

NEW JERSEY'S REGIMENTS IN THE CIVIL WAR



Five privates from Company H, 7th Infantry, in 1861 (Nichols, *Historic Days in Cumberland County, New Jersey, 1855-1865*).

The roar of Confederate cannon in Charleston Harbor on April 12, 1861, produced an explosion of patriotism in New Jersey. Within two weeks, four regiments of the state's militia—the first full brigade to answer the country's call—arrived in Washington.

The militiamen served three months and returned home after the battle of Bull Run, but were followed to the front by nine New Jersey regiments of infantry (1st through 9th), one of cavalry (1st), and two artillery batteries (A and B)—their ranks filled by volunteers who enlisted for three years' service.

In 1862, a year which ended with more New Jerseyans under arms than any other during the war, the state recruited five more three-year service infantry regiments (11th through 15th) and eleven militia regiments for nine months' service (21st through 31st).

During 1863, the threat of conscription drove local officials in their efforts to meet Federal troop quotas, and New Jersey raised three infantry regiments (33rd through 35th), one cavalry regiment (2nd), and three artillery batteries (3rd, 4th and 5th). All enlisted for three years.

The Federal draft came to New Jersey in 1864, and most conscripts or the substitutes they provided were assigned to regiments already in the field. In that year and in 1865, New Jersey also provided one infantry regiment enlisted for 100 days' service (37th), three infantry regiments whose men enlisted for one year (38th through 40th), and one three-year service cavalry regiment (3rd).

By 1864, African-American Jerseymen were also flocking to the colors, and large numbers served in the regiments of the United States Colored Troops, most notably the 22nd, 32nd and 43rd U.S. Colored Infantry.

Major General Philip Sheridan's assessment of the 1st New Jersey Brigade as "one of the very best in the service" could be applied to all of the state's sons who fought in the Civil War. Native-born or immigrant, black or white, wherever they served, from Roanoke Island to Arkansas, and Gettysburg to Mobile, they acquitted themselves with honor.



Private Simon W. Creamer, Company K, 12th Infantry. He was killed on July 3, 1863 at the battle of Gettysburg, PA. (John W. Kuhl Collection).



Line officers of the 15th Infantry and friends, March 12, 1864 (Hunterdon County Historical Society).