

Chapter 1 : Confederate Uniforms of the American Civil War

The infantry in the American Civil War comprised foot-soldiers who fought primarily with small arms, and carried the brunt of the fighting on battlefields across the United States.

The Army had ten Regular Army infantry regiments that the outbreak of the war, most of which were scattered about the country in small garrisons especially in the west, where they were engaged in providing security in the newly acquired territories and states. The few Regular Army units of the United States Army were expanded during the war, and more importantly were joined by hundreds of volunteer regiments during the war. The Confederacy, lacking a regular army also raised hundreds of volunteer infantry regiments. The regiment was built around the infantry company that was composed of sixty to one hundred soldiers commanded by a Captain. Most companies, in the case of the volunteer regiments came from the same town, county or neighborhood. The infantry regiment was composed of ten companies. A Confederate regiment was larger: However, most regiments were rarely at their authorized strength after their muster into service and this got far worse for units after they had been on campaign and in battle. A brigade was typically composed of two to five regiments. In theory brigades were commanded by Brigadier Generals but many times commanded by Colonels. Medical teams and sometimes artillery, were assigned to brigades. With the expansion of the armies divisions of infantry were formed. Composed of two or more brigades divisions could operate independently or banded together as part of an army corps. Corps were composed of two or more divisions. Two or more corps would compose an army. Infantry formations on both sides relied on Napoleonic infantry tactics which when they were formulated worked well due to the types of weapons used by opposing armies. Depending on the tactical situation, infantry regiments, brigades and divisions advanced into battle in either column formation or line shoulder to shoulder. The column formation, a tactic borrowed from the French, but also used by other armies was used to move quickly into battle. Columns could be formed from battalion level up. At Waterloo Napoleon deployed a Corps in column, to gain a better understanding it is best to look at the battalion or regiment in column. Typically a column would be one to two companies wide making a front of 30 to 60 soldiers. Thus a full strength regiment deployed in a two company front column would have about 17 ranks. The line formation was adopted from the British although the French and Prussians used it as well. Attempting to march a line forward across anything except the smoothest parade ground led to disorder. Men straggled, stumbled, wavered, and the line would soon lose all cohesion. Each ragged rebel yelling on his own hook and aligning on himself. Unlike the column formation, the line formation took a great deal of time to deploy in line of battle and to maneuver swiftly as a unit once formed and it was vulnerable to cavalry if caught in the open. The first American infantry drill manual was issued in when General Von Steuben was given the task of training the Continental Army. The book was based on the tactics of the Prussian Army under Frederick the Great. However, over time, Americans came to favor French drill manuals. Hardee who later became a Confederate general. In the U. S. Colored Troop regiments as well as militia forces. Previous manuals had been unclear as to where they should place themselves in the order of march, or when the unit was moving in line or column on the attack. That the men got caught in a snarl, a tangle, a double twisted, inextricable tactical knot, is tame delineation. With the rifled muskets the skirmishers, advancing ahead of the massed formations could use the longer range and greater accuracy of their weapons to inflict significant numbers of casualties on the enemy, and to pick off enemy officers and artillerymen. The artillery despised the skirmishers as they could do little to combat them without having their own close infantry support.

Chapter 2 : Infantry in the American Civil War - Wikipedia

The problem Confederate infantry faced were they were normally out-numbered, out-gunned, and out-supplied. It is estimated that during the Civil War, up to 2,, Confederates fought in the Southern Army. Confederate President Jefferson Davis was commander in chief of the entire southern army.

Army, except Hospital Stewards who carried a special Sword Model. Additionally all CSA Sergeant ranks were permitted worsted waist sashes: Army crimson worsted waist sashes for all service branches were only allowed to NCOs above Sergeant i. Trousers[edit] Army trousers were of similar pattern to the U. Army trousers, or civilian designs, depending on the area in which they were made. They were typically a shade of gray or brown, with a variety of medium blues also produced. The individual could also have them trimmed to reflect his militia unit, his Non-commissioned officer status, or as a personal flare, to the ubiquitous service pants. Noncommissioned officers were to wear on their outer seams a one and one-quarter inch cotton stripe or braid of colors appropriate to their army branch. There were literally dozens of types of buckles used and produced by or for the Confederacy. The buckles ranged from single plates with hooks, to two piece interlocking buckles, to simple roller buckles and countless other variations. Many buckles use plates that bore the state seal or motto of their home states. The vast majority used simple roller buckle plates of the type found on a common dog collar. As the War progressed, more and more men used captured US belt plates, often wearing them upside down. The kepi was not specified until the Regulations, as a sky-blue kepi, reflecting the Infantry Corps, with a dark blue band, and leather visor. The coat was of the same pattern specified as regulation for the field and company officers, as well as for the artillery and cavalry enlisted men. These designs for the uniform, however, did not prevail, as the complexity of the uniform proved to be difficult for mass-production. The simpler uniform turned out to be the regulations dictated by Judah Benjamin. He stated that the uniform should be that of: His regulations, however, were overruled by the subsequent set of regulations of June , stating the Franco-Austrian styled uniform to be issued and purchased to all corps and by all officers, respectively. The guidelines set by Judah Benjamin in soon became the choice of the clothing depots across the South as the war went into its second year. This easier-to-produce jacket, with the loosened hat and trouser regulations, made it easier to clothe Confederate infantrymen. The typical uniform by the end of and beginning of was a slouch hat or kepi, a shell-jacket, and a pair of sky-blue or gray cloth trousers, with brogans. Jackets and coats[edit] The jacket prescribed for infantry use was of the same design for all service men. The design itself depended entirely on the region, time, and the source of fabrics. The Eastern Theater uniform jacket was the Richmond Depot design, with three primary types issued throughout the war. The jacket varied from a cadet gray, piped and trimmed jacket, looking much like a pre-war militia jacket, to the jeans-cloth jacket that was worn out in six months. The materials and uniforms imported from England were also issued to the troops through this facility. The Western and Deep Southern facilities manufactured similar uniforms, being jeans-cloth, dyed with vegetable based grays, that would fade to brown or tan. The typical jackets issued had button fronts, with collar and cuff trim that varied from era, region and source, and an outside pocket on occasion. The previous styles were the militia uniforms. These consisted of everything from the more sharp-looking jackets and coats, which resembled the French or Northern Infantry uniforms, to the no-flares "battle-shirt", meant for drilling and battles only. The uniform for these militia units varied by each company through a single county or parish, let alone the country itself. The militia uniforms were a menagerie of colors, from cadet gray, dark blue, and hunter green, to reds, buffs and gold tones. The other variety of CS Army uniform jackets and coats is the Zouave. This jacket was meant to be loose-fitting and reflect the French-African Zouave units. The average infantryman may have had his uniform made for him in Richmond, Virginia , however, the man enlisted in Georgia , and is now marching through the former state. In reflection to his loyalties to home, this man, for example, could have adorned his uniform with Georgia State buttons. This would indicate to his fellow soldiers his allegiance to both his state and his military unit. This was common practice during the war for both sides in the conflict. The regulation infantry buttons for enlisted men described the button as to have a number on the front to reflect the unit

designation; for example, a soldier in the 1st Confederate Infantry Regiment would have a "1" on the buttons of his coat. These buttons are rare or non-existent. As before, the uniform buttons could also reflect the state loyalties of an individual. All of the Confederate States made an effort to supply their respective State buttons to their troops. The states that did not join the Confederacy, but had men within its ranks, such as Maryland and Missouri, also made buttons, that have turned up on surviving uniforms. The confederacy also implemented ready-made supplies of button, consisting of the U. Government stockpiles throughout the war.

Hats and kepis[edit] The headgear of the typical Confederate Infantryman was the slouch hat , or the military Kepi. The Kepi is a short fatigue and dress cap that was easy to manufacture for the Army during the war. This type of hat had its drawbacks, however. It provided little weather protection, and was worn out easily after a few months of hard wear. The Infantryman design cap was sky-blue with a dark blue band, but this was rarely seen outside of officer private-purchase caps. There are examples of deep-south made caps that were trimmed in red cotton and wool, and issued to Infantry units, showing that any available clothing was issued to the troops as the war progressed. The slouch hat was the preferred choice of many soldiers, including officers. The hat was normally a floppy, wide brimmed, woolen body head-cover, meant to protect the individual from the sun, and inclement weather. It was normally a civilian hat, of brown, gray, or black wool. This simple hat saw widespread use throughout the Confederate Armies, and even with U.

Chapter 3 : Search For Battle Units - The Civil War (U.S. National Park Service)

One of the most evocative and archetypical images of the American Civil War is the classic Confederate infantry soldier. Almost from the beginning, the Confederacy had serious trouble to equip their soldiers in a proper and coherent way and they tried to compensate their lack of equipment and supplies with lots of tenacity and courage.

Edit Commands were typically issued via drum or bugle call , although the drum was used primarily among the infantry, and the bugle among the cavalry, as playing drum on horseback was found to be rather difficult, and soldiers were drilled in infantry tactics, usually based upon a manual written before the war by West Point professor William J. Hardee Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics: Although published in , it was heavily based upon his Mexican-American War tactics. Many generals, particularly early in the war, preferred to use Napoleonic tactics, despite the increased killing power of period weaponry. They marched their men out in tightly closed formations, often with soldiers elbow-to-elbow in double-rank battle lines, usually in brigade by mid-war numbering about 2,, infantrymen or division by mid-war numbering about 6,, infantrymen strength. This large mass presented an easy target for defenders, who could easily fire several volleys before his enemy would be close enough for hand-to-hand combat. At times, these soon-to-be outdated tactics contributed to high casualty lists. They screened a defensive line from oncoming enemy soldiers, harassed attackers, probed enemy strength in preparation for an attack, and screened the assaulting columns. However, the skirmish formation was forfeited in most cases, for a line of battle was of preference. Skirmish formation would be used to take up large distances of an open front, which rarely occurred at the larger scale battles. Nevertheless, it was drilled into the recruits, should the opportunity to take skirmish formation arise in a combat scenario. Assaults were carried out in several manners, including single or double rank battle lines with individual regiments side-by-side in a line of battle, assault waves with multiple regiments or brigades in successive waves spaced out loosely one behind the other , brigade columns all regiments of a brigade in line one behind the other in close formation , and other formations. Weapons and equipment File: Its barrel contained several rifled grooves that provided increased accuracy, and fired a. This rifle had a deadly effect up to yards and was capable of seriously wounding a man beyond 1, yards, unlike the previous muskets used during the American Revolutionary War and Napoleonic Wars, most of which had an effective range of only yards. Even smoothbore muskets underwent improvements: Other infantrymen went into combat armed with shotguns , pistols , knives, and assorted other killing instruments. Very early in the war, a few companies were armed with pikes. However, by the end of , most infantrymen were armed with rifles, including imports from Great Britain , Belgium , and other European countries. The typical Union soldier carried his musket, percussion cap box, cartridge box, a canteen, a knapsack, and other accouterments, in addition to any personal effects. By contrast, many Southern soldiers carried their possessions in a blanket roll worn around the shoulder and tied at the waist. They might have a wooden canteen, a linen or cotton haversack for food, and a knife or similar sidearm, as well as their musket. One primary account of the typical infantryman came from James Gall, a representative of the United States Sanitary Commission , who observed Confederate infantrymen of Maj. Early in camp in the occupied borough of York, Pennsylvania , in late June Physically, the men looked about equal to the generality of our own troops, and there were fewer boys among them. Their dress was a wretched mixture of all cuts and colors. There was not the slightest attempt at uniformity in this respect. Every man seemed to have put on whatever he could get hold of, without regard to shape or color. I noticed a pretty large sprinkling of blue pants among them, some of those, doubtless, that were left by Milroy at Winchester. Their shoes, as a general thing, were poor; some of the men were entirely barefooted. Their equipments were light, as compared with those of our men. They consisted of a thin woollen blanket, coiled up and slung from the shoulder in the form of a sash, a haversack swung from the opposite shoulder, and a cartridge-box. The whole cannot weigh more than twelve or fourteen pounds. Is it strange, then, that with such light loads, they should be able to make longer and more rapid marches than our men? The marching of the men was irregular and careless, their arms were rusty and ill kept. Their whole appearance was greatly inferior to that of our soldiers There were not tents for the men, and but few for the officers Everything that will trammel or impede the

movement of the army is discarded, no matter what the consequences may be to the men In speaking of our soldiers, the same officer remarked: Think of men, and boys too, staggering along under such a load, at the rate of fifteen to twenty miles a day. Bates , Martial Deeds of Pennsylvania, pages

Chapter 4 : Civil War Military Army Infantry Soldiers Cavalry Artillery

This is a "Sampler" of my artwork for my newly released "The Confederate Infantryman- A Sketchbook," published by Pelican Publishing. I have been a student of the war since and tried to create a book that I would have wanted to own when I got interested in the soldiers of the Blue and Gray (A sketchbook on the Union Infantryman will be available soon).

There are those, and bully for them, who just hurl themselves down on the hard ground and fall asleep in all weathers. Indeed, there has been a tendency, simply because we have so much good information on Federal campaigning, shelter tents and the like,- to follow proper Federal hardcore camping procedure while portraying Confederates This essay is a first stab at trying something different. I hope it will encourage experimentation. From it we learn that the Federal Shelter tent went into mass production in , with , being contracted for that year by the Union Quartermaster General Gaede Their issue began at least as early as March, and at least 15, pairs accompanied the Army of the Potomac at the beginning of the Peninsula Campaign Gaede By the summer of , the shelter tent was widespread in the Army of the Potomac, although it was not a universally used in the western Federal armies until replacing the Sibleys and the A-frame. When they encountered it, did they adopt it, and whatever did they do before it? Poets have delighted to dwell upon the tented field of Confederate days, but canopies were rarely found outside the imagination of the verse makers. Hanks Texas Brigade after the battle of Gaines Mill: Another early reference comes from the reminiscences of Capt. The only shelter the men had were oil or rubber cloths and cotton flies. The latter were of cotton about four by six feet in size and hemmed around the borders. Button holes were worked around these borders and buttons sewed on at certain places In moving all that was needed was to roll up our fly or oilcloth to take with us, put our small lot of cooking utensils in the wagons, put on our accoutrements and take arms. Lee was able to command at the onset of the Wilderness campaign, General Order No. Journal entry from Lt. Serving with Honor Bloody Banners and Barefoot Boys , pp. Grant Taylor 40th AL attest: Near Columbus, Ms 22nd December, pg. When we are ordered to move, it is always done in a hurry and everything in confusion. We have lost a good many of our cooking utensils since Mobile. But we have been fortunate enough to keep our tents up and to draw more. My mess has a good wall tent, brand new like the officers had when you were down The same writer during the Atlanta campaign, Near Marietta, 15 June, pg. I get wet and let my clothes dry on me and of a night tumble down on the wet leaves and grass and get up wet the next morning. I have not yet been able to find any contemporary Western Confederate references to their using captured Federal Shelter halves. I would suspect that this may be due to the lack of opportunities for the unfortunate Army of Tennessee to plunder vanquished enemies after excepting Chickamauga. However, the Confederacy did not rely upon Providence and captured Yankee tentage alone. There were concerted efforts, both improvised by soldiers, and commissioned by the government to provide some overhead shelter for the troops. The phrase seemed universal, if more common in the West than in the East. This strategy is certainly far too under-represented in living history. To begin, "stretching blankets" was sometimes systematic, including the laborious modification of blankets to facilitate their conversion into a tent: A blanket stretched is a poor substitute for a tent, though it does very well. Hiram Moorman, 13th Tenn. Georgia Sharpshooters, Georgia Sharpshooter. Elias Davis, 4 May , Co. As stated above, however, it would be a mistake to think that Confederate quartermasters ignored a need for tentage by their field armies. Indeed, they had a unique response, which is curiously undocumented in most of the campaigner literature:

Chapter 5 : Soldiers and Sailors Database - The Civil War (U.S. National Park Service)

'Confederate Infantryman ' is an invaluable look into the daily life, appearance, and battle experiences of the infantry of the American Confederacy for the entire duration of the American Civil War.

How to Search the Catalogs: Conduct a keyword or subject search heading in the catalog using the following examples of Library of Congress subject headings. First Regiment, Engineer Troops, P. A Guide to Virginia Military Organizations – The Virginia Home Guards. Virginia Regimental History Series Index. Searching under that subject heading reveals all of the titles. Individual regiments may be searched by name; e. Twenty-fourth Virginia Infantry Abstracts. Introduction and abstracts from the regimental records in the National Archives for the Twenty-fourth Virginia Infantry Regiment. The abstracts of the regimental records consists of a list of officers, a chronological record of events, and abstracts of individual service records arranged alphabetically as they appear on the microfilm. Only a fraction of the data in the service records has been abstracted. Fourth Virginia Cavalry Regiment. Miscellaneous Microfilm Reel Records, –, of the Fourth Virginia Cavalry Regiment including certificates, commissions, dispatches, horse and equipment valuation, invoices, letters, medical exemptions, oaths of allegiance, orders, petitions, and reports concerning military operations, supplies, and personnel. Many of the records are endorsed. Richmond Light Infantry Blues. Records, –, of the Richmond Light Infantry Blues containing records of the famous infantry company, which was one the longest continually active militia units in the United States at the time of its disbanding in the mid-twentieth century. Two of the eleven volumes pertain to the Civil War. Volume One is a record book of the company from –, which includes minutes of its meetings, an early history of the unit, muster rolls, and a unit roster. Volume Four is a scrapbook for the years –, which includes newspaper accounts, invitations, ribbons, and other memorabilia related to the unit. Tenth Virginia Infantry Regiment. Accession , , and Records, –, of the Tenth Virginia Infantry Regiment consisting of three volumes. The first is a volume of morning reports that contain the number of men present for or absent from duty, and the location of the regiment. Also included is a volume of morning reports captured from the 4th Maine Militia Regiment at the First Battle of Manassas. The second is a volume of quartermaster records kept by Captain A. Included are monthly reports of forage received and issued, moneys received and paid, public animals, wagons, and tools in use, non-commissioned officers and privates employed on extra duty, and statements of accounts with the Confederate States of America. The final volume is that of guard reports for the regiment that include names of those on each relief of the guard, their station, the parole and countersign, list of prisoners, and various remarks. Tuck and the Third Virginia Infantry. Unit Records, – bulk –, – Click Here for Finding Aid Unit records, –, of the Virginia Department of Confederate Military Records containing rosters, muster rolls, powers of attorney, special orders, descriptive lists of pay and clothing, notes, correspondence, certificates by company commanders, and other sundry items. These materials document Confederate veterans who served in the Virginia artillery, cavalry, infantry, local defense, reserves, home guard, Virginia State Line, and militia. There are both original materials from the Civil War and secondary materials gathered by the Secretaries of Virginia Military Records or the Adjutant General. For example, there are both original muster rolls and rosters compiled per the acts of the General Assembly in and There are often handwritten notes and rough drafts of rosters by Major Robert W. Hunter or Colonel Joseph V. The rough drafts of rosters simply duplicate the information contained in the Confederate rosters compiled by the department.

Get this from a library! Confederate infantrymen of the Civil War. [Ian Drury; G A Embleton] -- Describes the daily life and combat experiences of the South's infantry soldiers during the Civil War.

Visit Website The Second Confiscation and Militia Act However, after two grueling years of war, President Lincoln began to reconsider his position on black soldiers. The war did not appear to be anywhere near an end, and the Union Army badly needed soldiers. White volunteers were dwindling in number, and African-Americans were more eager to fight than ever. These became the 73rd, 74th and 75th United States Colored Infantry. These unofficial regiments were officially mustered into service in January More than 1, men responded. They formed the 54th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment, the first black regiment to be raised in the North. Many of the 54th soldiers did not even come from Massachusetts: It was the first time in the Civil War that black troops led an infantry attack. Unfortunately, the men of the 54th were outgunned and outnumbered: Almost half of the charging Union soldiers, including Colonel Shaw, were killed. Confederate Threats In general, the Union army was reluctant to use African-American troops in combat. This was partly due to racism: There were many Union officers who believed that black soldiers were not as skilled or as brave as white soldiers were. By this logic, they thought that African Americans were better suited for jobs as carpenters, cooks, guards, scouts and teamsters. Black soldiers and their officers were also in grave danger if they were captured in battle. The Fight for Equal Pay Even as they fought to end slavery in the Confederacy, African-American Union soldiers were fighting against another injustice as well. Congress passed a bill authorizing equal pay for black and white soldiers in By the time the war ended in , about , black men had served as soldiers in the U. This was about 10 percent of the total Union fighting force. About half of the rest were from the loyal border states, and the rest were free blacks from the North. Forty thousand black soldiers died in the war:

Chapter 7 : 3rd Missouri Infantry

After years of speculation concerning manufacture and distribution, Frederick Gaede's book on The Federal Civil War Shelter Tent (O'Donnell Publications) may be regarded as virtually the final word on the subject. From it we learn that the Federal Shelter tent went into mass production in

Visit Website Did you know? At Chancellorsville, Jackson was shot by one of his own men, who mistook him for Union cavalry. His arm was amputated, and he died from pneumonia eight days later. In 1862, the U. Congress passed the Kansas- Nebraska Act, which essentially opened all new territories to slavery by asserting the rule of popular sovereignty over congressional edict. On April 12, after Lincoln ordered a fleet to resupply Sumter, Confederate artillery fired the first shots of the Civil War. Border slave states like Missouri , Kentucky and Maryland did not secede, but there was much Confederate sympathy among their citizens. Though on the surface the Civil War may have seemed a lopsided conflict, with the 23 states of the Union enjoying an enormous advantage in population, manufacturing including arms production and railroad construction, the Confederates had a strong military tradition, along with some of the best soldiers and commanders in the nation. They also had a cause they believed in: McClellan—who replaced the aging General Winfield Scott as supreme commander of the Union Army after the first months of the war—was beloved by his troops, but his reluctance to advance frustrated Lincoln. The combined forces of Robert E. Lincoln refused, and instead withdrew the Army of the Potomac to Washington. Halleck, though he remained in command of the Army of the Potomac. On the heels of his victory at Manassas, Lee began the first Confederate invasion of the North. Despite contradictory orders from Lincoln and Halleck, McClellan was able to reorganize his army and strike at Lee on September 14 in Maryland, driving the Confederates back to a defensive position along Antietam Creek, near Sharpsburg. Total casualties at Antietam numbered 12, of some 69, troops on the Union side, and 13, of around 52, for the Confederates. The Union victory at Antietam would prove decisive, as it halted the Confederate advance in Maryland and forced Lee to retreat into Virginia. After the Emancipation Proclamation Lincoln had used the occasion of the Union victory at Antietam to issue a preliminary Emancipation Proclamation , which freed all slaves in the rebellious states after January 1, He justified his decision as a wartime measure, and did not go so far as to free the slaves in the border states loyal to the Union. Still, the Emancipation Proclamation deprived the Confederacy of the bulk of its labor forces and put international public opinion strongly on the Union side. Some 180,000 black soldiers would join the Union Army by the time the war ended in 1865, and 38,000 lost their lives. The Confederates gained a costly victory in the battle that followed, suffering 13, casualties around 22 percent of their troops ; the Union lost 17, men 15 percent. Over three days of fierce fighting, the Confederates were unable to push through the Union center, and suffered casualties of close to 60 percent. Also in July 1863, Union forces under Ulysses S. Grant took Vicksburg Mississippi , a victory that would prove to be the turning point of the war in the western theater. Despite heavy Union casualties in the Battle of the Wilderness and at Spotsylvania both May 1864, at Cold Harbor early June and the key rail center of Petersburg June 1864, Grant pursued a strategy of attrition, putting Petersburg under siege for the next nine months. For most of the next week, Grant and Meade pursued the Confederates along the Appomattox River, finally exhausting their possibilities for escape. On the eve of victory, the Union lost its great leader:

Chapter 8 : Confederate Insignia of the Civil War - CivilWarWiki

The Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System (CWSS) is a database containing information about the men who served in the Union and Confederate armies during the Civil War. Other information on the site includes histories of Union and Confederate regiments, links to descriptions of significant battles, and selected lists of prisoner-of-war records and cemetery records, which will be amended over time.

Tactics[edit] Commands were typically issued via voice, rarely drum infantry only , or bugle call. Soldiers were drilled in infantry tactics, usually based upon a manual written before the war by West Point professor William J. Hardee Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics: Originally published in , it was the standard drill manual for the U. Traditionally, historians have stated that many generals, particularly early in the war, preferred to use Napoleonic tactics, despite the increased killing power of period weaponry. They marched their men out in tightly closed formations, often with soldiers elbow-to-elbow in double-rank battle lines, usually in brigade by mid-war numbering about 2,000-3,000 infantrymen or division by mid-war numbering about 6,000-10,000 infantrymen strength. This large mass presented an easy target for defenders, who could easily fire several volleys before his enemy would be close enough for hand-to-hand combat. At times, these soon-to-be outdated tactics contributed to high casualty lists. However, historians such as Allen C. Guelzo reject this traditional criticism of Civil War infantry tactics. Casualty estimates compared with expended ammunition from battles indicate 1 casualty for every 100 shots discharged, not a dramatic improvement over Napoleonic casualty rates. No contemporary accounts indicate that engagement ranges with substantial casualties between infantry occurred at ranges beyond Napoleonic engagement ranges. To explain this seeming contradiction between technology and tactical reality, Guelzo points out that even when laboratory tests indicates accuracy with a rifled musket from yards, in an actual battlefield situation, the lack of smokeless powder quickly would obscure visibility. The gunpowder of the time produced a great deal of smoke when fired. Thus, in larger battles, battles began with artillery firing for some time, and skirmishers had been firing at each other for some time. By the time the main lines of infantry began approaching each other, visibility was significantly obscured. Once the infantry began the main engagement, visibility quickly was reduced to almost nil. With the lack of visibility, only massed infantry fire was effective, and this reality is reflected in the tactics of the time. Guelzo argues that rifling only truly benefited the sharpshooters on the skirmish line, who fought before their visibility was obscured, but the main line of infantry could not take advantage of the benefits of rifling. In Gettysburg, the Last Invasion, Guelzo also points out the technical difficulty of aiming a rifled musket at longer ranges. While rifling improved overall accuracy of muskets, the rifling also formed a trajectory that caused the bullet to quickly "drop" from where it was aimed in contrast to the flat trajectory of smoothbore muskets fired at close range. Thus to hit a target at distances beyond 400-500 yards, the rifleman would require knowledge of trajectory and distance, aiming the rifle at a precise angle above the target. In actual battlefield situations, such precise aiming was virtually impossible. Under the stress of battle, virtually every infantryman asked about aiming on the battlefield replied that in practice, the best one could do was "simply raise his rifle to the horizontal, and fire without aiming. Prior to the development of industrialized chemical plants producing copious amounts of gunpowder, in the mid-19th centuries, armies simply could not expend large amounts of gunpowder for training. As a result, the average infantryman simply did not have extensive firearms training beyond simple maintenance and loading drills. The infantryman simply did not know how to aim his rifle at long distances" eyewitnesses report entire companies aiming their rifles at a 45 degree angle facing the sky and discharging their rifles at Bull Run Guelzo p. Such untrained soldiers could not be expected to engage an enemy much further than point blank range with any level of accuracy. Thus Guelzo doubts that contemporary military leaders blatantly ignored technological advances. Rather, Guelzo argued that in actual battlefield conditions, until the development of smokeless powder, the benefits of rifling were largely nullified. Therefore, generals did not alter their tactics not due to ignorance, but because the battlefield had not changed substantially from the Napoleonic era. They screened a defensive line from oncoming enemy soldiers, harassed attackers, probed enemy strength in preparation for an attack, and screened the assaulting columns.

However, the skirmish formation was forfeited in most cases, for a line of battle was of preference. Skirmish formation would be used to take up large distances of an open front, which rarely occurred at the larger scale battles. Nevertheless, it was drilled into the recruits, should the opportunity to take skirmish formation arise in a combat scenario. Attacks were carried out in several manners, including single or double rank battle lines with individual regiments side-by-side in a line of battle, assault waves with multiple regiments or brigades in successive waves spaced out loosely one behind the other, brigade columns all regiments of a brigade in line one behind the other in close formation, and other formations. Weapons and equipment[edit] a modern reproduction of the Springfield Model Trained in the era of short-range smoothbore muskets, such as the Springfield Model, which was issued to many units immediately prior to the war, many generals often did not fully appreciate or understand the importance and power of the new weapons introduced during the war, such as the Springfield rifled musket and comparable rifles which had longer range and were more powerful than the weapons used by the antebellum armies. Its barrel contained several rifled grooves that provided increased accuracy, and fired a. This rifle had a deadly effect up to yards and was capable of seriously wounding a man beyond 1, yards, unlike the previous muskets used during the American Revolutionary War and Napoleonic Wars, most of which had an effective range of only yards. However, as stated above, historians like Guelzo argue these benefits were largely nullified by the lack of visibility on a Civil War battlefield. Engagements necessarily took place with massed lines of infantry at ranges of around yards, for the simple fact the enemy could not be seen at longer distances since neither side employed smokeless powder in their weapons. Hence, the standard doctrine on both sides to close with the enemy and fire at point-blank range for maximum effect. Even smoothbore muskets underwent improvements: Other infantrymen went into combat armed with shotguns, pistols, knives, and assorted other killing instruments. Very early in the war, a few companies were armed with pikes. However, by the end of, most infantrymen were armed with rifles, including imports from Great Britain, Belgium, and other European countries. The typical Union soldier carried his musket, percussion cap box, cartridge box, a canteen, a knapsack, and other accouterments, in addition to any personal effects. By contrast, many Southern soldiers carried their possessions in a blanket roll worn around the shoulder and tied at the waist. They might have a wooden canteen, a linen or cotton haversack for food, and a knife or similar sidearm, as well as their musket. One primary account of the typical infantryman came from James Gall, a representative of the United States Sanitary Commission, who observed Confederate infantrymen of Maj. Early in camp in the occupied borough of York, Pennsylvania, in late June, sometime after the Second Battle of Winchester. Physically, the men looked about equal to the generality of our own troops, and there were fewer boys among them. Their dress was a wretched mixture of all cuts and colors. There was not the slightest attempt at uniformity in this respect. Every man seemed to have put on whatever he could get hold of, without regard to shape or color. I noticed a pretty large sprinkling of blue pants among them, some of those, doubtless, that were left by Milroy at Winchester. Their shoes, as a general thing, were poor; some of the men were entirely barefooted. Their equipments were light, as compared with those of our men. They consisted of a thin woolen blanket, coiled up and slung from the shoulder in the form of a sash, a haversack swung from the opposite shoulder, and a cartridge-box. The whole cannot weigh more than twelve or fourteen pounds. Is it strange, then, that with such light loads, they should be able to make longer and more rapid marches than our men? The marching of the men was irregular and careless, their arms were rusty and ill kept. Their whole appearance was greatly inferior to that of our soldiers. There were not tents for the men, and but few for the officers. Everything that will trammel or impede the movement of the army is discarded, no matter what the consequences may be to the men. In speaking of our soldiers, the same officer remarked: Think of men, and boys too, staggering along under such a load, at the rate of fifteen to twenty miles a day. With the exception of some volunteer regiments receiving extra funding from their state or wealthy commander, the small numbers of rapid-fire weapons in service with US infantrymen, often skirmishers, were mostly purchased privately by soldiers themselves. The most common concerns cited about the weapons were their high-cost, massive use of ammunition and the considerable extra smoke produced on the battlefield. He adamantly opposed the adoption of, what he called, "these newfangled gimcracks," believing they would encourage soldiers to "waste ammunition. Wilder, a wealthy engineer and foundry owner, took out a bank loan

to purchase 1, Spencer rifles for his infantrymen. The magazine-fed weapons were quite popular with his soldiers, with most agreeing to monthly pay deductions to help reimburse the costs.

Chapter 9 : Uniforms of the Confederate States Armed Forces - Wikipedia

Each branch of the Confederate States armed forces had their own service dress and fatigue uniforms and regulations regarding them during the American Civil War, which lasted from April 12, until May

Although organization and structure for the opposing armies was nearly identical, the sizes of the units within the organization varied. Each side strived to maintain a well organized command and control structure, with the goal of directing the army in the field of battle. The prolonged conflict, with its shifting demands, however, forced both the Union and Confederate military to adapt and evolve to meet the necessary objectives. Regiments were generally numbered and named for the state in which they were organized and from which most of their soldiers hailed for example, 1st Virginia Infantry Regiment. Confederate brigades and divisions were generally named for their commanders, past or present for example, the Stonewall Brigade, which often created confusing circumstances. Union general George B. McClellan first created Union corps in March 1862—there would be forty-three altogether, each designated by a number—and sometimes, as in the case of Ambrose E. Ewell and created a new Third Corps, putting it under the command of A. Anderson briefly commanded a small Fourth Corps beginning in October 1862. Pay, meanwhile, was usually doled out according to the higher of the two ranks. Because rank was sometimes awarded retroactively, there were sometimes pay disputes, as was the case with Winfield Scott, who famously demanded twenty years of back pay when, before the war, Congress backdated his promotion to lieutenant general to one of his famous Mexican War victories. The date of promotion was extremely important because both armies used seniority to distinguish between two officers of the same rank. Grant was forced to issue separate orders to the head of the Army of the Potomac, George G. Further confusing matters was a system of brevet ranks. Neither army awarded medals; instead, they recognized valor through the issuance of temporary, honorary brevet ranks. The notoriously difficult Scott was also involved in a row over brevet ranking, which led one antebellum observer of the military to declare, "The annals of the army show more disputes to have arisen in consequence of this brevet rank than all other matters in dispute. It seems to have had the property of transmuting the calmest and best-tempered men into hectoring and quarrelsome Bobadils. The highest Confederate rank was full general. During the summer of 1862, Confederate president Jefferson Davis was authorized by Congress to appoint five men to the rank, in order of seniority—with predictable results. There were no firm rules on this matter of names, however: These armies were at least 16 on the Union side and 23 on the Confederate side. A corps was composed of 2 or more divisions and, except for Cavalry corps, included all arms of service. Corps were established in the Union army in March 1862 by Maj. A major general commanded each of the 43 corps that were established in the Union army before the end of the war. Each corps was designated by a number, I to XXV. Corps badges such as triangles, crescents, arrows, and acorns were adopted by most corps and worn by officers and enlisted men. Of the Union corps 2 were noted for their failures: Corps were organized in the Confederate army November, and were designated by numbers duplicated in the East and West but were often referred to by the name of their commander. This corps endured some of the hardest marching and heaviest fighting of the war. After their initial trial in the Civil War, corps became an integral part of the organization of the U. In ascending order of size, units were: Theoretically, company strength was ; regiment, 1,; brigade, 4,; and division, 12, Occasionally, more often in the Confederate army battalions of 2 to 10 companies were accepted into the ranks. In the Union armies the number of divisions in a corps varied from 2 to 4, though usually there were 3. In spring 1862, Maj. Without uniform badges and flags, the Confederates used a less complicated system. The Union division were commanded by brigadier or major generals, and the frontage of an average Union division, drawn up in double-rank line of battle with no skirmishers deployed, would have been just short of a mile. The Confederates were more logical: A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion See also Organization of Union and Confederate Armies: However, it could have as few as 2 and later in the war, when consolidation of Confederate regiments became common, some brigades contained remnants of as many as 15 regiments. There were 3 or 4 brigades to a division and several divisions to a Corps. By definition, a brigadier general commanded a brigade. But colonels were often in charge of brigades too small to justify a

brigadier, and if the brigadier was absent, the senior colonel would act in his stead; on occasion, temporary brigades organized for special purposes were commanded by colonels. Confederate brigades were known by the names of their commanders or former commanders, a much less prosaic system than that of the Federals, but a very confusing one. The Stonewall Brigade was one of Gen. REGIMENT Infantry regiments were composed of 10 companies, except in the case of the company heavy artillery regiments that had been retrained as infantry. Cavalry regiments also had 12 companies. These companies were lettered in alphabetical order, with the letter "J" omitted. Battalions did not exist in the infantry regiments, but the "heavies" were composed of three four company battalions, each commanded by a major. Confederate regiments were organized in generally the same manner as the Federal, although some had battalions e. In the Union Army an infantry company had a maximum authorized strength of officers and men, and a minimum strength of The company was allowed to recruit a minimum of 64 or a maximum of 82 privates. Other company positions were fixed as follows: Company officers were elected in most volunteer units. As Schiebert, the Prussian observer, points out, this was the only possible way of getting rapidly the large number of troop leaders needed. By the second year of the war a system of examinations was instituted by both armies, and incompetent officers could be eliminated Schiebert, Regimental headquarters consisted of a colonel, lieutenant colonel, major, adjutant, quartermaster, surgeon major , two assistant surgeons, and a chaplain. Regimental headquarters noncommissioned officers were the sergeant major, quartermaster sergeant, commissary sergeant, hospital steward, and two principal musicians. Authorized strength of an infantry regiment was a maximum of 1, and a minimum of Since it was the Civil War practice to organize recruits into new regiments rather than to send them to replace losses in veteran units, regimental strengths steadily declined. According to Fiebeger the average company strength at Gettysburg was 32 officers and men per company. Livermore gives these average regimental strengths in the Union army at various periods: According to Bigelow the average strength of Federal regiments at Chancellorsville was and of Confederate regiments The North raised the equivalent of 2, regiments during the war of which 1, were infantry, were cavalry, and 78 were artillery. Allowing for the fact that nine infantry regiments of the Regular Army had 24 instead of the normal 10 companies, the total number of regiments would come to about 2., not including the Veteran Reserve Corps. Above figures from Phisterer, According to the computations of Fox, made before the Official Records had all been published, the South raised the equivalent of regiments that served all or most of the war. Using later data, and including militia and other irregular organizations, Col. For exhaustive study of Confederate strengths see Livermore.