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RETURNS FROM REGULAR ARMY CAVALRY REGIMENTS  
1833-1916

Reproduced on this microfilm publication are the monthly returns received from Regular Army cavalry regiments (and the predecessor dragoon and rifle regiments) by the Adjutant General's Office from August 1833 to December 1916, with related forms and correspondence of the Adjutant General's Office that were filed with these returns. Most of the returns are a part of Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office that were filed with these returns. Most of the returns are a part of Record Group 94, Records of the Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917; the remainder are a part of Record Group 391, Records of United States Regular Army Mobile Units, 1821-1942.

According to Army Regulations and War Department General Orders, returns be all regiments were to be submitted monthly directly to the Adjutant General's Office on forms supplied by the Adjutant General and in accordance with directions printed on the forms. Similar returns were to be submitted by the commander of every post, department, army corps, division, brigade, and detached command. The forms printed before January 1819 and after January 1829 had the word "Regiment" printed in the title<sup>1</sup>, but the forms printed in the period between the two dates did not, which would indicate that the same form was interchangeable for posts, departments, divisions, and regiments. In the early years manuscript forms patterned after the printed forms were submitted frequently, but commanders were instructed to submit returns upon the printed form whenever possible.

About 1862 the first form number was assigned to the monthly return, beginning with A.G.O. No. 38, followed by A.G.O. No. 11, about 1883; A.G.P. No. 23, about 1891; M.S.O. No. 41, in 1904; and A.G.O. No. 41, in 1907. Although the same form number was retained throughout a period of years, there were numerous re-printings, with resulting changes in the return bearing the same form number. Most of the forms during the period 1821-62 have printing dates on them, which facilitates establishing the exact date of changes in the form or in the instructions. From 1862 to 1897 printing dates did not appear on the forms, and the exact date of change in the form or in the instructions cannot be established for this period. The closest determination is the date that a form, with specific changes, was "in use." This determination is far from exact, however, as returns were frequently submitted upon non-current forms; occasionally a form with a later printing date was used to submit a return that was missing for an earlier reporting period.

The form in use in June 1821 had been printed in 1819, with instructions that the returns were to be submitted to the Adjutant General and Inspector General. The instruction was canceled on

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<sup>1</sup> Because the full title, including the number and type of regiment, was often printed on the forms before January 1819, it is assumed that the regiments printed their own forms during that period.

June 23, 1821, by a War Department General Order, and the change was reflected in the new forms printed in 1824. Throughout most of the period instructions on the form to regimental commanders were to submit one copy of the return to the Adjutant General, thus implying that one copy was to be retained. Some printings of Form A.G.O. No. 38 used in the 1860's requested that the returns be filled out in triplicate—the original to be sent to the Adjutant General, one copy to be submitted to the immediate commander, and one copy be retained. The 1912 edition of Form A.G.O. No. 41 requested that the return be made out in duplicate—the original to be sent directly to the Adjutant General and the copy to be retained. Army Regulations from 1857 to 1881, however, directed that during campaigns the monthly return be transmitted to the Adjutant General through the intermediate commander. This procedure was amended in the Army Regulations of 1881, which directed that during campaigns commanders were to submit a return directly to the Adjutant General and also to transmit one through the intermediate commander.

In the same manner commanding officers of companies were to submit to the Regimental Adjutant monthly returns of their respective companies, from which the monthly return of the regiment was to be made. The date of submission of the regimental return to the Adjutant General in Washington varied from “on or before the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month” on the January 1819 form, “on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month” on the March 1827 form, “may be withheld for the space of 20 days, to afford time for the receipt of the returns of detached companies” in the Army Regulation of 1834, to an indefinite “may be delayed until the return of any absent company shall have been received” in the Army Regulations of 1841.

War Department General Order No. 50, November 16, 1846, directed that when five or more companies of a regiment were serving with the Army against Mexico, the senior officer on duty would be considered the regimental commander, and he was to make the returns. The monthly returns of the companies in the field were to be consolidated at regimental headquarters; those of companies not serving with the Army against Mexico were to be sent directly to the Adjutant General's Office. Commanders were further instructed that in consolidating the regimental returns “the field officers absent on duty, will be reported on detached service; and spaces will be left for the insertion, in the Adjutant General's Office, of the returns of the absent companies.”

The provision for inserting company returns into the regimental returns by the Adjutant General's Office was extended by the Army Regulations of 1847 and repeated in Regulations of 1857: “. . . if one or more companies be so far separated from Regimental head-quarters as to delay the transmittal of the monthly return to the 10<sup>th</sup>, or 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, the colonel [of the regiment] will not wait for the returns of such companies, but leave space for them to be entered at the Adjutant-General's Office; for which purpose the captain [of the company] will transmit a copy of the return direct to the Adjutant-General, as well as to regimental head-quarters.”

War Department General Order No. 30, March 24, 1862, reminded all regimental commanders that an exact return was to be furnished to the Adjutant General within the first 3 days of the month. All forms supplied by the Adjutant General, however, and all Army Regulations of 1861 and thereafter, either directly or indirectly by referring to the instructions on the form, requested submission of the regimental return as soon as the company returns had been received and consolidated.

## Format of the Monthly Return

The purpose of the return was to report the strength of each regiment in total number of men present, absent, sick, or on extra daily duty, and to give a specific accounting of officers and enlisted men by name. Later an accounting of strength in terms of horses and artillery and any additional information of interest not necessarily connected with strength were also required in the returns.

Even though almost every new printing of the form presented some changes, the general format of the return remained reasonably constant throughout the period from 1821 to 1916. The significant changes in physical size and arrangement came in 1904 and 1912. Except for the larger form issued in 1857 and 1858, the size of the form between 1821 and 1862 remained about 23 inches wide by 18 inches long, and then was changed to about 24 inches wide by 20 inches long. In 1904 the return assumed the appearance of a booklet, 13 inches wide by 11 inches long, after sheets about 26 inches wide were folded and stapled in the middle. Thus the return could be enlarged by folding and stapling additional sheets rather than by pasting sheets to the bottom or side of the previous form. In 1912 the form was further reduced to 11 inches wide by 8.5 inches long after the sheets had been folded and stapled in the middle.

The face side of the form contained three sections and, until 1857, provided for total number only. These three sections on the face side consisted of (1) a columnar spread across the top that constituted the main, or strength, section, (2) a space for reasons for enlisted men's absences, and (3) a space for the nature of enlisted men's extra or daily duty. The 1857 form required, in addition to the request for reasons, the accounting for absent enlisted men and for extra duty men by name instead of merely totals for each group. In 1873 the Extra duty enlisted men by name section was replaced by a Record of Events section on Form A.G.O. No. 38.

The reverse of the initial form was reserved for names and, except from 1826 to 1830, contained two sections: (1) an explanation for alterations since the last return for enlisted men and (2) a list of officers present and absent. In the reprinting of Form A.G.O. No. 41, dated April 25, 1914, the accounting for enlisted men by name was eliminated. Between 1826 and 1830 the reverse also required the listing of orders received by the regiment, and specifically called for the number of the order, type of order, date, where issued, date of receipt of the order, and an abstract of the order under a Remarks column. After 1830 orders received by the regiment during the month were acknowledged by letter at the end of the month.

Although the information requested in these various sections remained reasonably constant throughout the period 1821-1916, neither the titles of the section nor the required specific information remained constant. During some periods the form can only be identified as "in use" rather than by a specific printing date, and the most recent form was not necessarily used by all regiments when reporting. To enable the user of this microfilm publication to know what kind of information, and in what detail, can be found for various periods between 1821 and 1916, descriptions of these five sections with significant changes are given below.

### A. Main Section

The 1819 form used in 1821 listed 15 items in a horizontal spread across the face of the form as follows:

1. Station of regimental staff or company
2. Date of the company return used for making the specific regimental return
3. Name of company commander
4. Companies
5. Present for duty with a sublist of ranks
6. Present—Sick with a sublist of enlisted ranks
7. Present on extra or daily duty with a sublist of enlisted ranks
8. Present in arrest or confinement with a sublist of enlisted ranks
9. Present—Total
10. Present—Aggregate
11. Absent with a sublist of ranks
12. Present and Absent—Total
13. Present and Absent—Aggregate
14. Present and Absent—Aggregate last month
15. Alterations since last return with sublists: Joined, Discharged, Transferred, Died, Dropped, Deserted, Effective loss, and Effective gain

Under Items 6-8 and 11 spaces were left for inserting the total number of officers. Under Item 4 appeared a list of company letters A-K, which was increased to L and M in 1847, and later, to N and O. This format provided spaces for filling in numerical totals for all the above-cited horizontal listings and sublists by regiment and company, except for Items 1-3.

Before this main section was completely recast in 1857, a few minor but significant changes occurred in this form. Item 2 was eliminated in 1832. Items 9 and 10 were replaced in 1826 by Number of Commissioned Officers Present and Number of Non-commissioned Officers, musicians, artificers, and privates present. Item 11 was also changed in 1826 and required that absentees be totaled under each reason for absence—detached service, furlough, or without leave. Item 15 was changed several times: in 1826 two types of reasons for alterations were added—dismissed and resigned; in 1827 the order was reworked; and in 1829 information requested for alterations became much more precise, as shown below:

15. Alterations since last return:
  - Number joined
    - by recruits from general depots
    - by enlisted in regiment
    - by reenlistment
    - by transfer
    - from desertion
  - Number discharged
    - expiration of service
    - for disability
  - Number resigned
  - Number transferred

Number died  
Number deserted  
Number of recruits required

In 1839 the number of deaths were to be totaled by causes: (1) ordinary, (2) killed in action, (3) died of wounds, and (4) accidental.

In addition to the above changes between 1819 and 1857, the main section was extended to require more information. Provision was made in 1834 for reporting the number of blank regimental returns on hand; in 1839, for distinguishing between those wounded in action and those wounded accidentally; and in 1846, for reporting the number of horses serviceable and unserviceable. In 1852 these additional provisions were brought together under the heading of Memoranda with sublists: wounded in action, recruits required, horses serviceable, horses unserviceable, horses lost in action, and number of blank regimental returns on hand.

The use of the term “enlisted men” on the face of the form began in 1857 when the whole main section was completely recast. The next major change in the main section was made when Form A.G.O. No. 41 was revised in April 1912. The horizontal spread of 1857 listed only 11 headings but with many and different subheadings, as follows:

1. Station
2. Commander’s name
3. Regimental Staff and Company
4. Present Commissioned Officers with sublists: for duty, on extra or daily duty, sick, in arrest or suspension, total
5. Present Enlisted Men with same sublists as for officers, except that the enlisted men might be “in arrest or confinement”
6. Absent Commissioned Officers with sublists: on detached service, with leave, without leave, sick, total
7. Absent Enlisted Men with same sublists as for officers, except for the addition of “in arrest or confinement”
8. Where—with the Division, without the Division
9. Present and Absent
  - Commissioned Officers with a sublist of ranks
  - Enlisted Men with a sublist of ranks
10. Alterations since last monthly return
  - Gain
    - Commissioned Officers with sublists: by promotion or appointment, by transfer
    - Enlisted Men with sublists: Recruits from Depots, Enlisted, Reenlisted, By transfer, From missing in Action, From desertions
  - Aggregate
  - Loss
    - Commissioned Officers with sublists: resigned or disabled, dismissed, transferred, missing in action, dead in action, dead of wounds, dead of disease

Enlisted Men

Discharged with sublists: expiration of service, for disability, by sentence of General Court-Martial, by order, by Civil Authority

Transferred

Died, with sublists: in action or of wounds, of disease

Missing in Action

Deserted

Aggregate

11. Memoranda (same as 1852 except that subheadings were added for reporting pieces of artillery—heavy, field, and mountain).

In 1904 further reasons for deaths of enlisted men were required: drowned, suicide, murder, or homicide.

On the April 1912 revision of Form A.G.O. No. 41, this main section was titled Condition of the Regiment at Midnight on the Last Day of \_\_\_\_\_, and the quantity of requested information was reduced considerably. In addition to the station and the company letter, only numerical totals were required for the sections listed below:

Officers

Present, for duty, on special duty, sick, in arrest

Absent, on detached service, with leave, without leave, sick, in arrest, and without the Department

Enlisted Men

Present, for duty, on extra duty, on special duty, sick, in arrest or confinement

Absent (same as for officers)

Totals and Aggregates

Horses: serviceable, unserviceable, and lost in action

In addition, numerical totals only for the regiment, and not by company, were required for the sections as follows:

Strength (Present and Absent) last returns

Officers

Enlisted Men

Alterations since last monthly return

Officers

Gain

Loss, with sublist similar to previous forms

Enlisted Men

Gain with sublist similar to previous form

Loss with sublist similar to previous form

B. Absent enlisted men section

In this section were explanations for absence of noncommissioned officers, musicians, artificers, privates, and matrosses, for which only the total number of men by rank and company were stated in the main section. Because no initial instruction was printed, such reasons were given as “stationed at another specific post,” “on command in pursuit of deserters,” “convict,” “in confinement,” “on furlough,” or “in the custody of Civil Power.”

In 1857 the form required an accounting of absent enlisted men by name, and the nature, commencement, period, and place of absence. This section was dropped from the return in 1904.

### C. Enlisted men—extra or daily duty section

Initially this section provided space for stating the nature of the extra or daily duties totaled under Item 7 of the main section, with such section titles as Non-commissioned Officers, Musicians, artificers, privates, and matrosses on extra or daily duty, accounted for and Non-commissioned Officers, Musicians, Ferriers and Blacksmiths, Artificers, and Privates. Because there were initial instructions, the nature of these duties was usually stated as assignment to the Quartermaster, Ordnance Officer, or Commissary Department.

In 1857 the title of the section became Enlisted men on extra or daily duty, accounted for by name, and the first specific instructions appeared requiring a careful account of the specific kinds of such duties.

As early as 1832 there were general instructions, usually numbered notes, which were not necessarily applicable to the specific Remarks column where they were printed. Appearing in this column of the Enlisted men—extra or daily duty section in 1832 were the instructions that “when the Headquarters of the Regiment are changed, or a Company is transferred from one Post to another, the days of departure and arrival shall be recorded on the first subsequent return,” to which was added in 1834 “with such other remarks as may be useful for future reference, and the records of the Adjutant General’s Office.” These instructions were augmented in 1839 with the request that “marches performed within the month . . . will be noted and the time specified in the Return: and that “the Colonel will add such general remarks relative to the discipline, service, and movements . . . of the Regiment, or of any particular company, as may be necessary or useful for the records . . . .” Further instructions that “actions in which any portion of the Regiment may have been engaged will be particularly noted” were added in 1854.

In 1873 this section was replaced by the Record of Events section. The only additional instruction at the time of the change was the request that “the number of horses, either public or private, lost in service together with the date, place, and circumstances connected with said loss, and the name of the officer responsible for, or owning the property, will be reported,”

### D. Alterations since last return section

The reverse of the form provided space for Remarks, in explanation of alterations on the face of the return. Those enlisted men gain or lost, for whom only totals appeared in the main section, were listed in this space by name with dates and remarks. Further instructions in 1857 required

that these men be accounted for “by name and classed in the same order, as on the face of the return.”

The first use of the term “enlisted men” on the monthly return appeared in this section in 1834 when the title of the section became Names of all Enlisted Men required in explanation of the Alterations since last return. General instructions printed in 1839 and thereafter requested that the name and rank of the officers and soldiers killed or wounded in action, with date and place, be accurately noted; the same information for enlisted men was invariably reported in this section.

This section was removed from the form in the April 1914 revision, by which time the title had become Enlisted men who are to be accounted for by name.

#### E. Officers, present and absent, accounted for section

On the reverse of the form there was also a section in which all commissioned officers were accounted for by name. The first instructions for the Remarks column appeared in the March 1827 printing and requested that “the reasons for, and the time (dated of the order) of all officers absent from the regiment will be specified.” The instructions were further amplified in the January 1829 printing, with the additional notation that “the day arrives at, or departs from this post, or company, shall be carefully noted, and his post, or station, will be written opposite to this name.” The instruction also required that when the regiment or company was transferred from one post to another “the day of departure and arrival shall be recorded.” The January 1830 printing carried further orders that “transfers, resignations, deaths, etc. of Commissioned Officers will be recorded at the foot of the list of Regimental Officers.” The instructions were amplified again in 1832 with the request that “the date of all transfers, discharges, furloughs, deaths, desertions, apprehensions, etc. will be accurately noted.” This section was also used for fulfilling the general instructions in 1839, which requested the name and rank of the officers killed or wounded in action, with date and place.

The only other significant change in this section was the instruction in the 1897 printing that requested “officers of other organizations, serving with or attached to the regiment for duty, will be borne in red ink at the foot of the list of officers, with date and place, and in the latter case, the cause.” Names of veterinary surgeons were also to be noted in red ink at the bottom of the list of officers, but there were to be excluded from the strength of the regiment on the face of the return.

#### Summary

Some of the information obtainable from the regimental monthly return is as follows:

- Names of regimental commanders
- Names of all officers and reasons for loss or gain, if applicable
- Names of company commanders
- Stations of the regiment and companies
- Names of absent enlisted men, 1857-1904, and reason for absence
- Names of enlisted man lost and gained, 1821-1914, and reasons



Names of enlisted men on extra or daily duty, 1857-73, and nature of duty  
Record of events information, 1832-1916  
Total strength of both officers and enlisted men by rank, 1819-57  
Total strength of horses by company, 1846-1916  
Total strength of artillery pieces by company, 1857-1912

### Other Records and Returns

Most of the records reproduced in this microfilm publication are the regimental monthly returns, but the Adjutant General's Office filed other records and returns with the monthly returns. Brief descriptions of the other six sets of records that were filed with the returns and that are reproduced in this publication are as follows:

#### 1. "Historical Data" File

At the beginning of the series of monthly returns for some regiments the Adjutant General's Office filed correspondence and related records that it referred to as "Historical Data" or "Miscellaneous Data" of specific regiments. Most of the correspondence, generally between the Adjutant General's Office and regimental commanders, dates from the 1920's and 1930's and includes records of events, numbers of killed and wounded, and troop movements. Other records in this file are rosters, histories, lists of stations of companies, and correspondence between the Adjutant General's Office and the Detroit Public Library relating to early documents of the 2d Infantry.

#### 2. Annual and Quarterly Returns of Alterations and Casualties

Army Regulations required annual returns of casualties from each regiment at the close of every year. Although Army Regulations carried this requirement until the revision of 1882, it was declared no longer necessary by the Adjutant General in 1870.<sup>2</sup>

Usually the annual return was a recapitulation of the totals appearing under Alterations in the main section of the monthly returns for the year. Forms were issued by the Adjutant General for this purpose, and until 1833 they were called Return of Casualties incident to the Rank and File. By 1864 this information was required on a quarterly basis.

The form contained a horizontal spread across the face of the return comparable to the Alterations part of the horizontal spread in the main section of the monthly return. The chief difference between the two spreads from 1828 to 1833 was the inclusion of spaces in the annual return for supplying additional information as follows:

Number discharged from the regiment for pension, by obtaining substitute, being  
minors, and by sentence of general court-material

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<sup>2</sup> AGO endorsement of Dec. 1, 1870, to Military Division of the Atlantic on letter from 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry requesting blank forms (in Memoranda Books Relating to Changes in Organization of the Office of the Adjutant General, vol. 1, p. 35, RG 94).

- Number tried for desertion
- Number convicted of desertion
- Number pardoned after sentence
- Total number tried by general court-martial
- Total number tried by regimental court-martial
- Aggregate number tried by general and regimental courts martial

The annual return in 1864 differed from the monthly return by distinguishing between the commissioned officers gained by appointment from the Military Academy and those from Civil Life. The number of enlisted men gained from desertion were designated as (1) those apprehended from desertion and (2) those surrendered from desertion, and the number of enlisted men lost by discharge were also designated as (1) those discharged for pension and (2) those discharged by order or letter. A Memoranda section also appeared in the annual return, requesting information as follows:

- Wounded: In action; Accidental
- By Military Authority:
  - Number tried for desertion
  - Number convicted of desertion
  - Number restored to duty without trial (for desertion)
  - Number pardoned after sentence (for desertion)
  - Number tried by general court-martial
  - Number tried by regimental court-martial
  - Aggregate number tried by general, regimental, or garrison court-martial
- By Civil Authority:
  - Number arrested
  - Number returned to service
  - Number tried
  - Number acquitted
  - Number convicted

At the extreme right of the horizontal spread on all forms was a Remarks column with instructions, augmented throughout the years, which in effect requested an annual record of events; by 1864 a block under the Remarks column was titled Record of Events.

A part of the face on all forms was reserved for designating the posts and stations at which deaths, desertions, apprehensions, and surrenders occurred. On some of the 1864 forms there was a Remarks section for listing the name of each enlisted man, with information such as date, place, and cause of alteration.

### 3. Monthly Returns of Battalions, Companies, and Detachments

These returns were required by War Department Order of April 7, 1826, which instructed all field and company officers when absent from their regiment or company on detached service to report as often as the nature of their details were changed. The substance of this instruction was reiterated in General Order No. 49, August 30, 1828, which required that when any officer was

absent on detached service, or the commanding officer of any company or detachment was absent from the regiment, a special report was to be made to the commanding officer of the regiment as often as the station changed. This report was to enable the colonel to include the information in his regimental return for the same month.

Not until 1846 do Army Regulations and General Orders suggest the submission of separate returns directly to the Adjutant General's Office by companies, battalions, and detachments operating independently of the regiment; not do they suggest such independent submissions after 1861, with two exceptions: (1) all returns by detached brigades, amended in 1861 to include all detached commands, during campaigns, and (2) General Order No. 72, or independent batteries, troops, or companies in the field to forward a monthly company return directly to the Adjutant General's Office.

There were many returns for battalions, companies, and detachments filed with the regimental monthly returns between 1846 and 1861, after 1898, and during periods of campaigns. For the period before 1846 there were a few scattered returns but most of the information contained on the returns of the independent units was consolidated in the regular regimental monthly return. Despite this consolidation, the independent unit returns of the battalions, companies, and detachments have been reproduced in this microfilm publication for three reasons: (1) they are an integral part of the Adjutant General's Office file of regimental monthly returns, (2) frequently there are more details under Remarks in the independent unit returns, and (3) occasionally, for unexplained reasons, there is a difference in or an absence of information in the regimental return.

The Adjutant General's Office issued to the companies, as it did to the regiments, a printed form with instructions for preparing the return. The Adjutant General appears never to have issued a form for independent battalions or detachments until Form M.S.O. No. 30, printed in 1904, was issued for "Troop, Battery, Company, or Detachment Monthly Returns." Consequently, independent units other than companies used any available form—regimental, company, or post return form.

#### 4. Special Field Return and Field Return

These returns were submitted by regiments, independent companies, and detachments. Form A.G.O. No. 26, Special Field Return, printed in February 1896, was set up to enable separate commands to carry out the instructions of Army Regulations of 1895, paragraph 795, which required that whenever the strength of a separate command was temporarily or permanently increased or diminished by moving any organization, "the commanding officer will immediately inform the Adjutant General of the Army direct, designating the organization moved, number and names of officers, and strength in men, animals, and arms."

When the Special Field Return was replaced by the Field Return in 1904, instructions on the form stated that it was to be used as a Daily Field Return, or a Tri-monthly Field Return, as required. More precisely, the instructions stated that the form was to "be used upon the establishment or evacuation of a post or temporary camp, and upon the temporary or permanent increase or reduction of a garrison," and one copy was to be forwarded directly to the Adjutant

General. Further instructions were that “in active campaign this form will serve as the ‘Tri-monthly Return’ and will be used for regiments, independent companies, posts, districts, brigades.” In such cases the form was to be made out in triplicate on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and last day of each month; one copy was to be sent to the immediate commander, and one copy was to be retained.

#### 5. Return of Casualties

General Order No. 169, October 27, 1862, required that promptly “after every battle, skirmish, or other engagement” every regiment or other detached part of a regiment was to forward to the Adjutant General’s Office a correct return of persons killed, wounded, and missing. This requirement was further clarified by the Army Regulations of 1863, paragraph 465, which stated that “after any action or affair, a return of the killed, wounded, and missing will be made, in which the name, rank, and regiment of each officer and soldier will be specified, with such remarks and explanations as may be requisite for the records of the Department of War, or be necessary to establish the just claims of any individual who may have been wounded, or of the heirs and representatives of any killed in action (taking care to specify the nature of the wound, the time and place of its occurrence, the company, regiment, or corps, and the name of the Captain, Colonel, or other commanding officer).”

The first printed form for this return, which appeared in April 1898 and was titled Return of Casualties, provided space for Record of Events in addition to the other required information. Until the form was printed, this return was usually prepared in manuscript, but occasionally other forms, such as the Morning Report form, were adapted for use as a Casualty Return.

#### 6. Tri-monthly Field Return

A few copies of this return were filed with the regimental monthly returns. Because information requested on this form was already submitted directly to the Surgeon General and was not desired by the Adjutant General’s Office<sup>3</sup>, the use of this form was abolished by General Order No. 45, March 13, 1899, without reference to the initial instructions that required the submission of the return.

#### Arrangement of the Records in This Microfilm Publication

The regimental monthly returns reproduced on this microfilm publication consist mainly of copies that had been submitted directly to the Adjutant General’s Office. Over the years, however, as the Office received the earlier field records for safekeeping, it attempted to make its collection of regimental returns as complete as possible by removing returns from the field records to fill gaps. Hence, some of the returns reproduced in this microcopy bear the notation “retained” or “retained copy.” To make this microcopy as complete as possible the National Archives, which now has the records in its care, continued this practice of the Adjutant General’s Office.

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<sup>3</sup> File No. 214712, General Correspondence, A.G.O., 1890-1917, RG 94

The U.S. Regiment of Dragoons, organized in March 1833, became the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment of Dragoons in May 1836, when the 2d Regiment of Dragoons was organized. From March 1843 to April 1844 the 2d Regiment of Dragoons was known as the Regiment of Riflemen and the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment was again designated as the U.S. Regiment of Dragoons. From February 1847 until July 1848 there was a short-lived 3d Regiment of Dragoons. In May 1855 two regiments of cavalry were organized, followed by a third regiment in May 1861.

In August 1861 the six existing regiments of mounted troops—1<sup>st</sup> Dragoons, 2d Dragoons, Regiment of Mounted Riflemen, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry, 2d Cavalry, and 3d Cavalry—were re-designated as the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry through 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry, respectively. In 1866, the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry through the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry were organized; in 1901, the 11<sup>th</sup> through the 15<sup>th</sup>; and in 1916, the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Adjutant General's Office filed regimental monthly returns of mounted troops by name (dragoons, cavalry, riflemen) and thereunder numerically by regimental number, if any. No attempt was made to file the returns of successor units after those of their predecessors.

The returns reproduced in this microfilm publication have been filmed numerically by regimental number from 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> based, for the first six regiments, on the re-designations of August 1861. Thus the returns of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry begin in 1833 with those of the U.S. Regiment of Dragoons and continue through several names changes to that of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Regiment in August 1861. The returns of the 2d Cavalry through the 6<sup>th</sup> Cavalry regiments have been similarly filmed. The returns of the 3d Regiment of Dragoons (the Mexican War Unit) have been filmed after those of the 2d Cavalry, which was initially known as the 2d Dragoons.

The records filed by the Adjutant General's Office as "Historical Data" or "Miscellaneous Data" have been filmed before the monthly returns for each regiment. After the December returns for each year are filmed any other kind of return filed by the Adjutant General's Office for that year. These additional returns appear on the microfilm in the order as follows:

- Annual and Quarterly Returns of Alterations and Casualties
- Monthly Returns of Battalions, Companies, Detachments, and Squadrons
- Special Field Returns and Field Returns
- Returns of Casualties
- Tri-monthly Field Returns

There are two exceptions to this arrangement of pattern. The returns of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen for the period 1854-60 and the returns of the 8<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment for the period 1866-1904 have been filmed in the same order in which they are bound: the company, field, and other miscellaneous returns for a specific month have been filmed immediately after each pertinent monthly return in the same year.

### Related Records

Also in Record Group 94, Records of Adjutant General's Office, 1780's-1917, are Returns from U.S. Military Posts, 1800-1916 (Microcopy 617); Returns From Regular Army Infantry Regiments, June 1821-December 1916 (Microcopy 665); Returns From Regular Army Engineer

Battalions, September 1846-June 1916 (Microcopy 690); Returns From Regular Army Artillery Regiments, June 1821-January 1901 (Microcopy 727); Returns From Regular Army Coast Artillery Corps Companies, February 1901-June 1916 (Microcopy 691); Returns From Regular Army Field Artillery Batteries and Regiments, February 1901-December 1916 (Microcopy 728); monthly returns for military departments, divisions, corps, and districts, and for expeditions; and muster rolls for Regular Army units. Also related are the monthly returns for Regular Army units of all types for the period 1784-1821, which are in Record Group 94 and in Record Group 98, Records of United States Army Commands, 1784-1821.

Also in Record Group 391, Records of United States Regular Army Mobile Units, 1821-1941, are the retained copies of the monthly regimental returns. Other related records in the National Archives are copies of the monthly returns forwarded to intermediate commanders in Record Group 393, Records of United States Army Continental Commands, 1821-1920, and in Record Group 395, Records of United States Army Overseas Operations and Commands, 1898-1942.

The records reproduced in this microcopy were prepared for filming by Violet M. Alexander, Ellen Garrison, and Kathryn M. English. The introductory remarks were written by Maizie H. Johnson.

For a history of the cavalry regiments from 1833 to 1967, see Mary L. Stubbs and Stanley R. Connor, *Armor-Cavalry, Part I: Regular Army and Army Reserve* (Office of the Chief of Military History. Washington, 1969).

## CONTENTS

<u>Roll</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	First Cavalry: Aug. 1833-Dec. 1844 U.S. Dragoons; Aug. 1833-May 1836 First Dragoons; June 1836-Mar. 1843 U.S. Dragoons; Apr. 1843-Mar. 1844 First Dragoons; Apr.-Dec. 1844
2	1845-47 First Dragoons
3	1848-50 First Dragoons
4	1851-59 First Dragoons
5	1860-66 First Dragoons; Jan. 1860-Aug. 1861 First Cavalry; Sept. 1861-Dec. 1866
6	1867-76
7	1877-86
8	1887-96

9	1897-1900
10	1901-2
11	1903-5
12	1906-10
13	1911-16
14	Second Cavalry: Dec. 1836-Dec. 1845 Second Dragoons; Dec. 1836-Feb. 1843 U.S. Riflemen; Mar. 1843-Mar. 1844 Second Dragoons; Apr. 1844-Dec. 1845
15	1846-48 Second Dragoons
16	1849-55 Second Dragoons
17	1856-63 Second Dragoons; Jan. 1856-July 1861
18	1864-71
19	1872-79
20	1880-87
21	1888-95
22	1896-1900
23	1901-4
24	1905-8
25	Jan. 1909-Oct. 1913
26	Third Dragoons May 1847-July 1848
27	Third Cavalry: Oct. 1846-Dec. 1850 Mounted Riflemen
28	1851-58 Mounted Riflemen
29	1859-67 Mounted Riflemen; Jan. 1859-July 1861
30	1868-75
31	1876-84
32	1885-93
33	1894-98
34	1899
35	1900
36	1901-2
37	1903-6
38	1907-10
39	1911-16
40	Fourth Cavalry: Mar. 1855-Dec. 1863 First Cavalry; Mar. 1855-July 1861

41	1864-71
42	1872-76
43	1877-83
44	1884-89
45	1890-96
46	1897-99
47	1900-1901
48	1902-5
49	1906-10
50	1911-16
51	Fifth Cavalry: Mar. 1855-Dec. 1863 Second Cavalry; Mar. 1855-July 1861
52	1864-71
53	1872-76
54	1877-85
55	1886-93
56	1894-98
57	1899-1901
58	1902-3
59	1904-9
60	1910-16
61	Sixth Cavalry: Aug. 1861-Dec. 1867
62	1868-74
63	1875-80
64	1881-85
65	1886-91
66	1892-98
67	1899-1902
68	1903-7
69	1908-11
70	1912-16
71	Seventh Cavalry: Sept. 1866-Dec. 1873
72	1874-81
73	1882-88
74	1889-96
75	1897-1900
76	1901-5
77	1906-10
78	1911-16
79	Eighth Cavalry: Sept. 1866-Dec. 1874
80	1875-82
81	1883-89



82	1890-97
83	1898-1904
84	1905-7
85	1908-11
86	1912-16
87	Ninth Cavalry:
	Oct. 1866-Dec. 1872
88	1873-80
89	1881-87
90	1888-95
91	1896-1900
92	1901-4
93	1905-9
94	1910-16
95	Tenth Cavalry:
	Sept. 1866-Dec. 1872
96	1873-80
97	1881-88
98	1889-96
99	1897-1900
100	1901-4
101	1905-9
102	1910-16
103	Eleventh Cavalry:
	Mar. 1901-Dec. 1904
104	1904-9
105	1910-16
106	Twelfth Cavalry:
	Mar. 1901-Dec. 1904
107	1905-9
108	1910-16
109	Thirteenth Cavalry:
	May 1901-Dec. 1905
110	1906-10
111	1911-16
112	Fourteenth Cavalry:
	Mar. 1901-Dec. 1904
113	1905-10
114	1911-16
115	Fifteenth Cavalry:
	Mar. 1901-Dec. 1903
116	1904-9
117	1910-16
	Sixteenth Cavalry
	July-Dec. 1916
	Seventeenth Cavalry

July-Dec. 1916