



Veteran Reserve Corps (VRC), 1863–1865

War Department General Orders No. 105, issued by the Adjutant General's Office on April 28, 1863, authorized the creation of the Veteran Reserve Corps (VRC) originally called the Invalid Corps. The Corps consisted of companies and battalions made up of

- officers and enlisted men unfit for active field service because of wounds or disease contracted in the line of duty, but still capable of performing garrison duty
- officers and enlisted men in service and on the Army rolls otherwise absent from duty and in hospitals, in convalescent camps, or otherwise under the control of medical officials, but capable of serving as cooks, clerks, orderlies, and guards at hospitals and other public buildings
- officers and enlisted men honorably discharged because of wounds or disease and who wanted to reenter the service

The Invalid Corps was renamed the Veteran Reserve Corps on March 18, 1864. Confusion with the damaged goods stamp "I.C." (inspected-condemned) affected volunteer morale.

Compiled Military Service Records (CMSRs)

In the 1890s, the Department of War used numerous sources, such as muster rolls, descriptive rolls, and pay rolls to create compiled military service records. These records generally show when a soldier joined a unit and if he was present when the unit was mustered.

Veteran Reserve Corps Service

___M636, *Index to Compiled Service Records of Volunteer Union Soldiers Who Swerved in the Military Records of the Veteran Reserve Corps*. 44 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by the soldier's surname. The compiled military service records have not been filmed.

Volunteer Military Service

___Indexes to Compiled Military Service during the Civil War. Arranged by state and then alphabetically by the soldier's surname. For more information, see the reference report: *Union and Confederate Volunteer Service during the Civil War, 1861–1865*.

Service in the Regular Army

For more information, see the following reference reports:

- *Officers in the Regular Army, 1789–1916*
- *Enlisted Service in the Regular Army, 1789–1914*

Pensions

Pension applications and records of pension payments for veterans, their widows, and heirs are based on the veteran's service in the armed forces of the United States. These files can contain narratives of events during service, marriage certificates, birth records, death certificates, family letters, statements from witnesses, and affidavits.

These records have not been filmed and in some cases must be requested from the Veterans Administration.

For more information, see the reference report: *Pensions for Soldiers Who Served During the Civil War, 1861–1865*.

Other 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.

Published Sources

___*Official Army Register of the Volunteer Force of the United States for the Years 1861–1865, part VIII* (Adjutant General's Office, 1867, pp. 30–119). Arranged by unit. Provides a complete listing of officers in the VRC. Information provided includes date of entry or exit from unit, including promotion, transfer, resignation, discharge, death, and dismissal.

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