

U.S. Army Heritage & Education Center
950 Soldiers Drive
Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5021
21 Sep 2012 2012

Flags

U.S. ARMY ORGANIZATIONAL FLAGS

A Working Bibliography of MHI Sources

CONTENTS

General Sources....p.1
Revolutionary War Era....p.2
1790s-1860....p.3
Civil War....p.3
Late 19th Century....p.6
World War I....p.6
World War II....p.7
Since 1945....p.7
State and Local Battle Flags....p.7
Flags Captured in Recent Wars....p.7

GENERAL SOURCES

Davis, Gherardi. The Colors of the United States Army, 1789-1912. NY: Gilliss, 1912. 80 p.
UC593.D38.

Downey, Fairfax. The Color-Bearers. Mattituck, NY: Carroll, 1984. UC593.D68.

DuBois, Arthur. "Heraldry, Flag and Insignia Work of the Office of the Quartermaster General."
Quartermaster Review (May/Jun 1928): p. 26. Per.

Dupuy, Trevor N., ed-in-chief. International Military and Defense Encyclopedia. 6 vols. Wash, DC:
Brassey's, 1993. pp. 946-50. U24.I58.

Four Battleflags of the Revolution: Captured by Lt.-Col. Banastre Tarleton in 1779 and 1780, the
Property of Capt. Christopher Tarleton Fagan. NY: Sotheby's, 2006. 50 p. CR113.F67.

Moss, James A. Origin and Significance of Military Customs: Including Military Miscellany of Interest
to Soldiers and Civilians. Menasha, WI: Banta, 1917. 78 p. U766.M6.

"Regimental Colors and Standards." Military Engineer (May/Jun 1928): p. 276. Per.

U.S. Army Organizational Flags

p.2

Rogner, E.A. The Pentagon: Flags Displayed in the Building: History, Location, Myths and Facts. Alexandria, VA: D'OR, 1985. 32 p. UA26.P46.R57.

U.S. Army. Office, QMG. Heraldic Branch. Files on microfilm. ca 200 reels. Microfilm.
History of flags, Reels #129-135.

U.S. Dept of Army. Conduct of Ceremonies Handbook: Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-2, dated Sep 1971. pp. 13-14 & 16. MilPub-Pams.
Concise history.

War Department. Quartermaster Corps. Illustrations of Silken Colors, Guidons and Standards. Washington, DC: GPO, 1914. 18 p. UC593.I45.

Wilson, John B. Campaign Streamers of the United States Army. Pamphlet, AUSA, 1995l. 24 p. UB433.W5.

Wise, Terernce, & Rosignoli, Guido. Military Flags of the World, in Color. NY: Arco, 1978. 184 p. UC590.W57.

Wyllie, Robert E. "Colors, Standards, and Guidons." Coast Artillery Journal (Jun 1927): p. 517. Per.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Bellas, Henry H. A Brief History of the Flags and Banners of the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution. Phila: By the Society, 1903. 18 p. F209.S71.

Brown, A.E. Flag of the Minute Men, April 19, 1775: Its Origin and History. Bedford, MA: Bedford Hist Soc, 1894. 10 p. E289.B76.

Davis, Gherardi. Regimental Colors in the War of the Revolution. NY: Gilliss, 1907. 49 p. E289.D2.
With 1910 supplement.

Griffis, William E. "Revolutionary Flags." Magazine of History (Sep 1905): p. 219. Per.

Hill, Steven W. "Hessian Flags in the American War for Independence, 1776-1783." Military Collector & Historian (Winter 2003/2004): pp. 226-31. Per.
Includes color plates.

Holst, Donald W. "Regimental Colors of the Continental Army." Military Collector & Historian (Fall 1968): pp. 69-73. Per.

Neumann, George C., & Kravic, Frank J. Collector's Illustrated Encyclopedia of the American Revolution. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1975. pp. 86-87. NK806.N37.

U.S. Army Organizational Flags

p.3

Richardson, Edward W. Standards and Colors of the American Revolution. Phila: U PA, 1982. 341 p. UC590.R5.

Schermerhorn, Frank E. American and French Flags of the Revolution. Phila: Phila Society Sons of the Revolution, 1948. 148 p. E289.S34.

1790s-1860

Company of Military Historians. "18th U.S. Infantry Regiment, 1814-1815." Plate #102, dated 1955. 2 pages of text with color plate. SpecColl.
Includes unit flag.

Finke, Detmar H. "United States Army Colors and Standards, 1784-1808." Military Collector & Historian (Fall 1963): pp. 69- 72. Per.

"U.S. Army Colors and Standards of 1808." Military Affairs (Winter 1941): pp. 263-67. Per.

U.S. Congress. Senate. The History of the Raising of the First American Flag on the Capitol of Mexico: Proceedings in the United States Senate. Wash, DC: Wendell, 1956. 34 p. E406.M6.U5.

U.S. Dept of Army. "Those Are Regulars, By God!" Army in Action Series No 3: Poster No 21-39, 1952. SpecColl.
Color plate of Winfield Scott's brigade at Battle of Chippewa, 5 Jul 1814. Includes unit flag.

CIVIL WAR

Dreese, Michael. "Fighting and Dying for the Colors at Gettysburg." Civil War Times (Jul 2007): pp. 36-43. Per.

Georgia. Office of the Secretary of State. Georgia Capitol Museum. Hallowed Banners: Historic Flags in the Georgia State Capitol Collection. Atlanta: GA Capitol Museum, Office of Secretary of State, 2005. 122 p. CR114.G4.H35.

Jordan, Robert Paul. The Civil War. Wash, DC: National Geographic Society, 1969. 215 p. E468.J78.
See painting of furling of flags at Appomattox by Richard Norris Brooks (1872), p. 201.

Linderman, Gerald F. Embattled Courage: The Experience of Combat in the American Civil War. NY: Macmillan, 1987. pp. 157-158. E468.9.L56.
Colorbearers as targets.

Lord, Francis A. Civil War Collector's Encyclopedia. Vol. 1. Harrisburg, PA: Stackpole, 1965. pp. 101-12. UC23.1861-65.L6.

-Civil War-Union

Beale, James. The Battle Flags of the Army of the Potomac at Gettysburg, Penna., July 1st, 2d, & 3d, 1863. Phila: Beale, 1885. 35 p. E493.P6.B43RareBook.

Caughman, Gerry, & Devine, Joseph. Qui Transtulit Sustinet (He Who Transplanted Still Sustains). n.p., 1997. 146 p. E499.4.Q85.
Connecticut's Civil War Flags.

Dreese, Michael. Never Desert the Old Flag!: 50 Stories of Union Battle Flags and Color-Bearers at Gettysburg. Gettysburg, PA: Thomas, 2002. 126 p. E475.53D74.

Elliot, Fergus. Diaries & letters. CWTI Coll, Arch.
Color corporal & sergeant, 109th PA Inf.

Lacovara, Robert R. compiler. Regimental Flags and History of the New Jersey Volunteers during the Civil War. n.p., 1993. E521.L33.

Madaus, Howard M., & Zeitlin, Richard H. The Flags of the Iron Brigade. Madison, WI: WI Veterans Museum, 1997. 107 p. E646M33.

Needham, Robert D. "The Ohio Flag Preservation Project." Military Collector & Historian (Winter 1969): pp. 103-15. Per.
Several examples of Ohio regimental flags.

Pennsylvania "Save the Flag" Coll, Arch.
Papers of soldiers gathered in conjunction with the historical office, PA State Capitol, and its project on PA CW flags.

NY. Bureau of Mil Statistics. Presentation of Flags of New York Volunteer Regiments and Other Organizations, to...Governor Fenton.... Albany, NY: Weed, Parsons, 1865. 249 p. E523.N49.

Russert, Michael, & Morton, Christopher. "'These Are Glorious Insignia.'" North & South (Aug 2004): pp. 56-64. Per.
New York Civil War battle flag preservation project.

Sauers, Richard A. Advance the Colors!: Pennsylvania Civil War Battle Flags. 2 vols. Harrisburg, PA: Capitol Preservation, 1987-1991. E527.4.S38.

U.S. War Dept. Quartermaster General. Flags of the Army of the United States Carried during the War of the Rebellion 1861-1865: To Designate the Headquarters of the Different Armies, Army Corps, Divisions and Brigades. Phila: Burk & McFetridge, 1888. E646.U57.

Zeitlin, Richard H. "In Peace and War: Union Veterans and Cultural Symbols—The Flags of the Iron Brigade." In Giants in Their Tall Black Hats: Essays on the Iron Brigade. Bloomington, IN: IN U, 1998. pp. 160-78. E493.5.I7.G53.

-Civil War-Confederate

Bonner, Robert E. "Flag Culture and the Consolidation of Confederate Nationalism." Journal Southern History (May 2002): pp. 293-332. Per.
On the Confederate Battle flag(s), wartime to the present.

Brooks, Dosithea H. Our Flag. NY: Vinal, 1926. 168 p. CR113.B84.

Cannon, Devereaux., Jr. The Flags of the Confederacy: An Illustrated History. Memphis, TN: St. Lukes, 1988. CR113.5.C58.

Coski, John M. "Battle Flag: A Brief History of America's Most Controversial Symbol." North & South (Sep 2001): pp. 48-63. Per.
Chronicles the current "Stars 'n Bars" issue.

Crute, Joseph H., Jr. Emblems of Southern Valor: The Battle Flags of the Confederacy. Louisville, KY: Harmony House, 1990. 112 p. E646.C78.

Dedmond Glenn. The Flags of Civil War Alabama. Gretna, LA: Pelican Pub, 2001. 153 p. E551.4.D44.

_____. The Flags of Civil War Arkansas. Gretna, LA: Pelican, 2009. 160 p. E496.4.D43.

_____. The Flags of Civil War Missouri. Gretna, LA: Pelican, 2009. 143 p. E569.4.D43.

_____. The Flags of Civil War North Carolina. Gretna, LA: Pelican Pub, 2003. 206 p. E573.4.D44.

_____. The Civil War Flags of South Carolina. Gretna, LA: Pelican, 2000. 155 p. E577.4.D43.

The Flags of the Confederate Armies: Returned to the Men Who Bore Them by the United States Government. St. Louis, MO: Bruxton & Skinner, 1905. 56 p. E646.F57.

Hinkle, Don. Embattled Banner: A Reasonable Defense of the Confederate Battle Flag. Paducah, KY: Turner, 1997. 199 p. E646.H56.

Nusbaum, Charles M. "The Return of the War Department Capture Flags to the States, 1905-1906." Military Collector & Historian (Winter 2008): pp. 261-73. Per.

Rose, Rebecca A. Colours of the Gray: An Illustrated Index of Wartime Flags from the Museum of the Confederacy. Richmond, VA: By the Museum, 1998. 55 p. E646.M87.

Smith, Malcolm R. Flags of the Confederacy. n.p., River City, 1976. 36 p. E646.S6.

Sumrall, Alan K. Battle Flags of Texas in the Confederacy. Austin, TX: Eakin, 1995. 114 p. CR113.5.S86.

U.S. War Dept. Letter from the Secretary of War: With Inclosures, in Response to a Resolution of the House Calling for Information Relative to Captured Standards, Flags, and Colors. Wash, DC: n.p., 1888? 20 p. U491.U492.

ENDNOTE: Concerning battle credits inscribed on Civil War flags, see the illustrations in Lord's Encyclopedia (cited above), which depict various modes of inscription. Apparently, the practice of inscribing battles received official sanction but not standardization. No size, style, or placement appears to have been promulgated.

War Dept General Order 19 (22 Feb 1862) directed regiments and batteries to inscribe on their colors the names of battles "in which they have born a meritorious part." Near war's end, Army of the Potomac General Order 10 (7 Mar 1865) specified the names of the particular battles to be so inscribed. However, Army Regulations of 1863 (1861 revised), pp. 461-462 & 511, only prescribed flags, not their inscriptions.

LATE 19th CENTURY

Harris, Moses. "A Plea for the Colors." Journal of the Military Service Institute of the US (1892): pp. 491-500. Per.

U.S Army Uniforms and Equipment, 1889: Specifications for Clothing, Camp and Garrison Equipage, and Clothing and Equipage Materials. Lincoln, NE: U NE, 1986. 385 p. UC483.S632.
Reprint of 1889 QMG pub, with index and foreword added.

WORLD WAR I ERA

U.S. War Dept. QMC. Illustrations of Bunting Flags, Colors, Standards, etc. Wash, DC: GPO, 1914. pp. 12, 55-56. UC593.I44.

_____. Memoranda Relating to the Flag of the United States and Other Flags Furnished by the Quartermaster Corps to the Army of the United States. Wash, DC: GPO, 1915. 18 p. UC593.M4.

WORLD WAR II

“Commanding Generals of Three Army Groups to Carry Distinctive Colors.” Quartermaster Review (Sep/Oct 1942): p. 94. Per.

See also Army Regulations 260-10.

SINCE 1945

Casey, Michael. Flags Into Battle. Boston: Boston Publishing, 1987. 192 p. DS551.7.D69.

U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry. "The Army Divisions Go ROAD." Army Information Digest (Dec 1963): pp. 25-40. Per.

See also AR 840-10.

STATE AND LOCAL BATTLE FLAGS

Maryland. Adjutant General. Guide Book and Descriptive Manual of Battle Flags in the Flag Room of the State House at Annapolis, MD. Pamphlet, Jan 1965. 31 p. E512.4.M3.

FLAGS CAPTURED IN RECENT WARS

The recurring tale of a US unit losing its colors to the enemy in the Korean War is apocryphal, at best report. No official or unofficial source here reveals that such a loss occurred. Furthermore, Dr. Robert Wright of CMH, who had investigated this matter previously, stated categorically that it did not happen. According to Dr. Wright, the source of the tale may have been the overrunning of a US battalion headquarters in early Nov 1950, when the 1st Cavalry Division first encountered massive Chinese forces near Unsan. The division received intensive Chinese attacks, some of which penetrated the lines sufficiently to force a withdrawal. Elements of the division's 8th Cavalry Regiment became cut off, resulting in the capture of numerous personnel and much equipment. Worse hit was the regiment's 3rd Battalion, with its command post overrun. Rumors of losing its colors have haunted the 8th ever since. See:

Appleman, Roy E. South to the Naktong, North to the Yalu. In the United States Army in the Korean War series. Wash, DC: OCMH, pp. 691-92, 701 & 707-08. DS919.U5v2.

"Colors Still Stand." Cavalair (14 Apr 1971): p. 10. Per.

1st Air Cavalry Division's publication in Vietnam; the article disputes allegations that the 8th Regiment lost its colors in Korea. See also issue of 6 May 1970, p. 8.

U.S. Army. 1st Cav Div. The First Team: The First Cavalry Division in Korea. Atlanta: Love, 1952. ca 300 p. #05-1CAV.1952.

Unnumbered pages; see section on Unsan defense in mid-book.

No regimental standard was reported lost in the Unsan action. At the time, the unit's colors remained either in division rear or in storage in Japan, where the division had performed occupation duty since 1945. On the other hand, company guidons including those of battalion headquarters companies, may have been with the regiment's forward elements and, conceivably, could have been captured by the Chinese. If so, we found no mention of it, although the Cavalair article, cited above, does not specifically deny the possibility. Resolution of the question might be found in retired official records of the 1st Cavalry Division in custody of the National Archives.

Incidentally, during World War II a cavalry regiment's standard was lost to the enemy under peculiar circumstances. The 3rd Cavalry Regiment had been broken up in Nov 1943, to be reorganized and re-designated as part of the 3rd Cavalry Group and other units. The old regiment's standard was apparently not retired, but kept at the headquarters of the new cavalry group. In France, Sep 1944, the old standard was in a command vehicle that inadvertently motored into enemy-held territory. Although the staff members escaped, the vehicles and its contents were captured. See:

Nasawald, L. VanLoan. "Cold War Drama: Odyssey of the Colors." American History Illustrated (Jan 1967): pp. 34-41. Per.

Tells also how the standard was smuggled out of East Germany in 1953.

Stubbs, Mary Lee, & Connor, Stanley R. Armor-Cavalry. Part I. Wash, DC: OCMH, 1969. pp. 119-20. Ref.