

Who were they? The United States Sharp Shooter Buglers

By Bill Skillman, John Carey and Brian White

In 1995 I attended my first reenactment at Fairfield, Pa with the men of Co. B (NY-1st USSS) and C (PA-2nd USSS). After introductions, Orderly Sgt. John Carey formed our 30-man platoon and marched us out to the drill field. After a few practice evolutions, John stepped back as David Fulcher raised a short bugle to sound “*Deploy as Skirmishers*”. The thrill of hearing the bugle’s notes ringing off the hills as my comrades and I deployed was indescribable. For years I had read how the original USSS maneuvered by the bugle and here I was doing the same thing 130 years later. With only Dave’s bugle to guide us, my comrades and I advanced, commenced firing, withdrew firing, and rallied against cavalry. At that moment I knew I wanted to learn all I could about the USSS buglers, and then play one myself.



Sgt. J. Carey, Bugler D. Fulcher, Pvt. Skillman & wife, Pvt. J. Colt, and D. Culp-Fairfield, Pa. 1995

In this installment of: ‘*Who were they? The United States Sharpshooter Buglers*’ we will identify the expert marksmen who served as the critical link between the officers and men, communicating orders in camp, on the march and on the skirmish line.

This article lists the 52 bugle signals that became the musical backdrop in the lives of the U.S. Sharp Shooters during the Civil War. To listen to the music they heard, the reader is directed to RJ Samp’s American Civil War Bugle Calls on Sound Cloud (<https://m.soundcloud.com>). RJ has recreated the original bugle calls used by the Infantry, Skirmishers, Cavalry, and Artillery branches. Fellow buglers, Tom Tallman and George Rabbai contribute their talents as well.

Introduction: Since Biblical times instruments of animal horn, or made from hammered copper and brass, enabled commanders to communicate orders to troops over wide expanses and above the cacophony of battle. The word "bugle" stems from the Latin "*buculus*" (for bullock) and has been associated with the military down through time. European Rifle battalions (Swiss, Tyrol, Hanoverian, and the famous British 95th Rifles) that emerged during the Napoleonic Wars adopted a short, double looped bugle, just like the brass insignia worn by the Union infantrymen during the Civil War.

Biographies and historical accounts written by/about buglers are extremely rare. I was fortunate to discover a small booklet written by William Green, of the famous British 95th Rifles during the Peninsular Campaigns. Initially Green was a member of the Leicester Militia until June 1803, “*but not content with my station, I volunteered into the old 95th, or what is now termed the Rifle Brigade, on the 18th of April, 1805 at Canterbury, in the County of Kent, with about 150 of my comrades.* Green participated in expeditions to Bremen and Aldenburg; that he referred to the ‘*Coffee Expedition*’ as *we had no fighting*”. Green was part of the rear guard and survived the harrowing winter retreat from Spain to Corunna. As the British army recovered and resupplied at Torres Vedras, Portugal; Green wrote: “*I was requested to learn the bugle, with two more, as we lost two buglers by death. It must be understood we had no drums or fifes; we had two buglers to each company, and three to the two flank companies, making in number 22. We*

always were with the company in action. I liked it very well, as my pay was somewhat more. I made good progress and was returned fit for duty at the end of one month. With spring, Wellington's Army turned on the starving forces of General Soult and began to drive them back. "As the enemy retreated towards Spain, we followed as sharp as they led us, and we often had an encounter with them, as the rifles were always on the advance guard when they were on the retreat; or, it might be stated, "in action, first in and last out".

"On our way we had to scour a wood. Our lieutenant said, "I don't think there are any of the enemy in this wood." I was walking near him; the words were scarcely out of his mouth before a musket ball passed between his head and mine; we were in extended order. He bid me sound the double quick; we rushed into the wood and cleared it of its sharp-shooters".

Wellington's army arrived at the fortress at Badajoz, and "On the 31st of March (1812) The forlorn hope was composed of 350 men of the 43rd, 52nd and Rifle Brigade, all volunteers, and two buglers from each regiment. Our bugler major made us cast lots which two of us should go on this momentous errand; the lot fell on me and another young lad. But one of our buglers who had been on the forlorn hope at Ciudad Rodrigo offered the bugle major two dollars to let him go in my stead. On my being appraised of it, he came to me and said: 'West will go on the forlorn hope instead of you'. I said, "I shall go where my duty calls me". He threatened to confine me to the guard tent. I went to the adjutant and reported him." The adjutant rebuked the bugler-major and Green joined the forlorn hope. "The party was commanded by Colonel M'Cloud of the 43rd regiment, Major O'Hare of the rifles, and Captain Jones of the 52nd regiment.... As I walked to the head of the column, the thought struck me very forcibly "You will be in hell before daylight!" Such a feeling of horror I never experienced before!"

"All had been still so far, but as the bags were thrown (stuffed with grass to fill the ditch in front of the shattered ramparts) and the men descended, the enemy threw up blue light; we could see their heads, and they poured a volley down on us. I was in the act of throwing my bag, when a ball went through the thick part of my thigh, and having my bugle in my left hand, it entered my left wrist and I dropped, so I did not get into the ditch. I scarcely felt the ball go through my thigh, but when it entered my wrist, it was more like a 6-pounder than a musket ball! It smashed the bone and cut the guides, and the blood was pouring from both wounds, I began to feel faint from blood...The whole of the division made for the breach; and a tremendous fire was going on. I heard our bugler major sound the advance and double quick. I rolled on my back (for I had fell on my side) and repeated the sound; this was the last time I blew my bugle. As another division came past me, an officer with his sword drawn stepped up to me and said: "Desist blowing the bugle, you are drawing all the fire on my men!" I said, "I am only doing my duty!"

The employment of bugles as signaling devices (and the trumpet for cavalry and artillery) reached its zenith during the American Civil War.

At the outset of the Civil War, infantry regiments (volunteer and Regular, North and South) were authorized one drummer and fifer per company. These roles were usually filled by young boys (age 15-17). In camp they played signals announcing formations and duties; on the march they sounded out cadence or patriotic tunes for soldiers to keep step by. When the regiment deployed for battle, musicians set aside their instruments to become stretcher bearers. A few, like 12-year-old John Clem (who ran away from his home to join the 21st Michigan Infantry), picked up a rifle and joined the fighting. By 1863, the limitations of the drum as a signaling instrument became obvious; commanders complained that after the first volley it could not be heard over the noise of battle. By 1863, many infantry regiments began replacing the drums and fife with bugles.

The United States Army established regulations describing the role for musicians that appears in the Customs of Service. The Service was an indispensable guide to instructing volunteer officers on the myriad of duties they were responsible for. The newly appointed Colonel of a volunteer infantry or cavalry regiment, (or artillery battery), would find information about musicians starting in section 223:

223: *Principal musician*—The law allows each regiment of Regular infantry .and volunteer regiment of infantry, two principle or chief musicians.

224: *The Act of July 15, 1838, section 16, allows the chief musician seventeen dollars a month...This was later changed in 1863 to \$21 per month for the chief musician and \$14 pay for company buglers.*

234: *Musicians: each company of infantry artillery and engineers are allowed two musicians—a drummer and fifer; and in the cavalry, two trumpeters. These are independent of the musicians allowed in the band (regimental bands were discontinued in late 1861-62)*

237: *they take turns at the guard house sounding the calls. When the companies of the regiment are together the musicians of each company are united for the purpose of instruction and exercise. When a company is detached, the musicians go along with it.*

238: *When on the march, at drills or parades all the musicians are united in a body. They draw their rations and mess with their companies. The principal musician or chief trumpeter keeps the roster and makes the details; and they are not under the first sergeants orders, except when acting with the company.*

239: *one or two of the musicians march on with the guard and remain with it at the guard house during the tour, and sound the musicians calls ten minutes before assembly, at which signal all the musicians assemble. The roll is called by the chief musician or chief trumpeter, and then they all unite in sounding calls for the companies.*

From their very inception, the U.S. Sharpshooters followed the tradition of European Rifle battalions—all their signals (the official CW term) were sounded on the infantry bugle. While an effective signaling instrument, the bugle was sorely limited in its ability to play other kinds of music. The infantry bugles ‘range’ consists of only 5 notes (C, D, E, F, G), requiring the bugler to coordinate their tongue, mouth, and lips to create the correct embouchure to sound the notes clearly. This limited the ‘bugle bands’ repertoire of marching songs. When the buglers had to march and play at the same time, new challenges arose, as Regimental Historian, Charles A Stevens observed: *Our calls were all made by the bugle. Each company had two buglers, and a regimental band was formed under the instruction of chief bugler Calvin Morse. They became sufficiently proficient to make very fair dress parade music. Only occasionally would the boys get out of wind, and then there was a great gap in the notes. This caused a general tee-heeing along the line, and the most scathing scowl of the instructor (who) could not prevent it.*”

Two years later, Major Charles P. Mattocks assumed command of the decimated 1st USSS after all its staff officers had either resigned (Berdan) were discharged disabled (Ripley, Hastings) or dead (Trepp). On April 20 Mattocks wrote to his family: *“This afternoon we had a very good skirmish drill. General Birney was riding by and paid us the compliment to stop and look on. He seemed very much pleased. These fellows are very proficient in the skirmish drill, but that is all they are good for. They are poor at marching in step, and it is not to be wondered at. They have had no music to march by, and, as soldiers, have been very much in the condition of “Topsy” in “Uncle Tom’s Cabin”. They are not “brought up” but “growed”.* Mattocks’ comment suggests that after nearly 3 years of service very few 1st USSS buglers remained ‘present for duty’.

Bugles in Camp

The Sharpshooters were first introduced to bugles at Camp of Instruction outside Washington, D.C. in the fall of 1861. C. A. Stevens wrote in the regimental history: *“Orders in line infantry units were given by drumbeats. However, the wide regimental fronts of the skirmishers called for bugles to be used instead of drums for commands. Each company was assigned two buglers who were trained by Chief Bugler Calvin Morse until they were noted as being excellent musicians with not just calls, but “very fair dress parade music.”*

Stevens continues: *About nine o’clock, we had guard mounting and which in good weather is an interesting service well worth witnessing. Drills, company or regimental as it happened occurred twice a day, and therein the Sharpshooters made a fine appearance, and, as Col. Ripley expressed it, became ‘wonderfully proficient’...There were other calls going on through the day, such as ‘fatigue call’ for ‘working parties’, ‘officers call’, the ‘assembly’, the ‘retreat’ at sunset, ‘tattoo’ at 9 p.m., and ‘taps’ a half hour later-when lights were put out and all of the enlisted men not on duty abed or supposed to be. Toward the close of the afternoon before ‘retreat’. dress parade was held. This was a popular feature of camp life, witnessed generally by many spectators, and really a grand performance. Here reports were made as to the condition of the companies, whether they were all present and accounted for, orders were read by the adjutant and inspections and reviews frequently occurred.”*

The first General Order for the U.S. Sharpshooters appeared below:

*1st Regiment of Berdan’s U. S. Sharpshooters
Regimental Order No. 1*

The following will be the order of the daily camp duty:

<i>6:30 A.M.</i>	<i>Reveille, and Company streets to be policed.</i>
<i>7:00 A.M.</i>	<i>Breakfast</i>
<i>7:30 A.M.</i>	<i>Sick call</i>
<i>8:00 A.M.</i>	<i>First call for guard mounting</i>
<i>8:30 A.M.</i>	<i>Guard Mounting</i>
<i>9:00 A.M.</i>	<i>Company drill, and squad drill for new recruits</i>
<i>11:00 A.M.</i>	<i>Recall</i>
<i>12:00 P.M.</i>	<i>Dinner</i>
<i>2:00 P.M.</i>	<i>Company drill, and squad drill for new recruits</i>

3:30 P.M. Recall
 4:00 P.M. First call for dress parade
 5:00 P.M. Retreat
 5:15 P.M. Supper call
 7:30 P.M. Tattoo
 8:00 P.M. Taps, lights out and all quiet.

Regimental Order
 No. 3

I Until further orders the calls of this Camp will be sounded as follows—and the Sergeant of the Guard will see that the calls are sounded at these hours—

6:30	AM	Reveille.
7:00	"	Breakfast
8:00	"	First Call Guard Mounting
8:15	"	Guard Mounting
8:45	"	Sick Call
9:00	"	First call for Drill
9:15	"	Drill
11:30	"	Recall
12:00	M	Dinner
1:00	PM	First Call for Drill
1:15	"	Drill
3:00	"	Recall
3:45	"	First Call for Parade
4:00	"	Retreat
5:30	"	Supper
8:30	"	Tattoo
8:45	"	Taps

Head Quarters Camp of Instruction
Washington D.C. Dec 2, 1861

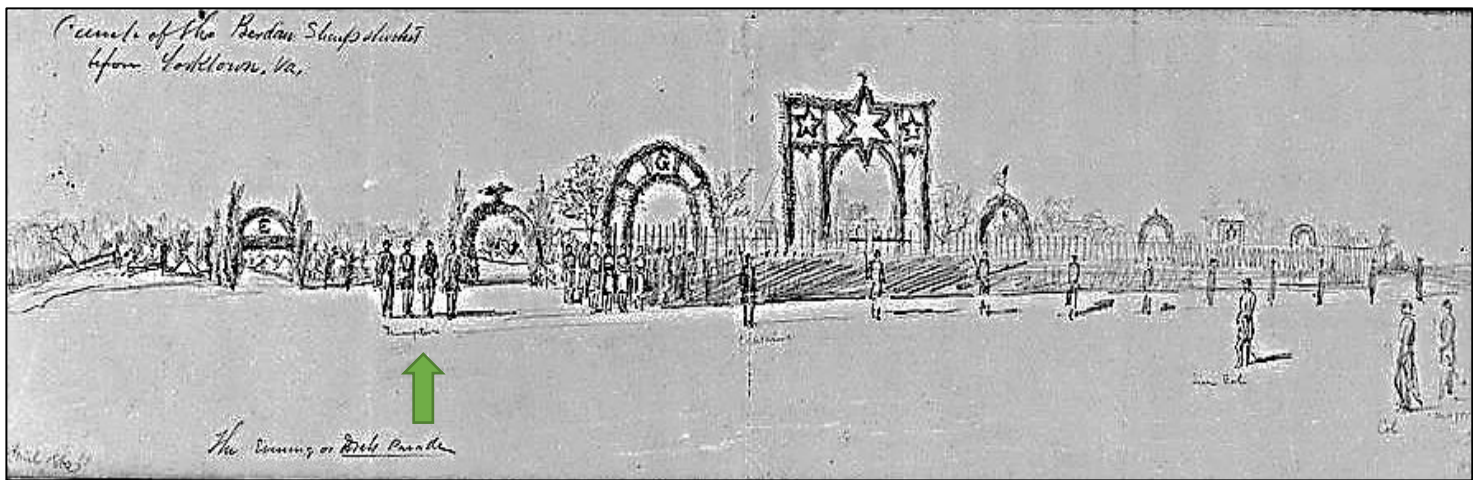
Regimental Order 10

Till further Orders the calls for Drills will be sounded as follows:

- First call for company drill 12:45 Company Drill 1:00 P.M.*
- To the Color for Battalion Drill 1:45 Recall 3:00—*
- 4:30 First Call for Dress Parade—4:45 Retreat*

by Order of HAV Post
Col. Comd'g 2d Regt U.S. Sharp Shooters

Lewis C. Parmalee
Adj't



Evening Parade-Camp of Berdan's Sharpshooters before Yorktown by Alfred Waud

Note the four 'trumpeters' standing to the left of the formation. On the right side of the sketch, Col. Hiram Berdan is second ('Col') and Lt. Col. WYW Ripley ('Lieut. Col') is third figure. Note the Company streets decorated with evergreen boughs that form arches with company letters ('E' and 'G')

On December 20, 1861, a correspondent from the *New York Evening Post* wrote an article entitled: *A Visit to the Sharpshooter's Camp*. After being received by Colonel Berdan, he invited the correspondent to go 'sightseeing' with his entourage: ". we saw skirmish drill by battalion. This the men did quite well, making a long line where they were deployed at eight paces apart. The orders were all given by the bugle, and it was very pleasant to hear the chief bugler play the few notes that conveyed to the men the idea of what they were to do and then the other buglers repeated it down the whole line. They rallied by fours and deployed; rallied by sections and deployed; and finally rallied by companies, presenting a solid mass of men on every side, facing outwards. This movement is intended to resist the approach of cavalry, and one could understand how formidable such a defense, bristling with bayonets would be.

Their band has a corps of buglers, who make very agreeable music on the ordinary bugles, without keys. It was just at sunset; the sky was flushed all over with rosy, crimson, and below a silver mist was rising...Here, on the bare hill these men were drawn up (for afternoon dress parade), two thousand strong, complete in every respect but one—they are without guns!"

With the transition to spring, the Sharpshooters added marksmanship to the daily schedule.

5:45	Reveille
6:30	Breakfast
7:00	Sick Call
7:00	Drill-company movements
8:00	Recall
8:10	First call for guard mounting
8:15	Guard mounting
9:00	Skirmish drill
10:15	Recall
10:20	Target practice
11:45	Recall
12 Noon	Dinner
12:45	Target practice
2:30	Recall
3:45	Target practice
5:00	Recall
5:15	First call for dress parade
5:30	Retreat
6:00	Supper
9:00	Tattoo
9:10	Taps, lights out and all quiet in Camp.

On March 11, 1862, Regimental Order No. 35 signaled the start of active campaigning:

The tents of this camp will be struck tomorrow at 8 o'clock a.m. at the sound of the bugle' a call of preparation will be sounded 15 minutes before 8 o'clock. If the weather permits the tents will not be pitched until 3 ½ o'clock P.M. when the bugle call will be sounded.

“Ditties”: The Sharpshooters had to memorize 25 ‘Camp signals’ and 22 ‘Skirmish/field signals’. To help them distinguish between the bewildering array of ‘calls’, the men created little songs for each one. Stevens wrote: *All camp calls were also sounded on the bugle, and the men found (for) them pleasant little devices for translating curt and often rough music into English. They were bugled to breakfast and to dinner, bugled to guard mounting, and bugled to battle...The men often found fanciful resemblances in the notes of the music to the words intended to be conveyed.*

Stevens wrote “*After breakfast, came sick call, which on the bugle sounded a good deal like singing:*

“I am –sick! I am-sick! Send for the doctor, bring the nurse (repeat first stanza) Hurry doctor, I am worse—I’m s-i-c-k”. Another version of ‘sick call’ was sung like this: “*Get your qui-nine, get your qui-nine; come and take your pills, come and take your pills.*”

Learning to play the bugle: The Camp of Instruction for Sharpshooter musicians: For Sharpshooters enlisted as musicians, they not only had to memorize all the camp and field signals, but to play them correctly. Unlike today’s trumpet or cornet, the Civil War bugle had no keys or valves—all the notes were created by complex breathing, lip, mouth and tongue movements called an ‘*embouchure*’. The 1st Regiment’s instructor was 29-year-old Calvin Morse (of Vermont’s Company ‘F’). In the Second Regiment, Col. H.A.V. Post posted this notice to his command:

*Camp of Instruction 2d Regt Berdans
U.S. Sharp Shooters Washington D.C. Dec 10, 1861*

*Regimental Orders
No. 14*

James C Hawes, Co A is hereby appointed Chief Bugler and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

Following breakfast, while the Sharp Shooters were drilled in skirmish or company/battalion evolutions; the buglers assembled on the parade ground, where, following roll; Chief Bugler Morse (or Hawes) detailed six buglers to headquarters and guard tent/quarters; three men to each post and detailed to a 24 hour shift. The Chief bugler then turned his attention to instructing the rest of the musicians how to play the camp, marching and skirmish signals. Unfortunately, I have not located any information on how Bugler Morse instructed the company musicians. While many men that entered Sharpshooter service knew how to read music and play instruments, others learned by ‘rote’ (repeatedly playing a piece of music until they had mastered it).

When I set out to play the bugle, I listened to George Rabbi’s Infantry Calls of the American Civil War while driving to and from work each day. During evenings I headed to the garage with my Pakistani bugle (with cardboard thin mouthpiece) and focused playing signals consisting of 3-5 notes (Commence firing, Cease firing, Halt). I repeated the same passage over and over until I could play it flawlessly, (or my lips grew numb). Gradually my embouchure developed, as did my repertoire of skirmish signals. That winter, I accompanied my wife to a local antique fair where I discovered, and purchased, an original British Regulation bugle. My playing improved dramatically.

Each spring, the Michigan Sharpshooters held a Camp of Instruction at Wolcott Mills Park outside Romeo. This motivated me to learn the 25 ‘Camp signals’. Throughout the weekend, all camp activities and drills were preceded by the sergeant’s shouted warning, followed by the corresponding bugle signal. While my comrades appreciated the music, my next challenge was to motivate them to recognize and respond to the skirmish bugle signals. I borrowed a game created by RJ Samp to instill competition between veterans and recruits. Around the campfire, I’d sound a bugle signal and the first sharpshooter to identify it was rewarded with a coveted cigar, dipper of root/beer, beef jerky or other delicacy. By ‘campaign season’ each section contained one Sharp Shooter who recognized the ‘Top Ten’ skirmish signals, and directed his comrades what to do. As the season progressed, the new recruits began to pass on their new-found knowledge to others-including senior officers.

RJ Samp created a special ‘prelude’ signal for the Michigan Sharpshooters, consisting of a 6-note sequence of rising notes-Ber-dans-Ber-dans-Ber-DANS. This enabled a battalion commander to convey orders to our advanced skirmish line at any time or situation. Whenever we needed the Sharpshooters attention, I’d sound the ‘Berdan’ prelude to gather the boys to our camp, or recall scattered members after a tactical/’battle’ scenario.

At 3:45 p.m. Chief Bugler Calvin Morse assembled the regiment's buglers for 'Dress Parade'. The musicians marched to the parade ground and formed into two ranks, taking position on the regiments right flank. At the Adjutant's command, Bugler Morse ordered the buglers to advance 8 paces then "left face" to form 5 ranks of 4 men each. The musicians marched the length of the regimental front while playing a 'slow march'. On reaching the end of the formation, the musicians would 'come about' and play a 'quick step march' until they returned to their original position and ceased playing. One popular *quick step* song was "The American Flag".

After the conclusion of afternoon reenactments, it was customary for the USA and CSA battalions to 'pass in review' before the spectators. As our weary Sharpshooters passed by the crowd, Lt. Wambaugh would shout: "Give us the American Flag, bugler!!" The tune's jaunty tempo snapped the boys out of their 'post-battle amble'; bringing weary heads up, shoulders erect, and the cocky bantering returned.

Bugles as the Town Clock: In camp, the USSS buglers served as the 'town clock' to announce roll calls and daily duties. The signals below have been categorized to make it easier to understand how and when they were used:

Assembly calls: Signals that bring the men together for the purpose of taking roll call.

- Musicians-Buglers Call *The 'first call of the day'*. It alerts all company buglers to assemble on the parade ground. When sounded, the Sharpshooters knew they had 10-15 minutes to rise, get dressed, hit the sinks, and prepare for roll call.
- Reveille* *At the last note, the Orderly Sargeant would take roll call.*
- Retreat *Late afternoon (3:45) roll call.*
- Tattoo *Evening roll call-last formation of the day. After Roll, men retired to their quarters/tents until "Extinguish Lights" or "Taps" played.*

* Note: During the Civil War 'Reveille' was played to alert Sharpshooters to take their place in the ranks. As the last note faded, the men came to attention (shoulder arms) as the First Sergeant called their names. Any sharpshooter that failed to answer "present" (and not detailed to other duties) was considered absent without leave.

Meal Calls: signals to alert the men when it is time to eat:

- Breakfast call *Known to buglers as 'peas upon a trencher' due to its 'herky-jerky' tempo*
- Supper call *Sounded for the noon meal; also known as 'Roast Beef'*
- Dinner call *Announces the evening meal.*

Surgeon's call: Wyman White recalled: "A little before nine 'o clock in the morning the bugler detailed for guard would blow the sick call. This call was a notice for those that called themselves sick to fall in and march to the regimental hospital to be looked over and examined by the surgeon or assistant surgeon of the regiment and pronounced either sick or well as he saw fit. If he said sick, you would be marked off duty. If he pronounced you slightly sick, you would be marked for light duty which meant that you were in for drill but not for guard or fatigue duty. Off duty meant sick in your tent and take the medicine prepared for you by the hospital steward. When sick call sounded, a non-commissioned officer in each company would call out, "Fall in sick" and I noticed that large squads fell in to be marched to see the Doctor."

Formations: These were sounded to organize the men into company, battalion, or regimental formations:

- Assembly *Alerts the men to form ranks on company streets.*
- To the Color *Companies march to parade ground and take position on the regimental color line*
- Guard Mount *Details of men (from each company) march to the parade ground to be reviewed by the regimental adjutant. Then squads would be detailed for picket or guard duty. Buglers were assigned to Post 1 (guard house), and regimental headquarters in one of three reliefs: (assigned shifts of 2 hours on duty, 4 hours off)*
- The General *The 'General' (also known as 'Pack Up') alerted the regiment to prepare to march at a moment's notice. This signal was regularly sounded on campaign, but when sounded in an established winter encampment, the order was unexpected and filled men with anxiety. This meant having to strip the shelter tent off their cabins and leave everything that could not be carried behind-or worse, burned.*

At Brandy Station, Company clerk Charles Mead wrote in his diary for (Sun.) Feb. 28: *The "General" sounded before daylight. I was excused by Capt. so that the Muster Rolls could be made out. Promptly after the General, the regt. fell in and marched.*" Mead had permission to remain behind and finish the paperwork necessary for the men to be paid. As it turned out, the alarm turned out to

be a false one and the USSS (and their brigade) returned to quarters three days later (Mead completed the muster rolls and turned them in the next day)

Signals for Officers and NCO's

- Orderly's call: *Alerts First Sergeants to bring completed rolls to Head Quarters and turn them over to the Adjutant.*
- Officers Call: *Brings all company and staff officers to headquarters.*

Detail Calls: alerts men to report for specific duties.

- Fatigue Call: *Alerts men assigned to police duty to report to a sergeant (clean camp streets), dig latrines, cut wood, get water, rations, or other supplies for the company.*

As my knowledge and skill playing camp signals improved, I sought out Union commanders to offer to serve as battalion bugler. The Midwest reenacting organizations (Cumberland Guard, Great Lakes battalion) had a chief musician to oversee the fife and drum band, but no buglers. The C.O. typically had a covey of pre-teenagers that served as runners, used to convey their orders to company officers. I explained to the commander, that historically, a bugle would summon officers to headquarters, as well as convey orders to the battalion when it was time to assemble (for drills, afternoon battles), and other duties. Having seen how promptly the Sharp Shooters responded to bugle signals, they were willing to try me out. After sounding a signal from HQ, it was fun to see a company officer frantically pull aside a private to ask them what the bugle signal was, and more importantly, was it meant for them! Gradually, reenacting battalions began to attract more buglers. At one Carlton Park event I was responsible for 6 buglers. Early Saturday morning, I stood at HQ and sounded 'Reveille', and as the last note ended it was repeated up and down the battalion encampment. I eventually stepped down from battalion bugler when better musicians like RJ Samp and Mark Heath arrived to serve on staff.

Bugles to play dirges Wyman White wrote of the death of "Comrade James D. Towne who died December 20th, 1861, twenty-one days after we went into camp. He was buried with military honors. The whole company followed him to his grave, keeping step to a funeral march played by the bugles, a very strange and doleful music. At the grave a detachment fired two volleys and marched back to camp as the bugle's played a 'quick step.'"

Bugle signals on the march and skirmish line:

- Deploy as skirmishers.
- Fix/unfix bayonet.
- Commence/cease firing.
- Lie down/rise.
- Forward, March-In retreat, March
- Halt (three short notes: *To a Stop-To a Stop*)
- By the Flank
- Change direction (Wheel): *A skirmish line 'wheeling' is like a gate swinging on a hinge. With the order to 'right wheel' the men on the right flank reduce their length of stride, while on the left flank, the men had to double quick to maintain the integrity of the line.*

Directions of movement. To signal changes in direction the last three notes progressively rise in pitch (to the Right): "tah-tah-**TAHHH**"; or lower in pitch (to the Left): "**TAH**--Tah-Tah-**TAHHH**."

Cadence Signals: Four bugle signals establish a 'marching' cadence. Each one set the pace, or number of steps per minute, enabling large or extended formations or skirmishers to maneuver quickly:

- **Quick time (110 steps/minute-stride 28 inches),**
- **Double quick (165 steps/minute-stride 33 inches):** the cadence is like a jog. All skirmish maneuvers are done at the double-quick time step.
 - There are two of 'Double Quick time'—one for skirmishers, the second for marching columns.
- **The Run:** used in extreme emergencies—for short distances. From personal experience, trying to play and keep pace with a running skirmish line is impossible. The most effective approach is for the Chief Bugler, standing with the Field Officer, play the signal; allowing company or wing buglers keep pace with the advancing skirmish line.
- **Charge:** Sounded as a line of battle advances; the front rank comes to the position of 'charge bayonet', as the rear rank assumes right shoulder shift or port arms.

At Michigan reenactments, the final performance called for the Union and Confederate battalions to assemble into a single line of battle. The officers would take their places, unsheathe their swords, and shout: "Battalion, Charge" As the line began advancing towards the audience, the Yanks "Hoo-Raahed" and Rebs "Yelled"; I sounded the 'infantry charge' on the bugle. Just as the closest spectators began to squirm uncomfortably from the approaching bayonets; the officers yelled 'Halt!!', while I echoed the order, directing the bugle to both flanks, to ensure all the troops heard it.

Reenactors are disappointed to learn the Civil War 'infantry charge' bears no resemblance to the one heard in John Wayne/John Ford movies (blame trumpeter Harry James, who composed it). One of my favorite moments was watching the expressions of pedestrians as I sounded the 'John Wayne Charge' from the back of pickup truck jammed with Sharpshooters, as we careened down the streets of Gettysburg towards Pitzer's Wood; (to dedicate the restored Co. F. 1st USSS monument).

Wyman White: *"Thus deployed, three hundred fifty men would make a line about a mile long. We took our orders from the call of the bugle as no man's voice could reach the length of the line. We had calls to advance, to commence firing, cease firing, by the right flank, by the left flank, lay down, rise, halt and retreat until finally every movement necessary to move the command... There were also movements and bugle calls to rally by sections, rally by platoon, and rally by company and regiment. Our regiments generally were engaged in skirmish line all throughout the war. Of course, we were drilled in bayonet exercise and infantry drill and when the army moved in the spring our regiment was quite a well drilled command."*

Rally against cavalry: As Wyman White described in his memoir; there were bugle signals designed to protect skirmishers against cavalry attack. These maneuvers harkened back to the days of Waterloo, when entire British or French regiments formed 'squares' as an effective counter against heavy cavalry attacks. The few times Confederate cavalry tried to rout the Sharpshooters, they paid dearly. Expert marksmanship combined with breech-loading rifles resulted in numerous 'empty saddles' before the horsemen scattered. Nonetheless, the Sharpshooters practiced rallying by fours, squads (sections), platoons and larger formations.

'Faking things'. Sharpshooter buglers were innovative. They impressed their new regimental commander, Major Charles P. Mattocks, who wrote: *"We have some fancy movements in skirmish drill. Everything is done by bugle calls. One Faking thing to do is to sound 'lie down' & then 'forward.' The 'green breeches' creep as close to the ground as so many mice. Sometimes we sound 'commence firing,' while they keep up the creeping, or more properly dragging. . . . I was always fond of skirmish drill, but never more so than at the present time. . . . They understand skirmish calls on the bugle so well that it is rare sport to drill the battalion...we are excused from all Brigade drills...Target practice and skirmish drill constitute the sum and substance of our daily military existence."*

I re-introduced "Faking Things' to the Michigan Sharpshooters. During reenactments, when the CSA artillery crews 'assumed the position' to fire, I'd sound "Lie Down" followed by "Commence firing". Once the comrades established a good rhythm, I'd sound "Forward"; the front rank #1 men popped up and sprinted five paces, then dropped prone to fire; they were passed by their partner who then dropped to fire. Because most Midwest reenactments are held on mown fields, spectators had a 'ringside seat' on how the original Sharp Shooters skirmished.

The Michigan Sharpshooters and Cavalry brigade worked closely together at reenactments and living history demonstrations. Because our units often 'started the show', this gave us opportunities to create realistic scenarios that were entertaining and educational for the spectators. During one drill, our company was deployed as skirmishers when the cavalry column appeared behind, Captain Krouse quietly ordered; "Bugler, sound 'rally by fours". As the notes echoed across the field, our skirmishers immediately formed 5 sections, while the cavalry deployed into line and trotted between them. Captain Krouse smiled; 'Now play deploy as skirmishers'. The sections uncoiled into a skirmish line and followed in support of the troopers. The battalion commander and his officers were watching our impromptu performance and was so impressed that he ordered our combined units to repeat the scenario to open the afternoon 'battle'.

Considering the dozens to hundreds of rifles and cannon firing in a relatively close space at reenactments, it is surprising more people aren't injured. I found the bugle can play an important role during 'real life' emergencies. At one event. one of our cavalry troopers lose control of his mount and fell heavily to the ground. The nearby officers yelled to stop the firing, but nobody could hear them. I raised my bugle and blasted out 'Cease Firing', and both battlelines immediately fell silent. The EMS medics got to the trooper and rendered medical attention. The battalion C.O. caught my eye and saluted. Power of the bugle.

The Instruments of the Sharpshooters: The *Clarion d' Ordonnance*

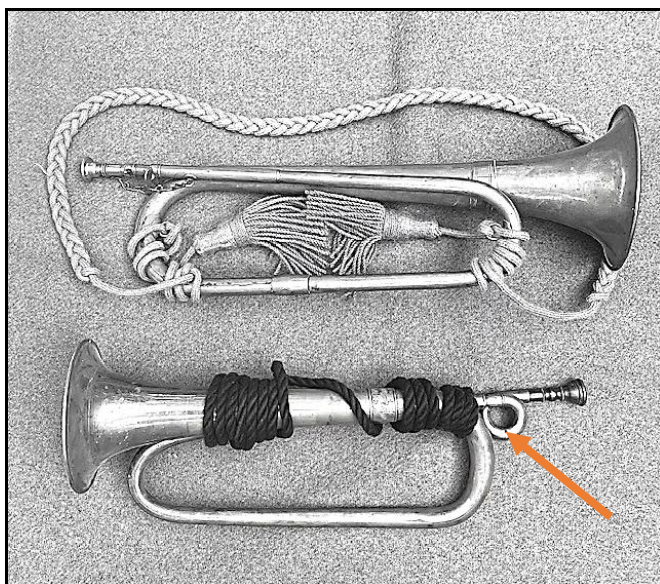
The influence of France on the U.S. military during the Civil War was profound. Both sides adopted variations of French uniforms, tactics and even music. Bugles had been used by the U.S. Army since 1835, with the first 'regulation' bugle patterned after the French *Clarion d' Ordonnance*, consisting of a large, single coil copper bugle, in the key of 'C'. By 1861 there were three regulation patterns in use by the U.S. Army. The infantry used a clarion bugle, played in the key of 'C'. The Cavalry was issued a similar shaped trumpet keyed in 'G', while the artillery used a trumpet in the key of 'F'. While each branch of service standardized their instruments, a few musicians preferred to play their own instrument (despite it being a different pattern/key from their branch of service). Most often they were assigned to a general officer serving as a brigade or division bugler.

The May 1865 Quartermaster specifications for *Camp and Garrison Equipment* states: *Bugles-to be made of copper and stand in 'C'; to be 15 inches high; to measure 5 to 5 ½ inches in breath; diameter to bowl to be about 5 1/8 inches, and to weight from 13-1/4 ounces and 14 ounces, without mouthpiece for bugles the same as mouthpiece."*

Wartime U.S. Bugle Manufacturers: In 1860 *John F. Stratton* opened a musical instrument manufacturing firm in New York City. His timing couldn't have been better. With the outbreak of War in April 1861, Stratton secured numerous government contracts to manufacture trumpets for the cavalry and artillery, and bugles for the U.S. infantry. On July 3, 1861, *Draper and Brothers* of Boston was contracted to supply 400 bugles with extra mouthpieces (at \$2.50 each) but were unable to fulfill their contract so Stratton completed the contract. From April 1861 to March 1864, Stratton delivered 3,500 bugles and 2,700 trumpets to the War Department. On August 1864, *John F.M Jordans* (also of New York City) shipped 5,000 copper bugles, while *Klemm Brothers* of Philadelphia provided another 1800. Instrument makers from Boston to Cincinnati received contracts to make bugles or trumpets, while even more were imported from France and Europe. Most of these instruments had no identifying marks on them. However, a few manufacturers stamped their name either on the garland (the brass reinforcing band circling the bell) or 3" above it. Civil War bugles with the manufacturer stamp are highly collectable today.

Who made the Sharpshooters bugles? Unfortunately, bugles manufactured by *JF Stratton* and other manufacturers were not stamped with a serial number like the Sharps rifles (allowing us to track when and to whom the rifle was issued). Nor do I know if the Stratton shipping records still exist; (they might help us trace the number of bugles manufactured, when and where they were sent and what Arsenal received them). Since the USSS was one of the earliest regiments entirely equipped with bugles, I am confident their instruments were all manufactured in the USA. Also, considering the number of New York City contractors supplying the Sharpshooters with uniforms (*Martin and Brother*); calfskin knapsacks (*Tiffany & Co.*), gray overcoats and hats (*Seamless Clothing Co.*), there is a strong probability that J.F. Stratton supplied their bugles.

The *clarion* pictured below was made in Europe (likely French, but smaller quantities of bugles were imported from other countries as well) and imported to the U.S. when American companies could not keep up with wartime demand. Imported French clarions were stamped with the name of the importer (*John Church, Horstman*). The *Clarion* remained popular with the French military for over 100 years. Recently, I saw World War 1 footage of *Voltigeur buglers* riding a flatcar and playing their *clarions* to boost morale of the troops and well-wishers.



The brass bugle (top) is an original French *Clarion*, played by French military buglers from 1790 until World War 1. These were imported by the U.S. during the Civil War when wartime demand outstripped production. Over half of the clarions imported by the U.S. War Department were manufactured by the French instrument maker *Couesnon*; this highly respected company continues to make brass instruments to this day. The *Clarion* is made of a single coil, conically bored tube; featuring a 5.25" - 6" diameter bell, made of brass. Unlike the American bugle, the clarion has an adjustable receiver (the tube the mouthpiece is fitted into), using a set screw. This allows the tube to be shortened or lengthened until it matches the key of other bugles. Clarions played in the key to Bb (B flat). Their overall length from bell to receiver is 19".

The copper bugle (below) was the most common one used by U.S. infantry/sharpshooter regiments during the Civil War. The bugle (without the curved 'crook') stands approximately 14 ½ inches. The diameter of the bell is 5 ½ inches, the garland, (a brass reinforcing band) was common to copper bugles. Bugles were fitted with a separate section of tubing that joined the mouthpiece to the bugle, called a 'pigtail crook', (see red arrow). By adding the crook, the bugle's range changed from B flat to 'C'. With the addition of the pigtail crook to the mouthpiece, a copper bugle measured 17 inches long. The bugle pictured above was reproduced by Jan Berger, owner of the *Leder Arsenal*. These bugles are based on an original in Jan's collection. Berger bugles are highly valued for their authenticity and playability.

During a living history event held at Fort Wayne (Detroit) I had a chance to compare original to Berger reproduction bugles. My fellow bugler was Mark Heath. As the two primary musicians, we split 'shifts' to ensure there was always one bugler present at headquarters. During battalion drill, Mark and I retired to the ramparts overlooking the Detroit River to rehearse. Mark had played horn throughout high school, so his notes sounded clear, and precise. Meanwhile, I struggled, the notes coming out flat. We traded Bergers (keeping our own mouthpieces), but my playing didn't improve. Next, we picked up our brass bugles (Mark playing an Amati, and my original clarion); and immediately noticed the difference in playability, tone and projection of our brass instruments compared to the copper Bergers. The copper sounded 'duller' or 'muddier', while the brass 'brighter'. We concluded the tonality and projection had nothing to do with the manufacturer, but the metals the instruments were made from. Unfortunately, I've not located an original copper bugle to compare it to the modern reproduction.

By adjusting the receiver tubes to the same key, Mark and I 'echoed' notes across the parade ground as the sun set. The slight delay between the notes of 'Taps' was a highlight for battalion members bedding down in the original barracks. At the close of the event, we were complimented for our participation. Many reenactors found listening to the field music throughout their drills, duties and 'downtime' brought them closer to the experiences of the original soldiers stationed at Ft. Wayne 150 years before.

The British Regulation Bugle: Has been the primary signaling instrument of the British Army for over 160 years. It was formally authorized in 1855-1858, but its origins can be traced to horns used in 1810. The bugle is a double looped conical, made of copper and keyed to Bb (B flat). It's overall length is 11 inches; the bell is 4 inches wide and reinforced with brass. The bugles were made by the firms of Hawkes & Son, Potter & Co. and Boosey & Hawkes and Benson. *There is virtually no evidence that any British Regulation bugles were imported to the U.S. during the Civil War.*



With that historical footnote out of the way; like Dave Fulcher, I found the British Regulation bugle to be the perfect reenacting Sharpshooter bugle. Light, handy, and in the same key as the larger 'authentic' bugles. It's small size makes it easy to grab 'on the go' to sound signals to a rapidly advancing skirmish line or sling behind the back when the Sharps is needed.

In 2002. I traveled east to attend the Recon 2 event held on the Cedar Creek battlefield. As I was practicing skirmish signals on my British bugle, Lt. Dave Fulcher strode over to show me his original Mexican clarion. The groundbreaking research done by Jari Villanueva, George Rabbai and RJ Samp had trickled down to the 'mainstream' community. The next summer I met RJ, who was serving as battalion bugler for the Cumberland Guard reenacting organization. That evening, RJ stopped by the Sharpshooters camp to talk music. I showed him my British bugle and he invited me to play his original clarion. As I sounded out the 'Top Ten' skirmish signals I was astounded to discover how easy it was to play. I had always struggled playing long passages, like 'Tattoo' and 'Taps' because of the compressed, double coils of the British bugle. With the longer clarion, I wasn't 'forcing notes' and my breathing and playing was more relaxed and natural. RJ told me he had an original clarion for sale, and from that moment I transitioned to 'authentic bugler' ranks.

Issuances of Bugles: Below is a section from the Fourth Quarter 1861 *Camp and Garrison Equipment* issued to Captain Caspar Trepp's Company 'A' 1st United States Sharp Shooters at Camp of Instruction, Washington DC.

Bugles	Chords	Tassels	Swords-Musicians	Swords- NCO
2	2	2	2	2

All USSS buglers were issued the same equipment as Company A. During inspections by the Chief Bugler, any issued equipment (bugles, chords, and tassels) damaged or missing required a requisition to replace it. If this was due to the carelessness of the musician, the loss was deducted from their pay. If damaged from field use, it was borne on the company expenses.

Following Col. Hiram Berdan's departure from the regiment, new commander; Lt. Col. Trepp filed the following report on October 1, 1863

"I certify on honor that on or about October 3, 1861 I received from Col. Hiram Berdan, Commanding 1st Reg. U.S. Sharp Shooters the articles enumerated below without receiving invoices or giving receipt for them.

The following is a correct list of the articles received (partial list-WES)

5 (five) Non-Commissioned officers swords

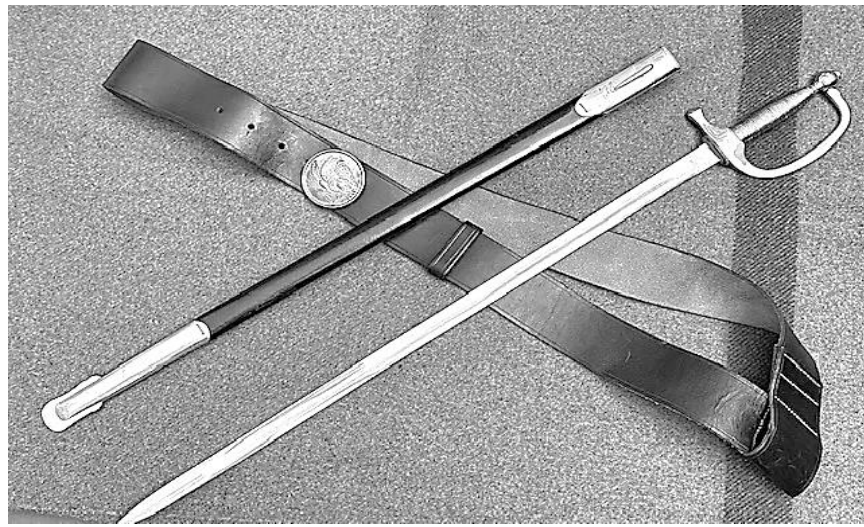
2 (two) Musicians swords

7 (seven) Non-Commissioned and Musician sword belts

5 (five) Non-commission officers plates, double frogs, waist belts and plates

*Caspar Trepp Lieut Col.
Late Captain Comdg Co. "A"
1st Reg. USSS*

Swords-Musicians: The Model 1840 Musician sword was adopted by the US Army in 1840. The blade was 28 inches long (four inches shorter than the NCO sword). The primary manufacturers were *Ames, Emerson and Silver*, and *Christopher Roby*. The swords were stamped above the hilt (ricasso) with the manufacturers name "*Made by/Ames Mfg/Chicopee, Mass*", an inspector's mark, 'US' and the date made (1862). The hilt was cast from brass with a faux imitation wrapped grip. The sword was sheathed in a leather scabbard suspended from a cross belt (baldric). Musician swords were only used for ceremonial purposes, on guard duty, parades and grand reviews. Prior to campaigns, the NCO-Musician swords, scabbards, and baldrics were boxed up and shipped to the Washington Arsenal for storage. In the field, Sharps Shooter buglers were armed with Colt Repeating rifles or Sharps Improved breechloaders; and, when the skirmish line was pressed, provided accurate firepower.



Ames 1840 Musician Sword, leather scabbard and cross-belt/baldric

The most famous picture of the United States Sharpshooters was taken by an unknown photographer at Falmouth, Va. in May-June 1862. The photo is of a guard detail from Company 'F' 2nd USSS, formed in front of Brig. Gen. John Gibbons' headquarters. The men are awaiting inspection before being sent to their respective posts. Wyman White described in his memoirs his six-week ordeal at guard duty at Post 6 (the crossroads of Falmouth). Because White is absent in the photo, I believe this detail of Sharpshooters are the 'Headquarters Guard'. One bugler was always assigned to headquarters, and Post 1 (the guardhouse) to sound signals if an emergency arose. Note the chair beside the open gate, possibly for the bearded Sharpshooter standing behind the fence.

Brian White wrote: *"Attached is my copy of the image. An incredibly high-resolution copy of the original was pulled from the stacks for Dan and me by the staff of the USAMHI and we were able to see remarkable detail. The guard detail is (from left to right): Pvt. Cyrus Farnum, Pvt. Leonard Spead, Pvt. William Spead, Pvt. William Beard (Wyman White's tent mate in 1862), Pvt. Amos Abbott, 1st Sgt. Horace Caldwell and Musician Isaac Farnum. The other men are unidentified however the officer near the house standing in the distance between Abbott and Caldwell is most probably Capt. Henry Caldwell, 1st Sgt. Horace's older brother and company commander who was responsible for their long stint as guards in Falmouth. He died of typhoid fever in July.*



If I recall both 1st Sgt. Caldwell and Musician Farnum are wearing dark green velvet or cloth chevrons on their uniform coats. In my copy of the image attached you can see a dark line passing over Farnum's NCO sword baldric from his left shoulder to under his right arm; that is a bugle cord!" The green arrow points to the mouthpiece of the bugle, suspended by the dark green chord across his chest. The Musicians sword hangs from the leather baldric at his left side.

Daniel Butterfield, Oliver W. Norton and the 'Most Famous Bugle Call in U.S. Military History - 'Taps' In 1898 Mr. Gustav Kobbe wrote a short article that appeared in the Century Magazine, trying to trace the origins of "Taps". Oliver W. Norton soon replied: "... During the early part of the Civil War I was bugler at the Headquarters of Butterfield's Brigade, Morell's Division, Fitz-John Porter's Corps, Army of the Potomac (the 1st USSS served in the same Corps and division at the time-they were among the first to hear 'Taps' played)...One day, soon after the seven days battles on the Peninsula, when the Army of the Potomac was lying in camp at Harrison's Landing, General Daniel Butterfield, then commanding our Brigade, sent for me, and showing me some notes on a staff written in pencil on the back of an envelope, asked me to sound them on my bugle. I did this several times, playing the music as written. He changed it somewhat, lengthening some notes and shortening others, but retaining the melody as he first gave it to me. After getting it to his satisfaction, he directed me to sound that call for Taps thereafter in place of the regulation call (Extinguish Lights-WES). The music was beautiful on that still summer night and was heard far beyond the limits of our Brigade. The next day I was visited by several buglers from neighboring Brigades, asking for copies of the music which I gladly furnished. I think no general order was issued from army headquarters authorizing the substitution of this for the regulation call, but as each brigade commander exercised his own discretion in such minor matters, the call was gradually taken up through the Army of the Potomac...I did not presume to question General Butterfield at the time, but from the manner in which the call was given to me, I have no doubt he composed it in his tent at Harrison's Landing. -Oliver W. Norton

General Butterfield's reply was published on the 36th anniversary of the historic event: "I recall, in my dim memory, the substantial truth of the statement made by Norton, of the 83rd Pa., about bugle calls. His letter gives the impression that I personally wrote the notes for the call. The call of Taps did not seem to be as smooth, melodious, and musical as it should be, and I called in someone who could write music, and practiced a change in the call of Taps until I had it suit my ear, and then, as Norton writes, got it to my taste without being able to write music or knowing the technical name of any note, but, simply by ear, arranged it as Norton describes. I did not recall him in connection with it, but his story is substantially correct..."

On his website **Taps Bugler**, Jari Villanueva provides an excellent review of Norton and Butterfield's accounts and how the 'real story of 'Taps' was composed (<http://tapsbugler.com/>).



Post War illustration of Wilcox and Butterfield working out 'Taps' (note Professor Lowe's observation balloon behind Berkley Plantation)

As part of Butterfield's Third Brigade, the Berdan Sharpshooters were among the first soldiers to hear 'Butterfield's Lullaby' sounded from his headquarters. 'Taps' proved so popular it was adopted throughout the Army of the Potomac. With the transfer of the 11th and 12th Corps to the Western theater in September 1863, 'Taps' was adopted by Western armies as well.

Prelude Signals: This was of very great use and effect on the march and in battle. It enabled me to cause my whole command, at times, in March, covering over a mile on the road, all to halt instantly, and lie down, and all arise and start at the same moment; to forward in line of battle, simultaneously, in action and charge etc. It saves fatigue. The men rather liked their call and began to sing

my name to it. It was three notes and a catch. I cannot write a note of music...The men would sing, "Dan, Dan, Dan, But-ter-field, But-ter-field" to the notes when a call came. Later, in battle, or in some trying circumstances or an advance of difficulties, they sometimes sang, "Damn, Damn, Damn, Butterfield, Butterfield."



In the movie **Gettysburg**, a 2nd Maine veteran sings the Butterfield prelude call to Tom Chamberlin.

The United States Army Rifle and Light Infantry Tactics, (Volume I) required: "Every officer will make himself perfectly acquainted with the bugle signals: and should, by practice be enabled, if necessary, to sound them. This knowledge, so necessary in general instruction, becomes of vital importance on actual service in the field".

At Camp of Instruction, Second Lt. Fredrick Peet wrote: "I have just returned from practicing shooting and bugling, in the woods nearby; as my learning to bugle may sometime hence be of benefit, should anything happen to the buglers."

Duties of the Chief Bugler: The Chief Buglers were responsible for the training, appearance, and performance of buglers under them. They sounded calls from headquarters which in turn were echoed by the company buglers. The Chief Bugler position in the Army had the same status as Drum Major or Principal Musician of the regimental bands. Chief Buglers found life a little easier than that of regular soldiers. They were exempt from guard duty and other ordinary duties.

Unfortunately, despite years of searching, I have not located any memoirs, letters or instruction manuals written by Chief Buglers Calvin Morse (1st USSS), James Hawes (2nd USSS) or others who served in this capacity; that describes their duties. One bugler who did leave an extensive account of his service was Oliver Willcox Norton, who served as the Chief Bugler for Brigadier Gen. Daniel Butterfield. Norton left this account of his duties: "I thought the subject of bugler was exhausted, but I see you want to know more about it. I am chief bugler of the brigade. My duties are, in camp to sound the calls for roll calls, drills, inspections, guard mounting, etc., at regular hours each day; on the march, to attend on the general in command and sound the calls to march or halt and rest, strike tents and form in line, etc. In short, to act as mouthpiece for the general. So much for duties. As to privileges-one, I've nothing to do but bugle; two, my luggage is carried in the headquarters wagons; three, I get better rations than in the regiment, and more of them; four, I get my wood hauled, and in the regiment the men have to carry all they burn a long distance. Well, there are four, perhaps that's enough, but I might add others."

Chief Bugler Rank: Article 1577 for the 1861 revised United States Regulations states "The rank of non-commissioned Officers will be marked by chevrons upon both sleeves of the uniform coat and overcoat, above the elbow, of silk worsted binding on-half inch wide, to be the same color as the edgings of the coat, point down." Chief Buglers wore special chevrons to designate their senior/staff NCO rank. The chevrons featured three 'gull wing' lower stripes, with three arching 'rainbow' stripes above. Below are two examples of Chief Bugler chevrons; the left is authorized by the War Department, while the second is a very rare 'unauthorized version', where the star is replaced by an infantry horn. The chevrons for the U.S. Sharpshooters were made from dark green silk.



Chief Bugler chevron's made by Brian of Wambaugh, White & Co.

These recreated ‘unauthorized’ USSS chevrons are a combination of original and modern materials. The bugle insignia, originally from an officer’s cap, was purchased from the Horse Soldier. Brian added: “I used original, mint green doeskin for the backing and hand sewed the bugle patch to the chevrons. I had to remove a lot of fuzz and loose thread (from the black backing material), the thread wasn’t original to it”. The only surviving photograph of a USSS chief bugler wearing the authorized chevron’s on his uniform is Charles Bogart, (Co. B, 1st USSS), who served from January 1864 to February 1865. Unfortunately the photo has been reduced to a ‘fingernail’ so the image can’t be enlarged without significant loss of details.

Who were they? The United States Sharp Shooters Buglers

Below is an excerpt of Lt. Colonel Caspar Trepp’s ‘Special Requisition for Ordnance and Ordnance Stores’ following the Chancellorsville campaign of May 1863. The arrow shows only 9 buglers present for duty. Attrition among bugler ranks began upon the arrival of the recruits at Camp of Instruction in October 1861.

[Form No. 22]

SPECIAL REQUISITION for Ordnance and Ordnance Stores for the use of _____ Company,
3rd Regiment *W. S. Sharpshooters*, commanded by *Lt. Col. Trepp*

WHERE STATIONED.	NUMBER OF MEN IN THE COMPANY OR REGIMENT.			REMARKS.
	Sergeants.	Musicians.	Corporals & Privates.	
<i>Camp of Instruction Virginia</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>373</i>	<i>Lact in action May 21st 1863</i>
Revised to use the whole Column, Regt, or Brigade, Part, or Division. On hand. To be supplied by the Ordnance Department.	ARTICLES.			REMARKS.
<i>445</i>	<i>11 Seven Sharps improved rifles Cal. 52/100</i>			<i>37</i>
	<i>5 Fifteen Bayonets</i>			

This installment of “Who Were They?” is our attempt to identify all the musician/buglers who served in the United States Sharp Shooters between 1861 to February 1865. When I started the project over ten years ago, I was confident it would be an easy undertaking. Army regulations authorized two musicians (buglers) per company; and I estimated this would translate into 36 buglers among the 18 USSS companies. It should be a simple matter of going through the muster in rolls, scroll past the names of officers, sergeants and corporals to the heading: ‘musician/bugler’, and there they’d be. However, I soon found the project would prove to be a long, laborious, and frustrating challenge. On handwritten muster rolls, some company clerks omitted the ‘musician’ category altogether. I only discovered Henry Houghton’s name (Co. H, 2nd USSS) listed at the very end of the muster rolls under ‘extra duty’. Other buglers were listed as privates, their musician duties listed in the ‘Comments’ section of Muster Out rolls. Fortunately, as state historical libraries and universities with USSS collections have gone ‘digital’, this information became available online (I no longer needed to pay for photocopies of 3 years’ worth of muster rolls and associated paperwork).

After reaching a ‘dead end’ of research, I reached out to my old comrades, John Carey and Brian White, (who previously collaborated with me on the “The United States Sharp Shooter Armorers’ article). John has amassed an incredible digital record of all the United States Sharp Shooters, incorporating their military service records, as well as pre/post war census and pension file

information. Brian contributed photographs of USSS buglers from his collection (especially the newly discovered images of Chief Buglers Calvin Morse and Charles Hawes). Without their support and encouragement, this project would have not been completed.

Chief Buglers of the 1st Regiment United States Sharp Shooters

Name	Co.	Promotion Date	Discharge Date	Comments
Noser, Sebastian	A	Aug '61	Nov '61	Instructing Bugler
Morse, Calvin	F	Nov 13, '61	Oct 15, '62.	Discharged Disabled.
Lytle, William	C	May '63	??	On "detached service to Capt. Wilson 1 st USSS by order of Col. H. Berdan"
Bogart, Charles M.	B	Jan 1, '64	Feb '65	Discharged term of service



1st USSS Chief Bugler-Calvin Morse



2nd USSS Chief Bugler-James Hawes

(Brian White collection)

Chief Buglers of the 2nd Regiment United States Sharp Shooters

Name	Co.	Promotion Date	Comments	Discharge
Hawes, James	A	Dec '61	?	?
Page, Henry C.	A	?	?	?
Wheelock, Orlando	B	Jan. 1, '65	Trans 5 th MI VV Inf.	June '65

First Regiment U.S. Sharp Shooters

Company A (New York-Swiss-German Company)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Baumann, Frederick	August 1861	Died of Wounds	June 1864
Sebastian, Noser	Sept 3, '61	Discharged disabled	April 1863

Fredrick Baumann was a 30-year-old immigrant from Switzerland when he enlisted as a 'musician' in Company A on August 20, 1861 in New York City. Baumann was mustered service on September 3rd. Like many Sharpshooters on the Peninsula campaign, Baumann fell ill and was admitted to a General Hospital 'since June 15, 1862', but 'present with the company on July 8th'. For unknown reasons, Baumann left the regiment without leave on December 6, 1862, and returned to New York. On March 21, 1864, he was apprehended and returned to the regiment to face charges of desertion. Following his hearing, Major General Birney issued orders that Baumann be 'under conditions to make good the time lost by desertion and pay for his apprehension (\$30)''.

On June 3rd, Baumann was wounded in action at Cold Harbor, Virginia and transferred to the U.S. General Hospital in Washington DC, where he died on June 29, 1864.

Sebastian Noser: Sebastian Noser was born in Switzerland and in 1854 immigrated to New York City with his wife, Francine, and son, Henry from Austria. Noser's prewar occupation was 'carver'. The couple owned a home on 39th Parke Street and rented an apartment to Melchoir Landroff. On October 1, 1860, Francine died. Before enlisting, Noser arranged for Landroff to be Henry's guardian. The Descriptive Rolls show Sebastian Noser to be 35 years old, standing 5 foot 6 inches, with blue eyes, brown hair, and fair complexion.

In December 1861, Captain Caspar Trepp's Roll of Enlisted Men on "Extra or Daily Duty" lists Noser as "Instructing Bugler". The Muster Roll of November 24, 1861, lists Noser as 'private'. I suspect he continued to serve as Company A's bugler until being admitted to the U.S. General Hospital on June 17, 1862. The July 1862 muster roll shows him still hospitalized and he failed to return to regiment. On April 16, 1863, after being 'Inspected by a medical board in camp' Noser was discharged for disability at Falmouth, Va.

In time, Sebastian Noser recovered his health to enlist in Co. G, 45th New York Infantry on March 19, 1864. The 45th NY, also known as the 5th German Rifles, was composed entirely of German immigrants. The 45th previously served with the 11th Army Corps until it and the 12th Corps were transferred to reinforce the western armies following the Battle of Chickamauga. In April 1864, the two Corps were consolidated into the new 20th Corps, to serve under Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker throughout the Atlanta Campaign. In July, the 45th was transferred to the Dept. of Cumberland in Nashville, Tennessee. Muster rolls show Noser present for duty in October. However, at some stage he again fell ill and died of disease in Nashville, Tennessee on January 4, 1865.

Upon learning of Noser's death, Melchoir Landroff (application letter is spelled Landolt) appeared before notary. William Smalley, on January 13, 1865, to provide a deposition for pension benefits for Henry. The application (120.742) was approved on February 8, 1866.

Company B (New York)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Bogart, Charles M.	Nov '61	Promoted Chief Bugler Feb 28, 1864.	Feb 20, 1865

Charles M. Bogart: The Post-War Record of Soldiers and Officers in Military Service, lists Charles as a "Musician" and residing in Potter Center, Yates County, New York. At the time of his enlistment, Charles was 22 years old, 'single' and living with his parents; Adam and Catherine. He enlisted in Company 'B' on November 24, 1861, in New York. He was one of the few of the First Regiment to re-enlist as a Veteran Volunteer at Brandy Station on January 2, 1864. Bogart enjoyed a 35-day furlough before returning to be promoted to 'Non-Commissioned Staff' as Chief Musician, on February 28, 1864. The Muster Rolls show Charles was present throughout the Overland and Petersburg Campaigns. He was discharged from service on February 20, 1865. On March 14, 1864, Charles married Arreserilla Shaddick. After the War, Charles returned to his occupation as farmer. The 1910 census for the town of Potter, Yates County, New York shows the couple celebrating 46 years of marriage. Rilla passed away the next year, while Charles followed her four years later.

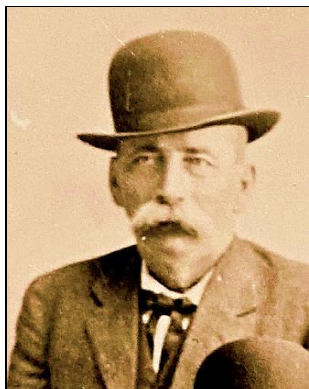
Company C (Michigan)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Walton, Andrew J	Aug 21, 1861	Trans. Co. K, Oct '64. Hosp Nurse.	?
Wirts, Richard H.	Sept 10, '61	Trans. Brigade Band. Trans. 5 th MI Inf.	Dec 24, 1864

Andrew J. Walton: Andrew enlisted with the first recruits in August 1861. He was with the company in June of 1864 but fell ill and was hospitalized between July and October. In August the original members of Co. C's term of service expired, and they were discharged. Walton remained in the hospital as a nurse. Per John: "Sometimes men when sent to the Hospital sick or wounded and are well enough to perform some form of duty, but not well enough to return to full service, they would be given a job @ the hospital. I've seen men assign to jobs ranging from being a nurse to being a carpenter."

Richard Wirts: Sgt. Frank Cobb citing Wirts actions at Kelly's Ford for the *Hudson Gazette*: "I must say that our friend R.H. Wirts, formerly a bugler of Co. C., distinguished himself in that bold charge". At the 3rd Reunion of the Michigan Berdan Sharpshooters (October 28, 1887), Senator Simeon Van Akin (of Co. C) paid tribute to his fellow comrades: "and the only and inimitable "Dick", whose face and jokes made him famous, as well as his capacity to blow a horn that was bigger than

he was...Dick is a preacher, lawyer, farmer, and justice of the peace out in the flourishing state of Nebraska. It must be a convenient occupation, because, as a preacher, he could marry a couple, and then, as a lawyer, give a divorce”.



Richard Wirts (1907 Berdan SS Reunion-Hudson, MI)

Company D (New York)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Voorhees, Peter G.	Dec 26, 1861	Trans 11 th MD Inf	Aug 18'62

Peter Voorhees: Bugler Voorhees served until 18 August 1862. He later enlisted in Company G, 11th Maryland as a private and was discharged in 1865. However, when Voorhees submitted his application for a pension, he was denied. John added: “I’ve seen this many other times, his paperwork wasn’t followed-up very well. If you read the NY abstract - it seems he was never listed (with his company/1st USSS) as being transferred (to the Maryland regiment) till many years later, when it was caught in 1886. This is why I don’t trust when they list men as deserters”. Voorhees’ two enlistments were accepted by an Act of Congress on May 17, 1886. The June 1890 *Special Schedule of Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and Widows of Montgomery County, New York* lists Voorhees disability as “left eye-blind”.

Company E (New Hampshire)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Chapman, Edward F.	Sept 9, 1861	Disch disabled-Wash DC. Died Oct 16, '63	Feb 2, '62
Kilburn, Daniel P.	Aug 20, '61	Disch disabled-Wash DC.	Mar 12, '62
Taylor, Joesph	April 30 '62	Died of disease-Portsmouth Grove RI	June 17, '64

Joseph Taylor: The 1860 Census for the town of Concord, New Hampshire lists Joesph Taylor as 25 years old, married, and working as a blacksmith. His place of birth was England. Joseph was present with his company until April 20, 1864, when he is listed as ‘Absent Sick. U.S. General Hospital, Washington DC since April 20, 1864. He died of ‘heart disease’ there on June 17th. For some reason, Taylor was interred at Portsmouth Grove cemetery in Rhode Island. His body was later moved to Cypress Hills cemetery, New York. According to John Carey: “Don’t know how I missed him till now. I went to Queens (Cypress Hill) to find him many years ago to get a headstone photo. I remember him and two others drove me a little crazy, there was two national areas with CW soldiers, an old and a new, they were in this small old area in the memorial Cem. He died in the hospital in RI and later moved here.

Company F (Vermont)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Griffin, Almon D.	Sept 11, 1861	Deserted Feb '62, WIA Chancellorsville May '63 WIA Petersburg June 64. Discharged disabled.	Oct 26, '64
Morse, Calvin	Sept 11, '61	Disch disabled	Oct 15, '62.
Sherwin, Charles A.	Sept 11, '61	Disch disabled	Nov 5, '61, Oct 24 '64

Almon Griffin (per Brian White): “Almon Griffin enlisted in the Sharpshooters, then learned his wife was pregnant. On February 22, 1862, learning of the birth of his child, Griffin deserted to return home. His wife had been in a fragile state physically and mentally, and her condition failed to improve after the baby was born. Griffin returned to his company on March 31, 1863 and

served honorably for the rest of his term of service, being wounded at Chancellorsville (May 4, '63) and Petersburg (Jun 12, '64). He was discharged disabled on Oct 26, 1864. Tragically, during a fit of insanity, Griffin's wife would later shoot and kill him.



Almon Griffin (Brian White collection)

Calvin Morse Jr.: *During the second day's battle at Blackford's Ford, Bugler Morse distinguished himself by rescuing the survivors of the newly recruited 118th Pennsylvania 'Corn Exchange' Regiment. Alone and isolated, the 118th Pennsylvania had been overwhelmed by a brigade of A.P. Hill's Corps. The survivors fled down the steep embankment to take refuge around an abandoned cement factory along the Potomac River. Standing exposed on the opposite bank, Bugler Morse waved his arms and shouted to the survivors that it was safe to cross over. Despite accurate covering fire by the Sharp Shooters, deployed along the C&O canal bed, the new recruits were too demoralized to move. Bugler Morse waded into River, and by his personal example, inspired many survivors to cross to safety. Ill and exhausted by the hard campaigns, Bugler Morse was discharged in October 1862.*



Chief Bugler Calvin Morse (Brian White collection)

Company G (Wisconsin)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Barnett, George	<i>Sept 1861.</i>	<i>Discharged disabled</i>	<i>March 17, 1862.</i>
Hall, James T.	<i>Oct 1861</i>	<i>Discharged disabled</i>	<i>May 1862.</i>
Lye, Henry	<i>Sept 1861</i>	<i>Promoted Sergt; DOW-Gettysburg, Pa</i>	<i>July 3 1863</i>
Thompson, Lyman	<i>Oct 1861</i>	<i>KIA-Charles City Crossroads, Va.</i>	<i>June 30, 1862</i>



Bugler Henry Lye (Brian White collection)

Henry Lye: Following the fighting at Glendale, dusk found Bugler Lye 'on his own hook'. C.A. Stevens later wrote: "Henry Lye, company bugler of G, captured several Johnnies in the wood about dusk, among them a lieutenant colonel, from whom he obtained a fine revolver. This officer, in answer to Lye's demand to "Halt! And surrender!" replied: "Down with your rifle, I'm your prisoner, but d--- me, if I didn't think these were my men in here." Lye thought so too and rushed his captives to the rear. Following Lye's death at Gettysburg, Lt. C.A. Stevens penned a tribute to his friend that appeared in the **Fox Lake Record**: "Sergt. Lye enlisted in the original company, in September of 1861 near Madison. He was born in England, was about 24 years of age, and went from Canada, where his mother resides, to Wisconsin, when quite young. He was one of our liveliest and most humorous members. (When fatally wounded at Gettysburg) He pulled off his knapsack and belt in an instant when struck and walked a part of the way to the rear. He died a hero in every sense of the word."

Lyman Thompson: During the Battle of Glendale, Lt. Gen. Longstreet's division launched an assault on the left flank of McCall's division of Pennsylvania Reserves, protecting the vital Charles City Road. As survivors of the 12th Pennsylvania Reserves fled past, Captain Edward Drew, Sergeants James Staples and Joel Parker, 'firing from a slight rise' were all struck down and killed. Charles Stevens wrote: "lieutenant Shepherd ordered his men back to the cover of the wood, which was obeyed as quickly as possible, a number getting hit in so doing. Among them was Lyman L. Thompson, one of the company buglers who went into this fight with his trumpet in one hand and rifle in the other. He was shot while crossing the ditch at the edge of the wood. No longer able to blow the martial blast, he lay down by his bugle and died."

Company H (New York)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Soule, Louis H.	Sept 1861.	WIA-Chancellorsville May. '63 POW- Petersburg, July '64.	May 25, 1865

Louis Soule: Louis Soule was a 19-year-old Carpenter from New York City when he joined the USSS on September 20, 1861. He stood 5 foot-5 inches in height, with blue eyes and a light complexion. Soule was present with his company on the Peninsula until he fell ill and sent to the U.S. General Hospital in Newport News on May 12, 1862. Soule was listed as 'absent' during an August 'Special Muster' and still hospitalized. On September 12, 1862, Captain McGough filed charges against Louis Soule: "did leave his company and regiment without leave of his Commanding officer at or near Washington DC, his regiment being on the march to meet the enemy, and that he (~~'after long and continual absence having failed'~~) did to report to his commanding officer (~~'was in pursuant of General Orders No. 102 Dropped from the Company Roll'~~) This after near Washington DC on or about Sept 15, 1862". On October 15th Soule's name appeared on the 'List of Deserters': "Straggled on march from Washington to Frederick. Had not been well for some time and had been once already discharged from Hospital, but was not positively sick, thick he could had kept up with his Regt. But he didn't do so. Believe he may in hospl. some where but have recd. no information official or otherwise since he straggled".

In October Soule was 'dropped from the rolls'. At the same time, the U.S. General Hospital in Alexandria, lists Soule as being 'present' for Sept-Oct; and the Patterson Park U.S. General Hospital (Nov-Dec, 1862). In January 1863, Major General Sumner got involved in Soule's case and ordered he be reinstated, after being presented with statements by the two surgeons who cared for him. Captain McGough wrote: "Present. Dropped on former roll taken up again and returned to duty, Jan 21 '63. To what time paid as stated on his own representation. Descriptive list returned to me is some effect." John added: "For some reason, I think, (Capt

McGough had a problem w/Soule or he just wanted to make an example of him. He was still pushing the issue in May of 64 till Gen. Birney got involved”.

Soule returned to his company until he sustained a gunshot wound to the knee at the battle of Chancellorsville and sent to Mt. Pleasant (U.S. Gen.) Hospital, then Convalescent Camp (July & August); before returning to duty in September. Soule finally received the back pay owed him during his hospitalization (July-August 1862) upon his return on January 20, 1864.

But it appears Captain McGough wasn’t finished with Private Soule. On April 21, 1864, McGough “*prefers charges and specifications against Priv. Louis H. Soule, Co. H 1st USSS. The same charges have been twice preferred before but have never been heard*”. The new regimental commander, Major Charles Mattocks, added: “*Respectfully forwarded and with the recommendation that the case be tried as soon as possible*”.

Representing Soule, 1st Lieutenant CM Carmicheal testified: “*...He (Soule) has certificate that he was in hospital up to the return to his regiment Jan’y 1863. He was wounded at Chancellorsville in May 1863 and has proper certificate as to his whereabouts up to his return to the regt in September 1863 at Sulphur Springs. Since then he has been with the Regt.*” On May 2, 1864, Major General Birney issued Special Order 113: “*Private Louis H. Soule, Co. H 1st USSS charged with desertion having shown satisfactory reasons for his absence is hereby released from arrest restored to duty*”.

Soule participated in the Overland Campaign until July 17th. The Company Descriptive Book reports: “*Captured before Petersburg July 17, 1864. The Muster Out roll records: “Left Company very mysteriously supposed captured by enemy”. Soule’s name appears on Descriptive List of Deserters; under Remarks: “Supposed to have deserted to or been picked up by the enemy. He has due him pay for the Months of November and December 1863, also Mar. April, May, June and July 1864”. In October 1864, the Long Island company’s enlistment ended, and the survivors were discharged. Still a prisoner, Soule was ‘transferred to Co. K 1st USSS’. Soule was exchanged and ‘attached’ to the USA Hospital in Annapolis on March 5, 1865. Twelve days later, Soule was granted a furlough from March 17 through April 15th; “Pay due the soldier for Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec/62 (???)”, Louis Soule received his discharge on May 25, 1865, in New York City.*

Embittered by his wartime experience, Louis Soule wrote to New York newspapers to recount his ill treatment and damaged reputation. In 1877, his Company records were corrected, striking down the charge of desertion. There is little evidence Soule ever served as bugler for Company H.

Company I (Michigan)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Cornell, Charles A.	Mar 4, '62	Sick in hospital July 6, '62, Discharged disabled.	Oct 25, '1862

Charles Cornell: Falling ill after the Seven Days campaign, Cornell was evacuated from Harrison’s Landing with the rest of the wounded and sick to Philadelphia, Pa., where he was discharged on August 14, 1862. Cornell re-enlisted in Second Brigade, Third Division Cavalry Corps as a bandsman, until his discharge at Ft. Leavenworth, KS, Oct 12, '65.

Years after the War, Orderly Sergeant, Eli Cook wrote an affidavit for Cornell’s pension application: “*Charles A. Cornell to be the identical person of that name who enlisted or volunteered as a Bugler in (Co. I) 1st Regt US Sharp Shooters taken sick with chronic diarrhea while in camp at Harrisons Landing Va. in July 1862...I also recollect of claimant being sent to the field Hospital in July or first of Aug 1862...it was a small Brick Church...I got permission to go to the Brick Church to see C.A. Cornell..(he) could not walk or sit up when I saw him..*”

Company K (Michigan)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Howe, Luther H.	Aug 27 '62	Bugler Feb 15-May 27, '63	DOD Jun 25, '63
Weeden, William A.	Mar '62		March '63

Luther Howe: 25-year-old Luther Howe moved from Ohio to Michigan with his wife Catherine and 10-month-old daughter Mary. On November 1, 1859, Luther purchased forty acres of land near the community of Ionia. The **1860 Cass County Census** lists Luther’s occupation as “*Farmer*” with a property value of \$100. Luther mustered into Company K in Detroit on August 27, 1862. In early June 1863, Howe contracted typhoid fever and was admitted to Fairfax Seminary Hospital. He died on June 25th and was buried at Arlington Cemetery (grave # 868). Private William Weeden became the new bugler of Co. K.

William A Weeden: *The 1860 Census for Caledonia Township, shows 27-year-old William residing on the family farm along the Shiawassee River. Both William and his father were carpenters, while 19-year-old brother, George, worked the land. In addition, mother, Mary, with Mary (15) and Martha (12) resided at the home; as well as 14-year-old Lenor Hunton, whose relationship with the family is unknown.*

On February 10, 1870, William applied for a pension as an ‘invalid’. Four months later, the June 1870 census listed 36-year-old William living with his mother and 30-year-old brother, George on their family farm. William’s occupation is listed as ‘farmer while George’s occupation is “lawyer”; their assets were \$500 and \$400 respectively. On September 21, 1876, William married Nellie B (22 years his junior), in Adrian, Michigan. The next year Nellie gave birth to their only child, a daughter, Mary. The 1880 census shows the family living in Corunna, William’s occupation was “Wool Carder”. By 1900 marital discord plagued the couple, with William filing for divorce on March 2nd, citing ‘extreme cruelty’. The divorce was granted on June 13, 1900. Weeden died on July 18, 1904, of ‘paralysis of the throat’ and is buried in the Corunna cemetery.

Company L (Second Company Minnesota Sharpshooters)

The Second Company Minnesota Sharp Shooters were to join their sister company (Company ‘A’ 2nd USSS), but due to transportation delays, when they arrived at Washington DC, they learned that General McClellan had issued orders that they be transferred to Col. Hiram Berdan’s 1st USSS on the Peninsula. As the Battle of Fair Oaks commenced, a series of special orders flew between St. Paul and Washington, DC. With Order 131, Company ‘L’ was transferred out of the Sharp Shooters to the 1st Minnesota Volunteer Infantry. The men retained their Sharps rifles and remained the ‘eleventh’ independent sharpshooter/skirmisher company with the 1st Minn/Minn Battalion until mustered out.

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Archibald, David	?	WIA (thigh)- Cold Harbor, Va. Jun 4, '64	?
Buttolph, Morris	?	Died of disease-Newport News, Va.	Sept 5 '62

2nd Regiment U.S. Sharpshooters

Company A (First Company Minnesota Sharpshooters)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Hawes, Jas. C.	Oct 5, '61	Chief Bugler. DC ‘throat trouble’	?
Mixer, Horace L.	Oct 5, '61	Discharged	Sept 26, '64.
Page, Henry C.	Oct 5, '61	Transfer to MN Battn	July 1865
Slocum, Geo. F.	Oct 5, '61	Discharged disabled	Jan 21, 1862
Seward, Watson	Oct 5, '61	Discharged ‘special order War Dept’	Feb '62

James C. Hawes: Hawes was 28 years old when he enlisted in Co. A at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. He stood at 5 foot-10 inches in height, with a light complexion, blue eyes, and brown hair. He was medically discharged for ‘throat trouble’.

Henry Page: Henry Page was 21-years old when he enlisted. He hailed from Boston, Mass’ and his pre-war occupation was ‘hunter’. Page stood 5’ 10” in height and had a light complexion, gray eyes, and black hair. Page re-enlisted as a veteran volunteer and was transferred to the 1st Battalion Minnesota Vols. on February 18, 1865. Page was ‘a bugler since the reorganization of the company’. Capt. Dudley P. Chase’s Morning Report (Oct 1862) records no buglers present for duty. A year later, Capt. Abraham Wright reports Co. A still without a musician. Bugler Henry Page appears present for duty in May 1864; a position he retained until mustered out at the end of his term of service in February 1865.

Company B (Michigan)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Hammond, Otto	Oct 29 '61	Re-enlist Dec 21 '63. Trans 5 th MI Inf	Jul 5, '65
Wheelock, Orlando	Oct 4 '61	Principal Musician-Jan. 1st, 1865.	Feb 20 '65

Otto Hammond: On February 23, 1865, the U.S. Sharpshooters were dissolved by order of the War Department. The veteran volunteers and recruits with time left to serve, were transferred to infantry regiments from their home state serving in the Army of the Potomac. The Michigan sharpshooters were transferred to the 5th Michigan Veteran Vol. Infantry. Otto Hammond was

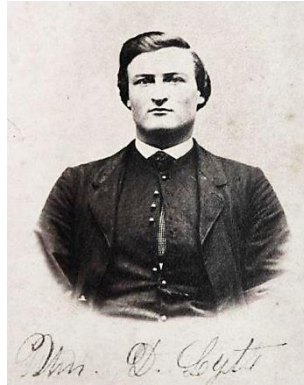
transferred to Co. B of the 5th Mich infantry and continued to serve as bugler until the end of the War. Hammond was discharged at Jeffersonville, Indiana on July 5, 1865.

In his memoirs, **Wyman White** wrote: “*There was an old Dutch bugler in the Michigan Company that went by the name of Dutch John. He was a veteran of the Mexican War and while there was some firing, he ran ahead of the line of skirmishers and took a look at the enemy that were over the other side of a rise of ground. He was quite liberally cheered by the Sharpshooters for his bravery, but the engagement was only a very light skirmish. John lost his bravery after he had seen two or three battles and would always be found well to the rear when there was any fighting. I heard him say that he heard more shots and shells and saw more dead men in two hours than he saw through the whole Mexican War.*”

German immigrant, Otto Hammond was 32 at the time of his enlistment. I haven’t been able to confirm if Otto Hammond was the ‘Dutch John’ described by Wyman White.

Company C (Pennsylvania)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mustered</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Discharged</u>
Lytle, William D.	?	Assigned 1 st USSS-May ‘63	?

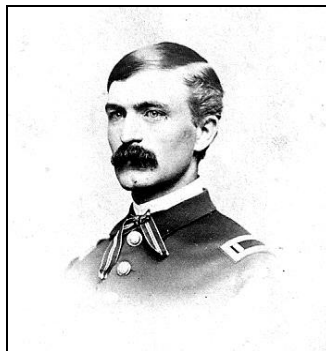


William D. Lytle (Company C 2nd USSS website)

William D. Lytle: A letter dated May 1863 to Gov. A.G. Curtin of Pennsylvania reported Bugler Lytle was “*on detached service to Major Wilson 1st USSS by order of Col. Berdan*”. According to John Carey (following Major Hasting’s wounding at the Battle of Chancellorsville): ‘*Captain Jack*’ Wilson became the “Acting ‘Major’ of the Regiment. Lytle’s transfer from the 2nd USSS was a staff position, making him Chief Bugler. In August, Major Hastings returned to the Regiment but within a month was transferred to Washington DC to the Judge Advocate General’s office. Lytle likely continued to serve as the second Battalion, if not chief Bugler.”

Company D (Maine)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Mustered</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Discharged</u>
Bridgham, Charles B.	Nov 3, 1861	Hosp steward-POW 2 nd Bull Run Aug 29, ‘62.	?
Clark Lemuel Jr.	Nov 3, ‘61	MIA Antietam- “supposed killed”	MIA Sept 17, 1862
Ladd, Warren	Nov 9, ‘61	Died-typhoid fever	DoD Dec 24, 1861
Seddon, Warren	Nov 9, ‘61	Died-typhoid fever	DoD, Dec 24, 1861



Charles B. Bridgham (Brian White collection)

Charles B. Brigham (per Brian): “Charles B. Bridgham enlisted in Co. D (Maine) as a musician. He was soon afterwards appointed Hospital Steward in recognition for his pre-war medical studies at Harvard. As Acting Assistant Surgeon, Charles was captured at 2nd Bull Run while tending the wounded. He was paroled but not permitted to return to the field due the conditions of his parole. Bridgham resigned and returned to Maine, graduating from Bowdoin Medical College in 1863. He re-enlisted as Assistant Surgeon for the 54th Massachusetts Infantry (of Glory fame). He served in that capacity until July 1864 when disability led to his discharge. Bridgham is mentioned in several 54th Mass. correspondences and he returned the late Colonel Robert Gould Shaw's personal effects to his family in Boston after the colonel's death at Fort Wagner in 1863.

Company E (Vermont)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Hill, Franklin J.	Nov 9, '61	Tr-Veteran Reserve Corps, Nov 1863	Sept 7 '64.
Mosher, Henry E.	Nov 9, '61	Re-enlisted Dec 21, '63. Tr-4 th VT	Jul 13, '65

Franklin Hill (Brian wrote): “Although not listed in official USSS records, "Franklin J. Hill" is the alias for Julius T. Hill. Julius was born in Waterbury, VT, sometime in 1840-1841, and enlisted in Battery G, 1st U.S. Light Artillery as a musician on Nov. 6th, 1860. He was present with the battery until they relocated from Barrancas Barracks to Fort Pickens (Florida) shortly after the start of the war. I'm not sure how they got out of Florida, but they did, (President Lincoln dispatched a fleet to secure Fort Pickens after Fort Sumter fell) with Battery G going on to serve in the AoP throughout the war. Julius T. Hill deserted on Sept. 24th, 1861, and apparently returned home to Vermont to enlist in the 2nd USSS under the alias. After his transfer to the VRC he served in Co. G 15th Regt., later designated the 28th Company, 2nd Battalion VRC.

On Sunday, Feb 9, 1862, Sgt. James Mero Matthews wrote: “Hill, a bugler of Co. E, while in a fit of insanity stabbed himself with a bayonet”. William Greene observed:” I looked over to the Co. E Street and saw a crowd gathering there so I ran over to see what the trouble was. I went and looked in the tent and saw a sight that would make a man's blood run cold. There struggling in the hands of two men was a man with a big wound in his breast and blood gushing out every time he made a jump. I inquired into the case and found that he had stabbed himself with one of his mate's bayonets. He is alive now (2'oclock) but I don't think he will live long. The cause was the unfaithfulness of a {forced to take the Colt} rifle.”

Henry Mosher: When the War Department ordered the dissolution of the U. S. Sharpshooters, Bugler Mosher and the remaining Vermonters transferred to the 4th Veteran Volunteer Infantry on Feb 25, 1865. On May 4th, Mosher was promoted to Chief Bugler. He was discharged on July 13, 1865.

Company F (New Hampshire)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Bowen, Wm. A.	Nov 26, '61	Completed term of service	Nov 26, '64.
Farnum, Isaac H.	Nov 26 '61	Completed term of service	Nov 26, '64
Manchester, John A.	Jan 19, '62	Transfer 5 th NH Vols Jan 10, '65	June 28 '65
Scott, William W.	Nov 26, '61	Apt Sgt. Re-enlisted Dec 21, '63. Transfer 5 NH Vols.	June 28, '65.

Company G (New Hampshire)

Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Eastman, Frank	Dec 12, '61	Discharged disabled, Washington, D.C.	March 6, '62.
Holt, Albion	Dec 12, '61	Re-enlisted Feb 24, 1864. Transfer to 5 th NHVI.	June 28, '65.
True, Augustus A.	Dec 12, 61	Transfer to NHV Jan 30, '65.	July 10 '65

NOT LISTED: Brown, William A.

Frank Eastman: 16-year-old Frank A. Eastman enlisted as a bugler for 3 years. But soon after arriving at Camp of Instruction, Bugler Eastman found soldiering not to his liking. William B. Greene, regretting his own impulsive decision to enlist, became very interested in young Eastman. He wrote home on Jan 3, 1862: “You wanted me to tell you about Frank Eastman. He did not know how he was going to be discharged so I thought I would wait until he heard from his folks. He got a letter today from his mother with \$5.00 in it. She told him to keep still and not say anything about getting discharged but as he and I were pretty good friends he told me about it. He said that his folks got up a petition for a discharge and the governor of N.H. signed it and they sent it here for the Secretary of War to sign and if he signs it, he is discharged.”

Jan 18, 1862: *“Frank Eastman is here yet and I guess he will be here as long as any of us. I don’t believe he will be discharged.”*

Feb 1, 1862: *“Frank Eastman expects to go home with the Governor when he goes (Gov. Berry was visiting the New Hampshire USSS companies to hear their complaints about the ‘Sharps question’, had visited the President and Gen. McClellan). “If he does go, he says he will go to Raymond and see you. If he does come, he can answer all the questions you wish to ask about me and the Sharpshooters and the country and he will tell you how he got discharged”.*

Feb 11, 1862: *“Frank Eastman is with me and he keeps asking me questions so I don’t know what kind of a letter I shall make up but you know it is from me so you must excuse all mistakes...Frank Eastman told me to tell you he would come down and see you after he got home.”*

Feb 17, 1862: *“You wanted to know if Frank Eastman had gone home, he has not I don’t know whether he can get home or not.”*

Albion Holt: On January 15, 1859, 32-year-old Albion married Sabrina Kitchen (eleven years his junior) in Lowell, New Hampshire; his pre-war occupations were ‘brickmaker’ and ‘clerk’. Albion joined the Sharp Shooters on March 6, 1864. He stood 5 foot-6 inches, with brown hair, blue eyes with a dark complexion. On November 8, 1864, Holt re-enlisted as a Veteran Volunteer at Brandy Station, Va. When Co. G was disbanded, Holt transferred to the 5th New Hampshire Infantry, until his discharge on June 28, 1865. The 1864 **‘Disbursement in aid for Families of Volunteers for the Town of Pembrook’** shows Sabrina (with 7-year-old Jenny and 4-year-old George) received \$27.70 while he was in service.

Augustus ‘Gus’ True: The 1860 Census for Raymond, New Hampshire, lists 16-year-old Gus living with his parents, Elias and Mary, with his four siblings, and ‘domestic’ Elizabeth Greer and four-year-old daughter. Like his father, Gus occupation was ‘carpenter’. True enlisted in Company G as a bugler on October 7, 1861. He stood 5 feet-1 inch tall, with blue eyes and a light complexion. William B. Greene was Gus’ childhood friend. Willie’s letters described Gus’ duties as bugler, health and absences to his mother, brother and the True family.

May 11, 1862: (Greene describes True’s ‘cushy’ job): *“And all Gus has to do is get up in the morning at 6 ½ o’clock and help blow the call for roll call-at 9 o’clock blows for guard mounting, at 10 for drill, at 1 p.m. for drill, at 5 ½ for dress parade, at 8 ½ for Taps.”*

June 29, 1862: *“Capt. Is under arrest. He and the Col. (H.A. V. Post) had a little trouble when we were coming in here and the Col. took his sword...You see Gus True was tuckered and so he sat down beside the road and the Col. came along and ordered him up and Gus could not go fast so the Col. rode his horse on him, or close to him, and the Capt. saw it and said-“Bugler, if you are tired and can’t go, lay down-and Gus stopped. Then the Col. kicked Gus three times and then came on to Capt. and told him to go to the rear of the Regt and consider himself under arrest”*

After his arrest for desertion and return to his regiment, Greene continued to look for opportunities to get discharged. His friend, Gus True was also. Greene wrote to his brother Marl on April 3, 1864: *“Gus True is here & he has got to lose all pay while gone & serve the time over. He is sick now and I guess he intends to get out of service if possible. He was in N.Y. while absent. He is a pretty hard nut & if he does not do something for himself he will not live long”.*

On August 21st Greene wrote: *“Gus went to the Hospital yesterday at Washington & in all probability will not return again. He is sorry he ever came back again. He has not done any duty since he arrived here & he says he never will do any more & I guess he never will for I think that unless he takes extra care of himself he will die”.*

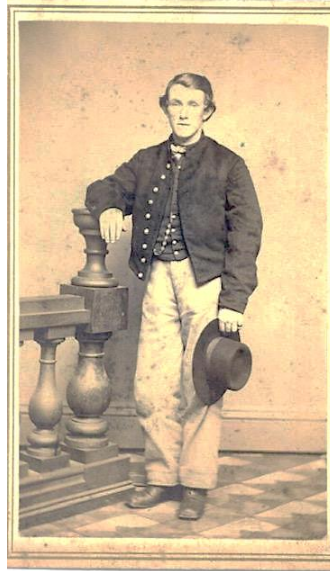
The final Muster Out Roll for Company G (and transfer to the 5th New Hampshire Infantry), Gus True’s signature is absent. The ‘last paid’ heading lists “not known”, but he was owed \$100 for reenlistment bonus. Under ‘Comments’: *Absent sick. Pay due May & June 1862. Stop pay from June 20, 1862 to Feb 29/64 including 4 (forth bounty installment) by order Maj. Gen Birney. Pay due from Feb 27/64 to Dec 21st/64.* On June 28th, the 5th New Hampshire was discharged by order of ‘The President’. True name is still carried on the rolls, but “No discharge furnished”.

The June 1870 Census for the Town of Raymond, NH, shows Gus True living with his older brother, Warren (‘Tavern Keeper’), his wife, Weltha, and sixteen-year-old domestic servant; Ravena Poor. Gus’ occupation is listed: *“Works in Stable”.* ‘Lumberman’ Gus True would die twelve years later on November 27, 1882; Dr. T.M. Gould would list cause of death ‘Rheumatic disease’. His widow, Nellie True filed for a pension a year later. It is unknown if she ever received any benefits.

Company H (Vermont)

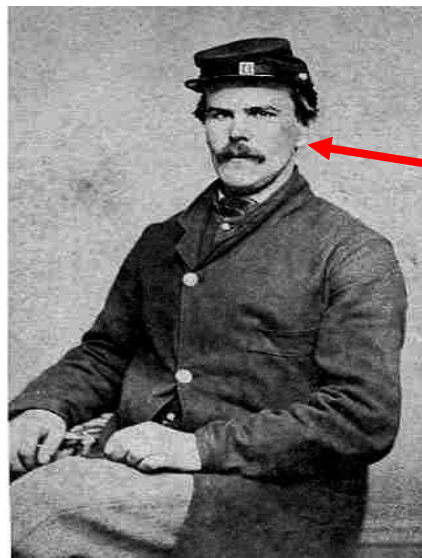
Name	Mustered	Comments	Discharged
Warner, Camillus T.	<i>Dec 31, 1861</i>	<i>Vet Vol. (must Dec 21, '63)</i>	<i>KIA Jun 11, '64</i>
Houghton, Henry H.	<i>Dec 31, 1861</i>	<i>Vet Vol. (must Dec 21, '63)</i>	<i>WIA Jul 2 '63</i>
Robinson, Chas. H.	<i>Dec 31, 1861</i>	<i>Transferred VRC (Sept 1, '63)</i>	<i>Oct 24, 1864</i>

Carmillus Warner: The Second Quarter (1862) *Recapitulation of the Company* lists buglers Carmillus T. Warner and Charles L. Richardson (Charles H. Robinson) present for duty. Warner re-enlisted at Brandy Station on December 21, 1863. At Cold Harbor, William Greene wrote in his memorandum dated June 11, 1864: “*Very Warm day. Bugler Warner of Co. H was killed in camp today by a Rebel sharpshooter.*” Brian reports Warner: “*was walking near some works or had just stopped looking over them, turned away and was hit*”.



Bugler Carmillus Warner (Rick Carlise Collection)

Henry Houghton: The final Muster and Descriptive Roll (dated February 18, 1865) lists: *Henry H. Houghton, Bugler, a 23-year-old farmer from Westminster, Vermont; standing five-foot, 9 inches tall, with dark eyes, dark hair and dark complexion. Remarks: Vet(eran) Vol(unteer).* Brian White recently acquired the photograph of Henry Houghton taken after the battle at Gettysburg. Houghton had been struck on the left side of his face by a spent ball, breaking his jaw. The image below clearly shows Houghton left cheekbone is still bruised. Houghton was transferred to a hospital in Brattleboro, VT (Oct '63) before returning to duty.



Bugler Henry H. Houghton, Co. 'H' 2nd USSS
Possibly the longest serving bugler of both regiments.

Conclusion: In this installment of “*Who were they? The United States Sharp Shooter Buglers*”; my goal has been to introduce readers to the men who musically communicated orders in camp, on the march and on the skirmish line. I also sought to provide the

wider context of what their duties were, the instruments they played, and the 52 different signals they had to learn and play effectively. I recognize that despite John, Brian, and my exhaustive efforts, it is possible we may have overlooked one or more buglers, so I encourage readers who may have this knowledge to please contact the authors, so we can resurrect their names from anonymity.

Full Circle: *In the Spring of 2015, Major John Carey invited me to serve as Chief Bugler for the USSS battalion for the 150th Gettysburg (Blue Gray Alliance) event held on the Bushy Farm. It had been nearly 20 years since I first heard Dave Fulcher sound “Deploy as Skirmishers” at Fairfield; and now it was my opportunity to recapture that magic for the next generation of reenacting Sharpshooters. As our battalion marched through the woods and fields, I was impressed to see so many buglers now serving at regimental and brigade posts. Even more gratifying was to see officers and enlisted men that could recognize bugle signals and respond to them. Throughout the entire weekend, bugles sounded throughout the BGA encampment adding an authentic feel to the event. On Saturday night, as the last notes of “Extinguish Lights” drifted across the silent USSS camp, I lowered my bugle and wondered if they might float eastward to Pitzer’s Wood, the Peach Orchard, Slyder Farm and Big Round Top; where, just maybe, the restless spirits of the original Sharp Shooters might hear them.*



*Chief Bugler Skillman, Major John Carey and Captain Jason Crawford
Slyder Farm-Little Round Top scenario 150 BGA Reenactment-Gettysburg*

I welcome your thoughts and comments.

Bill Skillman

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With Deepest Respect and Appreciation

The scope and breadth of this project proved too daunting for me to complete alone. John Carey’s extensive collection of USSS Muster and Pension rolls, Census records and experience of years exploring the National Archives, not only identified bugler’s names, but also the rich, and sometimes tragic, stories of their lives during and after the War. Brian’s encyclopedic knowledge of CDV’s has provided images of buglers that heretofore had been relegated as ‘names on a page’. I am indebted to Dave Fulcher for igniting my determination to recreate the role of a Sharpshooter bugler. Though I never had formal lessons from them; George Rabbai, RJ Samp and Jari Villaneau served as my music teachers through their cassette tapes, CD’s and sound pages. Each of these musicians have enriched the Civil War hobby due to their ceaseless efforts to incorporate the historical role of buglers during the Civil War.

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- Company L 1st USSS Minnesota
- Company F 1st USSS Vermont
- Company A 2nd USSS Minnesota
- Company B 2nd USSS Michigan
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