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REPORT  
OF THE  
COMMISSIONERS  
ON  
WAR RECORDS.

JANUARY, 1910.

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## The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

### REPORT.

The Commissioners on War Records have the honor to submit the following report:—

The carding of the principal rolls is finished or far on the way to completion. The muster-in, descriptive, muster and descriptive, sworn town and city reports of enlistments, individual enlistment papers of volunteers are done. The monthly reports of twelve regiments of infantry are completed, and the work is being done with thoroughness and care. It is in experienced and competent hands. Thirteen muster-out rolls are finished; two nearly done.

The number of volunteer soldiers and sailors given as from Massachusetts was 159,165. As nearly as can be estimated, that would mean a total of 1,072,448 cards; the cards already written number 740,296; that leaves to be done 332,152.

The work of this year has been: on muster-out rolls, 20,827 cards; descriptive rolls, 47,000 cards; monthly reports, 13,587 cards; retained copies of records of the Fifth Battery, belonging to the late Captain Phillips, have been carded to the number of 1,100; War Department letters carded, 532; regular soldiers carded, 750; naval records carded, 595; total, 84,409.

#### NAVY.

Sailors and marines, "final dispositions" obtained, 488; corrections and connections, 107 men; new services of sailors and marines, 18. Letters to Navy Department, town and city clerks, Adjutants-General of States and other officials and individuals, for information, 688; letters in

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reply, 689. There have been 613 naval records corrected, amplified, finished entirely or newly obtained.

So large a proportion of the carding having been done, it was best that the sorting of the cards should be begun. Consequently the four new women clerks were assigned to the work, beginning in the spring. They have sorted the cards of the First to the Twenty-sixth regiments of infantry, to the number of 171,000. The names of the men are assembled alphabetically, by companies and regiments, as they will stand on the roster; and the many errors and inconsistencies are noted on the cards. It might be instructive to give two instances of these errors or distortions of name.

In the Adjutant-General's record book appears, from the enlistment roll in Company F, twenty-second regiment, a soldier named *Dennis Coughlan* (probably his right name). This man is found on cards from ten other rolls or records under the names of Coughlin, Caughlin, Loughlin, Cockran, Cocklin, Caghlear, Caghler, Couran, Conovan, Conklin.

Another man, in Company D, of the same regiment, appears on the Adjutant-General's record book (undoubtedly correctly) as *James A. Yeaton*. In the various rolls, etc., where his record appears, he is called, respectively, Eaton, Leaton, Seaton, Geston and Geator, besides his right name on one or more rolls.

This "assembling" of the cards is in the interest of economy of time and celerity of work hereafter, for new cards made can be at once placed exactly where they belong. It is also the first step toward publication.

The commissioners have had no reason for changing the opinion that was expressed by them in the report of January, 1907, that the work preliminary to publication was then about half finished.

WM. H. BRIGHAM,  
WM. M. OLIN,  
HENRY E. TURNER,

*Commissioners on War Records.*



