



# National Archives and Records Administration

700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20408-0001

## *Military Service in the Confederate Navy and Marine Corps, 1861–1865*

On February 21, 1861, the Provisional Confederate Congress established the Confederate Navy Department, and appointed Stephen R. Mallory as the first Secretary of the Navy. A subsequent congressional act of March 16, 1861 authorized the creation of a Confederate States Navy and Marine Corps. These forces were charged with protecting southern harbors and coastlines from the Federal blockade, and hopefully establishing a local superiority over the Federal Navy. Despite valiant efforts by individual vessels, the Confederate Navy failed to seriously challenge Union naval forces during the entire course of the war. Serious deficiencies in natural resources, industrial facilities, and shipyards prevented the Confederacy from building an adequate naval force to wage war against the North. The Confederate Navy and Marine Corps ceased to exist after the fall of the Confederate government in April 1865.

### Records

\_\_\_M260, *Records Relating to Confederate Naval and Marine Personnel*. 7 rolls. DP. This publication presents records relating to individuals serving in the Confederate Navy and Marine Corps. Rolls 5-7 contain reference cards and original papers relating to a particular sailor or marine, arranged alphabetically by surname. Information includes rank of sailor or marine and references to vessel papers, payrolls, muster rolls and volumes in the War Department Collection of Confederate Records (RG 109).

\_\_\_M1091, *Subject File of the Confederate States Navy, 1861-1865*. 61 rolls. DP. This subject file publication contains a series of records relating to the Confederate Navy that was originally part of a larger collection of naval documents known as the Subject File of the United States Navy, 1775-1910. The Confederate records were removed and consolidated into a separate record series in 1963 to facilitate better research on the Confederate States Navy. Related official records of the Union Navy that dealt with Confederate vessels were integrated into the new Confederate record series as well. Rolls 16-22 contain Category N (Personnel) of the Subject File. Records in this category are arranged chronologically (unless otherwise noted) under the following subtopics:

NA	Rolls 16-18	Complements, Rolls, Lists of Persons Serving in or with Vessels or Stations. This subtopic is further arranged as follows: Nominations for officers submitted by Jefferson Davis to the Senate; List of officers who resigned from the U.S. Navy; Miscellaneous lists; Register of Commissioned and Warrant Officers; Lists of marines; and Personnel serving on or with Confederate States vessels, arranged alphabetically by name of vessel.
NF	Roll 19	Distribution and Transfers. Arranged alphabetically by name of vessel.
NH	Roll 19	Heroic Acts, Commendations, Honors and Medals.
NI	Roll 19	Promotions and Privileges, Rank, Retirement, and Reinstatement. Arranged alphabetically by name of vessel.
NK	Roll 19	Technical and Professional Examinations of Individuals.
NN	Rolls 19-20	Acceptances, Applications, Appointments, Discharges, Dismissals, Oaths of Office, Resignations, Revoked Commissions. Individual cases are arranged alphabetically by surname.

NO	Roll 21	Courts-Martial. Individual cases are arranged alphabetically by surname.
NP	Roll 21	Pilots. Arranged alphabetically by surname.
NR	Roll 21	Recruiting and Enlistments, Shipping Articles. Shipping Articles typically include name, rating, signature and date of enlistment.
NV	Roll 22	Miscellaneous Lists. Arranged alphabetically by surname. Includes Marine Corps courts-martial, desertions, recruiting, transfers and miscellaneous personnel.
NZ	Roll 22	Desertions and Stragglers. Individual cases are arranged alphabetically by surname.

### **Confederate Vessel Papers**

“Vessel Papers” contain historical and statistical data relating to individual Confederate vessels, including additional crew lists, shipping articles, muster rolls and payroll information. They provide useful sources of supplementary data regarding a Confederate sailor or marine’s service record.

\_\_\_M909, *Papers Pertaining to Vessels of or involved with the Confederate States of America: “Vessel Papers.”* 32 rolls. DP.

### **Published Sources**

The publications listed below are available at the National Archives. They may also be available in larger public, college, or university libraries in your local area.

\_\_\_United States Navy Department. *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion.* Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1894-1922. (N16.6) Series II, Vol. 1, Part I contains statistical data of Confederate vessels. Part II contains muster rolls of Confederate vessels.

\_\_\_United States Naval War Records Office. *Register of Officers of the Confederate States Navy, 1861-1865.* Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1931. (N16.2: R26) (V11.U8 V6 1931). This volume identifies Confederate naval officers alphabetically by surname.

Note: The *Official Records* publication also exists on microfilm as M275, *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies, 1861-1865.* 31 rolls. DP. Roll 28 contains the volume cited above.

Rev. December 2010