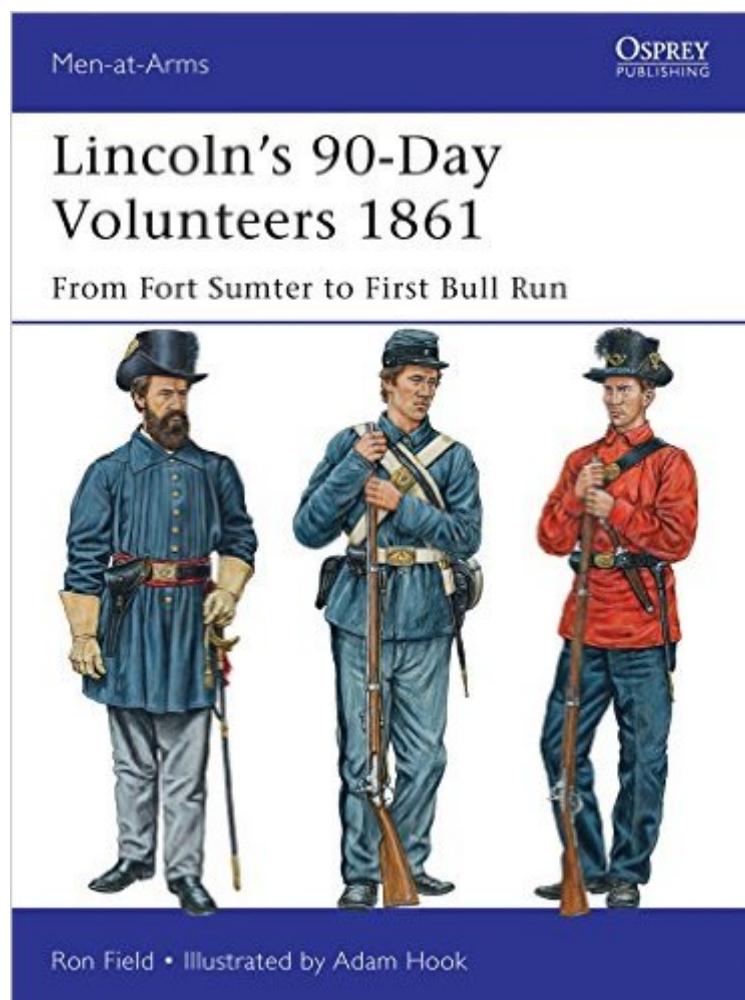


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Lincoln's 90-Day Volunteers 1861: From Fort Sumter To First Bull Run (Men-at-Arms)



Synopsis

On April 15, the day after the fall of Fort Sumter, President Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers to enlist for three months' service to defend the Union. Featuring specially commissioned full-color artwork, this is the engaging story of the first wave of soldiers who volunteered to defend and preserve the Union in 1861, based on detailed research in US sources, including many eye-witness accounts of their very varied uniforms and equipment. When war broke out with the Confederate bombardment of Fort Sumter, South Carolina, on April 12-14, 1861, the regular US Army numbered just 16,000 troops, most of them scattered widely, and far from what would clearly become the main theater of operations between the two capitals - Washington, DC, and Richmond, Virginia. It was at this time Lincoln called for a three-month enlistment from volunteers. The 90-day period was, of course, entirely unrealistic, and would be followed by further and much more extensive mobilizations; but for the first few months, when Washington itself was in real danger, the defense of the capital depended on a hastily gathered army of militiamen and volunteers from those states that declared their immediate loyalty to the Union. These units were mostly entirely inexperienced, barely trained, weakly officered, and provided with the most motley uniforms, equipage, and weapons. Nevertheless, they bought the Union time during the first vital months. This period ended with the First Battle of Bull Run (Manassas) on July 21, at which only some 2,000 of General McDowell's 28,500 Union troops were regulars. This ground-breaking study draws upon a very wide range of period sources to describe and illustrate the actual appearance of this diverse and colorful force, including photographs, eyewitness accounts in period newspapers and letters, the reports of government agents, and the records of the many manufacturers who received orders to clothe and equip their state troops. The units were composed of separate companies drawn from both wealthy and poorer communities, so varied widely in style, from copies of fashionable French uniforms to plain working-men's clothing. There were no rules at this date specifying that the North should wear blue and the South gray, and the extremely mixed appearance of both armies caused much dangerous confusion. Fully illustrated with specially commissioned artwork and rare period illustrations, this engaging account brings to life the first wave of volunteers who stepped forward to defend and preserve the Union in 1861.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

LINCOLN'S 90-DAY VOLUNTEERS, 1861: FROM FORT SUMTER TO FIRST BULL RUN
FIELDOSPREY PUBLISHING, 2013
QUALITY SOFTCOVER, \$17.95, 48 PAGES, CHRONOLOGY, TABLES, ILLUSTRATIONS, PHOTOGRAPHS, BIBLIOGRAPHY, INDEX
Throughout The War Between The States, an estimated 2,100,000 men served for a time in Union blue. While the service and sacrifice of most of these men have been properly recognized in the vast annals of War Between The States historiography, there still remains many soldiers who history seemingly forgot. Interestingly, and perhaps most notably is the forgotten history of the very first Northern volunteers to arrive in Washington, D.C. after President Lincoln's April 15, 1861, call-to-arms. Three days after the distressed president's call, an estimated 475 Pennsylvanians (from Eastern and Central Pennsylvania), comprising five volunteer militia companies, arrived in the nation's capital. Following the bombardment and subsequent capitulation of Fort Sumter on April 14, 1861, President Lincoln, after only one month in office, found himself faced with the greatest crisis to ever confront the young American nation. Recognizing the Southern rebellion can now be reconciled only with force, Lincoln issued a call for 75,000 volunteers to serve for a period of 3 months or 90 days. Throughout northern communities, eager men of all ages and from all socio-economic and occupational backgrounds flooded recruiting offices to answer the call. Within a few days, and in many instances, within a matter of hours, thousands of volunteers departed home and family to begin their journey as soldiers. Three days after Lincoln's call, the final volunteer troops arrived in Washington, D.C. Travelling along with volunteers was a detachment of regular U.S.

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