Men-at-Arms • 438

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US Infantry in the Indian Wars 1865–91

Ron Field • Illustrated by Richard Hook

RON FIELD is Head of History at the Cotswold School in Bourton-on-the-Water. He was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1982 and taught history at Piedmont High School in California from 1982 to 1983. He was associate editor of the Confederate Historical Society of Great Britain, from 1983 to 1992. He is an internationally acknowledged expert on US military history, and was elected a Fellow of the Company of Military Historians, based in Washington, DC, in 2005.

RICHARD HOOK was born in 1938 and trained at Reigate College of Art. After national service with 1st Bn, Queen's Royal Regiment, he became art editor of the much-praised magazine *Finding Out* during the 1960s. He has worked as a freelance illustrator ever since, earning an international reputation particularly for his deep knowledge of Native American material culture. Richard is married and lives in Sussex.

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Series editor Martin Windrow

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Dedication

To the late Herb Peck, Jr

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Editor's note

Modern American spelling conventions are used in the narrative text, but it was felt important to reproduce period quotations verbatim. The reader will thus notice several inconsistencies of spelling, which we hope will not be distracting.

Artist's note

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OPPOSITE **One of the most successful commanders of the Indian Wars, General George Crook was an infantryman. He first came to prominence when, as lieutenant-colonel of the 23rd Infantry, he was appointed to command the troops involved in the Paiute War of 1866. During the 1870s his experience of Indian fighting helped drive the Apache onto the reservations, and the Sioux from the Great Plains. In line with General Order No.102 issued in late 1861, in this 1876 photograph Crook wears the mounted enlisted man's 1851 pattern overcoat; this measure made officers less visible to enemy sharpshooters. He has added a fur collar for extra warmth, and his headgear appears to be an issue black felt hat with the crown pushed up. He leans on a gray 1873 pattern Army blanket, with the outline letters "US" in the center in widely spaced stitches of thick dark blue thread. Crook was known for his slightly eccentric preference for campaigning largely in civilian clothing, riding a mule rather than a horse, and carrying a double-barrel shotgun. In his recollections of the Black Hills campaign of 1876, Lt Charles King described Crook as a "shabby-looking man in a private soldier's light-blue overcoat, standing ankle deep in mud in a far-gone pair of private soldier's boots, crowned with a most shocking bad [white felt] hat." (USAMHI)**

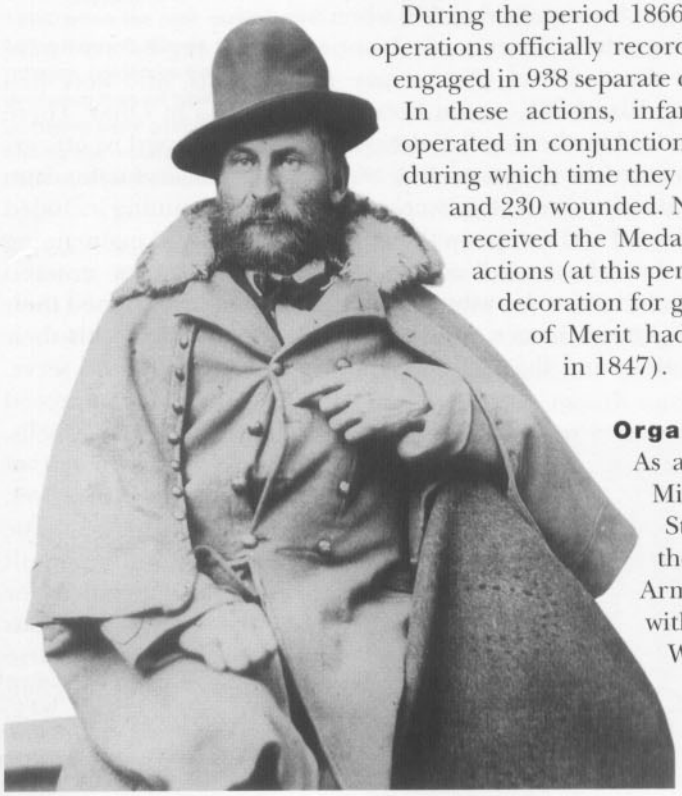
US INFANTRY IN THE INDIAN WARS 1865–91

INTRODUCTION

CRAZY HORSE called them "Walk-a-Heaps" because they marched into battle, carrying their knapsacks, haversacks, and everything else they needed on campaign. Although the Native Americans hated the US cavalry during the Indian Wars of 1865 through 1891, they learned to respect the infantry.

It was the infantry that dealt the final blow to Plains Indian resistance during the Black Hills War of 1876–77. Following their victory at the Little Bighorn, Sitting Bull and Gall retreated to Canada; but Crazy Horse remained to fight Col (later Gen) Nelson Miles, commander of the 5th Infantry. The "Walk-a-Heaps" under Miles pursued the Oglala chief and his allies relentlessly throughout the winter months, and outfought him at the battle of Wolf Mountains in January 1877. Elements of various other infantry regiments played their parts in the defeat of the Modocs under Captain Jack in Oregon during 1872–73; in the pursuit and capture of the Nez Percé in 1877; and in the final subjugation of the Apache renegades under Geronimo in 1886.

During the period 1866 through 1891, the US Army conducted 24 operations officially recorded as wars, campaigns or expeditions, and engaged in 938 separate combat actions against the Native Americans. In these actions, infantrymen either fought independently, or operated in conjunction with the cavalry, on at least 221 occasions, during which time they sustained an approximate total of 245 killed and 230 wounded. Nine officers and 61 enlisted men of infantry received the Medal of Honor for bravery shown during these actions (at this period the Medal was the only available national decoration for gallantry in the field, although the Certificate of Merit had been instituted without an actual medal in 1847).



Organization, and character

As a result of the "Act to increase and fix the Military Peace Establishment of the United States," passed by Congress on July 28, 1866, the infantry component of the regular US Army was increased from 19 to 45 regiments, with a three-year term of enlistment. The Civil War regular infantry had consisted of ten regiments each of ten companies, and nine regiments each of 24 companies divided into three eight-company battalions. By the addition of two companies, each of these

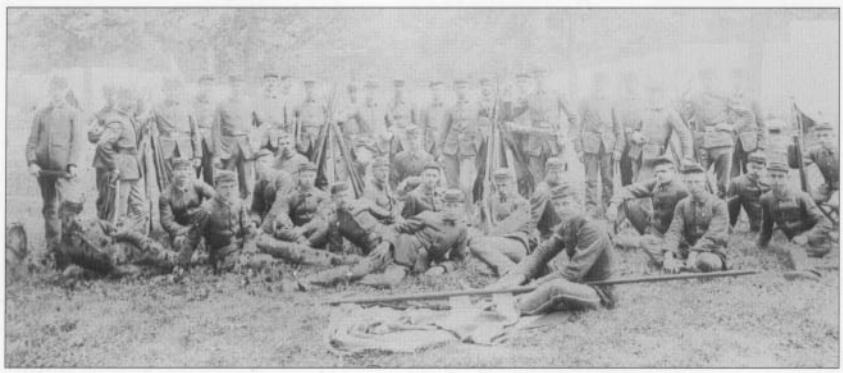
Published in *Harper's Weekly* on December 16, 1876, this engraving shows the infantry column commanded by Col Nelson A.Miles flanking the supply train as it crosses the frozen North Platte River during the Powder River expedition in September of that year. Note the mounted infantrymen in the right foreground. (Author's collection)

battalions became one of the 27 new regiments, becoming the 11th through 37th Infantry. The African American regiments were the 38th through 41st Infantry, while the 42nd through 45th Infantry were created from the four Veteran Reserve Corps regiments established during the Civil War. However, a series of cuts that began in March 1869 reduced the number of infantry regiments from 45 to 25, and this erosion of infantry strength continued until 1874. In that year the entire US Army numbered only about 27,000 men, which was a little over half the number on the rolls in 1866.

Each of the post-July 1866 regiments of infantry was to be composed of one colonel, one lieutenant-colonel, one major, one adjutant and one regimental quartermaster (both of the latter being extra first or second lieutenants), one sergeant-major, one quartermaster sergeant, one commissary sergeant, one hospital steward, two principal musicians, and ten companies. Each infantry company consisted of one captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, one first sergeant, one quartermaster sergeant, four sergeants, eight corporals, two artificers, two musicians, one wagoner and 50 privates. The number of privates in a company could be increased to 100 when needed.

Company grade officers of frontier-based regiments were intermittently detailed back East to raise new recruits, who were first sent to David's Island, NY, or the Columbus Barracks in Ohio. There they were received by the depot cadre, which was composed of officers and NCOs detailed from various line regiments. Their induction into army life lasted only three to four weeks, during which training included marching by squad and company, the manual of arms, and maintaining equipment other than small arms. Some enlistees never entered recruit depots, but trained on the Frontier post where they signed their enlistment papers; such men were therefore more familiar with their area of operations and the conditions under which they would serve. This system was improved during the early 1880s, with the establishment of Companies of Instruction; these administered basic training over a four-month period, and included for the first time a rigorous physical training course designed to toughen recruits up more effectively in preparation for rugged Frontier life.

The white trouser stripes worn by the officer and NCOs (e.g. the seated color-bearer, foreground) in this unidentified albumen print indicate that it was taken some time after 1884, when white replaced sky-blue as the facing color for US Infantry. (Author's collection)



Drinking and gambling were standard diversions for many infantrymen stationed on the Frontier. A rare mention of this appeared in the post records of Fort Union, New Mexico, for 1886, when the post commander LtCol Henry R.Mizner, 10th Infantry, issued an order declaring that all types of gambling were prohibited among the enlisted men. (Smithsonian Institution)

The shortage of soldiers and the vast open spaces on the Frontier created a situation peculiar to the infantry of the Indian Wars. Because each regiment had to be spread over large geographical areas, its companies – with an average strength of only about 35 men – served either singly or as two- or three-company units for much of the time. For example, during the spring of 1866 the 3rd Infantry were dispersed with three companies at Fort Larned, three at Fort Ellsworth, two at Fort Riley, and two companies at Fort Leavenworth.

This isolation produced a strong feeling of loyalty and allegiance to the company rather than to the regiment. When the 4th Infantry at Fort Laramie, Wyoming Territory, was ordered into active campaigning against the Sioux in 1867, one of the corporals, a patient in the post hospital, went absent to join his company. Elsewhere, the 1874–82 records indicate that Co F, 5th Infantry used its company funds to purchase items such as food and newspaper subscriptions (as well as a .22cal target rifle). The hard work that infantrymen put in to win their companies recognition as the best drilled, the best marksmen, or even the best vegetable growers, is a further indication of pride in their immediate unit. Occasionally entire infantry regiments did come together in the field; for instance, in the campaign against Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse in 1876–77 the ten companies of the 5th Infantry operated together – but this was for the first time since the Utah War of 1857–58.

The sergeants and corporals were the backbone of the Indian Wars infantry, and discipline and punishment were almost entirely the responsibility of the NCOs. Many sergeants were Civil War veterans, and a few had even held regular Army commissions but – like one first sergeant in the 7th Infantry – had been cashiered from their former units for misconduct.

Rates of pay hardly encouraged men to enlist in the infantry. In 1866 a private soldier fighting Indians under awful hardships in remote places was paid the princely sum of $16 per month. From this was deducted $1 a month until the end of the period of enlistment, plus 12½ cents, leaving him with $14.87½ per month. A corporal was paid $18 a month, and a sergeant $20 a month, with the same deductions.

CAMPAIGNING WITH THE INFANTRY

Walk-a-Heaps

Duty for the US Army on the Frontier consisted mainly of patrolling and small unit actions. For the infantrymen this typically involved long, forced marches and counter-marches as they sought contact – usually unsuccessfully – with a skilful and elusive foe. Heavy marching order equipage weighed about 50–60lb, consisting of a pack, haversack and

From a stereoview by Stanley J.Morrow of Yankton, Dakota Territory, this photo shows infantrymen butchering a horse during Crook's Black Hills expedition of 1876. All but one have privately purchased slouch hats. They also appear to be wearing a mixture of 1874 gray undershirts and the dark blue shirts issued on a trial basis in 1875. The man at right wears either a blouse or an earlier sack coat, and has his trousers tucked into his socks. Note the way the men in the background carry their Springfield rifles muzzle-forward. (Denver Public Library)

rations, canteen, shelter-half, blanket, extra clothing and shoes, plus the weight of the .45cal rifle and ammunition. Most infantrymen on campaign preferred to leave their packs behind at barracks, and carried personal items rolled in blankets slung around their bodies. When the 5th Infantry were ordered on campaign in July 1876, each soldier took only a blanket, a shelter-half, an extra pair of shoes and one change of underwear, plus weapons and ammunition. Sibley tents, iron stoves and other unit gear were carried in company wagons; more lightly equipped columns used pack mules.

Rail transportation was used when possible for long range movements. When the Ghost Dances were taking place in Sioux country in 1890, the 21st Infantry at Fort Douglas, Utah Territory, was ordered to travel by rail to Fort Robinson, NE; once the train trip was over, however, the soldiers were required to march across the prairie.

The first day's march for an infantry column was usually limited to no more than 15 miles in order to give the troops an opportunity to adapt themselves to the conditions; 25 miles was considered a good day's march for campaign-seasoned troops. Cavalry could travel faster and farther, but their grain-fed mounts tended to tire after days of continual marching and, surprisingly, well-trained infantry could outdistance cavalry units over a period of several weeks. During the Black Hills War of 1876 the 5th Infantry were required to make a forced march to the mouth of the Rosebud River, where they embarked on the steamer *Far West* to proceed to the mouths of the Tongue and Powder rivers in order to block the path of hostile Indians. According to a correspondent:

> In this movement the 5th Infantry made one of the most difficult and remarkable marches ever made by infantry troops. The 5th had just completed a fatiguing march of sixteen miles, when they started on the one of thirty-five through the blinding dust and darkness of night, over a rough and difficult country covered with cactus thorns, and made forty-three miles in twenty-four consecutive hours, equal to a march of sixty miles over ordinary country.

The individual infantry company's position in the marching column was rotated daily, and an advanced guard was usually sent ahead to clear the route where necessary. As long as they kept formation, the troops

were permitted to move along in an informal route step. Infantry were also used as skirmishers during larger scale advances. During the Ute Campaign the advance of Gen Wesley Merritt's force from Milk Creek on October 10, 1879, was protected by elements of the 4th and 14th Infantry on either side of the wagons, with the cavalry at the center. According to a report in the *Army & Navy Journal*, "This formation allowed skirmishing by the infantry on both flanks to points inaccessible to cavalry in the canyons and rough valleys."

Uniform regulations were often ignored by all ranks while on campaign, and officers and men clothed themselves pretty much as they pleased; items of civilian clothing were not unusual among infantry units as they slogged across the prairies and mountains. Most campaigning was done in the spring, summer or fall; but winter operations were sometimes conducted with great success, because Indian ponies were usually underfed and weak during the colder season, and the mobility of the warrior was drastically reduced. Rather than run, the Indians would be forced to stand and fight against disciplined infantrymen, and this generally led to their defeat.

Infantry on campaign often endured terrible hardships. Elements of the 5th Infantry pursuing the Sioux in Montana in the fall of 1876 suffered from supply shortages when ordered to proceed with only a limited number of pack mules and no wheeled vehicles. Captain Simon Snyder subsequently reported, "During the greater part of the time [we] had nothing to eat [but] bacon and hardbread, with a little coffee, sometimes on half rations for days at a time." During their march towards the Black Hills in September 1876, the column under Gen Alfred H.Terry suffered terribly. According to a contemporary report, "Water and wood were neither plentiful nor convenient, and owing to cold rainstorms which prevailed constantly, camp life on half rations, and with no tents and little bedding, was extremely severe on the men." In May 1886, Co D, 8th Infantry were engaged in the pursuit of Chiricahua Apaches led by Natchez and Geronimo. The men on this march were reported as "completely worn out, barefoot and almost destitute of clothing," and eight of them were sent to Fort Huachuca for medical treatment.

Infantry in the field were sometimes reduced to eating horse meat; Terry's column were twice reduced to eating "raw horse" during their march in 1876. Six companies of Col John Gibbon's 7th Infantry struggled over the mountains of south-western Montana to halt the Nez Percé under Chief Joseph at Big Hole Basin during 1877. From July 29 to August 9 the command averaged 22 miles a day, and unsuccessfully attacked the Indian camp at dawn on August 9. Supplies ran out, and the day following the indecisive battle the exhausted foot soldiers "ate horse."

Photographed in the early 1870s, 1st Lt Joseph A.Sladen, 14th Infantry, represents what an infantryman looked like on campaign. He wears a custom-made pullover shirt with light-colored trim, a civilian slouch hat and corduroy trousers. His waist belt is fastened with an 1851 "eagle" plate and supports a holstered revolver and cap pouch; the rest of his accoutrements, plus the saddle-bags on the chair, are perhaps of civilian origin. (USAMHI)

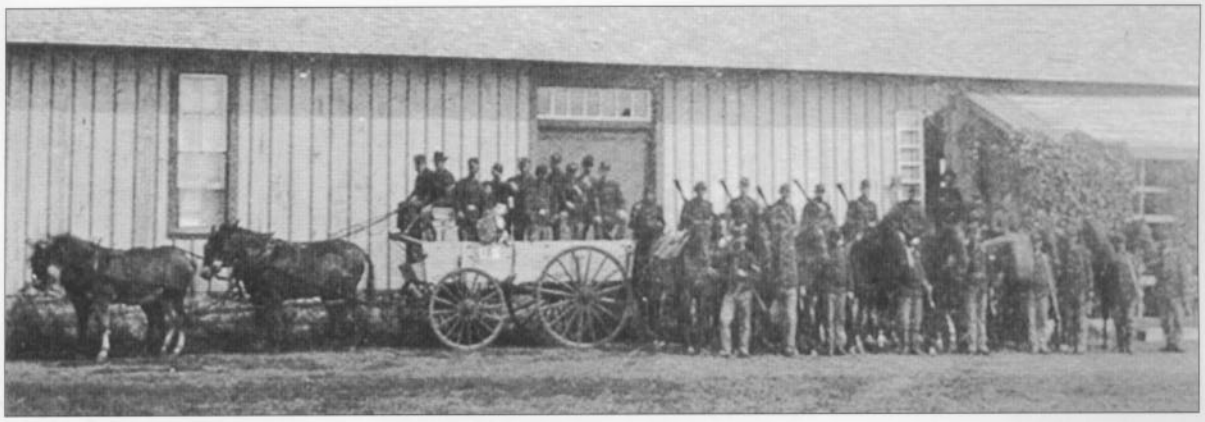
The rough-and-ready appearance of an infantry encampment is captured in this photograph from a stereoview produced by S.J.Morrow during Crook's 1876 Black Hills expedition. The soldiers are accommodated in "hackadales" of willow-rod frames covered with canvas. Under magnification the man standing second from right can be seen to wear an 1872 pleated fatigue jacket or "Swiss blouse." (Denver Public Library)

Infantrymen campaigning in the Southwest naturally had to endure water shortages more often than troops serving on the central and northern Plains. Private John G.Brown, 13th Infantry, recorded that he had twice suffered extreme thirst in New Mexico in the early 1880s: "Both times for 4 and 5 days, except for a cup of coffee each day, and the water to make our coffee was well guarded. We were tenderfeet and did not know the water holes in New Mexico."

Winter campaigning was accompanied by different hazards. On October 20, 1871, Cos B and H, 7th Infantry, under Capt H.B. Freeman, left their headquarters at Fort Shaw en route to old Fort Belknap, Montana Territory, for the purpose of breaking up the camp of a party of *métis* who had crossed from Canada to engage in illicit trade with Indians in whisky and ammunition. The command reached their objective on November 2, capturing and burning supplies and ordering the illegal traders out of the country. The infantrymen remained at the location until November 16, when they broke camp and began their march back to Fort Shaw. On the 24th the command was overtaken by a freezing storm. The temperature, which had not been unusually cold hitherto, suddenly fell to many degrees below zero, and a violent northwest wind brought snow; nearly one-half of the men had their hands and feet frozen, some of them very severely – ten men subsequently suffered amputations.

Mounted Infantry

The infantryman did not always march when on active operations. The Sioux troubles of 1866–68 increased the need for mounted troops on the Frontier, and as early as December 6, 1866, elements of the 18th Infantry were mounted and operating alongside Co C, 2nd Cavalry out of Fort Phil Kearny. According to Special Orders No.33 issued by Gen Terry on April 3, 1867, "horses for mounting infantry" were allowed at the posts garrisoned by the 10th Infantry throughout the Department of Dakota as follows: "Fort Snelling, Minn, 10; Fort Ripley, Minn, 5; Fort Wadsworth, Dakota Territory, 60; Fort Abercrombie, DT, 50; Post on the Cheyenne, DT, 50; Post east of Berthold, DT, 75; Fort Rice, DT, 75; Fort Sully, DT, 75; Fort Randall, DT, 20; Fort Dakota, DT, 15; Camp Cooke, Montana Territory, 75; Fort Buford, DT, 150; Fort Berthold, DT, 50; Post on Sun River, 150" – a total of 860 mounts.



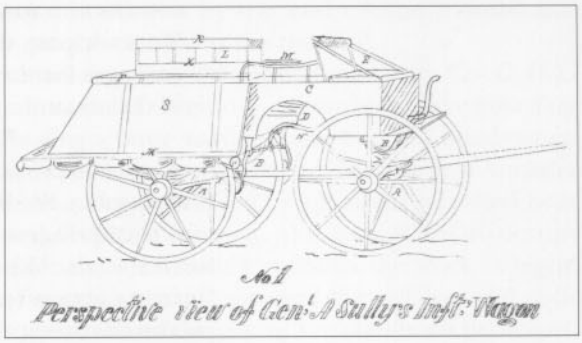
Taken from a stereoview produced by Wat Heston, of Carthage, Missouri, this shows men of Co K, 19th Infantry about to embark on a scouting expedition from Fort Wallace, Kansas. Eight men, including a drummer, pose in the back of an "infantry wagon," while the remainder of the company are mounted. Note (right) the rifles of those in the rear rank, slung muzzle-down. (Lawrence T.Jones Collection)

Elsewhere during 1867, Co C, 19th Infantry, serving in the Indian Territory, was mounted and armed with Spencer rifles. In September 1868 a mounted unit was formed within the 3rd Infantry by using extra horses from the 7th and 10th Cavalry; their mission was to patrol the region around Fort Dodge and the Santa Fe Trail, while the 7th Cavalry was off in Indian Territory. Elements of the black 24th and 25th Infantry were also mounted for operations on the Staked Plains in 1875. During the campaign against the Sioux in 1879, a letter in the New York *Herald* described the 5th Infantry as

> looking like a cavalry command, with its lines of Indian ponies picketed along the line of tents. This infantry regiment campaigns altogether mounted on Indian ponies captured in former Indian wars. Miles perceived some time ago that Indians could catch us when they pleased, and that when it served their purpose to retreat we were unable to follow them up. He took the earliest opportunity to mount his men on the same animals on which the Indians enjoyed such superior powers of locomotion, and with good results...
>
> One hundred recruits were assigned to this battalion this morning, and this evening they are being introduced to their ponies. The 1st sergeants are superintending the operation. There is a sort of impromptu track, where the neophyte is put on his horse bareback and made to walk, trot, and gallop around. Many are thrown, amid the good natured jeers of the old men, while some display elegant horsemanship and receive the plaudits of their comrades.

"Perspective view of Genl. Alfred Sully's Infty. Wagon," from drawings produced for the Quartermaster General's office in 1868. (Author's collection)

In fact, Col Miles appears to have first mounted some of his command in 1877. During the campaign leading up to the battle of Wolf Mountains in January of that year he improvised "a small mounted force about forty strong," comprised of elements of the 5th and 22nd Infantry, on horses and ponies captured from Sitting Bull's people the previous year. He subsequently mounted four more companies of the 5th Infantry with Indian ponies captured during the action at Little Muddy Creek in May 1877. The



whole of the mounted 5th Infantry contributed to the final defeat and surrender of the Nez Percé at Bear Paw Mountains in September 1877. According to Miles, while the battle was at its hottest,

> the 5th Infantry, mounted on Indian ponies, arrived, dismounted, poured one volley into the midst of the camp, covering the dismounted cavalry, who were getting the worst of it under the magazine rifles of the Indians, and then charged in turn, driving the Nez Percés to cover.

The practice of using mounted infantry continued until the end of the Indian Wars. Five companies of the 1st Infantry, stationed at the Pine Ridge Agency in South Dakota during the Wounded Knee campaign in 1890–91, were mounted on "good, hardy ponies, hired at 40 cents a day." A further company was "fully equipped with Hotchkiss mountain guns, packs, etc."

Infantry wagons

During 1868 BrigGen Alfred Sully, commanding the Department of the Upper Arkansas, ordered the construction of "The Infantry Wagon" to facilitate a more speedy deployment of Indian-fighting infantry on the Plains. According to a description given to the *Army & Navy Journal*, dated July 9, 1868, this vehicle was to consist of

> a four-wheeled carriage, the wheels all of a size, and in height about the same as the rear wheels of an ordinary Army ambulance; they are much broader, however, and stouter, being constructed to endure the most severe service; the body is also about the same as the Army ambulance in size, except that the sides are much lower; the seat runs through the centre, and will seat comfortably four on each side, sitting back to back; there is also a rear seat which will seat two or even three men; ample room is provided under the seats for provision, ammunition, etc; the springs are elliptic. This carriage can be run over the prairies with great speed, say forty miles per day, and can be drawn by four or six mules, and got ready for an expedition in less than half an hour, thus avoiding the usual delay. The animals used to pull this carriage, when not on duty with them, can be used for all other post duty. The present system of keeping at each post nearly two hundred horses, at an enormous expenditure, can be avoided. All available men can be run over the country with this Indian carriage, and after a ride of even forty miles be in good fighting condition, and not worn out by the fatigue of marching. We anticipate that the Government will in due time adopt these carriages for the Plains, as it will, undoubtedly, save many thousands of dollars, and meet with the entire approbation of Army officers.

A prototype wagon was constructed by Wilson, Childs & Co of Philadelphia, PA, by December 18, 1868, but problems were experienced with the springs and the total weight of the vehicle, which necessitated further trials. Although this may have been the only example of Sully's "infantry wagon" ever made, several vehicles called "escort wagons" were produced during the following year, which may indicate that others were

This image, produced c.1885 and entitled "Co B, 10th Infantry, crossing the Gila River," shows a much later use of a mule-drawn "infantry wagon." Several of the men appear to be sitting on seats running down the center of the wagon box. (National Archives)

produced but given a different name. In 1875 Co K, 19th Infantry were photographed at Fort Wallace, KS, using a wagon pulled by four mules and carrying nine men who appear to be seated as per the Sully wagon. Six under-strength companies of the 7th Infantry set forth in wagons up the Bitterroot Valley to fight the battle of Big Hole, Montana Territory, during the Nez Percé War of 1877. As late as 1885 elements of the 10th Infantry were photographed crossing the Gila River, near San Carlos, Arizona Territory, in "buck-boards" that look similar to Sully's original concept of an "infantry wagon."

SUMMARY OF MAIN CAMPAIGNS & ACTIONS

The Powder River War, 1865–67

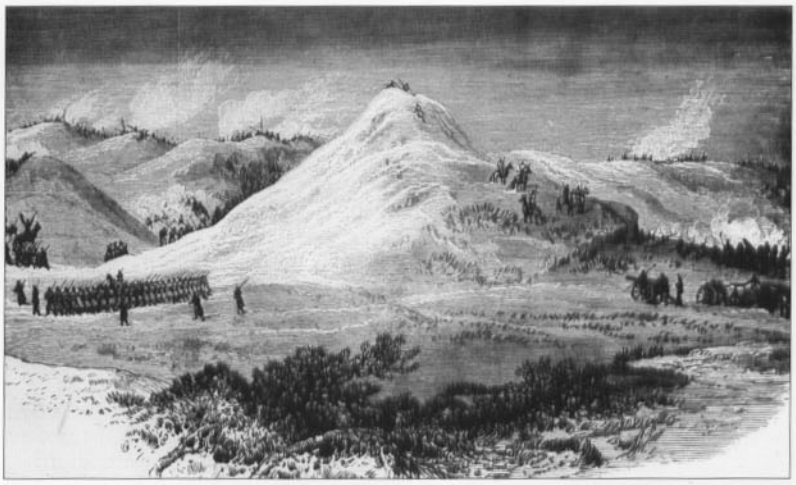
The first major Indian fighting following the Civil War occurred in the Powder River country of Wyoming, and was stirred up by the establishment of the Bozeman Trail, which passed through Indian country to the Montana gold fields. Built to guard this trail, Forts Phil Kearny, C.F.Smith and Reno came under Indian attack during 1866. The former post was the scene of the "Fetterman massacre" on December 21 of that year. Armed with the old-fashioned muzzle-loading Springfield rifle-muskets, 51 men of the 18th Infantry commanded by Capt William Fetterman, plus 27 men of Co C, 2nd Cavalry, were drawn into an ambush and killed by Sioux under Red Cloud and Roman Nose.

A major turning point in the history of infantry during the Indian Wars occurred in June 1867, when the breech-loading M1866 Springfield rifle began to be issued. The entire 27th Infantry (which was the designation of the 2nd Bn, 18th Infantry after the reorganization that year) had received this weapon by the end of that month, and shortly afterwards they got the chance to use them.

On August 1, 1867, a detachment of 30 enlisted men from Cos C, D, G & H, under the command of 2nd Lt Sigismund Sternberg, were guarding civilian employees harvesting a large hayfield near Fort C.F.Smith when they were attacked by about 700 Northern Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho brought together by the Sun Dance, and led by a Sioux chief called Bear that Grabs. Sternberg ordered 19 of his men, plus six civilians, to occupy rifle pits dug around a brush corral built to contain the stock at night, while the remaining infantrymen hastily escorted the civilians and their hay wagons back to the post. When the young Prussian-born lieutenant

was killed defending the entrance to the corral, a civilian named Al Colvin, who had been an officer during the Civil War, took charge, and the soldiers continued to put up a brave resistance. According to a first-hand account, when the Sioux charged down on the corral

> the soldiers greeted them with a volley from their new breech loaders, but the Indians came on, thinking the men were armed with the old muzzle-loading arms, and that they had not had time to load, but when volley after volley was poured into them with great rapidity, they were staggered and drew off a short distance. They then circled around and around, each time drawing nearer and nearer, and making frequent dashes, but when they advanced within forty yards the men took deliberate aim and fired, driving them away or killing some one each time.



Sketched by an officer and published in *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* on May 5, 1877, this engraving depicts the battle of Wolf Mountains on January 8, 1877. Elements of the 5th and 22nd Infantry advance towards the hill-tops, while 3in rifled cannon shell Crazy Horse's warriors as they line the far ridge. (Denver Public Library)

Meanwhile, two infantry companies, plus a mounted howitzer, sallied out from the fort to relieve the tiny command, and drove the Indians off. The total Army loss was one lieutenant, one private and one civilian killed, and one sergeant and two privates wounded. The eyewitness concluded that "The soldiers behaved nobly, and with the new weapon they have great confidence in themselves."

The next day, August 2, Capt James Powell led a detachment of 22 men from Cos A, C & F, 27th Infantry, in the successful resistance to a similar attack led by Chief Red Cloud himself near Fort Phil Kearny. Civilian contractors had dismantled the bodies off 14 wagon frames in order to haul logs back to the fort on the chassis. The "prairie schooner"-type wagon boxes had been used to build an oval corral to protect stock from being run off by Indians. When the attack came the infantrymen manned the defensive barricade formed by the wagon boxes, and inflicted serious casualties on the Indians with their breech-loading Springfields.

The Comanche Campaigns, 1867–69

During operations against the Comanche in northern Texas between 1867 and 1869, elements of the African American infantry and cavalry regiments, nicknamed "Buffalo Soldiers," were involved in numerous clashes and skirmishes with hostile Indians. At the Salt Fork of the Brazos River on September 16, 1869, Lt George E.Albee, commanding a detachment of the 41st Infantry, was guarding the supply train attached to a column composed of four companies of the 9th Cavalry. Although they were the only three members of their unit with saddled mounts, Albee and two black infantrymen drove off a party of 11 Comanches who attempted to stampede the remainder of the horses. While the achievement of the two black soldiers went unrewarded, Lt Albee was retrospectively awarded the Medal of Honor in 1894.

The Modoc War, 1872–73

The Modoc Campaign of 1872–73 was the last major Indian war on the Pacific coast. In 1864 the Modocs, a small, impoverished and restless tribe of southern Oregon and northern California, were placed on a reservation with their traditional rivals the Klamaths; when they were joined by a group of Paiutes, their deadly enemies, they quickly found the situation intolerable. Led by a chief named Kintpuish (known as "Captain Jack"), many of the Modocs left the reservation and returned to their homeland around Tule Lake. Inflamed by a shaman named Curly Haired Doctor, they resisted all attempts to get them to return; and while attempting to disarm the renegades and arrest their leaders, a cavalry detachment became involved in a fire-fight with Captain Jack's band on the Lost River on November 29, 1872. One man on each side was killed, and thereafter Captain Jack, Curly Haired Doctor and about 120 warriors retreated to a naturally fortified area subsequently named "the Stronghold" amid the baking, jagged ridges of the Lava Beds east of Mount Shasta, on the border between California and Oregon Territory.

On January 17, 1873, a force of about 400 men commanded by Col Alvin C.Gillem, 1st Cavalry, and including elements of Cos B, C & F, 21st Infantry (armed with M1868 Springfield rifles), attacked the Modoc positions; but the troops could make no progress in the almost impassable terrain, and the infantry suffered a loss of five killed and nine wounded. Of the latter, Sgt Josiah H.Brown, Co B, was mentioned in the official report of Maj Edwin C.Mason, commanding the battalion from the 21st, for remaining in the firing line "until incapable of further exertion."

Following the murder of Gen E.R.S.Canby and the Rev Eleasar Thomas during negotiations on April 11, 1873, a larger attack was launched on the Modocs, which included one company of the 4th and Cos B, C & M of the 21st Infantry. Covered by a murderous mortar fire, these troops drove the remaining Modocs from the Lava Beds to seek a new hideout. Twelve days later a combined force of Warm Springs Indian scouts, artillery and infantry, including 26 men from Co E, 12th Infantry, discovered the Modocs on Hardin Butte in an even stronger position than previously, but were caught in an ambush that resulted in the deaths of one officer and five enlisted infantrymen among 22 fatalities. The remaining Modoc hostiles were eventually starved into submission and surrendered in small groups. Captain Jack was betrayed by one of his most violent followers; he was captured on June 1, and on October 3, 1873, he and two others were hanged for the murder of Gen Canby. The rest of the tribe was removed to the Indian Territory.

The Red River War, 1874–75

Extensive operations were mounted by the US Army in 1874 to remove the Comanche, Kiowa, Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho from the Southern Plains and to enforce their relocation to reservations in the Indian Territory. The Red River War lasted until fall 1875; among the units involved were elements of Col Nelson Miles' 5th Infantry. In the battle of Palo Duro Canyon, a column led by Miles and including four companies of the 5th fought a

A corporal of Co G, 15th Infantry wears the 1875 crossed rifles insignia with regimental number and company letter in their correct places above and below. His white chevrons indicate that this tintype was made no earlier than 1884. Serving on the Frontier from 1869, the 15th Infantry participated in campaigns against the Utes of Colorado and Utah, and the Mescalero Apaches in New Mexico and Arizona, before finally relocating to Fort Sheridan, WY, in January 1891. (Author's collection)

running battle with a force of Cheyenne from August 27 to 31, 1874, before the Indians dispersed and vanished. Eight men of Co I, 5th Infantry, commanded by Capt Wyllys Lyman, were awarded the Medal of Honor for the bravery they displayed when a supply train they were escorting from Camp Supply was attacked by Kiowa and Comanche warriors near the Dry Fork of the Washita River, TX, on September 9, 1874. On November 8 that year Lt F.D.Baldwin, commanding Co D, 5th Infantry, plus a detachment of Troop D, 6th Cavalry, attacked and destroyed a large camp of Indians near McClellan's Creek, Texas.

The Black Hills War, 1876–77

The discovery of gold in the Black Hills of Dakota Territory in 1874 renewed unrest among the Sioux and Cheyenne, as prospectors and miners flooded into their country in violation of the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868. With the refusal of the Indians to give up the Black Hills, in February 1876 the War Department ordered LtGen Philip Sheridan, commander of the Division of the Missouri (which included the Departments of the Missouri, Platte and Dakota), to impose a military solution. Sheridan planned a winter campaign by three columns converging on the Yellowstone River country, where the Indians would be trapped and forced onto reduced reservations. In fact the campaign was delayed until the spring, reducing the Army's seasonal advantage over the tribes.

It was May 1876 before BrigGen George Crook, commander of the Department of the Platte, moved north from Fort Fetterman, WY, with a force of 1,000 men including elements of the 4th and 9th Infantry; and an attack by Col John J.Reynolds from this command soon provoked the Northern Cheyenne into allying themselves with the Sioux led by Sitting Bull. Meanwhile, two columns were marching south up the Yellowstone River under BrigGen Alfred H.Terry, commander of the Department of Dakota. One column of more than 1,000 men under Terry's direct command, including the 7th Cavalry plus companies from the 6th, 17th & 20th Infantry, moved from Fort Abraham Lincoln to the mouth of the Powder River; the second, under Col John Gibbon and numbering about 450 men including elements of his 7th Infantry, moved from Forts Shaw and Ellis, Montana Territory, to the mouth of the Bighorn River.

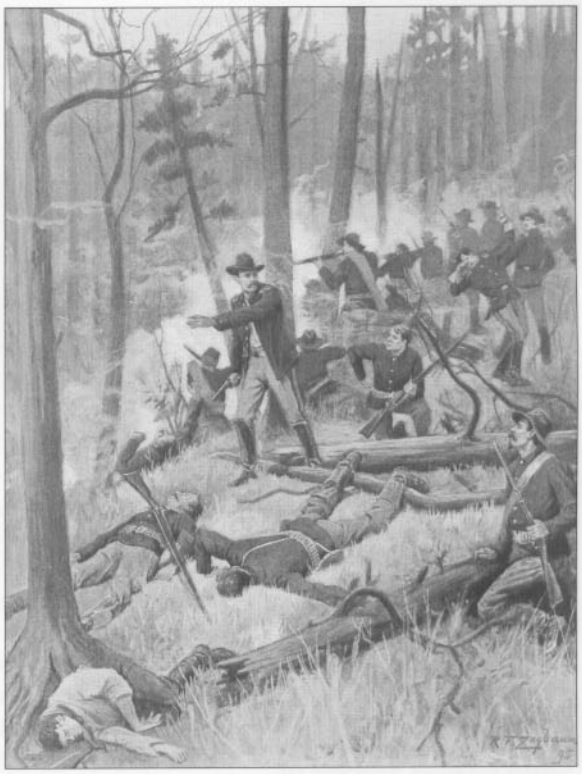
On June 17, 1876, Crook's troops collided unexpectedly with a strong war party under Crazy Horse on the Rosebud River; the result was indecisive, but losses were serious enough to oblige Crook to withdraw to the Tongue River to await reinforcements. Meanwhile, Terry had discovered the trail of the same Indian band and sent LtCol George A.Custer with his 7th Cavalry up the Rosebud to locate the war party and move south of it. With the rest of his command, Terry continued up the Yellowstone to meet Gibbon and move in on the Indians from the north.

Famously, on June 25 the 7th Cavalry discovered an encampment of about 7,000 Indians on the Little Bighorn. Dividing his forces, Custer immediately ordered an attack in order to strike the camp from several directions; and in the ensuing action the force of 211 men under Custer's personal command was annihilated. News of the "Custer massacre" aroused the whole country, and reinforcements were gathered from all directions to send to Terry and Crook. The campaign continued until September 1877, with many additional units – including the 5th, 14th, 22nd and 23rd Infantry – seeing action.

Six companies of the 22nd Infantry, under LtCol E.S.Otis, fought an action near the mouth of the Powder River on July 29, 1876. On October 21 the entire 5th Infantry under Col Miles attacked the camp of Sitting Bull near the head of Cedar Creek (also known as Big Dry Creek), Montana. This developed into a two-day running battle along Bad Route Creek and across the Yellowstone River, during which the entire regiment at one point formed "a grand hollow square of skirmishers," which presented "a magnificent and formidable picture as it swept over the prairies." Thirty-one members of the 5th Infantry earned the Medal of Honor for bravery at Cedar Creek and during the campaigning against the Sioux throughout the remainder of 1876.

Crazy Horse was defeated by elements of the 5th and 22nd Infantry under Col Miles during a snowstorm at Wolf Mountains, Montana Territory, on January 8, 1877, for a loss of just three infantrymen killed and eight wounded. Three officers of the 5th Infantry were awarded the Medal of Honor for leading their men at Wolf Mountains "in a successful charge against superior numbers of the enemy strongly posted."

On May 1, 1877, Miles advanced from his camp on the Tongue River, and seven days later at Little Muddy Creek he launched a surprise attack on an encampment of Miniconjous led by Lame Deer and Iron Star. The mounted detachment of the 5th and 22nd Infantry, commanded by Lt E.W.Casey, plus a company of the 2nd Cavalry, swept through the village killing 15 Indians and capturing about 500 ponies.



Published in *Harper's Weekly* in December 1895, this drawing by R.F.Zogbaum depicts the 7th Infantry, under Col John Gibbon, during its attack on the Nez Percé village at Big Hole Basin, MT, in 1877. The outnumbered infantrymen were driven off by the enraged warriors, and were surrounded in a pine thicket until relief arrived two days later. (Author's collection)

The Nez Percé Campaign, 1877

The southern branch of the Nez Percé led by Chief Joseph refused to give up their ancestral lands on the Oregon–Idaho border during the post-Civil War years. When negotiations broke down and warriors killed several white settlers in early 1877, the Army was sent to force them onto the reservation. Chief Joseph chose to resist, and began an epic retreat of approximately 1,600 miles through Idaho, Yellowstone Park and Montana, during which he engaged 11 separate Army commands in 13 actions over a period of 11 weeks. The Nez Percé chief revealed remarkable skill as a tactician, and his braves demonstrated exceptional discipline in numerous engagements, especially those on the Clearwater River on July 11, at Big Hole Basin on August 9–10, and in the Bear Paw Mountains, where he finally surrendered the remnants of his band to Col Miles on October 4, 1877. Two officers and 22 enlisted men of Col Gibbon's 7th Infantry were killed at Big Hole Basin during a costly reverse following an attack on the village of Looking Glass; five enlisted men were awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in this action. Three officers and one enlisted man of the 5th Infantry earned the same distinction at Bear Paw Mountains: having been directed to order a troop of cavalry to advance, and finding both its officers killed, Lt Oscar F. Long assumed

command and led the cavalrymen into action under heavy fire. When he carried a wounded lieutenant off the field during this action Sgt Henry Hogan won his second Medal of Honor, having gained his first for bravery at Cedar Creek in 1876. Hogan is one of only 19 US servicemen to be awarded the highest American military honor twice.

LtCol Van Horn, with Cos C, E, F & H of the African American 25th Infantry, arrived at Fort Keogh on November 30, 1890; they remained there in camp until February 5, 1891, when they returned to their normal stations, nothing further having been required of them during the short but eventful campaign against the Sioux. Equipped for harsh winter conditions, many wear buffalo coats, muskrat caps and gauntlets, while the man at far left appears to be wearing high-topped buffalo overshoes. (Library of Congress)

The Cheyenne, Bannock & Ute Campaigns, 1878–79

Following their forced resettlement on reservations in the Indian Territory in 1878, a small group of Cheyenne led by chiefs Dull Knife and Little Wolf escaped northwards and returned to their homeland around the Platte River. Pursued for several days, they were pressed so hard by a hastily mounted detachment of the 4th Infantry under Capt Thomas T.Thornburgh that they were forced to abandon much of their property and stock.

The Bannock, Paiute and other tribes of southern Idaho rebelled in 1878, partly because of dissatisfaction with their land allotments. Many of them left the reservations, and seven companies of the 21st Infantry, plus elements of the 4th Artillery and 1st Cavalry (dismounted), under Capt Evan Miles, pursued the fugitives. At the Umatilla Agency on July 13, 1878, this force withstood a charge mounted by about 500 Paiutes so effectively that most of the Indians returned to their reservations within a few months.

Nathan C.Meeker, the Indian agent at White River Agency in Colorado, requested Army assistance when he became involved in a dispute with Northern Utes in September 1879. In response, a column under "Tip" Thornburgh, 4th Infantry (by now a major), consisting of three troops of cavalry, marched out from Fort Fred Steele in Wyoming Territory. On September 29 this force was ambushed in Milk Creek Canyon by about 350 warriors; Thornburgh was killed, but his men were finally relieved by elements of the 9th and 5th Cavalry. In the meantime, Meeker and most of his family and staff were massacred. Before the Utes were pacified in November 1880 several thousand troops, including elements of the 4th, 6th, 7th, 9th & 14th Infantry, had taken the field.

The Apache Campaigns, 1871–74 and 1885–86

Following his appointment as commander of the Department of Arizona Territory in 1871, George Crook, then lieutenant-colonel of the 23rd Infantry, undertook a series of winter campaigns involving elements of infantry as well as cavalry, which pacified the region by 1874. Most of these troops operated on foot due to an outbreak of "horse disease" in the Southwest. Second Lieutenant William J.Ross, 21st Infantry, was among those commended for gallantry in action during "the battle of the caves" in Salt River Canyon on December 28,

1872, and at the engagement in the Superstition Mountains on January 16, 1873. Similar commendation was received by Lt William C.Manning, 21st Infantry, after the action at Matzal Mountain on December 13, 1872. Lieutenant William F.Rice, 23rd Infantry, also received acknowledgement for conspicuous service during the campaign in the Red Rocks in December 1872, and during the engagement at Clear Creek on January 2, 1873. First Sergeant William Allen, Co I, 23rd Infantry, earned a Medal of Honor for bravery when a column led by Capt George M.Randall conducted a successful surprise attack on a group of Apaches on top of Turret Peak, 20 miles south of Camp Verde, on March 27, 1873.

In the years that followed, the Indian Bureau's policy of frequent removals (and failure to honor treaty terms) created great hostility among the Apaches. Dissident warriors led by Victorio, Geronimo and other chiefs left the reservations and raided settlements along both sides of the Mexican border, escaping into Mexico or the US as circumstances dictated. On one occasion Co E, 8th Infantry, helped drive off a band of White Mountain Apaches led by Diablo when they fired into Camp Apache on July 9, 1876. Company D, 12th Infantry were involved in the defense of what was by then Fort Apache during the Ghost Dance uprising led by the shaman Nakaidoklini in September 1881.

To counter cross-border raiding the US and Mexico agreed in 1882 to permit reasonable pursuit of Indian raiders by the troops of each country across the international boundary. As a result, Victorio was killed by Mexican troops in 1880, but Chato and Geronimo remained at large until May 1883, when they surrendered to Gen Crook and elements of the 6th Cavalry, reinforced by Apache scouts, at a point some 200 miles inside Mexico.

Two years later Geronimo and about 150 Chiricahuas again left their White Mountain reservation in Arizona, and once more terrorized the border region. Four companies of the 9th Infantry and five companies of the 10th were in the field during the ensuing campaign, which culminated in another temporary surrender by Geronimo, negotiated in late March 1886 by 1st Lt Marion P.Maus, 1st Infantry, who was at that time serving with the Apache scouts. In 1894 Maus was eventually awarded the Medal of Honor for gallantry in action against the Apaches. Having escaped again within a few days, Geronimo and a small band of Chiricahua renegades were pursued by troops commanded by Capt Henry W.Lawton, which included Co I plus detachments from Cos D and K, 8th Infantry. This force made a surprise attack on Geronimo's camp in the mountains of Mexico on July 20, 1886, but once again the Apache leader made good his escape. He finally made a formal surrender on September 4, 1886, and was eventually escorted into exile at Fort Marion, FL, by Co E, 8th Infantry.

The Wounded Knee Campaign, 1890–91

The Ghost Dance religion which spread among the western Plains tribes during the summer of 1890 resulted in approximately one-fourth of the entire US Army being deployed on or near the Indian reservations in northwestern Nebraska and southeastern Dakota Territory. Included among these troops were elements of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 8th, 12th, 16th, 17th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 25th Infantry regiments.

On December 23, 1890, Co D, 22nd Infantry under Lt John G. Balance began an extraordinary three-day march through snowstorms and sub-zero temperatures to relieve Capt Fountain's troop of the 8th Cavalry, which was surrounded by about 500 Sioux at Cave Hills, South Dakota. Company A, 8th Infantry was the first additional unit to reach the ground at Wounded Knee after the slaughter of Big Foot's band by elements of the 7th Cavalry on December 29, 1890, and at once began the grim work of searching out the dead from under the snow; they also cared for the wounded who had survived the intense cold of the previous nights. On January 7, 1891, Lt E.W.Casey, 22nd Infantry, commanding the company of Cheyenne scouts, was killed by Plenty Horses, a Brulé Sioux, while encamped on White River near the Pine Ridge Agency.

UNIFORMS

1865–72:

The regular infantryman went West in 1865 wearing surplus Civil War clothing which was often inferior in quality. Its inadequacies were soon exposed by the rigors of Frontier service and, since supply lines were long and difficult, the substandard wartime clothing could not be replaced as fast as the soldiers wore it out. This problem persisted until 1872, when new uniform regulations were authorized.

Members of the 36th Infantry regimental staff wearing full dress uniform, including the 1858 pattern black felt dress hat, shoulder scales, swords and waist sashes. The sergeant-major is seated at center, flanked by two quartermaster sergeants. (Fort Laramie National Historic Site; Savage & Ottinger photo; Gordon Chappell Collection)

Officers

While enlisted men were issued their uniforms by the Quartermaster's Department, officers were required to purchase their own clothing through commercial channels. For full dress, field grade officers (major through colonel) wore double-breasted frock coats with two rows of seven buttons, while captains and lieutenants wore single-breasted coats with one row of nine buttons. Fringed braid epaulets continued to be worn for full dress, and transverse shoulder straps of sky-blue infantry branch-of-service color bordered in gold were authorized for campaign, marches and fatigue duties. Upon these straps rank devices were displayed: a centered spread eagle for colonel; and at each end, a silver leaf for lieutenant-colonel, a gold leaf for major, two silver bars for captain, and single bars for first lieutenant – the straps of a second lieutenant were plain.

Trousers for all officers were sky-blue with a ⅛in wide dark blue welt let into the outer seams; since they were privately purchased they were often made of fine materials such as cassimere. The sky-blue was

prone to fading after several washes, and might take on a rather greenish cast, causing a considerable lack of uniformity in appearance.

Full dress headgear was still the 1858 pattern black felt hat, also known as the "Jeff Davis" or "Hardee" (it was popularly associated with ex-Confederate President Jefferson Davis, who had been US Secretary of War, and ex-Confederate Gen William J.Hardee, who had been a captain in the 2nd US Dragoons, when it was first adopted). As per General Order No.4 issued in February 1861, the brim was pinned up on the right with an embroidered 1858 pattern "eagle" insignia on an oval black velvet background (the upturned brim was to accommodate the movements of weapons drill). The hat cord was mixed black and gold, with acorn-shaped ends. On the front of the crown was a gold embroidered buglehorn device on a black velvet ground, with a silver regimental number in the loop. Two black ostrich feathers were secured to the left of the crown. By 1866, the acorn ends of the cord were worn at the front of the hat rather than on the side, as was the case before the Civil War. In 1868 the hat was ordered to be looped up on the right side by all ranks.

Non-commissioned officers of the 18th Infantry at Fort Sanders, Wyoming Territory, c.1866, wearing the frock coat adopted in 1857; the standing collars appear to have been reduced in height by a post or company tailor. Headgear consists of a mixture of regulation and privately purchased forage caps. All are still armed with the muzzle-loading Springfield rifle-musket. (Fort Laramie National Historic Site; Burt Collection)

Many infantry officers preferred a more comfortable felt hat with a softer brim and lower crown creased fore and aft, and privately purchased a collapsible model – called the "Burnside pattern felt hat" in the Schuyler, Hartley, Graham & Co catalogue.

For field duty, infantry officers normally discarded their impractical frock coats in favor of either commercially produced or issue-grade "sack coats" of the style worn by enlisted ranks. The former were generally longer than the issue jacket, sometimes reaching almost to the knee, but still having only four "eagle" buttons.

Regarding overcoats, officers were prescribed the 1851 pattern "cloak coat" of dark blue cloth, which was a direct copy of that worn in the French Army by 1845. Secured at the front by four toggle buttons of black silk and loops of black silk cord frogging, the coat was bound around all edges with inch-wide flat black silk braid, which also formed trefoil loops at either end of the slit pockets let into the waist. Rank was indicated on the sleeves by knots of black silk braid – five braids and a knot or "galloon" for a colonel, four for lieutenant colonel, three for major, two for captain, one for first lieutenant, and a plain sleeve for second lieutenant. A long five-button shoulder cape, and even a hood, could be attached to this coat if required.

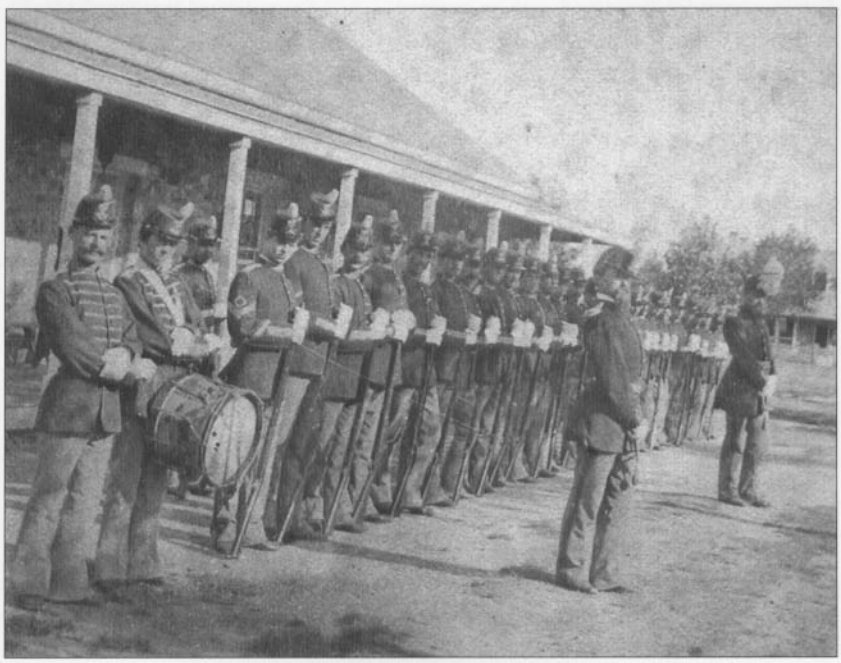
The extent to which the cloak coat was worn by infantry officers of the Frontier army is not known. According to General Order No.102 issued in late 1861, officers of infantry, cavalry and artillery were authorized to wear an enlisted man's mounted pattern overcoat "in time of actual field service," and this practice seems to have continued during the Indian Wars.

Lt William Eustis Kingsbury, 11th Infantry, wears the full dress uniform for officers adopted in 1872. His shako bears the white cock-feather plume; and note the deep pads at the ends of his "Russian-pattern" gold cord shoulder knots. Rank is also indicated by the two gold lace loops on each cuff. (David Neville Collection)

Enlisted men

Each enlisted infantryman received $100.65-worth of clothing per year from the QM Dept, and had to pay for anything extra from his own pocket. The "uniform coat" or full dress frock coat for infantry was single-breasted, bearing nine "general service" or "eagle" buttons minus letter designations on the shield, with cord or piping of sky-blue branch color around the collar and pointed cuffs. The soldier had to take whatever size of coat he could get, and pay a tailor three or four dollars to alter it, with the prospect of getting only about eight months' wear out of it before it became threadbare. An adjutant's clerk in Kansas remarked in 1868, "I have seen uniform coats which were issued by the Government in 1859, worn nine years and yet far superior to a new one issued by the quartermaster department now."

Brass shoulder scales were authorized for – if not worn by – all branches of service for full dress until 1872. The wearing of scales by the US Army appears to have begun during the 1840s, as a development of the brass-bound cloth shoulder strap prescribed for the dress uniform of the Regiment of United States Dragoons when it was first organized in 1833. According to tradition these "brass shoulder knots" were originally designed for the use of mounted troops to ward off saber cuts. Worn only by US mounted units until 1854, three different patterns were introduced for infantry and other branches after that date. Those worn by enlisted men had seven scalloped surfaces on



Taken from a stereoview, this photo shows an infantry company at Fort Lyons, Colorado, wearing 1872 dress uniform complete with white "Berlin" gloves. Note the bugler and drummer at far left; and, beside the drummer, the service stripes on the lower sleeve of the first sergeant. (Daughters of the USA Collection, USAMHI)

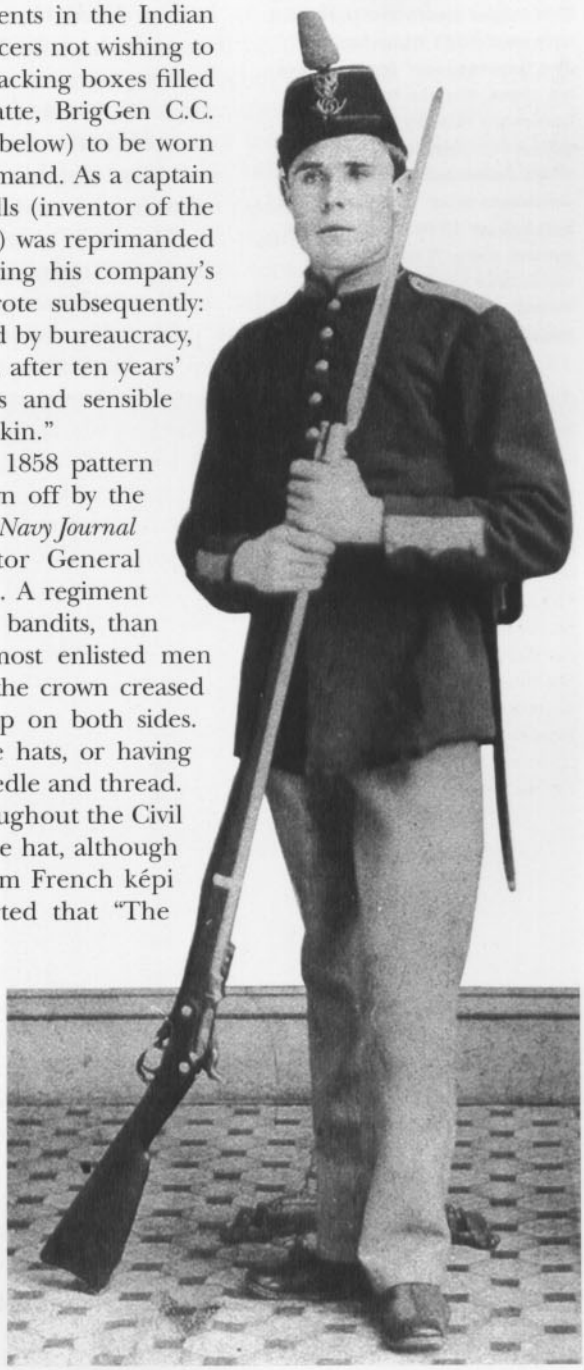
an edged strap 2.2in wide, with a rounded end terminating in a half-round 4in-wide crescent. A sergeant's scale had the same type of strap but its crescent was 4½in wide and fully rounded in profile. That issued to non-commissioned staff was essentially the same as the sergeant's, but had three small round-head rivets on six of its scallops. Scales were attached by means of a thin brass strap that passed through a cloth loop near the shoulder seam and over a brass staple attached near the collar; the latter fitted into a T-shaped hole let into the strap of the scale, which could thus be "locked" in place.

According to one infantryman, some foot regiments in the Indian Wars did not wear either scales or dress hats, the officers not wishing to have their wagons encumbered with three or four packing boxes filled with "useless trash." In the Department of the Platte, BrigGen C.C. Augur issued orders permitting the forage cap (see below) to be worn with the dress coat at all of the posts under his command. As a captain in the 18th Infantry during the Civil War, Anson Mills (inventor of the woven cartridge belt later worn by the Frontier army) was reprimanded for ordering his sergeant to throw a chest containing his company's scales into the "sink" or company latrine! Mills wrote subsequently: "Later, out on the plains, where we were less harassed by bureaucracy, one captain after another began to shed, and finally, after ten years' defiance of regulations and orders by courageous and sensible captains, the army shed its scales as a snake sheds its skin."

Few enlisted infantrymen liked the cumbersome 1858 pattern black felt dress hat, which was prone to being blown off by the strong prairie winds. One critic writing in the *Army & Navy Journal* under the pseudonym "R," and possibly Inspector General Randolph B.Marcy, called this hat "an abomination... A regiment equipped with it has more the appearance of stage bandits, than brave and chivalric soldiers." Like their officers, most enlisted men seemed to prefer a lower-crowned slouch hat, with the crown creased fore-and-aft and with a brim that tended to curl up on both sides. Others probably resorted to reshaping their Hardee hats, or having them lowered by a messmate who was skilful with needle and thread.

The infantrymen found the forage cap worn throughout the Civil War to be slightly less objectionable than the Hardee hat, although it too looked ungainly when compared with the trim French képi from which it had been copied. One man reported that "The forage cap is ugly, with the visor down, or turned either way; it is no protection from sun, rain, or cold, and it is worse than useless to wear the mark of company and regiment on it, as designated by the Regulations." As the 1860s drew to a close the lower-crowned "jaunty" cap of the French pattern became more popular than the regulation model. Known as the "chasseur" or "cadet" cap, this type of headgear was already worn for undress by most officers. By early 1869 the firm of Bent & Bush in Boston was advertising a very low-crowned "Officers' French Chasseur Cap," which may clearly be considered a direct forerunner of the pattern finally authorized by the US Army in 1872.

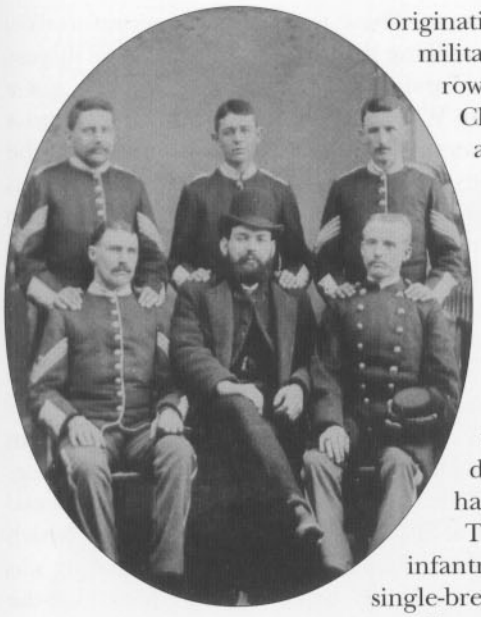
This unidentified private of the 5th Infantry wears the 1872 full dress uniform, with sky-blue collar facings, epaulets and cuff flaps, but has omitted to attach the yellow metal regimental numbers to the collar. He holds a .50cal M1870 Springfield "trapdoor" conversion rifle, soon to be replaced with the .45cal M1873. (USAMHI)



BELOW **Each infantry company included two field musicians – drummers, fifers or buglers – who provided the tactical calls on marches and campaigns. In garrison they were detailed to the guard to sound the scheduled calls which regulated the daily activities of the post. This bugler wears the 1872 coat with post-1884 white facings and "herringbone" loops across his chest. His cap has the buglehorn infantry insignia with a company letter "A" inset, which remained regulation for musicians after 1875. His waist belt has an 1874 Palmer brace system plate; it supports the musician's straight-bladed sword, reserved for dress parades. (Author's collection)**

Trousers issued to enlisted men were of heavy kersey, which was a rough, coarse woolen cloth. Cut fairly full and straight in "stove-pipe" fashion, they were without cuffs or turn-ups, and had one-inch slits in the outer seam at the bottom of each leg to assist in pulling them over heavy shoes. Creases did begin to appear after the Civil War, but this depended on the newness of the garment or the smartness of the unit. Pockets varied in type for foot troops. Many were given two "frog pockets" in the front, with two-sided openings formed by a buttoned flap. A pair of infantry trousers in the Smithsonian Museum, bearing an inspector's stamp dated October 10, 1864, has two vertical or side pockets. All trousers had fly fronts fastened by five tin buttons. Four additional buttons were sewn around the waistband to allow the use of suspenders (braces), which were not issued but had to be purchased privately. Some trousers had a short belt section let into the rear for size adjustment, but most had simply a rear slit, with a hole either side through which a piece of twine or rawhide was tied.

The dark blue flannel sack coat or blouse was first prescribed for undress duty in the US Army in 1857, and was issued in great numbers to Frontier troops after the Civil War. Based on the pilot coat or "paletot," a very popular and comfortable form of civilian wear



Probably members of the 1st Infantry, these men wear the 1872 dress uniform. The company-grade officer seated at right holds an 1872 officer's forage cap of the French-inspired, low-crowned chasseur style, with the gold-on-silver cord strap authorized in General Order No.102 of December 26, 1883. (Author's collection)

OPPOSITE **Uniforms worn by infantry bandsmen often diverged from regulations. This musician, holding an upright sax horn with three piston valves, wears the mounted helmet with white horsehair plume and white cords, as authorized in 1885. His coat has white facings and shoulder knots, aiguillette and helmet lines. He wears the belt designed for use with the 1872 infantry brace system. (Fort Laramie National Historic Site; John E.Sullivan Collection)**

originating in the 1830s and again inspired by French fashions, the military version had a simple "rolled" or turn-over collar and a single row of four front buttons. Sack coats produced at the Army Clothing Establishment in Philadelphia (commonly referred to as Schuylkill Arsenal) usually conformed to a specific pattern, but as contractors such as John T.Martin of New York began to mass-produce them to meet the needs of the Civil War they began to take on slight differences in cut and style. Some had a three-piece body, while others were made with four pieces of flannel. Most had an inside pocket on the left side, although those produced via the Steubenville Depot in Ohio had an exterior patch pocket on the left breast. Strange though it may seem, the Quartermaster's Department issued numerous sack coats, shirts and trousers of knit construction during the Civil War; on 30 June, 1865, the New Orleans Depot had on hand for issue 21,070 knit sack coats.

The regulation "dismounted" issue overcoat for enlisted infantrymen was made of thick sky-blue kersey cloth, knee-length and single-breasted, with a seven-button cape falling only to the elbow, and a standing collar. A small adjustable belt section was let into the rear waist of the two-piece back to facilitate a more comfortable fit. The sleeves had deeply turned-back cuffs, which could be turned down in winter as a poor substitute for mittens or gloves. In order to take advantage of the large stock of surplus overcoats on hand after the Civil War, and in an attempt to provide a degree of extra warmth, the Quartermaster General followed the recommendation of the Barnes report of 1868, and in 1871 ordered an additional cape of the longer length designed for mounted service to be affixed underneath the shorter one on the foot service overcoat. This practice was ordered to be continued after the introduction of the 1872 uniform until stocks were exhausted.

The infantry wore the "Army bootee," "ankle boot" or "brogan," which was a laced high-quarter shoe made in right and left pairs. Also known as the "Jefferson" after President Thomas Jefferson (who at his inauguration in 1801 audaciously broke with fashion and wore ankle shoes laced up with leather strings instead of buckled shoes,) "bootees" were mostly machine-made after the Civil War. Supposedly constructed of "best quality oak tanned" hide stained black, they showed the rough or "flesh" side of the leather on the outside. Leather soles were either machine sewn, pegged or even screwed on, although the QM Dept had begun to experiment with "India Rubber heels and soles" during 1864. The design of the "Army bootee" received mixed comment from the Frontier regulars. One infantryman, using the pseudonym "Three Service Chevrons," wrote to the *Army and Navy Journal*: "All men with small feet are vain of them, yet on marches we find music boys and men with small feet breaking down from the weight of shoes three or four sizes too large for them, and foot-sore from slipping about in large shoes... The quality and kind of shoes issued is satisfactory, only give each man the proper size for his foot."

Bootees manufactured at the military prison at Fort Leavenworth, KS, were the articles of footwear which attracted the most complaints. One infantryman wrote: "The shoes were of very coarse leather, uppers

fastened to the sole by brass screws. These were... very uncomfortable, but I solved the matter of fit by walking through a creek until the uppers were thoroughly soaked, walked the whole day in them, and so got a foot form and comfort." Private William Murphy, 18th Infantry, had a different experience while on service in northern Wyoming during the winter of 1866–67: "Our shoes were made of cheap split leather... Burlap sacks were at a premium and saved our lives. We wrapped them around our shoes to keep from freezing, for there were no overshoes or rubbers to be had at the fort." Furthermore, Murphy complained, "Many of the soldiers had bad feet owing to being forced to wear woolen socks in the hot weather, but no other kind was issued."

The 1872 pattern uniform and modifications:

Issue of the first completely new set of post-Civil War uniform regulations was begun in 1872 and, despite insufficient funding, mostly completed in 1873. This development began with Special Orders No.260, Headquarters of the Army, dated July 3, 1871, which ordered the assembly of a board of officers whose primary duty was the revision of current Army regulations, but was also to look into the matter of Army clothing and uniforms, and to make recommendations for changes if they found them warranted. Headed by BrigGen Randolph Marcy, this board of five distinguished officers took up the question of a change in uniform design, spending all of May and most of June 1872 on this matter alone. What resulted was a completely redesigned uniform for both officers and enlisted men of the US Army.

Sky-blue trim around the collar indicates that this private from Co I, 8th Infantry wears an 1874 five-button blouse; this was similarly trimmed around the cuffs. On his chest he displays several skirmisher or marksman awards. (Author's collection)

Officers

Heavily based on patterns worn by European armies at that time, full dress headgear for infantry officers consisted of a stiff dark blue felt shako with lines of ½in-wide gold braid around the top and base and down the sides and back. On the front a gold embroidered arms of the United States eagle insignia was surmounted by 13 silver stars; below this, also in gold metallic embroidery, was the infantry buglehorn branch device with the silver regimental number set within the loop. Mounted above the insignia was a plume of white cock feathers secured in a gilt "tulip" or plume staff, which passed through a small metal-rimmed opening and fitted into an interior leather socket near the top front edge of the cap.

The 1872 pattern dark blue full dress frock coat for line officers was double-breasted and of fine quality broadcloth. That worn by colonels, lieutenant-colonels and majors had two rows each of nine buttons, while those of captains and lieutenants had two rows of seven. Buttons for officers were gilt and bore the branch letter "I"

(continued on page 33)

CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1866–72

1: Private, 27th Infantry, 1866

2: Sergeant, Co E, 18th Infantry, 1867

3: Corporal, 38th Infantry, c.1867

GARRISON DRESS, 1874–76

1: Captain, 12th Infantry, c.1874

2: Private, Co C, 8th Infantry, c.1874

3: Musician, Co K, 12th Infantry, c.1876

EXPERIMENTAL
DRESS & EQUIPAGE, 1870–78

1 & 2: Sergeant, 12th Infantry, c.1873

3 & 4: Private, 21st Infantry, c.1875

C

CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1872–80

1: Sergeant, Co K, 19th Infantry (mounted), 1875

2: Private, Co G, 19th Infantry, c.1878

3: Private, 8th Infantry, 1875

WINTER CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1872–84

1: Private, Co B, 13th Infantry, c.1873

2: Private, 22nd Infantry, 1876–77

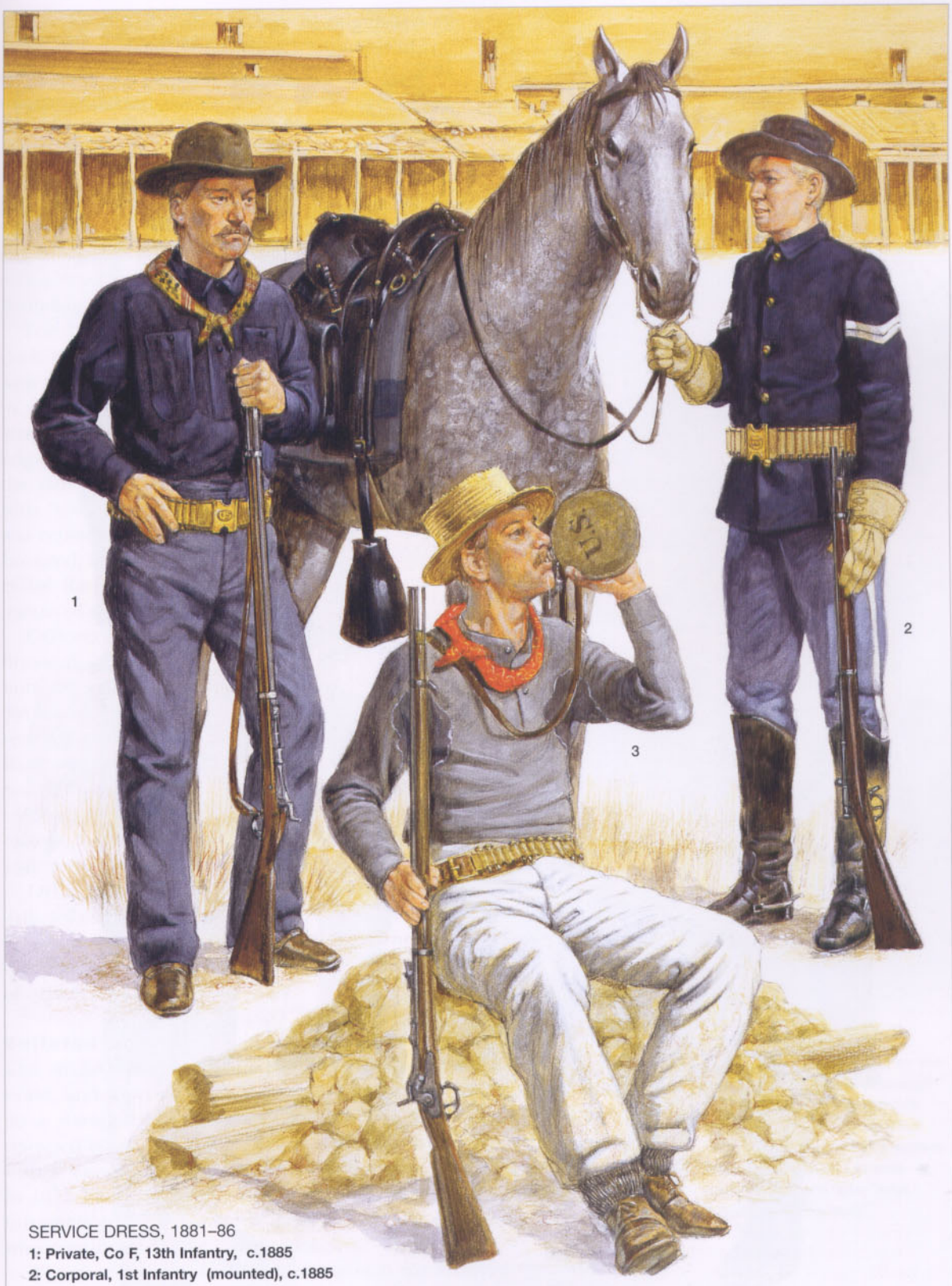
3: Lieutenant, 1st Infantry, c.1885

GARRISON DRESS, 1884–87

1: Private, 16th Infantry, c.1885

2: Captain, 16th Infantry, c.1887

3: Bandsman, 17th Infantry, c.1884



SERVICE DRESS, 1881–86

1: Private, Co F, 13th Infantry, c.1885

2: Corporal, 1st Infantry (mounted), c.1885

3: Private, 23rd Infantry, c.1882


CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1887–91
1: First lieutenant, 2nd Infantry, c.1890
2: Musician, Company G, 22nd Infantry
3: Private, 8th Infantry, 1890
1
2
3
U.S.

within the shield. Officers were distinguished by a "Russian-pattern" knot on each shoulder of the dress coat. These consisted of double rows of intertwined gold braid, with a large oval pad at the outer end covered with cloth in sky-blue infantry branch color; on the pad, rank insignia flanked a regimental number. Rank for colonels and majors was also indicated by three double bars (or blind buttonholes) of ¼in gold lace extending the depth of the cuff and terminating with a small "eagle" button. Coats for captains and lieutenants bore two of these loops on each cuff.

For daily duty wear, officers were authorized a dark blue, single-breasted, five-button sack coat with a falling collar. Black worsted braid extended in "herringbones" from each buttonhole and terminated in trefoils. The collar, front opening edge and two back seams were bound with the same material, and the cuffs were decorated with "galloons" or braided knots. This garment was replaced in 1876 by a plain dark blue single-breasted, five-button undress sack coat with falling collar. Rank was indicated on both these coats by means of transverse shoulder straps.

Officers' overcoats were dark blue and double-breasted, with two rows of seven large "eagle" buttons, a stand-and-fall collar, a skirt which fell 3in below the knee, and a detachable cape which reached to the fingertips with the arm extended. Rank was denoted by knots of flat black silk braid on each sleeve above the cuff: five strands for colonels, four for lieutenant-colonels, three for majors, two for captains, one for first lieutenants, and none for second lieutenants.

Officers' trousers were of sky-blue broadcloth with 1½in dark blue seam stripes; this drew much criticism from those who objected to the fact there was no difference between the seam stripes of officers and sergeants.

The dress helmet resting on the table beside this enlisted man of the 7th Infantry dates this photograph to no earlier than 1881. He wears an 1878 pattern infantry belt. (Fort Laramie National Historic Site; John E.Sullivan Collection)

Enlisted men

The shako worn by enlisted men was trimmed with sky-blue worsted braid, and topped with a pear-shaped white woolen pompon mounted on a stamped brass half-sphere. Fixed to the front of the cap was a stamped brass eagle plate, below which was the brass buglehorn device with a company letter set in the loop. The buglehorn was replaced in 1875 by brass crossed rifles, with the regimental number above the intersection and a company letter below. The exception was musicians, who continued to wear the buglehorn.

The so-called "basque" style dress coat for enlisted men was single-breasted, with a tight-fitting waist and a skirt reaching to slightly below the midpoint of the hips. This had sky-blue facings at the front of the

Photographed by David F.Barry, an infantry company parades in 1881 full dress for inspection in front of their barracks at Fort Assinnaboine, Montana Territory, c.1883. The regimental band stands in the left background. Note the bedding airing over the balcony rails of the barrack blocks. (Denver Public Library)

collar, and on plain cloth epaulets, three-button cuff flaps and skirts. Sky-blue piping was applied to the upper and lower edges of the collar and down the front opening edge of the coat. Brass insignia, either in the form of the regimental number or the infantry buglehorn, were attached either side of the collar.

A low-crowned chasseur-pattern forage cap replaced the old "bummer" cap for undress wear. Of dark blue woolen broadcloth, this had a stiff, unbound patent leather visor (peak), and a narrow two-piece chin strap of enameled leather coupled with a small stamped-brass slide. The 1872 regulations ambiguously stated that "the badge of corps [branch of service] or letter of company" was to be worn on the cap. This was altered by General Orders No.67 of June 25, 1873, to permit infantry to wear both the buglehorn and company letter, although no exact placement was specified. Many assumed this to mean wearing the letter within the loop of the horn, but matters remained unclear until November 1875 when the crossed rifles was introduced.

All but one of these NCOs of the 13th Infantry at Fort Huachuca, Arizona Territory, wear 1882 dark blue overshirts with the colored trim removed; the man at far right appears to have either a heavily customized version, or a privately purchased "fireman's" shirt. The only indications of rank are the white seam stripes just visible on some of the trousers; chevrons were not permitted on shirt sleeves until 1898. Two of the cartridge belts are fastened with 1880 "H"-shaped plates. The weapons are M1873 Springfield rifles. (National Archives)

The new issue fatigue jacket for enlisted men was known as the "Swiss blouse," and consisted of a loose-fitting, nine-button dark blue woolen garment with a falling collar and a skirt reaching to the hips. On either side of the chest were four narrow vertical expanding pleats extending from the edge of the shoulder yoke to the bottom of the skirt, which enabled the wearer to keep warm in winter by donning several layers of woolen shirts underneath. A waist piece was sewn over the pleats to provide a space for the belt to be secured. The collar, yoke and cuffs were trimmed with sky-blue worsted braid.

This garment was not popular with the men, who particularly disliked the pleated skirts. By 1877 stocks had been exhausted, and it was being replaced with the more acceptable 1874 pattern fatigue blouse. Not too different from the old 1858 sack coat, the more closely fitting 1874 blouse was fastened by five brass "eagle" buttons, and had sky-blue worsted cord trim sewn around the outer edge of the falling collar and in an inverted "V" around the cuffs.

Trousers for enlisted men continued to be made of sky-blue kersey, and began to be issued in kit form so that a post or company tailor could make them up for a custom fit. This practice proved so popular that blouses also began to be issued in this format.

A sky-blue wool kersey overcoat, with two rows of five buttons, a falling collar and a cape extending to the cuffs, was issued in 1876; the cape was sometimes lined with dark blue. During the same year, NCOs' overcoat chevrons were changed from sky-blue to dark blue cloth, although sky-blue was retained for other coats.

Further uniform changes, 1880–91

In 1880 a military board chaired by Col Nelson Miles adopted a helmet for the summer uniform, composed of a cork body covered in white drill cloth and with a white leather chinstrap. The version for officers had a detachable chin chain and gilt metal top spike.

As a result of a new set of regulations introduced in 1881, infantry received dress headgear consisting of a helmet covered with black cloth, with a metal top spike and fittings and a leather chin strap; this is often referred to as "Prussian-style," but in fact more closely resembled the British Army's Home Service helmet authorized in May 1878. In 1884 the uniform facing color for infantry was changed from sky-blue to white.

A dark blue five-button overshirt with a full length opening, trimmed with branch-of-service sky-blue around the collar and cuffs, replaced the gray flannel shirt for campaign wear in 1881, but this proved unpopular among the troops. It was quickly replaced in 1882 with a dark blue pullover-style shirt with two exterior patch breast pockets; this had sky-blue trim around the edges of the collar and front placket, along the upper edge of each pocket and around the cuff. This proved equally unpopular, and was replaced in 1883 with a dark blue pullover shirt of largely the same pattern but minus the sky-blue trim.

Several new patterns of blouse were introduced during the 1880s. The unpopular 1881 pattern shirt was converted into a flannel-lined blouse in 1882, and a simpler version with the cord trim removed was issued during the following year. A neater five-button blouse, again minus trim, saw issue in 1884; three external pockets were added to this pattern later that year.

Produced at the Tombstone, Arizona, gallery of C.S.Fly – famous for his images of Crook's Apache campaign of 1885–86 – this cabinet card depicting a first sergeant from Co B, 24th Infantry shows a rare example of the 1884 blouse with external pockets. (Collection of the late Herb Peck, Jr)

The NCO at left wears an 1889 forage cap, while the first sergeant at right has an 1880 cork helmet covered with off-white drill cloth, and also a marksman's medallion pinned to his breast. Both men wear 1883 five-button converted blouses with branch-of-service color trim removed. (Author's collection)

RIGHT **In preparation for winter campaigning, Col Nelson A. Miles, 5th Infantry, was photographed in 1876 wearing a privately purchased fur cap, and an 1872 officer's dark blue overcoat with fur added to the collar and front. (National Archives)**

A modified double-breasted, sky-blue kersey overcoat was prescribed in 1884, which had wider sleeves and a detachable cape secured by hooks and eyes to the body of the garment. A further pattern with six buttons in each row was introduced the following year.

Summer clothing

By 1879 the infantryman in "extreme southern latitudes" was permitted to wear "white pants, and a straw hat" with his blue flannel sack coat for garrison dress. The two former items were to be bought out of the pay of the soldier from local merchants or traders. When enlisted men were permitted to wear summer dress, officers were also required to adopt it.

On campaign, the infantry seem to have more or less abandoned the idea of regulation clothing. During the temperate months, particularly in the Southwest, they continued to wear sack coats officially, but these were often discarded and the gray or blue flannel shirt was worn as the outer garment. Companies of the 13th Infantry left Fort Wingate, New Mexico Territory, to take the field against Apaches on September 22, 1886; during their year-long scouting expedition they made 71 camps and marched 1,120 miles. Of their eventual return, Cpl F.J.Gehringer wrote: "...the band met us at the foot of the Mountains, and played us in... We were a sight to behold, hardly a [complete] uniform on a man – many had just overalls."

Winter campaign clothing

The Army was slow to adopt proper winter clothing for Frontier troops facing Western winters which kept the mercury below freezing for weeks at a time. Clearly the QM Dept had nothing appropriate to offer by the

beginning of 1868, when a soldier recommended in a letter to the *Army and Navy Journal* that post quartermasters should issue furs to guards and men going on detached service, to be returned without charge if undamaged. He suggested a whole range of clothing well-tried and tested by pioneers and Western settlers:

> The caps should be made (similar to those worn by frontiersmen) with a flap to drop down covering the forehead, cheeks, chin, ears, and neck, leaving nothing exposed but the eyes, nose and mouth. The ordinary buffalo mitten with the fur inside, is the most comfortable, serviceable, and the least expensive. Buffalo boots or shoes with fur inside, and made large enough to wear over the shoe, or what is better, over a moccasin. Buffalo-robe overcoats double-breasted, and so constructed that when unbuttoned they will lap across the front of the body, and protect the stomach and abdomen, as it frequently happens, on detached service, that a soldier's hands become so cold that he cannot button his coat or pantaloons.

The Barnes report of May 1868 lent more official weight to the plea for proper winter clothing when it recommended the adoption of "sheepskin coats" for guards at "exposed stations." Possibly as a result of these appeals, more than 100 buffalo-hide overcoats were purchased in St Louis for Army use during 1868–69; however, by 1870 only 24 of these garments were reported to be in the hands of acting assistant quartermasters and regimental quartermasters. Some may have been issued during the campaign against the Southern Cheyenne and Arapaho during the winter of 1868–69.

On January 27, 1873, elements of the 8th, 9th, 13th & 14th Infantry serving in the Department of the Platte at Forts Bridger, Sanders, Fred Steele, at Fort D.A.Russell, Wyoming Territory, and at Sydney Barracks, Nebraska, were authorized the issue of "the blanket-lined overcoat, buffalo overshoes, and woollen mittens." As the blanket-lined brown cotton duck (or canvas) overcoat was not officially approved for issue until 1879, it is assumed that the above garment was of the old Civil War sky-blue pattern with additional blanket lining.

Despite these measures, troops under Gen Terry during the Black Hills Campaign in September 1876 were described as "poorly clad for the cold weather and fierce storms which sweep over the prairies at this season." Anticipating a winter campaign in the harsh Montana climate, Col Nelson Miles requisitioned suitable clothing from the QM Dept during the same period – but only three buffalo coats were on hand... Consequently he improvised with tanned robes procured in the Yellowstone River area; specifying that these should be of "large sizes,

Photographed at Fort Union, New Mexico Territory, these men of the 23rd Infantry wear garrison dress. The sergeant at left has followed regulations by placing service stripes on his lower sleeves – an unusual feature in photographs of the era. Since orders were issued by 1884 limiting their display to the dress coat, and the white trouser stripes also dated from 1884, this image presumably was taken during that year. The accoutrements include 1874 infantry belts originally designed for use with the Palmer brace system. Both men wear white cotton dress gloves, and hold M1873 Springfield rifles with fixed bayonets. (Author's collection)

Photographed in the studio of J.C.H.Grabill at Sturgis, Dakota Territory, this unidentified African American soldier of Co A, 25th Infantry wears a buffalo coat over a five-button blouse and civilian vest. (Collection of the late Herb Peck, Jr)

long, coming below the knees, double-breasted, and high rolling collar, such as can be turned up about the ears," he ordered the soldiers of Col William B.Hazen's 6th Infantry at Fort Buford, Dakota Territory, to make them up. The QM Dept may eventually have shipped 200 buffalo coats to Miles, but they seem not have arrived. In subsequent years many more of these coats were issued. In 1879–80 a total of 2,443 were distributed, while a further 500 were issued during the following year.

A Medical Director reporting on the condition of Gen Crook's command during a march from Belle Fourche to Fort Fetterman during late December 1876 stated that

> The men are all provided with the best of Artic [sic] overshoes, sealskin caps and gloves. The caps have visors and ear pieces, and the gloves are lined with lamb's wool, all well made and serviceable. But this campaign has shown that even these are not proof against this terrible climate. Indeed, it would be difficult to devise a costume that would be entirely so. One man, who wore an Artic cap, which covered his entire face, leaving only a peep hole for each eye, had his eyelids frozen – a purple circumference about each eye.

An inefficient supply system continued to hamper many units. During the Ute campaign of 1879 an infantryman under Merritt's command recorded that "Our supplies of clothing have arrived, and what do you think they were? Artic overshoes – numbers 11. In one company only two men out of forty can use them, being so large. No blankets, no fur caps or gloves. Ought we not to be thankful for this humane generosity and efficiency?"

In the absence of appropriate clothing, infantrymen learned to outfit themselves for winter campaigning on the Plains. The men under Miles' command at the battle of Wolf Mountains in 1877 protected themselves against the sub-zero temperatures by wearing "caps, leggings, overalls, and blanket-shirts of their own manufacture." Describing his November 1876 cold weather apparel, Capt Simon Snyder of Co F, 5th Infantry, wrote:

> I am now wearing two flannel and a buckskin shirt, one pair of drawers, trousers of buckskin and a pair of army trousers, two pairs woollen socks, a pair of buffalo overshoes and big boots, a heavy pair of blanket leggings, a thick blouse and heavy overcoat, a heavy woollen cap that completely covers my head, face and neck except nose and eyes and still I am not happy... when I am fixed out I am a sight to behold and have all I can do to mount my horse.

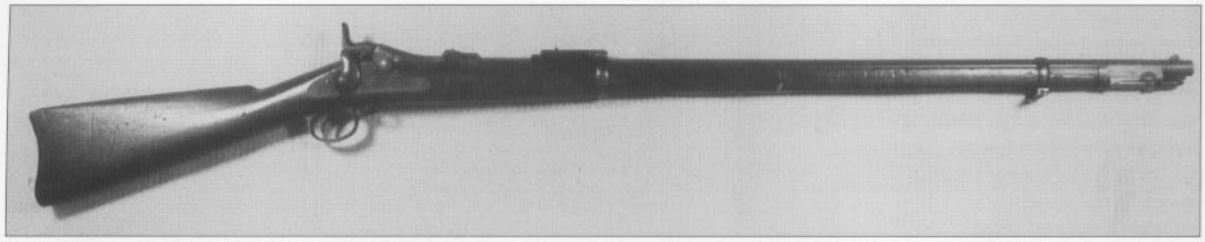
This *Harper's Weekly* engraving depicts the return in sub-zero temperatures of Crook's infantry to Fort Fetterman, Wyoming Territory, following the battle of Powder River fought on March 17, 1876. They appear to wear caped kersey overcoats, muskrat caps and arctic overshoes. (Author's collection)

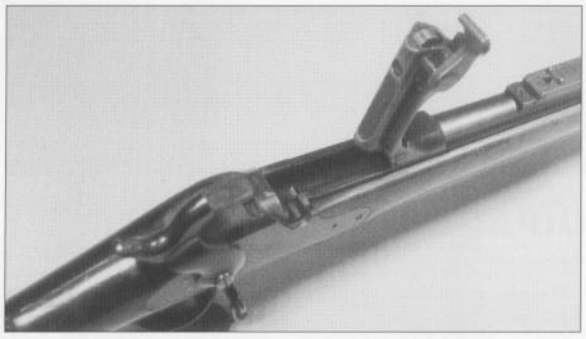
ARMS & EQUIPAGE

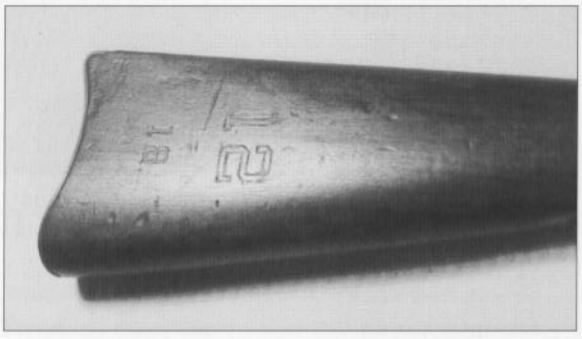
The infantry on the Frontier continued to carry Civil War surplus weapons such as the .58cal muzzle-loading Springfield rifle-musket. By an order dated January 3, 1866, a board of officers was convened for the purpose of examining, testing, and reporting on the various models of purpose-designed breech-loaders and various plans for the conversion into breech-loaders of arms then borne by the regulars. On July 28, 1866, the Springfield Armory was given permission to commence the conversion of 25,000 muzzle-loading rifle-muskets into the breech-loading M1866 .50cal "trapdoor" Springfield rifle using the "second Allin conversion" system. The initial effect of the breech-loaders' arrival on the Frontier is described above, in the accounts of Lt Sternberg's action near Fort C.F.Smith in Montana Territory on August 1, 1867, and the "Wagon Box Fight" the following day (see under "The Powder River War").

Not all infantry regiments carried the "trapdoor" Springfield, however. Having turned in their rifle-muskets, the 30th Infantry received Spencer repeating rifles on their departure for Omaha on January 5, 1867, and the 37th Infantry received Sharps single-shot percussion rifles during the same period. In 1868 the ordnance board headed by MajGen Winfield S.Hancock recommended that the M1866 rifle be reduced in weight; consequently the shorter, two-band M1868 rifle went into production, and began to see field use in 1869. The M1870 rifle, with altered breechblock and receiver, arrived on the Frontier in 1871. However, according to Pvt William Branch, his company of the black 25th Infantry continued to carry unconverted Civil War-surplus arms as late as 1874. Remembering the action at Anadarko, Indian Territory, in that year, he was quoted as saying, "We got de ole fashion muzzle loaders. You puts one ball in de muzzle and shove de powder down wid de ramrod."

Established by General Order No.60 in 1869, a board under MajGen John M.Schofield examined and tested "the best small arms and accoutrements for the use of the Army of the United States," and examined "the six best muskets for infantry." These were the .50cal Remington, Springfield, Sharps, Morgenstern and Ward-Burton, and the .45cal Martini-Henry. Following trials conducted by the board chaired by Gen Alfred Terry in 1872, what became known as the .45cal







TOP **The M1873 was the last of a series of single-shot breech-loading "trapdoor" Springfield rifles issued to US infantrymen during the Indian Wars, and the first in .45-70 caliber after a number of .50cal predecessors.**

LEFT **The lift-up "trapdoor" breech block that gave this series of weapons its nickname. The fall of the external hammer now initiated the action of a firing pin rather than detonating the separate percussion cap of the pre-1866 muzzle-loaders.**

RIGHT **Infantrymen often personalized their weapons. According to the carving in the stock, this weapon seems to have been carried by a member of the 12th Infantry, and the "18" is perhaps an individual rack number. (All courtesy of MoD Pattern Room; author's photos)**

M1873 Springfield rifle was adopted, and began field service during the summer of 1874. The single-shot M1873 Springfield, still with the "trapdoor" breech, was carried throughout the remaining years of the Indian Wars, although it underwent numerous minor changes. These included the addition of an implement compartment in the butt-stock, and culminated in the M1888 Springfield which incorporated a unique bayonet that also served as a cleaning rod. This latter innovation was forced by financial and production considerations; a new smokeless-powder repeating rifle was then being considered for adoption by the US Army, and with the supply of Civil War bayonets exhausted the M1888 "trapdoor's" bayonet/cleaning rod provided an economically viable interim substitute.

Invented by Lt Edmund Rice, a seasoned veteran who had served throughout the Civil War and was awarded the Medal of Honor for bravery during the third day at Gettysburg, the M1873 trowel-bayonet was well received by the infantry; this device served as a bayonet when fixed to the rifle barrel and as a digging tool when hand-held. During the campaign against Sitting Bull in 1876, Col Miles endorsed the weapon whole-heartedly:

> Aside from its value as a bayonet and intrenching [sic] tool, the soldiers make great use of it (by keeping one edge sharp) in cutting sticks to put up their shelter-tents at night, as hatchets, for digging a small trench around their tent, and in cutting their meat, digging for water etc. In fact, I am fully satisfied that its utility and value is as well established as any article carried by the soldier.

Accoutrements

The Frontier army officially continued to be issued with surplus Civil War equipment, including cartridge boxes of the patterns of 1861 and 1864. Attempts were made to convert these to accommodate .50cal Government Musket cartridges by the removal of the two original tin

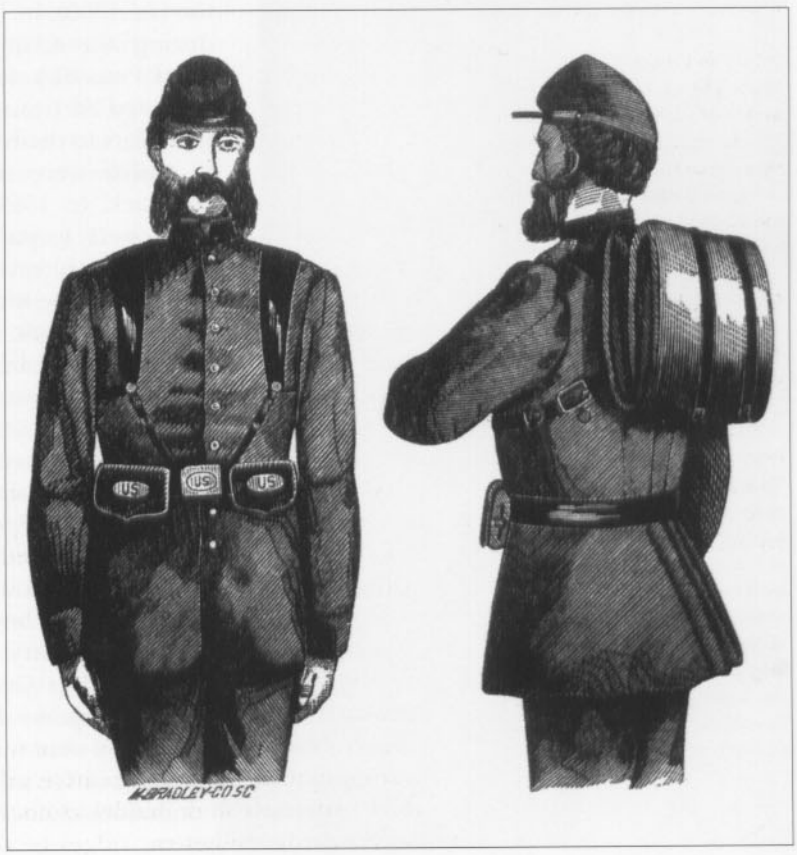
boxes and their replacement either with sheepskin padding or a bored wooden block containing 18 holes. At the same time, infantrymen on the Frontier improvised cartridge-carrying belts, which became known as "scouting" or "fair weather Christian" belts. A letter published in the *Army & Navy Journal* on November 6, 1869, by an anonymous soldier calling himself "A Plainsman since '66," explained:

> Long before the issue of the present breech-loader to the infantry, those of that corps who were detailed on temporary mounted duty, would purchase a breech-loading gun of the Henry, Spencer or other pattern, and make themselves a belt, taking for a pattern that in use by the mountaineers or hunters in their midst. The men of entire regiments provided themselves with these belts when the new guns and ammunition were issued to them; and they made use of them when on escort duty, changing station, etc. The old, cumbersome cartridge box was packed up in the same ignominious way, in which the old Army hats were carried, when changing station. This is true of the men of the regiments occupying the Powder River country from 1866 to 1868, and who had as good an opportunity to test the matter as any regiments in service during those years.

Published in 1872 as an illustration in *Directions for Fitting Infantry Equipments, US Army*, this engraving shows the experimental brace accoutrement system issued for trials that year. (Author's collection)

While stationed at Fort Bridger in 1866, Lt Anson Mills, 18th Infantry, developed a looped cartridge belt. In his book *My Story*, Mills explained:

> I furnished mounted guards and patrols to the daily Overland Mail, and the metallic ammunition carried in these tin boxes rattled loudly, and were even noisy when carried by men afoot. So I devised a belt which the post saddler manufactured out of leather, with a loop for each of the fifty cartridges. The men wore these belts around their waists, and they proved much more comfortable and efficient than any other method of carrying cartridges.



Although Mills had this belt patented on August 20, 1867, the Army Ordnance Department did not begin to issue looped belts until 1879. Nonetheless, various types of cartridge-carrying accoutrements were sent out by the Ordnance Department for

Front and rear of the drab duck "blanket bag" or knapsack adopted for infantry in 1878. A square brass ring was fitted at the top of each adjustable leather shoulder strap for securing the rolled shelter tent on top of the pack; the buttoned loop passed around the back of the waist belt to hold the pack steady. (Courtesy Kurt Hughes; author's photos)

the infantry regiments to test in the field. In April 1867, Col William B.Hazen, 38th Infantry, recommended to the Chief of Ordnance a looped belt of which 20 were manufactured at the St Louis Arsenal and field-tested by that regiment for a year. Later in 1867, Col John E.Smith, 27th Infantry, reported that 75 of his men serving as mounted infantry at Fort Phil Kearny were permitted to use a belt with loops designed by Lt Thomas Connolly, and were stated to be "unanimous in their expression in favor of the Belt with loops." In August 1869, 1st Lt Charles A.Coolidge, 7th Infantry, offered for trial a cartridge bag, to "resemble the saddle-bag used in the cavalry," slung over the shoulder by a cross belt. Finally, as a result of General Order No.76, dated July 23, 1879, infantrymen were required to wear the "McKeever" cartridge box on their waist belts in garrison and the "Unger" cartridge belt when in the field. The latter was designed by Sgt John F.Unger, 5th Infantry, and consisted of a strong canvas belt with double flaps, which could carry a double row of up to 100 rounds and had a strap for an entrenching knife-bayonet.

Several attempts to ease the weight of the knapsack on the shoulders of the infantryman were trialed in the late 1860s. In 1868 a knapsack supporter invented during the Civil War by Col De Witt C.Baxter, 72nd Pennsylvania Volunteers, was field-tested. This consisted of two wooden strips extending from the shoulders to the hips, and horizontal strips of leather, to which were attached straps for securing the knapsack. In 1869, Lt W.C.Manning, 23rd Infantry, developed a pair of leather-covered adjustable metallic shoulder braces attached to a wooden frame, which could be fitted to the knapsack.

By 1872 most of the original Civil War surplus stocks were wearing out, and elements of certain infantry regiments – including the 10th, 11th, 12th, 21st, 23rd, 24th and 25th Infantry – began to receive variations of an experimental brace system, with orders to give it "a thorough trial." Similar to the equipment used by the British Army at that time, the basic pattern developed for US infantry combined "the knapsack, haversack, canteen, cartridge-box, waist-belt, and the bayonet-scabbard" into one system. This equipage did not prove popular, although the belts continued to be worn without the braces. Equally unpopular was the Palmer infantry brace yoke system with McKeever cartridge boxes, designed by Lt George Palmer, 16th Infantry; when issued for experimental purposes in 1874 these were found to be cumbersome in the field, and were seldom used. In 1878 a military board chaired by Col Miles selected for infantry a knapsack or "blanket bag" and a haversack, of drab duck cloth, both of which were developed from the Palmer brace system.

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This unidentified infantryman wears the 1874 blouse with sky-blue trim around collar and cuffs, and displays the Palmer brace yoke system with Hagner No.2 cartridge boxes. (USAMHI)

PLATE COMMENTARIES

A: CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1866–72

A1: Private, 27th Infantry, 1866

This soldier appears as he would have on the day of the Fetterman massacre, December 21, 1866. He wears a modified 1851 frock coat – under his scarf, the collar is turned down, and the sky-blue trim removed from collar and cuffs. Sky-blue kersey trousers are tucked into woolen socks; he has Civil War surplus brogans, and a non-regulation slouch hat. His accoutrements are an 1864 pattern cartridge box and a waist belt fastened by an 1839 "US" plate, and he is armed with an M1863 Springfield rifle-musket.

A2: Sergeant, Company E, 18th Infantry, 1867

After a description of Sgt George Grant, as he probably looked while carrying dispatches from Fort Phil Kearny to Fort C.F.Smith through the winter snow in early 1867. He has a muffler tied around his 1861 pattern forage cap, and wears a regulation infantry overcoat. Leather cavalry gloves protect his hands, and his footwear are Civil War surplus bootees with spurs. His weapon is a Spencer repeating carbine, and he has a close-looped canvas and leather "fair weather Christian" cartridge belt around his waist. Suspended over his right shoulder are a Civil War surplus canteen on a white cotton sling, and his black oilcloth haversack contains six days' rations of hard bread and lard.

A3: Corporal, 38th Infantry, c.1867

This African American soldier is based on a photograph of a detachment guarding surveyors and engineers building the Kansas Pacific Railroad. He is dressed in surplus Civil War uniform, with an 1861 pattern cap; his 1851 frock coat has nine "eagle" buttons, sky-blue trim on collar and cuffs, and sky-blue rank chevrons; and he wears "Berlin" white cotton gloves. He is armed with a .50cal M1866 Springfield rifle converted to breech loading by the "first Allin conversion" system, and fitted with a brown leather sling.

B: GARRISON DRESS, 1874–76

B1: Captain, 12th Infantry, c.1874

This officer wears 1872 pattern full dress. His stiff cloth shako has "flat" gold cord trim; a gold embroidered buglehorn with the silver regimental numerals "12" in the loop, below an embroidered "eagle" patch; and a white cocks'-feather "fountain" plume mounted in a gilt "tulip" socket. His coat is fastened by two rows of seven gilt "eagle" buttons with the letter "I" inset in a shield. Rank is indicated by gold lace shoulder knots with sky-blue oval pads bearing two silver bars placed either side of the regimental number, and by two vertical gold lace loops and buttons on each cuff. His trousers have 1½in dark blue seam stripes. His company-grade dress belt is of gold lace with three sky-blue silk lines and matching edges, and a gilt and silver "eagle" plate. It supports the brass-furnished metal scabbard for his straight-bladed M1860 Staff and Field officers' sword, whose hilt is furnished with a gold lace knot with a bullion tassel.

B2: Private, Company C, 8th Infantry, c.1874

The soldier parades in the 1872 pattern dress cap, which for enlisted men had sky-blue trim, an "eagle" device above the stamped brass infantry buglehorn with company letter inset, and a white acorn-shaped pompon mounted in a yellow

Sky-blue collar facings, epaulets and cuff flaps have been added to the 1851 frock coat worn by this enlisted man, in an attempt to comply with 1872 regulations – perhaps prompted by shortages of the new uniform. His forage cap displays the 1875 crossed rifles corps (branch-of-service) insignia with a company letter above. The forage cap was not an authorized part of the dress uniform but was frequently worn informally with the dress coat. This man appears to have fastened his waist belt over the belt loops at either side of the waist. (Author's collection)

metal socket. His nine-button coat, or *basque*, is piped with sky-blue; the collar is faced with sky-blue patches bearing the regimental number in yellow metal. Sky-blue epaulet straps are let into the shoulder seam and secured with a small gilt "eagle" button. Two straps of dark blue cloth, piped with sky-blue, are let into the waist seam on either side, buttoning above the hip to support the waist belt. The cuffs have sky-blue flaps with three small buttons. Plain sky-blue kersey trousers and 1872 pattern ankle-high shoes with wedge-shaped toes complete the outfit. He carries the M1868 Springfield rifle with leather sling, and his waist belt supports a cap pouch and a metal 1873 Hoffman swivel bayonet scabbard with a long belt loop, brass swivel mechanism and cast "US" escutcheon.

B3: Musician, Company K, 12th Infantry, c.1876

Note the 1858 pattern brass letter "K" on his 1872 pattern forage cap. His coat is ornamented across the breast with "herringbone" double strips of sky-blue braid running horizontally from each coat button. His trousers have inch-wide dark blue seam stripes, and he wears Jefferson boots. His waist belt is fastened with a rectangular gilt "eagle" plate with silver laurel wreath and stars. His drum is supported by a white canvas sling with brass fittings.

The officers' quarters at Fort D.A.Russell, Wyoming Territory, are depicted in the background.

C: EXPERIMENTAL DRESS & EQUIPAGE, 1870–78

The years 1872 through 1878 saw a great deal of experimentation with headgear, clothing, weapons and equipment.

C1 & C2: Sergeant, 12th Infantry, c.1873

This NCO wears an experimental "solar helmet"; considered in a report on US Army clothing produced in 1868 by Capt Alfred A.Woodhull, it was photographed being worn by some US infantrymen (including Gen George Crook) during the mid-1870s. The 1872 pattern "Swiss blouse" worn here was unpopular with the infantry, who disliked the sky-blue trim and pleated skirts. The only sign of rank are inch-wide dark blue seam stripes on his kersey trousers – chevrons were not authorized to be worn on the blouse. He holds one of the few M1868 Springfield-Remington transformed rifles which underwent field trials by the 12th Infantry in 1870. His accoutrements are an 1872 infantry belt supporting Hagner No.1 & No.2 cartridge boxes carrying 24 rounds each. The belt is fastened with a rectangular brass plate with "US" in an oval frame, and brass standing loops either side to accommodate the experimental 1872 pattern brace yoke system.

The rear view (C2) shows the yoke and back straps of the brace system, supporting a valise knapsack. The soldier is holding an 1872 pattern mess tin, which was designed to fit into the pocket directly under the flap of the 1872 pattern infantry haversack.

C3 & C4: Private, 21st Infantry, c.1875

This man, armed with an M1868 Springfield rifle, wears the 1872 pattern forage cap with buglehorn insignia. His 1874 field blouse is distinguished by sky-blue cord trim around the collar and pointed cuffs. His accoutrements consist of the Palmer brace yoke system, with two McKeever cartridge boxes each accommodating 20 rounds of ammunition.

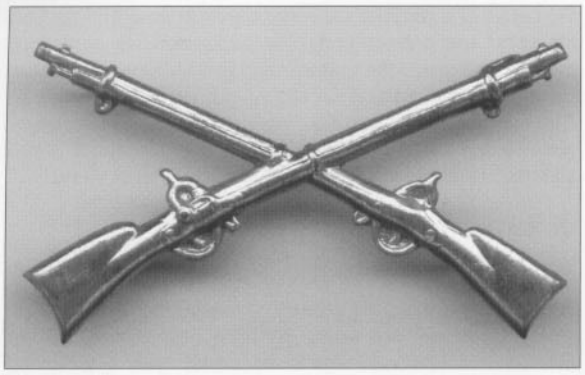
The rear view (C4) shows the back pad of the Palmer brace yoke system, with clothing bag (left) and haversack (right) attached, and blanket straps hanging loose over these.

D: CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1872–80

D1: Sergeant, Company K, 19th Infantry (mounted), 1875

This mounted NCO of infantry is based on a stereoview of this company. He wears an 1874 field blouse without colored trim and with shortened skirts; rank is indicated by sky-blue chevrons on both sleeves and inch-wide dark blue trouser stripes. His accoutrements are limited to a canvas and leather "fair weather Christian" cartridge belt, and a canteen covered with gray wool slung over his right shoulder by a leather strap. He has several other canteens secured to the pommel of his McClellan saddle. He carries an M1868 Springfield rifle slung over his shoulder with the barrel pointing downwards.

Probably stationed at Fort Omaha, Nebraska, when his portrait was taken, this enlisted man from Co G, 2nd Infantry has the 1875 crossed rifles cap insignia, and wears an 1884 sack coat. (Author's collection)



The stamped brass crossed rifles forage cap ornament for infantry was authorized in General Orders No.96 on November 19, 1875. For enlisted men the number of the regiment was also to be placed in the upper angle and the letter of the company in the lower angle. It was secured to the cap by ties through four loops soldered to the back. (Author's collection)

D2: Private, Company G, 19th Infantry, c.1878
The plaid scarf is a concession to colder weather. He wears an 1876 pattern black wool campaign hat with silk band and Brasher patent ventilators either side of the crown. His 1874 field blouse has had the trim removed. He is loading an M1873 "trapdoor" Springfield rifle, with an Ordnance-modified brown leather sling made by sewing two 1855 musket slings together. Accoutrements include an 1876 "prairie" belt carrying 54 rounds in loops of tan canvas, fastened with a brass frame buckle. Over his shoulder a black oilcloth haversack is slung from a cotton web strap; the 1858 type canteen is covered with drab duck and stencilled "Co.G, 19th, 17," the last being an individual number.

D3: Private, 8th Infantry, 1875
Based on a photograph, this soldier wears a civilian hat and an old 1858 pattern four-button sack coat. Also serving as mounted infantry, he has cavalry gauntlets, and Mexican-style half-leggings with scalloped edging and buckskin ties provide protection from cactus thorns and rattlesnakes. He is armed with an M1868 Springfield rifle, and has a canvas-and-leather open-loop "fair weather Christian" cartridge belt. Seen in the background is an "infantry wagon" of the type used in the Indian Territory during 1875 by the 19th Infantry.

E: WINTER CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1872–84

E1: Private, Company B, 13th Infantry, c.1873
This infantryman holding a Spencer repeating carbine is based on a description provided by a member of Co B based at Fort Fred Steele, Wyoming Territory. His blanket-lined overcoat has an inner cavalry pattern cape reaching to cuff level and with 12 small "eagle" buttons, and an outer elbow-length infantry cape with six buttons. Headgear consisted of a woolen cap or Balaclava that completely covered "head, face and neck except nose and eyes." His gray woolen mittens with separate thumb and trigger finger were not officially adopted until May 31, 1876. On his feet are pre-1873 first pattern buffalo overshoes, worn over knee-length boots. Accoutrements include an 1867 pattern Anson Mills cartridge belt of bridle leather fastened with an 1851 pattern sword belt plate, and carrying 40 rounds under two protective leather flaps cut with scalloped lower edges.

E2: Private, 22nd Infantry, 1876–77
Dressed for Nelson Miles' winter campaign which led to the victory at Wolf Mountains, he wears a round-topped muskrat cap with ear flaps, and muskrat gauntlets. His buffalo overcoat is fastened with loops and hard rubber buttons, and has its broad collar turned up for additional protection. Footwear consists of 1874 pattern canvas-and-rubber arctic overshoes, known as "buckle gaiters" or "snow excluders." He holds an M1873 Springfield rifle, and carries his ammunition in a "fair weather Christian" cartridge belt of canvas and leather.

E3: Lieutenant, 1st Infantry, c.1885
His 1872 pattern officer's forage cap has a silver regimental numeral pinned above the gilt crossed-rifles branch insignia. His blanket-lined canvas 1883 overcoat has a deep dark blue collar, five pairs of hard rubber buttons secured with black mohair cord loops, two pockets with blanket-lined flaps, and a wide canvas belt with retaining loops on each side seam. Here it is unbuttoned to show an 1875 officer's blouse, and his waist belt fastened with the 1872 officer's "eagle" plate. His trousers have 1½in white seam stripes. His 1884 brown canvas mittens, with separate thumb only, have had gauntlet cuffs stitched on at the wrist. The 1884 field shoes are without laces and are secured by adjustable straps and fasteners on the outside at ankle height. He is armed with a Colt M1873 Army revolver.

F: GARRISON DRESS, 1884–87

F1: Private, 16th Infantry, c.1885
The 1882 pattern cork summer helmet has a chin strap of white enameled leather. His 1883 blouse has small sterling silver "Laidley" marksman's buttons, representing a target, attached to each side of the collar. Devised in 1880 by Col T.S.S.Laidley of the Ordnance Dept, these were presented to men who scored a minimum of 80 percent shots on target at 200 yards when firing from the standing position and at 300 yards when kneeling, and 70 percent at 600 yards. He holds an M1873 Springfield rifle. His black leather belt is fastened with an 1874 pattern Palmer brace system plate and hasp, and supports two McKeever cartridge boxes plus an M1873 Hoffman swivel bayonet scabbard. His footwear are 1885 pattern crimped campaign shoes.

F2: Captain, 16th Infantry, c.1887
This officer wears full dress, with white dress gloves. His 1881 pattern black felt-covered helmet has the regimental designation in German silver numerals on the shield of the gilt brass "eagle" plate, and a gilt brass top piece, spike and chin chains. His 1884 double-breasted coat has the collar completely faced in white, but plain cuffs with three small buttons. The 1886 dress shoulder knots now have white pads to display rank insignia and regimental numbers, and his sky-blue trousers have inch-wide white seam stripes. His 1872 company-grade officer's belt and M1860 Staff and Field officer's sword are as shown in B1.

F3: Bandsman, 17th Infantry, c.1884
He wears a mounted pattern helmet, as authorized in 1885, with a red-over-white fountain plume; a German silver lyre device on the brass "eagle" plate; a white plaited cord festoon around the front and back; and long white securing

lines passing around the neck and shoulder and terminating in tasseled "flounders," buttoned to the right breast. His 1884 pattern jacket is elaborately trimmed with white mohair braid across the breast, edging the collar and front, in collar loops and sleeve knots; hidden here are the white tail flaps and edging to the rear vent. The worsted epaulets have yellow straps and crescents with white fringes. His trousers have inch-wide white stripes. His white webbing belt is fastened with a rectangular "eagle" plate; and a black enameled leather sling supports a music pouch measuring 7in x 9in x 1½in, the flap covered with dark blue cloth and trimmed with gold lace. He holds a B-flat cornet with three side-action string rotary valves.

G: SERVICE DRESS, 1881–86

G1: Private, Company F, 13th Infantry, c.1885

The 1883 drab wool campaign hat has Brasher patent ventilators on either side of the crown, and a narrow brown silk band. His pullover-style overshirt is of 1882 pattern; this has a 10in front placket fastened with a hard rubber button at the throat and center, and two long patch breast pockets rounded at the bottom and fastened with similar buttons. The colorful neckerchief is a personal affectation. His M1873 two-band Springfield rifle has M1879 Buckhorn rear sights and a brown leather sling. He carries his ammunition in a first contract woven Mills cartridge belt of drab tan webbing edged with medium blue, fastened with the complex 1880 pattern "flat face" two-part cast brass plate.

G2: Corporal, 1st Infantry (mounted), c.1885

This wide-brimmed drab hat is of civilian origin. The NCO wears an 1882 overshirt converted into a five-button blouse with flannel lining; his rank is indicated with tailor-made white cloth chevrons with a non-regulation curve, and his kersey trousers have one-inch white stripes. He has 1884 Angora goatskin cavalry gauntlets with embroidered cuffs, and wears 1884 boots. He is armed with an M1882 Chaffee-Reese bolt-action rifle, of which some 700 examples were trialed in 1884–85 – among others, by men of the 1st, 19th and 25th Infantry. The six-round tubular magazine was loaded through the butt stock; this NCO carries his ammunition in a tan webbing Mills first contract woven infantry cartridge belt with 45 loops, fastened with an 1882 plate with raised edges. Horse furniture consists of an M1874 first pattern McClellan saddle complete with split-seat saddle-bags, and gray wool blanket with dark blue inset borders.

The 1878 pattern drab duck haversack was suspended from an adjustable black sling made from "collar leather." The interior shows the meat-can pocket and the leather sheath for holding the mess utensils. (Courtesy Kurt Hughes; author's photographs)

G3: Private, 23rd Infantry, c.1882

This soldier of George Crook's old regiment wears clothing suitable for hot weather in the Southwest: a straw hat of civilian origin, white linen trousers, and an 1881 gray knit collarless pullover undershirt fastened at the neck by three "pearl" buttons. He holds an M1873 Springfield rifle with M1879 rear sights and without a sling, and carries his ammunition in a third pattern 1876 cartridge belt with leather body and tan cotton canvas loops, fastened with a brass frame buckle.

H: CAMPAIGN DRESS, 1887–91

H1: First lieutenant, 2nd Infantry, c.1890

The 2nd Infantry was engaged in the Ghost Dance campaign of 1890–91, and was under fire during the defense of the Pine Ridge agency. The 1872 officer's forage cap, with embroidered branch insignia and regimental number, now has the gold-on-silver cord strap authorized under General Order No.102 of December 26, 1883. His 1884 pattern officer's double-breasted "Ulster" overcoat has a detachable hood and is fastened by five pairs of mohair knots and toggles; rank is indicated by a single trefoil knot on each cuff. He has removed one of his 1884 Angora goatskin gauntlets; the usual M1860 Staff and Field sword is suspended from his sword belt. If visible, his sky-blue trousers would have the inch-wide white seam stripes.

H2: Musician, Company G, 22nd Infantry

His bugle is carried on a tasseled cord in infantry white, and his status is indicated by white double trouser stripes. He wears an 1883 drab campaign hat, an 1884 five-button blouse without external pockets, and 1888 brown canvas leggings over his 1885 crimped campaign shoes. His 1887 Mills infantry cartridge belt fastens with the 1887 plate, and an M1880 US Army hunting knife in a leather scabbard is attached to it by a metal slide. An 1885 drab haversack is slung over his right shoulder, its sling passing under the cartridge belt to hold it steady.

H3: Private, 8th Infantry, 1890

This figure is based on photographs taken at Wounded Knee in December 1890. The muskrat cap has ear flaps and a visor; it was actually made to be worn over the dress helmet, thus its taller shape than that shown in E2. His 1883 overcoat, with two rows of five yellow metal buttons, here has the cape removed and the collar turned down; it is worn over an 1884 blouse, and sky-blue trousers hanging loose over 1885 crimped campaign shoes. His gauntlets have buckskin for the palms and inside of the fingers, and muskrat backs and deep cuffs. He holds an M1884 Springfield rifle, and has a tan first contract Mills belt with 1882 plate.

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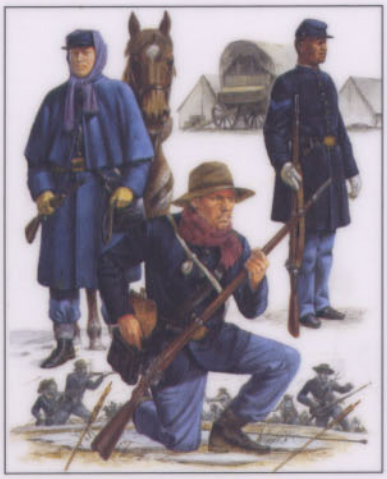

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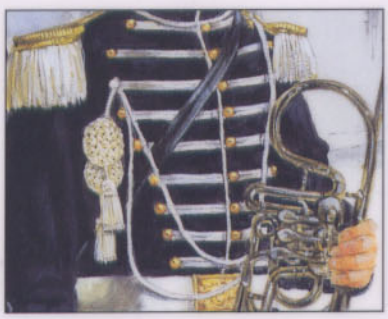

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