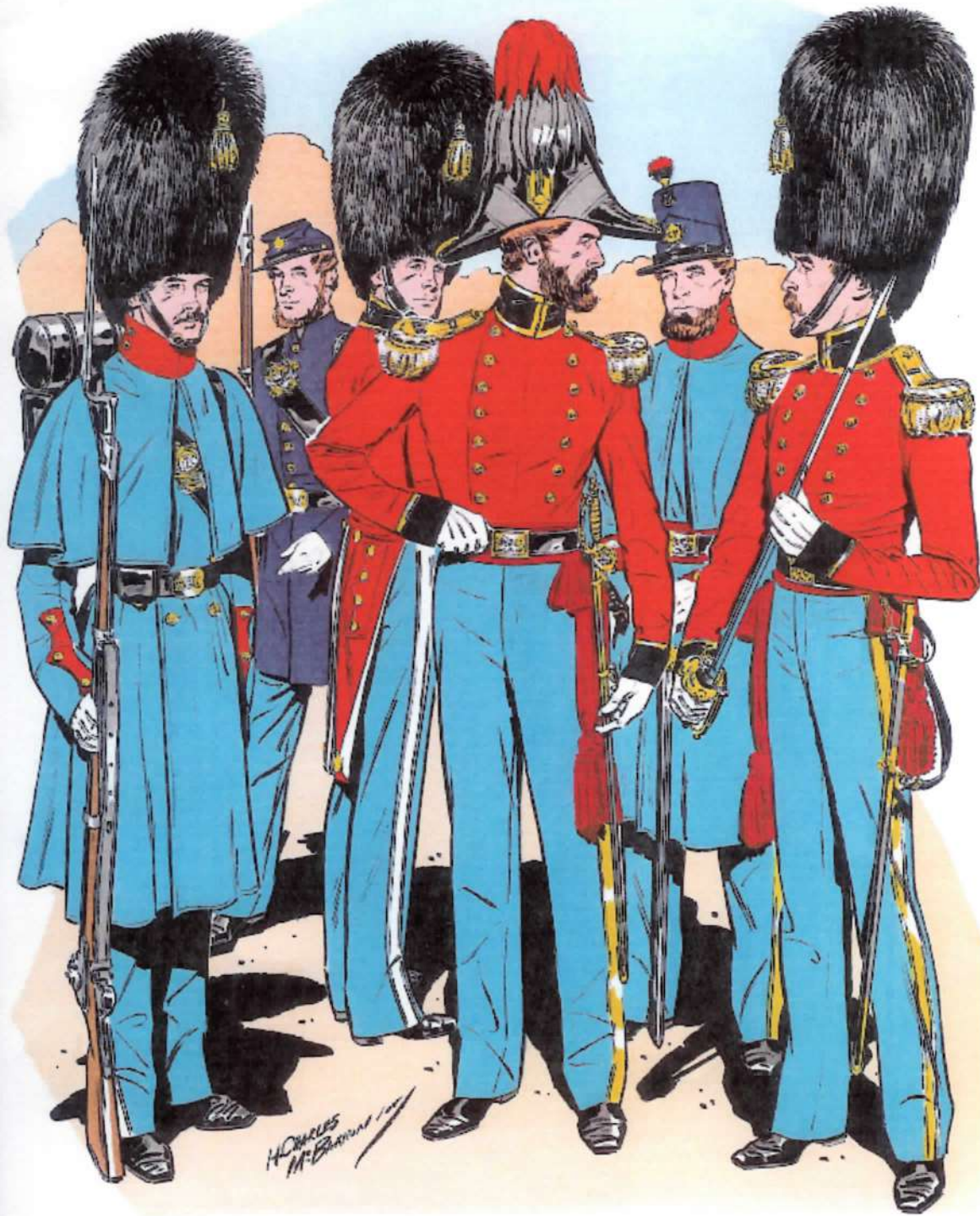
Bugler

Privates

Officer

83rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861-1862

Plate 318
LE



Private
Fatigue Dress

Private
Full Dress

Staff Officer
Winter Full Dress

Private
Winter Full Dress

Staff Officer
Full Dress

Company Officer
Full Dress

Albany Burgesses Corps, 1849-1861

Plate 334

LE



MIKE
MEAFEE
the

Private

Officer

Corporal

**140th New York Volunteer Infantry
1864-1865**

Military Uniforms in America

Plate No. 339



146th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment
1863-1865



Musician, Regimental Band

*Hospital Attendant, Company H
136th Company, 2nd Battalion*

*Corporal, Company C
59th Company, 1st Battalion
(Dress Uniform)*

*Private, Company F
71st Company, 1st Battalion
(Fatigue Uniform)*

*2nd Lieutenant
(Dress Uniform)*

9th Regiment, Veteran Reserve Corps, 1863-1865

Plate 344
LE



Ed. Verrell

Sergeant
2nd Army Corps

1st Lieutenant
Commanding Division Train
and Convalescent

Private
18th Army Corps

Private
114th Pa. Volunteer Infantry

Private

Private

Ambulance Corps, 1862-1865

Plate 347
LE



*Executive
Committee Officer*

*Medical Officer
Company Officer*

Rifleman

Infantryman

Committee of Vigilance, San Francisco, 1856

Military Uniforms in America

Plate No. 383



Private, 72nd Indiana Volunteer Mounted Infantry Regiment

Soldier, Brigade
Corps of Scouts

"The Lightning Brigade"
(Wilder's Mounted Brigade), 1863-1865



ELKINSMAN

Private 1862

Private 1863

Sergeant, 1864-1865

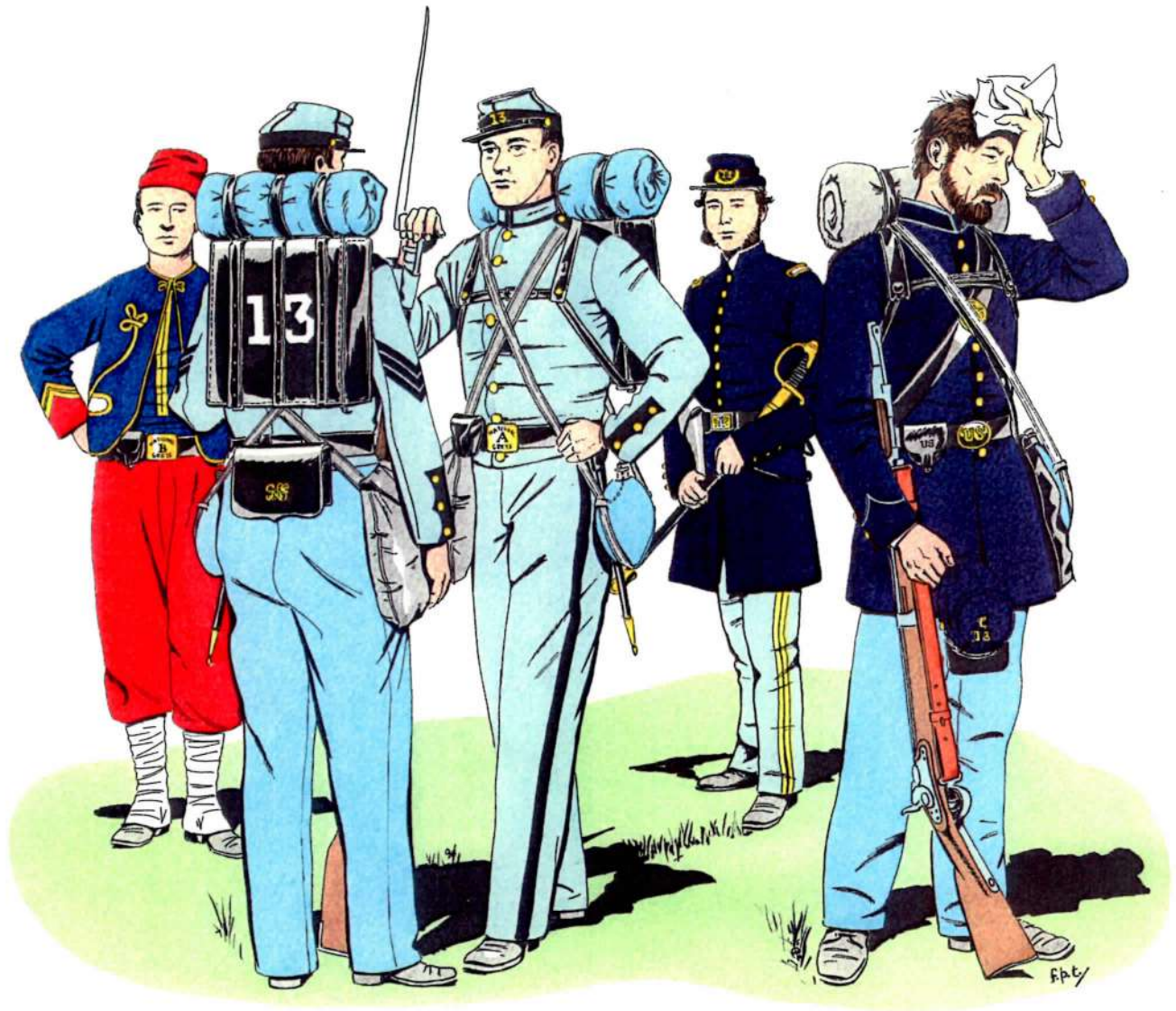
The 104th Illinois Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1862-1865

Military Uniforms in America

Plate No. 388

NATIONAL
B
GREYS

← RECONSTRUCTION 3/2" →



Zouave dress, 1860-1861

Private, first fatigue uniform
1861

Company Officer, 1861

Sergeant, second fatigue uniform
1861

Private, war uniform
1862-1863

13th Regiment, New York State Militia (National Greys)
1861-1865

Colonel Abel Smith led his Brooklyn-based 13th Regiment of New York militia to war late in April of 1861. The 13th performed garrison duty in and around Annapolis, guarding railroads until it moved to Baltimore in June. Its one war-like action seems to have been the capture of a Confederate-held armory in Easton; the post surrendered without a fight, although the 13th supposedly lost one private, Caesar Meisel, in the event. Whatever the truth of that matter, the 13th returned to Brooklyn in early August and mustered out of federal service.

Smith began organizing a volunteer regiment with fresh recruits as well as enlistees drawn from the militia. In October he was taking a train home from Whitehall, where a number of recruits had been raised, and as the train neared his stop the Colonel started to get off while it was still in motion. Slipping, he fell to the tracks, but arose after the car passed over. Although he was able to rip off a torn coat sleeve and remark, "I guess I am not hurt a great deal," he was indeed hurt badly, and he died later that day from internal injuries. On his death bed he was tended, coincidentally, by the mother of Colonel Elmer Ellsworth, the slain leader of the New York Fire Zouaves. Smith's wife and son (Abel Smith, Jr., late to die from wounds received leading the 165th New York Zouaves at Port Hudson) arrived after his death.

The task of reorganizing the 13th then apparently fell to the regiment's lieutenant colonel, Robert Clark. He, however, never served as a volunteer officer, and the recruits were passed on to the 87th New York Volunteers—nine of that new regiment's officers had seen duty with the 13th in the summer of '61. Robert Clark did lead the 13th Regiment to answer another call to service in May of 1862. This time the regiment served in the 7th Army Corps at Suffolk, Virginia, returning to Brooklyn on September 28, 1862. Again during the Gettysburg campaign the Brooklyn militia was called up, commanded this time by Colonel John Woodward. The 13th skirmished with invading Confederates near Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. Officially the regiment lost a total of eight men during its three periods of federal service: seven to disease and one by accident. Poor Private Meisel's death was not credited to unfriendly fire.

The 13th continued as an active component of the New York National Guard after the Civil War. It was called out many times in the following decades to quell riots and break strikes, but it was not until the Spanish-American War that it would again serve under the federal eagle. In 1898 a battalion of volunteers from the 13th served in the 22nd Regiment, New York Volunteers.

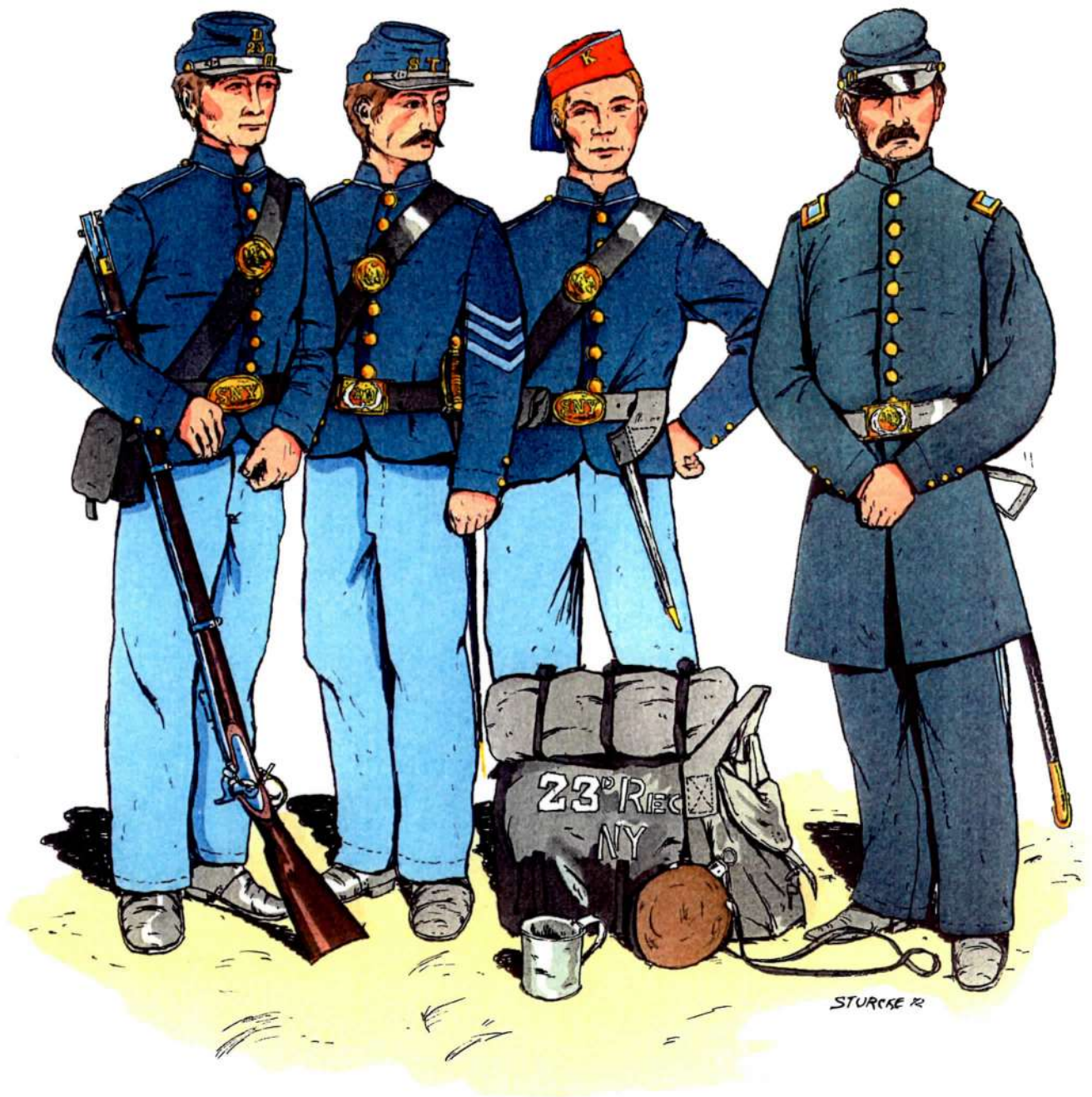
Like the more famous 7th Regiment, the 13th before the Civil War had chosen "militia gray" as its uniform color. The 13th also emphasized its appearance as a traditional militia outfit with a tall shako and an old-fashioned tail coat with epaulettes and cross belts. The regiment's fatigue dress also resembled that of the 7th. The short jackets of the 13th were of "mixed grey cloth, the same in color and shade as used at West Point," trimmed in black. The accouterments were of black "enameled leather" with polished brass waistbelt plates with the letter of the company "engraved and lacquered."

Unlike the 7th Regiment, however, the 13th did not become a prominent Civil War regiment. It saw no significant military action, and lost its best officer not to the war but to a railroad accident. Perhaps if Colonel Abel Smith had lived to reorganize his regiment the story would have been different.

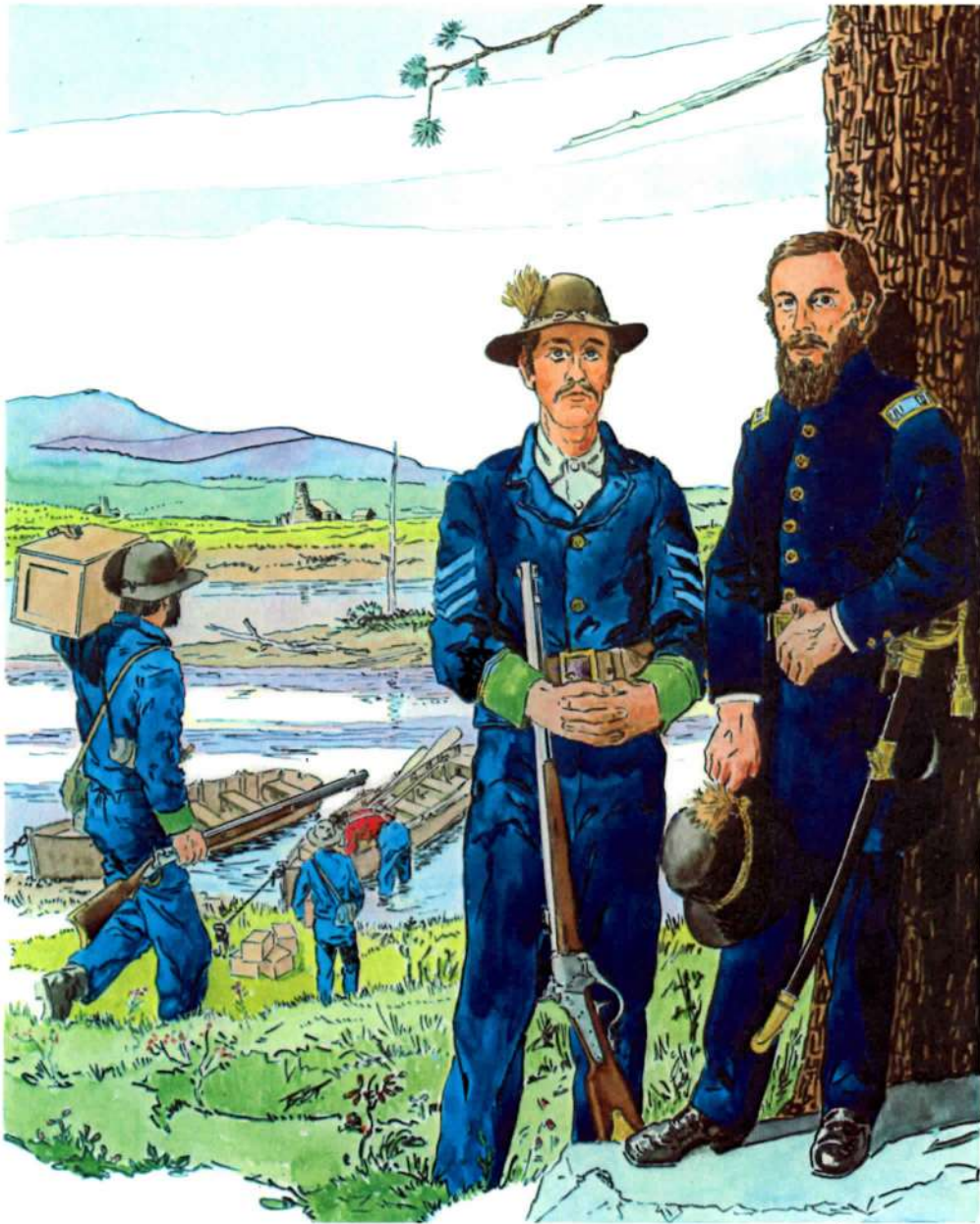
—Michael J. McAfee



Unknown sergeant of the 13th, photographed in Baltimore. The black-trimmed gray fatigue uniform included a leather belt loop to support the militia sword. Author's collection.



23d New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861-1863



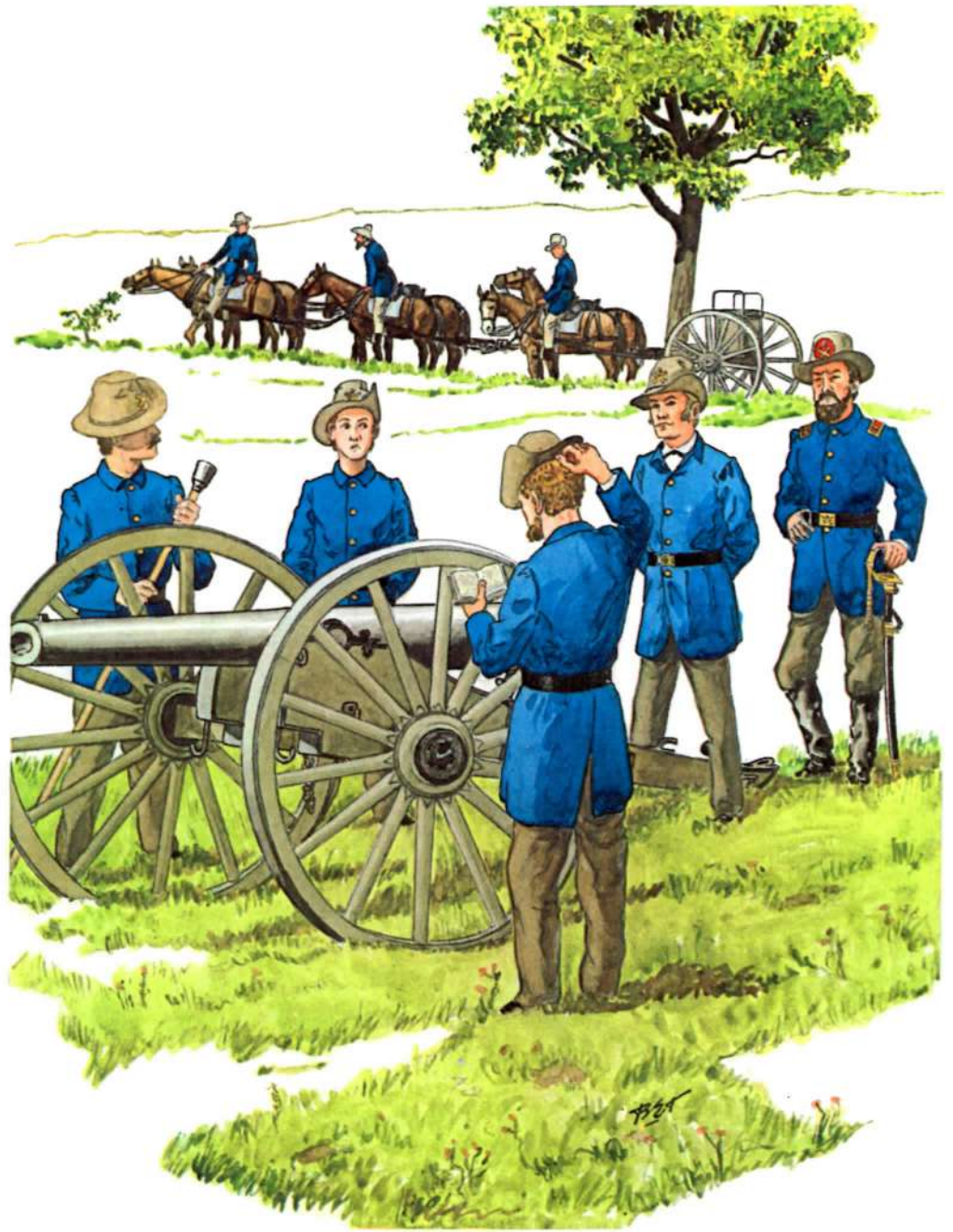
Privates

Sgt. Masten

Capt. Roy Stone

THE RAFTSMEN'S GUARD, APRIL/MAY 1861

Plate No. 406



LANDIS' PHILADELPHIA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY, 1863

Plate No. 411



15TH PENNSYLVANIA VOLUNTEER CAVALRY REGIMENT,
(The Anderson Troop) 1862-1865

Plate No. 413



6TH REGIMENT NEW YORK VOLUNTEER INFANTRY ("WILSON'S ZOUAVES") 1861-1863

Plate No. 414



Drummer

Private

First Sergeant

Company Officer

7th New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry Regiment, 1861

Plate 425
LE



Professor T.S.C. Lowe

1st Lieut. Inf.

Balloon Corps, United States Army, 1862

Plate No. 431



Private, Fatigue Uniform

Officer, Zouave Uniform

Privates, Zouave Uniform

35th New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Regiment
("Cladac Zouaves"), 1863-1865

Plate No. 434



ate
Uniform
Dress

Private
Class B Uniform
Overcoat without Cape

Captain

Corporal
Class A Uniform
Full Chasseur Dress

Maryland Guard Battalion 53rd Infantry Regiment, Maryland Volunteer Militia
1860-1861

plate 439

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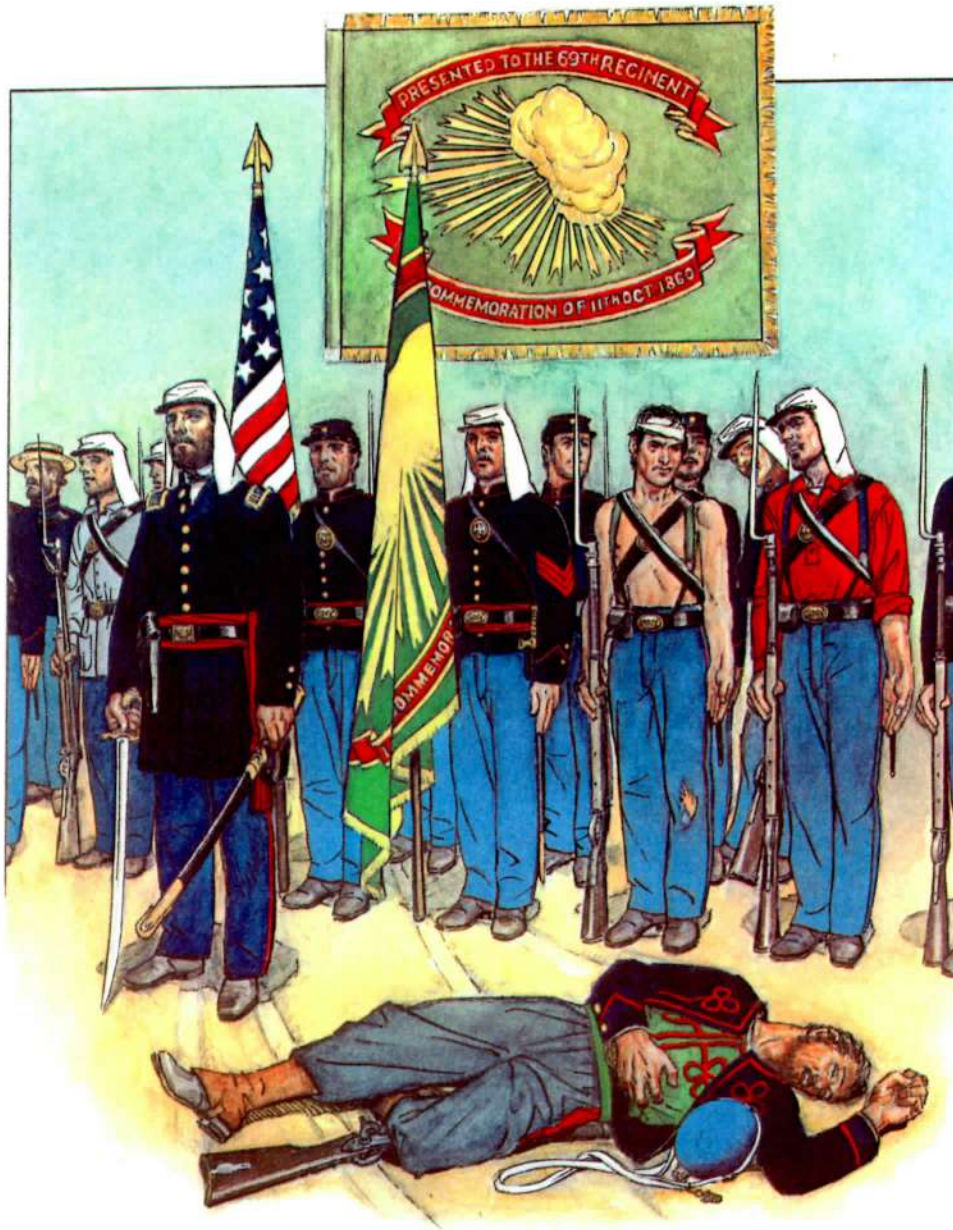
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8th Louisiana Volunteer Infantry, C.S.A., 1861-1865

Plate No. 451



69th Regiment, N.Y.S.M., at the First Battle of Bull Run
21 July, 1861

Plate No. 454

69th Regiment, New York State Militia

The year 1861 seemed to dawn inauspiciously for the 69th Regiment of the New York State Militia. Its colonel, Michael Corcoran, was facing court-martial for refusing to obey the orders of Maj. Gen. Charles Sandford to parade his regiment in honor of the Prince of Wales. The visit of the future King Edward VII in October 1860 had been a grand occasion, and all New York had delighted in showing the young Prince and his entourage a gracious reception. Conspicuously absent, however, had been Colonel Corcoran and his Irish-American 69th Regiment. The absence was noted here and abroad, and the affair reached a point where charges were brought against Corcoran by Col. Morell, acting Inspector, 1st Division, N.Y.S.M.

In his defense, Corcoran insisted that only two parades by *Division* could legally be ordered each year, and as two such parades had already been ordered, the parade for the Prince of Wales was, conveniently, extra-legal. Nonetheless, in January 1861 the Court for the trial of Corcoran began assembling its papers.

With the new year, however, came heightened sectional tensions as the rebelling southern states one by one declared themselves out of the Union and began mustering military forces and threatening federal property in the South. The attack on Fort Sumter in April and the ensuing call for troops in the North resulted in the dropping of charges against Corcoran so he could organize his regiment for war service. Immediately the Irish-American community of New York rallied to the flag.

The 69th Regiment had been organized in 1851, shortly after the drastic restructuring of the entire New York militia in 1847. The 69th originally uniformed itself with dark green tail coats trimmed with red. Then, in 1859, new uniforms in keeping with the regulations adopted for the N.Y. militia were purchased. Because the regiment was officially an artillery outfit, and only "doing duty as light infantry," the new *blue* frock coats were trimmed with red. The editor of the *Military Gazette*, desirous that all militia units heed the party line, cited the 69th as a positive example:

The uniform of the regiment is all new, and according to the regulations as adopted. The change in the uniform of the regiment is highly creditable to them, as the one they have discarded was good, and they could have retained it, but, desirous of conforming to the regulation color, they sacrificed their prejudice for a color that was cherished by them, and adopted blue.

The new full dress uniform is clearly illustrated in Figure 1, a portrait of an unknown member of Company E. In dark blue, the fashionably long frock (or uniform) coat was piped with red at the collar and cuffs. The dark blue uniform cap bears the regimental crest, consisting of two Irish wolfhounds supporting a shield and standing on a ribbon with the motto "Gentle when Stroked, Fierce when Provoked."



Author's collection

Figure 1: full dress uniform of the 69th Regiment, New York State Militia, adopted in 1859, replaced the old green tailcoat with a blue frockcoat mandated by state regulations for militia.

- "The National Cadets" - 1861.



Author's collection

Figure 2: the undress uniform in which the 69th went to war consisted of the same coat minus the full red epaulettes. Because the 69th was nominally an artillery unit, the coat and trousers were trimmed in red.

The number 69 appears in a circle above the shield and is surmounted by an American eagle. The rosette above the eagle is unclear. The pompon on top is of two colors, green over red. The epaulettes were probably entirely of red worsted wool, with a company letter attached within the crescent. The white accouterment belts have two plates. The waistbelt plate is of brass, rectangular with clipped corners, and bears the regimental name, "National Cadets." The crossbelt plate is also likely of brass, and appears to bear a shield and shamrock wreath.

While not immediately apparent from the photograph, the full dress uniform could also serve as a fatigue uniform. Figure 2 shows another private in the undress version. The red full dress epaulettes were detached, revealing a red shoulder strap underneath, and the shako-style uniform cap is replaced by a chasseur-pattern forage cap of dark blue with company letter and regimental numerals. The trousers in both uniforms are the same, sky blue with a red welt or cord.

The war regiment, volunteering for three months service, wore the undress uniform when it left New York City, except for such new recruits that they could not be uniformed in time for the departure. While in Washington, uniforms were issued so that the entire regiment was clothed before the battle to come in July. They also received the standard gift of havelocks, in this case from the ladies of New York led by the wife of Judge Daly.

The 69th also took along a number of flags, the most prominent being the color which had been presented to Col. Corcoran (along with a "sword of honor") in sympathy for the "troubles" resultant from the refusal to parade for the Prince of Wales. This large green silk flag was decorated with a golden cloud and rays between two ribbons which read "Presented to the 69th Regiment" and "in commemoration of 11th Oct, 1860"—the date of the parade.

Armed with M1842 muskets, the regiment was ready to fight rebels, which they did at Bull Run on July 21, 1861. The Irishmen fought well, losing two hundred casualties. Corcoran, among others, was taken prisoner. The rest fled with McDowell's defeated army.

The 69th returned to New York City in early August and was mustered out. Most of its officers and many of its enlisted men went on to serve in the 69th New York Volunteers, which mustered in November of 1861. Those who stayed at home kept the militia regiment alive and active, enabling it to serve again for short periods during the emergency call-ups of 1862, 1863, and 1864. Although they did not "wear the green" in combat (nor did the 69th Volunteers, which is another story) they were true sons of Erin. Still active today, the 69th Regiment has become one of the grand traditions of American military history.

— Michael J. McAfee



E.M. Fatigue & Dress

Private, Dress Uniform

E.M. in Overcoat

Officer

Sergeant

33rd United States Colored Troops
 1st Regiment South Carolina Volunteer Infantry
 1862 – 1866

Plate No. 455



RECONSTRUCTION



MICHAEL
J.
M'FEE

Private
(First Zouave Uniform)

Company Grade
Officers

Private
(First Zouave Uniform)

Private
(Second Zouave Uniform)

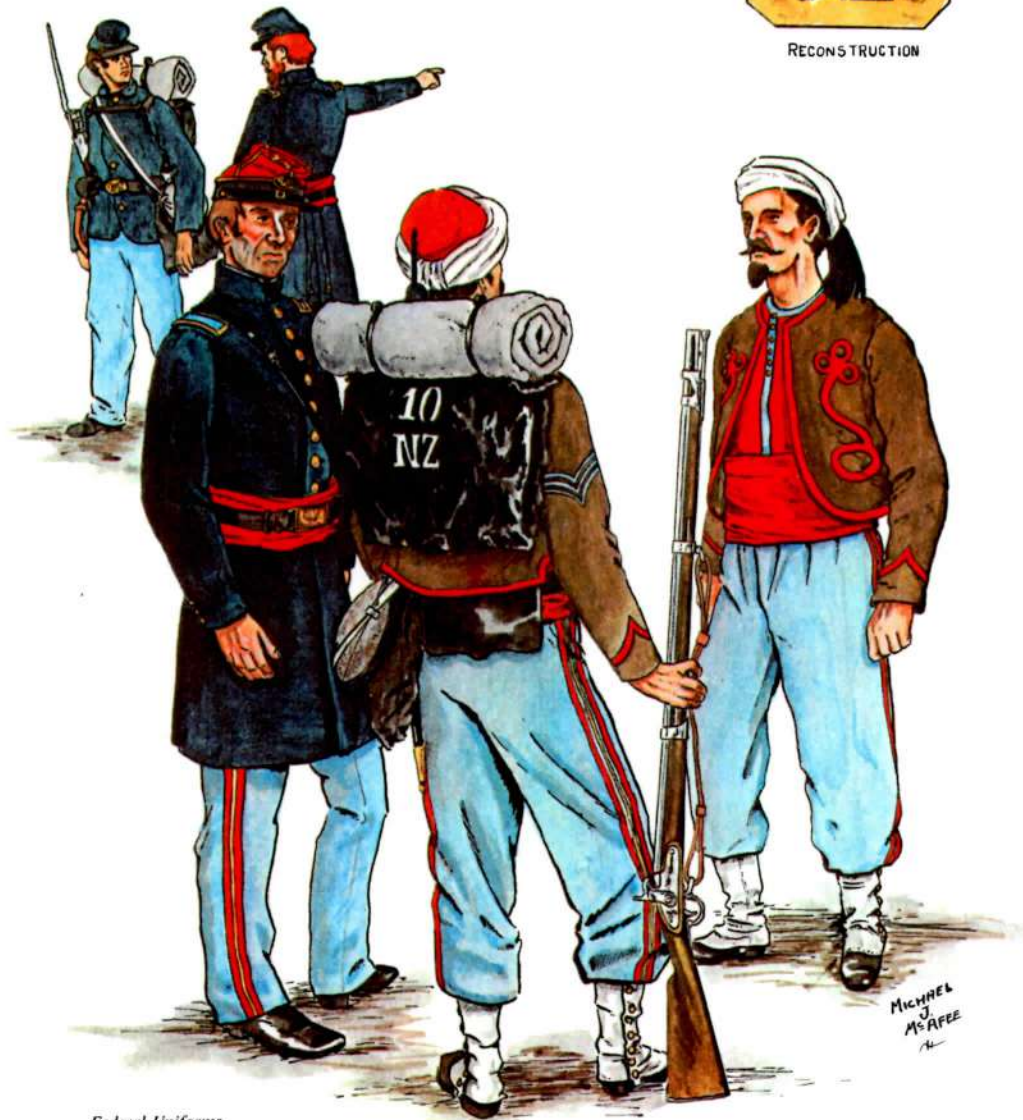
Military Uniforms in America

10th New York Volunteer Infantry, 1861
(National Zouaves)

Plate No. 458



RECONSTRUCTION



MICHAEL
J.
McAFEE
A.

*Federal Uniforms
(Service Dress)*

*Company Grade
Officer*

*Sergeant
(Third Zouave Uniform)*

*Private
(Third Zouave Uniform)*

**10th New York Volunteer Infantry, 1862
(National Zouaves)**

Military Uniforms in America

Plate No. 459



reverse of #1



reverse of #3

Varieties of Officers' Dress
 165th N.Y. Vol. Inf. — Second Battalion, Duryea Zouaves
 1862-1865

- 1. *Uniform Maj. Felix Agnus*
coll. Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore
- 2. *Uniform Col. Harmon D. Hull*
coll. G.A.R. Memorial Hall, Chicago
- 3. *Uniform of Unknown Officer*
coll. The Company of Military Historians

Plate No. 463



Cannoneer,
No. 5

Cannoneer,
No. 1

Officer,
Field Dress

Musician

Captain

Field Artillery, U.S. Army, 1861-1865

Plate 474

LE



H.G. Ahrenholz
3
78

*Enlisted men
Undress Uniform*

*Lieutenant
Dress Uniform*

*Captain
Dress Uniform*

*Sergeant
Dress Uniform*

Company "A", Milwaukee Light Guard
1858-1861

Military Uniforms in America

Plate No. 479



Drummer & Zouave
1861-1864

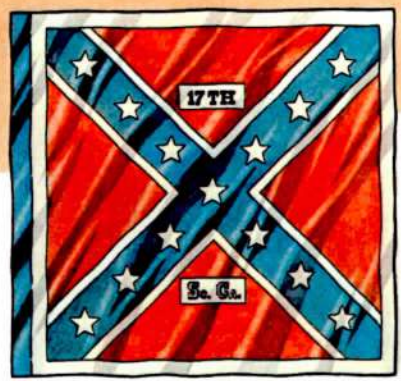
Officer

Zouave
1868

The Burnside Zouaves of Providence, Rhode Island
1861-1870



DARBY ERP



Private
Flank Companies

Sergeant Major
Jack Wilson

Col. Fitz William McMaster

Capt. E. R. Mills
Company E

17th Regiment, South Carolina Volunteers, C.S.A.
1861-1865



- F. RAY -

1st Lieutenant

*Private
Zouave Uniforms, 1864-1865*

Sergeant

*Private
Regulation Uniform
1864-1865*

33rd Regiment, New Jersey Volunteer Infantry, "2nd Zouaves"
1863-1865

Military Uniforms in America

Plate No. 487



Captain Col. DeWitt Clinton Baxter Vivandiere Zouave Sergeant with Left General Guidon

**72nd Regiment, Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, 1861-1864
"3rd California Regiment" and "Baxter's Fire Zouaves"**

Military Uniforms in America

Plate No. 495



Officer

Sergeant

Private

22nd Regiment, New York State Militia
1861-1862
"The Union Grays"/"Strawberry Grays"



Alabama Red Rovers, 1835



76th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment,
(Keystone Zouaves), 1861-1865



- F. RAY -

Sergeant Chasseur

Officer

Privates

44th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia
(New England Guards), 1862-1863

The New England Guard

Company A, 4th Battalion of Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia



Unidentified soldier in the enlisted man's uniform of the 4th Battalion, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia. Note details of piping around the pocket on the trousers, the chasseur tunic, and the kepi. Author's collection.

New York State's attempt to stamp out the glowing ember of independence among its volunteer companies had not met the same levels of success in the New England states. In Massachusetts the spirit of the old independent companies of militia was still strong in 1861, especially in the Boston area where many companies traced their ancestry to the previous century. One newer company, the New England Guard, was nearly fifty years old in 1861, having been formed in 1812. As one historian described it, the Guard contained "the very finest material afforded by the foremost city in New England." The company's motto would soon become more than a trite expression:

OUR NATION'S HONOR THE BOND OF UNION
It was the "bond of Union" which would soon impel the company's members to form the core of two full regiments of infantry during the American Civil War.

At the beginning of 1861 the Guards had been Company B of the 2nd Battalion of Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, but in March they became Company A of the 4th Battalion. The Bay State's practice of shuffling companies between battalions and regiments, even of allowing the creation of separate battalions in populous areas such as Boston where they could have been forced into regiments, simply demonstrates the political nature of the militia system. It also underscores the political and social power wielded by individual companies of prominent citizens in what was supposed to be a military hierarchy. If a company felt its prestige was greater than that of the battalion or regiment to which it was assigned, it could lobby for a slot in a more prominent organization. The result was a constant shuffling of units.

In the midst of its maneuvering for position, the New England Guard had also changed uniforms. As a part of the light infantry movement which swept the western world's armies at the mid-century mark, the Guards chose to become *chasseurs*, the French version of rifle-armed light infantry. The Guard's new chasseur uniform consisted of a dark blue tunic trimmed with yellow piping and shoulder knots, worn over lighter blue trousers with yellow piping at the pockets. Topped off with a light blue chasseur kepi with dark blue band and more yellow piping, the uniform was very attractive. The addition of russet leather gaiters implied that it was also suitable for field service. Officers' uniforms had the same colors for coats, trousers and caps but without the piping. Thus equipped, the New England Guard was obviously well prepared to recruit new members to reinforce its standing in the ever-shifting sands of the Massachusetts militia system.

The guns of Fort Sumter brought all of this to a temporary halt as the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia organized itself to respond to the public emergency. Some of the Bay State's sons answered the call as militia and were rapidly shipped to the South for three months service. One such regiment was the 6th Massachusetts, which would see blood spilled in the streets of Baltimore. The 4th Battalion, by contrast, decided to become the nucleus of a long-service volunteer regiment; eventually the 24th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry ("New England Guards") would leave for the theater of war in December of 1861 under Colonel Thomas G. Stevenson.

Continued on following page
March-April 1997 37

Stevenson was captain of Company B in the 4th Battalion MVM when the New England Guard reorganized in March of 1861. He had joined the militia as an enlisted man in the 1850s and was a first sergeant in the original company until it was transferred to the 4th Battalion in 1861 and added the new Company B wherein he gained the captaincy.

Stevenson began recruiting for the 24th Infantry at Camp Massasoit in Readville with twenty seven of the officers of the new volunteer regiment coming from members of the militia battalion. The 24th eventually joined Burnside's expedition to the Carolina coast, engaging the enemy at Roanoke Island and New Bern. Stevenson became a brigade commander and was confirmed as brigadier general of volunteers on April 9, 1863.



Thomas G. Stevenson at the time he was Major of the 4th Battalion, MVM, before becoming Colonel of the 24th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry in 1861. His uniform typifies the officers' attire in the 4th Battalion.
 Author's collection.

Enough of a militia organization remained behind in Boston to be called briefly into service in May of 1862 during the "great scare" caused by Stonewall Jackson's defeat of Nathaniel Banks in the Shenandoah Valley. Moreover, a second New England Guards regiment was raised in August of 1862 and became the 44th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry to serve for nine months. This unit also spent its time in North Carolina, losing forty-one officers and men to battle and disease.

Meanwhile, the 24th Massachusetts Volunteers moved to South Carolina as part of the 10th Corps, later serving in Virginia in the 10th and 24th Corps. The regiment lost 220 men in total, 97 of whom were killed or mortally wounded. Among the dead was Thomas Stevenson, felled by a Confederate bullet in May of 1864 while leading a division of the 9th Corps. He was but one of many in the New England Guard who had faithfully served their "Nation's Honor."

— *Michael J. McAfee*



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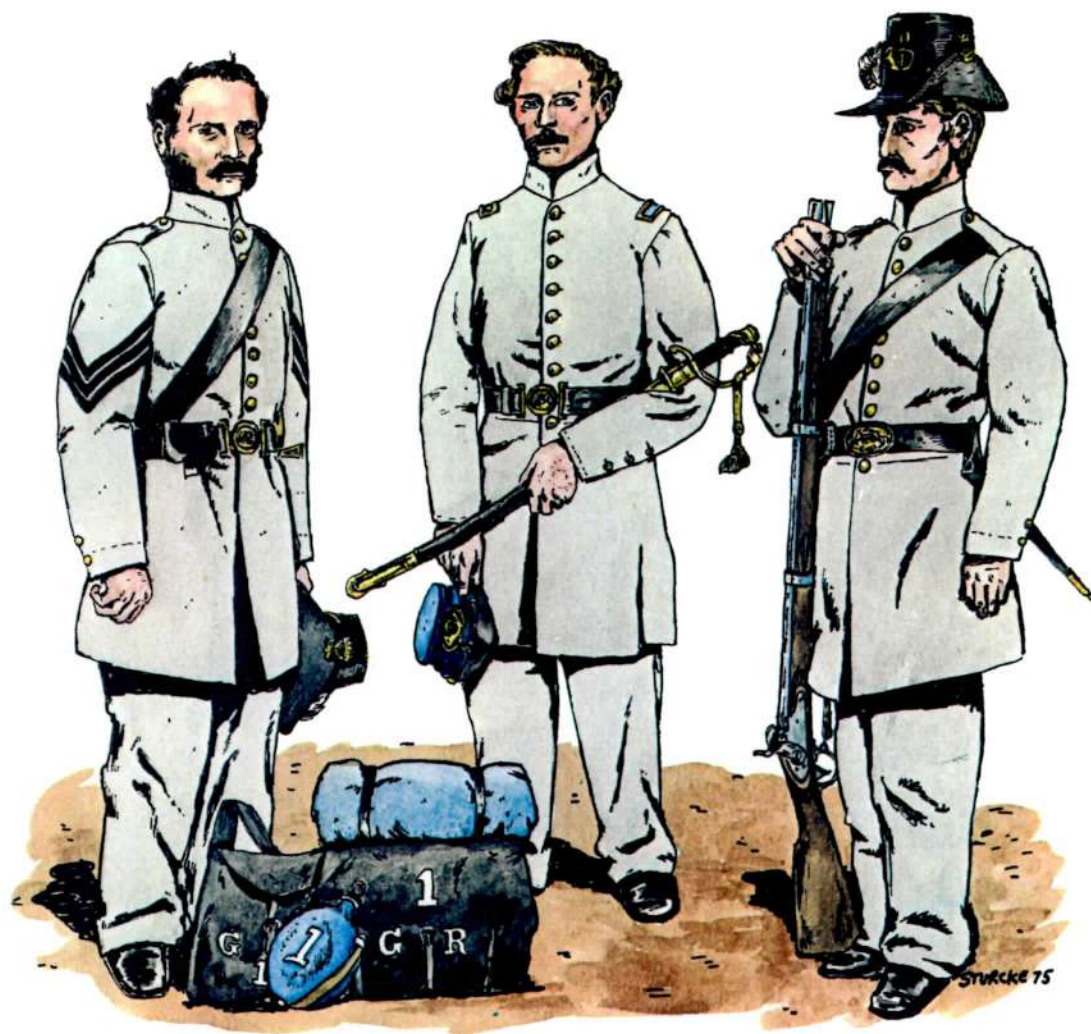
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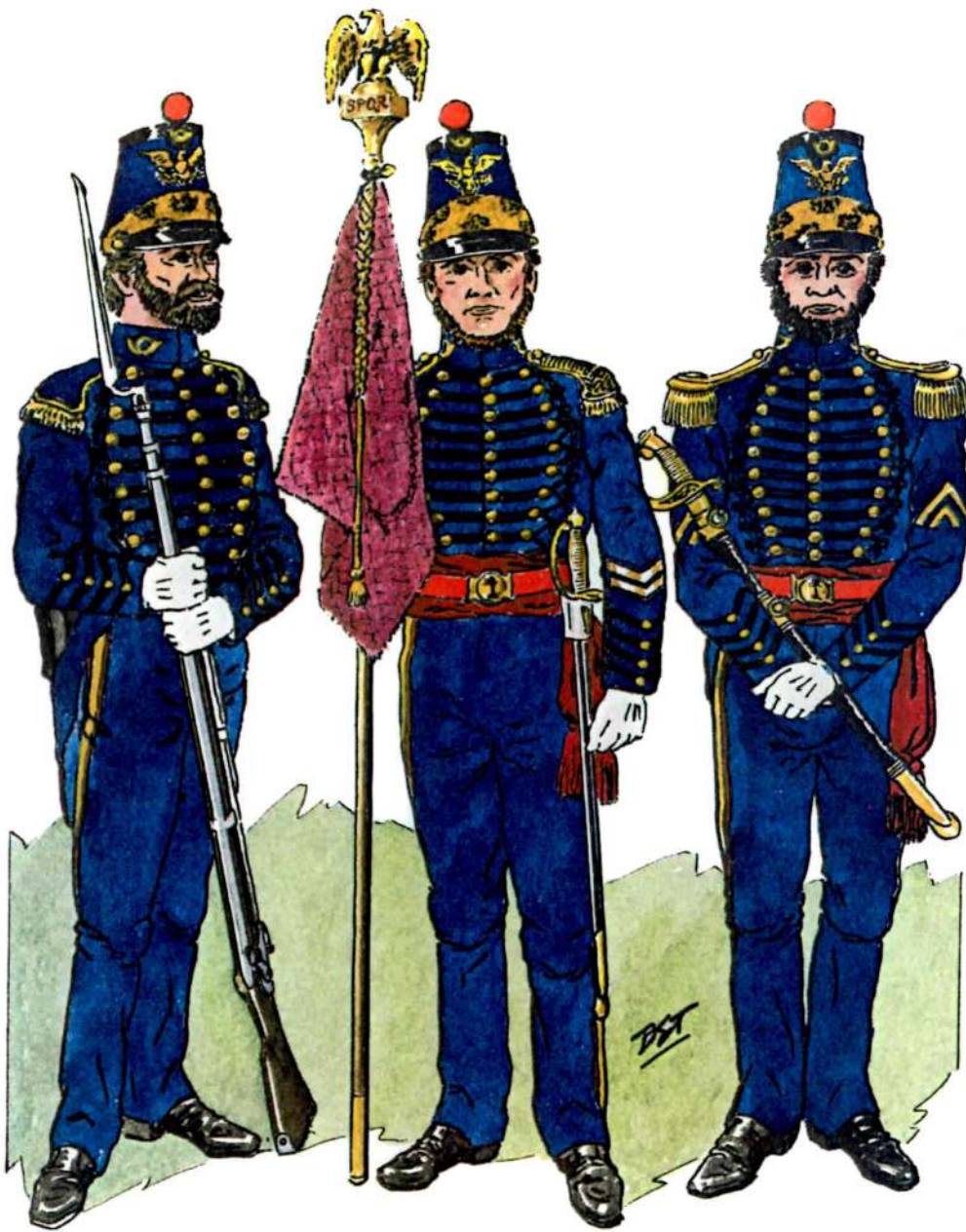
- strong glasses for close inspection of artifacts
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- congenitally unable to put hands in pockets until certain of an item's authenticity and value
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- feet firmly planted on the ground
- gray matter crammed with artifact and battle-related minutiae
- well-developed olfactory senses for smelling good deals
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- stays plugged in and well-informed by reading North South Trader's Civil War magazine and North South Trader's Civil War Collector's Price Guide

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1st Infantry Regiment (Gray Reserves)
Reserve Brigade, Philadelphia Militia, 1861



Private

Color Sergeant

2nd Lieutenant

Washington Light Infantry of Charleston, S.C., 1858



20th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment,
(United Turner Rifles), 1861-1863

20th New York Volunteer Infantry, The United Turner Rif

"Let them wave. They are our glory." -- Colonel Ernst von Vegasa



Private August Werthoff, Company D, 20th New York Volunteers, wears the marksman's lanyard and an "SNY" belt plate. Note his Hardee hat with distinctive trim, and the dark blue trousers. CDV, author's collection.

The 20th Volunteers should not be mistaken for the 20th Regiment, New York State Militia, which went into Federal service as the 80th New York Volunteers but, like the "14th Brooklyn," insisted on using its militia designation.

44 MILITARY IMAGES

With the coming of war in April of 1861, the American community of the North responded enthusiastically to its adopted nation's call to arms. An eager volunteer was a regiment recruited around a *verein* -- a Turner society -- in New York City.

The Turner movement of fraternal societies had early in the century in Germany and had spread to America with its Teutonic immigrants. Intensely nationalistic and patriotic in both nations, the Turner societies fostered physical health through exercise and gymnastics; their name derived from the German verb *turnen*, to perform gymnastics.

Turner societies also promoted literary and scientific studies and, in America, were strongly anti-slavery, supporting the new Republican Party. Turners also were involved in the very popular German-American *schuetzenvereine* -- shooting societies -- which fostered marksmanship along with reform. Thus these energetic German-Americans would seem to be prime material for the nucleus of the new volunteer army. Unfortunately, they also were highly independent in spirit, a trait not highly prized by military organizations.

Turners from New York City formed the nucleus of the state's 20th Regiment of Volunteers and the unit can be known as the "United Turner Rifles." Mustered in small clusters of companies, the 20th Regiment was in Federal service by May 11, 1861, under Colonel Max Weber, formerly an officer in the German army and, like many prominent German-Americans, in exile from Europe after the failed liberal revolutions of 1848.

The uniform adopted by the 20th was distinctive, not exceptionally so, despite what some modern authors have written. Their basic dress was a dark blue uniform (frock) coat styled like the regulation federal coat but with the addition of buttoned shoulder straps. Contemporary accounts indicate that the trim on these coats, at least originally, was red. An examination of photographs reveals a very Germanic element to this coat: a marksman's lanyard draped from the left shoulder and hooked to a coat button. Although the regiment originally was described as wearing fatigue caps, at some point the 20th was issued Hardee hats, the standard 1858 uniform hat of the regular army, trimmed with a Rifles-style trumpet rather than the infantry bugle or hunting horn insignia. Finally, to avoid confusion, sometime later "in the field" the trim on the uniform supposedly was changed to green, an appropriate color for Riflemen.

And Riflemen they were. Whatever the original color of trim on the uniforms, the Turner Rifles did not receive rifles as weapons. In July of 1861, 720 Remington-made 1841 rifles with sword bayonets were issued to the regiment. The sword bayonet is among the decorative items

the unit's monument at the Antietam battlefield. Armed and equipped, the United Turner Rifles "looked neat and marched steadily. The green sprig of laurel in each cap." They supposedly were ready for war.

Shipped to Fort Monroe, Virginia, the 20th participated in Ambrose Burnside's expedition to North Carolina but saw relatively little actual combat prior to being sent to the mouth of the Potomac in June of 1862. During what would become the 3rd Battle of Bull Run, 2nd Division, 6th Corps, the Turner regiment truly began a checkered military career. On the Peninsula at the end of that same month, it was rebuffed as breaking and running at the Battle of Antietam. One description of the flight reads: "They wore high, black hats and when they were ordered to run the plain was dotted far and wide with their hats and knapsacks." In counterpoint, a member of the 20th described the incident thusly: "We were encamped on a hill together with Mott's battery ... suddenly a perfect shower of shell and shot fell upon us, apparently from all directions... as we were unable to see the foe, and as he rained upon us with such fearful accuracy, it would have been pure madness to expose ourselves any longer. We ran on our knapsacks, took our guns and ran into the woods about two hundred yards, when we formed again, and from there marched off in perfect order... It is true we have had very bad officers and nearly all of them will have to go, which will be a great benefit to us..."

This man's words proved prophetic, as the unit's commander at Antietam, Lt. Col. Francis Pickens (Max Weber had been promoted to brigadier general) soon resigned his commission. He was replaced with Colonel Ernst von Vegasack. The new colonel was Danish, not German, had served as a staff officer for Brigadier General John Butterfield, and knew his way around a battlefield. On furlough from the Swedish army, von Vegasack was brave as he was capable. Eventually

he would receive the Medal of Honor for gallantry at Gaines Mill.

Probably still smarting from the ignominy of their rout at White Oak Swamp, the 20th would redeem itself on the field at Antietam. Moving across an open field between the East and West Woods under a heavy fire, the Germans flanked and drove off the remnants of Van Manning's Confederate brigade, then moved towards the Dunker Church. Von Vegasack pushed the regiment forward until it came under heavy fire from the West Woods. When asked to lower the 20th's colors to be less conspicuous, von Vegasack replied, "Let them wave. They are our glory." Colors to the front, the Turners sustained 145 casualties and erased the stain of their earlier flight under artillery fire.

The 20th continued to serve in the 6th Corps, becoming well known for their appearance on parade. The spring of 1863, however, saw the approach of the regiment's end of service. Then came the basic independent thinking of the German Turners brought trouble. A question arose over when their two-year enlistment actually began, and just before the 6th Corps began the Chancellorsville campaign, many members of the regiment felt they were due for a discharge by the end of April. Some 200 members of the regiment refused to serve beyond April 29th; they were arrested for mutiny.

The remainder of the regiment participated in the capture of Fredericksburg and the fight at Salem Church in May, losing more than 200 men in this final campaign. The 20th Regiment returned to New York City and was mustered out on June 1st. The turmoil over the mutiny continued through the summer until President Lincoln pardoned the mutineers, who were released in September.

The United Turner Rifles had proven to be a strong-willed and independent organization. It had gone to war under a white banner embellished with the slogan "Clear the Way" and the figure of an owl, symbol of Athena, the Greek goddess of both wisdom and war. The Turners

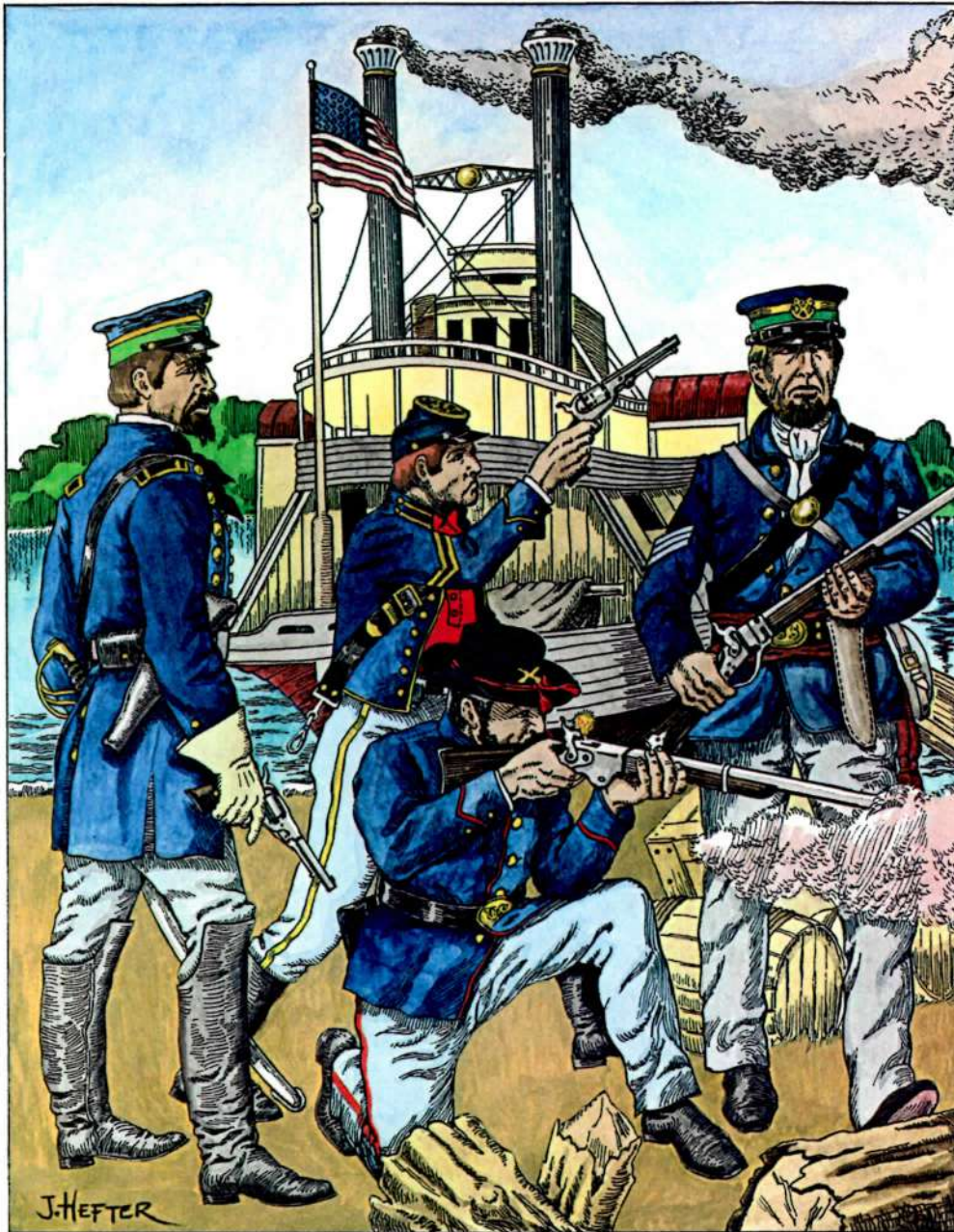


Private Henry Buehler, Company E, wears a "US" belt plate, dark blue forage cap and lighter trousers. In some accounts the trousers are described as gray. Buehler holds the 1841 Rifle. CDV, author's collection.

eventually grew adept at war but they did not always show the fabled wisdom of the owl. They were a cantankerous lot, fully in the tradition of American, if not German, independence.

-- Michael J. McAfee





Officer

Cavalry Corporal

Artilleryman

Infantry Sergeant

Mississippi Marine Brigade, 1862-1864



Surgeon

*Private,
Line Company*

*Privates,
Advanced Guard Company*

**62nd Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry,
(Anderson's Zouaves), 1861-1865**



*Driver,
Near Wheel Horse*

Corporal

Officer

**Independent Battery, United States Colored Light Artillery,
(Douglas's Battery), 1864-1865**



Regimental Colour

*Private, Lafayette
Light Artillery Co.*

*Sergeant, German
Artillery Company*

*Sergeant Major
(State Uniform,
Summer Dress)*

*Colonel
(State Uniform,
Summer Dress)*

*Corporal, Washington
Artillery Company*

1st Artillery Regiment, South Carolina Militia, 1851-1861



54th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, 1863-1865



Privates

Corporal

Lieutenant

Captain

156th New York Volunteer Infantry
(The Mountain Legion), 1862-1865



*Full Zouave
Officer*

*First Uniform,
1861*

*Second Uniform,
1861*

*Full Zouave
Uniform*

Salem Zouaves, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, 1861



*Surgeon General,
Undress*

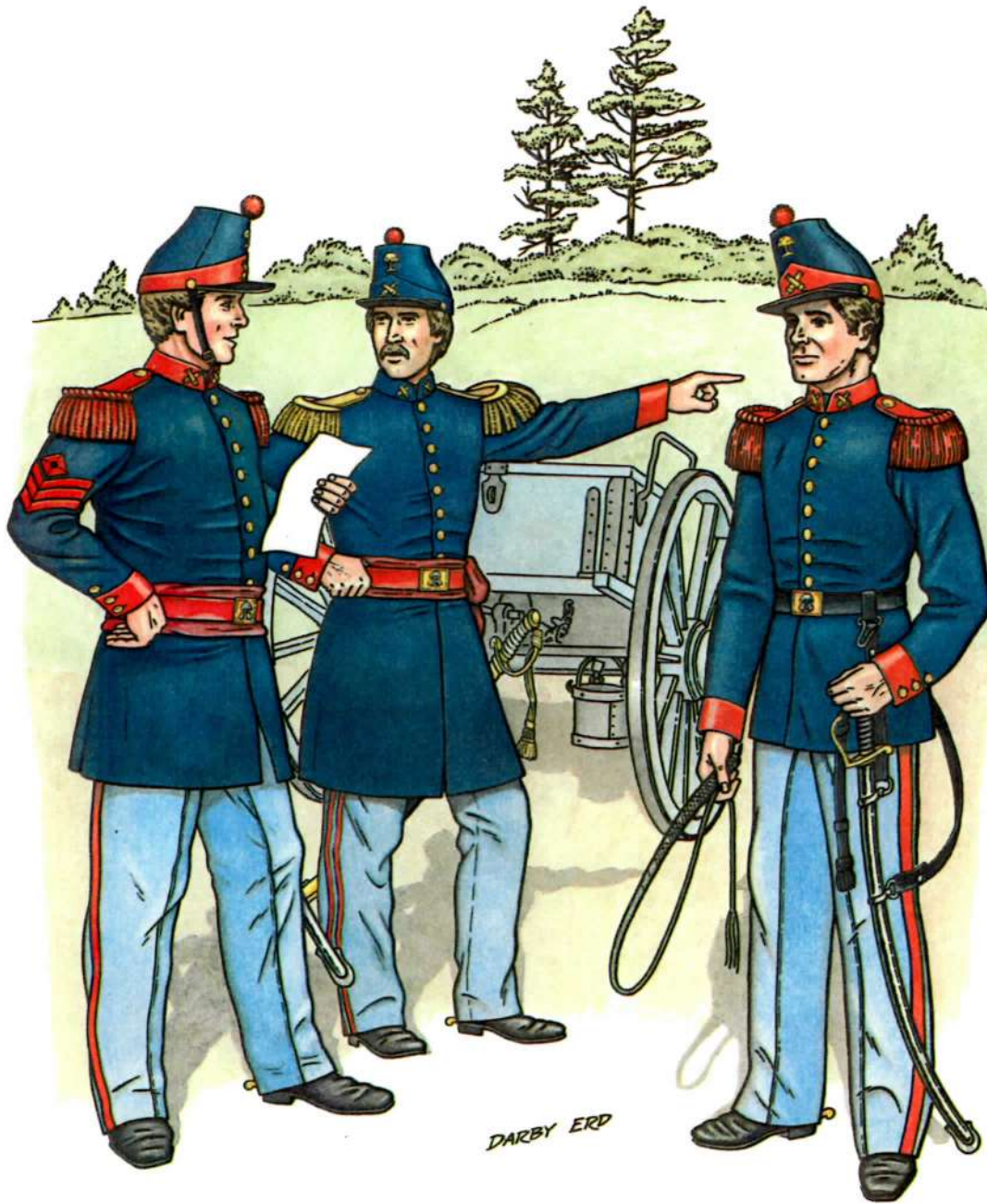
*Brigadier General,
Full Dress*

*Major General,
Undress*

*Colonel, Infantry,
Undress*

Company Officer

Officers, South Carolina Volunteer Forces, 1861



First Sergeant

Officer

Driver

Columbia Flying Artillery, 1854-1861



Sergeant

Enlisted Men

Officer

Racine Zouave Cadets, Wisconsin State Militia, 1863-1864

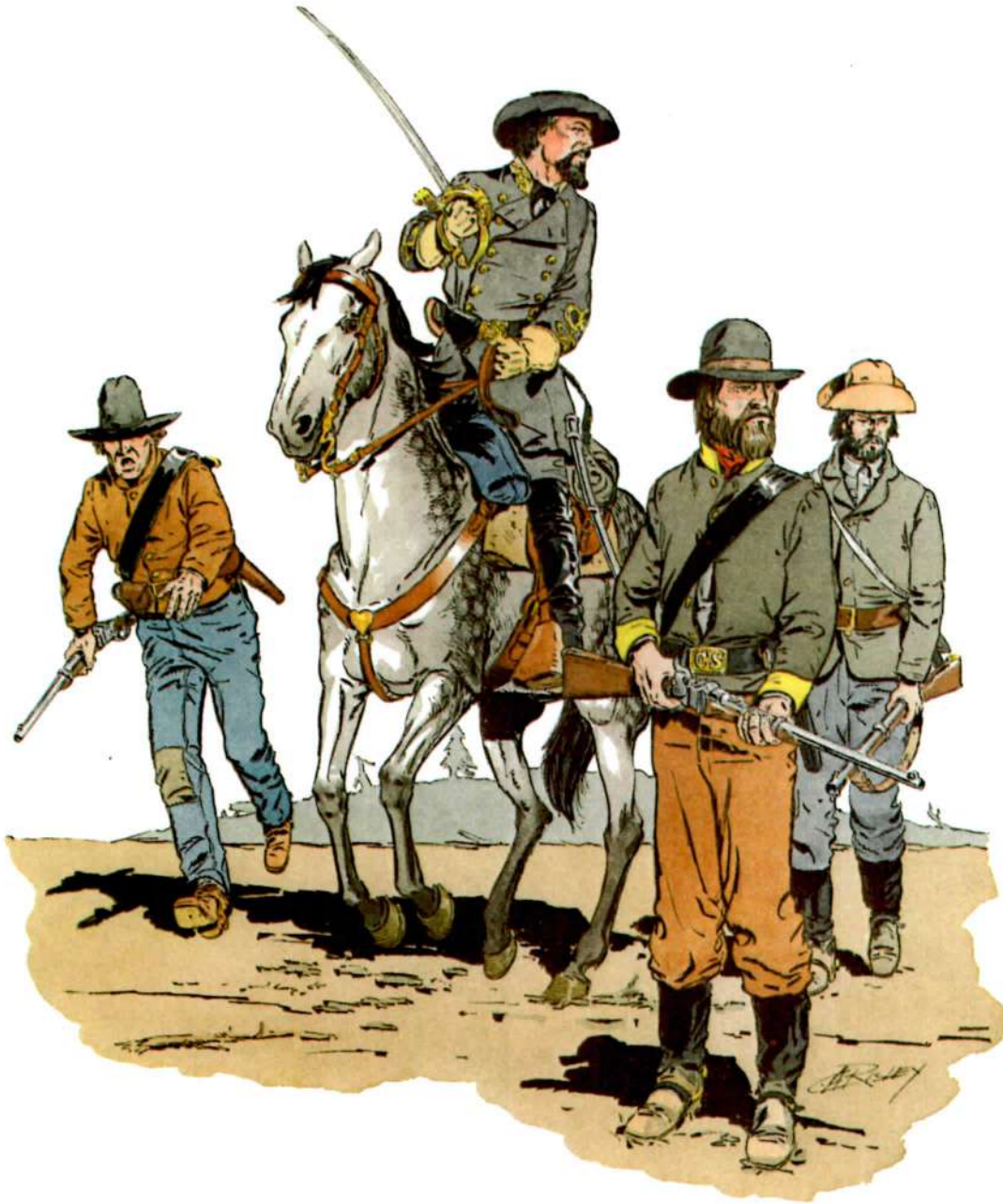


Staff Officers

Major General

Private, Cavalry

Virginia Militia, 1858-1861



Forrest's Cavalry Corps, Army of the Tennessee, 1863-1865



*Field or
Staff Officer*

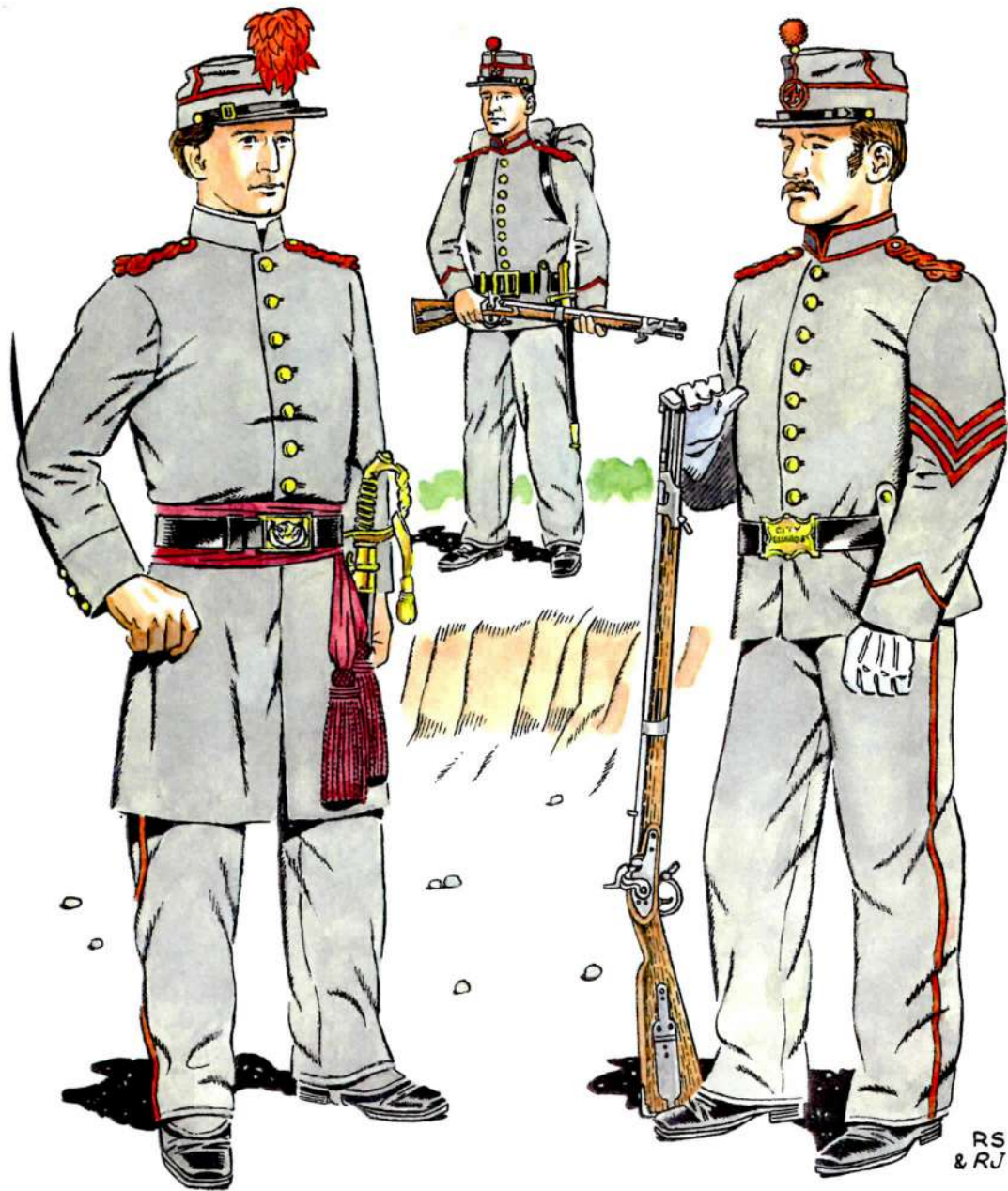
*Private
(1st Uniform)*

*Private
(2nd Uniform)*

*Corporal
(1st Uniform)*

Captain

1st and 2nd Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiments, 1861



RS
& RJ

Officer

Private

Sergeant

4th Battalion of Rifles, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, 1860-1861

MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER MILITIA.

1860-1861

In April the bombardment of Fort Sumter and the general mobilization saw the recruitment of two other companies. The four companies were composed of young men (averaging less than 23 years of age) from the "stores and counting-rooms" of Boston. In May the battalion of 350 men received a "neat rifle-gray uniform, costing about \$15 per man, paying for it themselves." The battalion then immediately asked for service, and on 25 May they were sent to garrison Fort Independence in Boston Harbor, and at the same time a fifth company, from Roxbury, was added to the battalion.

In July five more companies were added to the garrison at Fort Independence, preparatory to forming a regiment. On 16 July 1861, the Rifles became the 13th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Regiment. Samuel Leonard became the regiment's colonel and Batchelder lieutenant colonel.

The original gray uniform of the 4th Rifles was trimmed with red at collar and cuffs and was ornamented with red shoulder knots. Their English-style cap was gray with red trim and pompon. Officers appear to have worn dark blue frock coats, but with gilt trimmed gray caps which sported red plumes. As Rifles, the unit was originally armed with Windsor-made M1841 rifles. In June of 1861 the entire regiment was uniformed in federal blue. Then, prior to leaving the state, their M1841 rifles were replaced with, fittingly, Enfield rifle muskets. Thus the 4th Rifles went to war without their distinctive grays, but still with the pride of Riflemen.

On the 30th of July the regiment left for Washington, D.C., passing through New York City. While in the city Leonard allowed his men to disperse for sightseeing, even though warned against it. Other, rowdier regiments had proven nearly impossible to regroup, but Leonard remarked that "every one will be in his place, sober, at the appointed time." His men proved his words true, and the regiment departed on schedule.

Ordered to Harper's Ferry, the 13th Massachusetts spent much of the next year on patrol and outpost duty there and on the upper Potomac. Ultimately assigned to the Army of the Potomac, the regiment served at such battles as 2nd Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and through much of Grant's 1864 campaign in Virginia. When mustered out on 1 August 1864, the regiment had lost 121 killed and mortally wounded, and 40 men died of disease. Leonard served as the regiment's colonel through the entire war, returning with it to Boston in 1864. In all it had an excellent service record and typified the spirit of the American Citizen Soldier.

— Michael J. McAfee

Right: Second Lieutenant Augustus N. Sampson mustered in the frock coat and plumed cap worn by officers of the 4th Battalion. Suspended from his left shoulder and resting on his right hip is a bugle; Rifle units traditionally used bugles rather than drums to signal commands.



FOURTH BATTALION OF RIFLES,

*There is a sound of thunder afar,
Storm in the South that darkens the day!
Storm of battle and thunder of war!
Well if it do not roll our way.
Storm, Storm, Riflemen form!
Ready, be ready against the storm!
Riflemen, Riflemen, Riflemen form!*

Strangely, this ode by the Poet Laureate Tennyson did not refer to the impending American Civil War. It was published in the *London Times* in 1859, and actually referred to the blatant militarism of the Second Empire under Napoleon III. French saber rattling created great tension in Great Britain, for it was readily apparent that the skeleton regular forces maintained in the homeland of England were insufficient for the island's defense. Thus, in 1859, against the best efforts of the regular establishment, new corps of civilian volunteers were formed for the first time since the Napoleonic Wars.

Most of these volunteers were riflemen, while the remainder were formed as artillery corps located in maritime towns with forts and batteries. Their military role was obviously defensive, and they were not expected to serve as front line troops. Yet so great was the patriotic and military spirit in Great Britain that by June of 1860, some 130,000 volunteers had enrolled in these new corps. Most, but by no means all, of the Rifle Volunteers adopted gray or green uniforms, and all were equipped with some version of the .577 Enfield rifle or rifle musket. Many of these units would enjoy a long life, some into this century and its global conflicts.*

At nearly the same time in the United States the volunteer militia of many states were undergoing a similar resurrection, inspired by the general military ardor of the times as well as what a few perceived as an impending sectional crisis. In the winter of 1860-61, Massachusetts Militia Brigadier General Samuel H. Leonard began to create what would become the 4th Battalion of Rifles in the Bay State's militia establishment; that unit would in turn be the nucleus of the 13th Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry.

Although it is impossible at this time to determine the connection between the British Rifle Volunteers and their American counterparts, it is likely that General Leonard was influenced by the growth of rifle units in Great Britain. Leonard, who had just relocated in Boston, took a new commission as captain of the Boston City Guards, which was then cut free of its old regiment to form the germ of a battalion organization. Thus, on 15 December 1860, the City Guards became Company A of the 4th Battalion. In the following March a second company was organized with N. Walter Batchelder (formerly of the Boston Light Infantry) elected captain. Captain Leonard was then chosen major and James Fox succeeded to the command of Company A.

* (See Philip Katcher's "British Rifle Volunteers of the 1860's: Don't Mistake John Bull for Johnny Reb," in *MII*, Vol. 1, No. 1, July-August 1979. - Ed.)

Left: Sergeant Sigourney Wales in the gray Rifle uniform with British style cap. Wales was mustered with Company C in July 1861. He was acting regimental adjutant in 1863 when he was promoted to captain and transferred to the 55th Massachusetts. Wales reached the rank of major before resigning in November 1864. Note that his weapon is the unaltered M1841 rifle without bayonet.

