

**THE STORY OF A REGIMENT; BEING A
NARRATIVE OF THE SERVICE OF THE
SECOND REGIMENT, MINNESOTA
VETERAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, IN
THE CIVIL WAR OF 1861-1865**

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The Story of a Regiment; Being a Narrative of the Service of the Second Regiment, Minnesota Veteran Volunteer Infantry, in the Civil War of 1861-1865 by Judson W. Bishop

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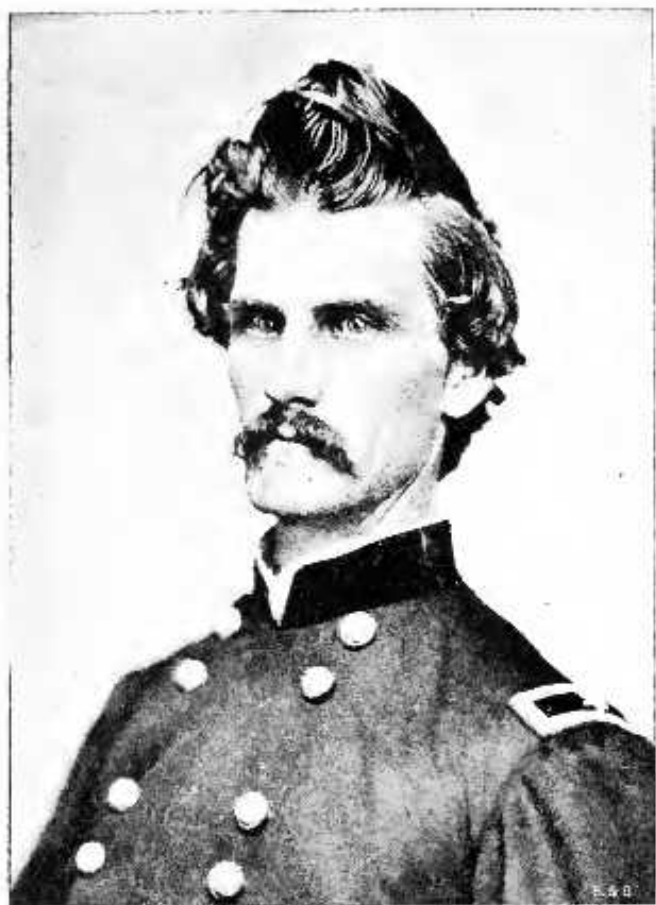
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JUDSON W. BISHOP

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BEING A NARRATIVE OF THE

Service of the Second Regiment,

MINNESOTA VETERAN VOLUNTEER
INFANTRY,

IN THE CIVIL WAR OF 1861-1865,

BY

JUDSON W. BISHOP,

LATE COLONEL, AND BVT. BRIG. GENL. U. S. A.

WRITTEN AND PUBLISHED FOR, AND BY REQUEST OF THE
SURVIVING MEMBERS OF THE REGIMENT.

ST. PAUL, MINN.
1890.

INTRODUCTION.

In response to the often repeated request of my comrades, now surviving, of the Second Minnesota Regiment, I recently promised to write a connected narrative of the service of the regiment from 1861 to 1865.

Having been the first man to be mustered into that regiment and the last man to be mustered out of it, and having served continuously in it from first to last, and having for more than half the term of service, had the responsibility of its administration, discipline and command, it should not be a difficult task for me to make a continuous record of all important events in its history. As moreover its services were always and everywhere honorable, efficient and satisfactory, it should be, and is, a labor of love to review and record them.

But amid the absorbing and varied cares of a busy life I have found it impossible to give to the work the continuous attention that is necessary to perform such work well, and I should not be satisfied with it now, if I could suppose that I should ever have the leisure time in which to improve upon it.

It is intended to be and I believe is, a faithful and truthful record of facts and events, and as such

will be tested without discredit by the official reports and the diaries and letters of the time. With less care in this respect, and with more freedom of invention and imagination, a more interesting and readable war story could doubtless have been made of it.

In writing the story of the regiment the frequent mention of names has been avoided. A great many of the seventeen hundred and eighty men who were members of it have well deserved personal mention for gallant and meritorious conduct, else the regiment as such could not have acquired its conceded high reputation, but it is obviously impossible to mention all, or some without omitting others equally worthy, and my comrades generally will, I trust, be content to claim the history of the regiment, which they helped to make, as their own, and be proud of it as they have a right to be.

A part of the record history of the regiment consists of such correspondence, official reports, orders and recommendations as would encumber the progress of the narrative if placed therein; these are given in the appendix, usually in full, and from official sources. Some of them are now for the first time in print and all of them will be of interest to members of the regiment.

I had proposed to append also a complete roster giving the official military record of each and all the members of the regiment, but I find upon examination, that the only record thus far compiled is imperfect, erroneous and unsatisfactory. The compilation of a new and complete one from original rolls and records is impracticable within

the time at my command, and I am thus compelled to close the book without it.

This is less to be regretted, however, in view of the fact that the State has by law provided for the preparation of an official roster of all the Minnesota soldiers, of which every such soldier now surviving (or his representative if dead) is to receive a copy free of expense.

I am under obligations to comrades D. C. Wilson, Wm. Bircher and M. D. E. Runals for the use of their daily journals (1861 to 1865) which have been valuable references in locating events and dates.

The work, such as it is, *Comrades*, is now submitted in the hope that it will meet your kind approval and that it may revive, as you read it, your interest and pride in the memory of our regiment and of your service in and with it, as it has indeed revived mine to prepare the record for you.

J. W. BISHOP.

St. PAUL, June, 1890.

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