

**FIRST REGIMENT OF
INFANTRY,
MASSACHUSETTS
VOLUNTEER MILITIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649750283

First Regiment of Infantry, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia by Robert Cowdin

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ROBERT COWDIN

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INFANTRY,
MASSACHUSETTS
VOLUNTEER MILITIA**



ROBERT COWDIN

Colonel First Regiment Infantry, M. V. M., 1861
Brigadier General U. S. Vols., 1862

Massachusetts Infantry, 1st Regt.
" 1861—

First Regiment of Infantry
Massachusetts Volunteer Militia

Colonel **ROBERT COWDIN**, Commanding

IN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES, IN ANSWER
TO THE PRESIDENT'S FIRST CALL FOR TROOPS
TO SUPPRESS THE REBELLION, APRIL 15, 1861



COMPILED FROM ORIGINAL PAPERS IN THE ADJUTANT GENERAL AND AUDITOR'S OFFICES OF THE COMMONWEALTH

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, BY DIRECTION OF THE
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, WRIGHT AND POTTER PRINTING COMPANY
BOSTON, STATE PRINTERS, NINETEEN HUNDRED AND THREE

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INTRODUCTION

THE Resolve adopted by the Legislature in 1903, the Order adopted by Governor and Council May 27, 1903, in pursuance of said Resolve, together with the Order issued to the First Regiment, M. V. M., from the office of the Adjutant General of the Commonwealth, April 27, 1861, all of which are herewith printed, will explain this compilation.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts ever delights to honor its citizen soldier. Lapse of time does not cloud her recollection nor cool her warm appreciation of their valorous deeds. More than forty-two years have passed since the call to arms hereby memorialized was promulgated, and, notwithstanding the names of the officers and men of this command have since that time been upon the honor roll in the archives of the Commonwealth, it has seemed fitting that they should be collated and compiled, that distinct emphasis should be given to their prompt performance of patriotic duty. That the regiment was not required upon the first call to perform active campaigning detracts nothing from the meed of glory which is theirs; they were ready; they did not "reason why"; they obeyed orders; they were "minute

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men" of 1861, as truly as were their compatriots in the earlier time of Freedom's trial in 1775. Nor is this all. Of the names borne on the rolls published in these pages, ninety per cent. are those of men who unhesitatingly stepped from the ranks of the militia into those of the United States Volunteers, First Massachusetts Infantry. The regiment performed brilliant service in the Army of the Potomac from 1861 to 1864. Its grand record, covering the campaign from Blackburn's Ford to the Wilderness, has been told elsewhere.

It need only be recalled here that this command was the first of the three years' regiments, armed and equipped, to report at Washington in the early and dark hours of the Rebellion.

The few officers and men of the original militia regiment, whose circumstances forbade their leaving for the front with the volunteer command, nevertheless rendered patriotic service. As the Forty-second Infantry, M. V. M., their recruited ranks were mustered in for service in the Department of the Gulf in 1862-63, and again in 1864 the regiment entered the service for honorable duty in the defences of Washington.

In 1898, though the changes in the organization had been many, the old regiment was found true to its traditions. On the day after the dec-

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claration of war against Spain it marched into Fort Warren with ninety-nine per cent. of its regimental strength present for duty, and with the honor of being the first militia command in the entire country to come to the assistance of the government. And shortly afterwards, following the example of its predecessors of 1861, it was mustered into the volunteer service of the United States. To-day it is worthily upholding the regimental record, with the distinction of having been the first regiment ever designated by the Secretary of War, in time of peace, to take part in the annual manœuvres of the regular army. It would seem, then, that the patriotism of the men whose names are recorded in the following pages has borne its legitimate fruit, and in the publishing of this record it is hoped that two lessons may be taught to future generations—first, the recognition of devotion to sworn duty,—second, the presenting an example worthy of emulation to the young men to come after us who may, perhaps, (we hope not) at no distant day be called upon to respond, in a similar emergency, to a call in defence of our country and her institutions.

LUKE EDWARD JENKINS

Private Company B