

Commonwealth of MA  
Military Div. Records  
about history of the MA  
20th Volunteer Infantry





THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

MILITARY DIVISION

MILITARY RECORDS

In reply refer to

Building No. 2

MASSACHUSETTS NATIONAL GUARD SUPPLY DEPOT  
143 Speen Street, Natick, MA 01760-2599  
(617) 651-5766

Ms. Therese Manchester  
1337 Main Road  
Westport, MA 02790

05 May, 1987

Dear Ms. Manchester:

This communication is in reference to your letter of 18 APR 87.

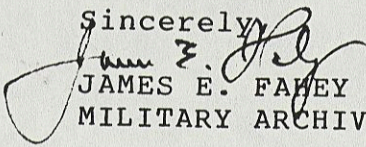
The attached enclosures are various views of the flag of the 20th Regiment. Some copies are light and dark. The engagements read from left to right:

Balls's Bluff	Mine Run
Yorktown	Wilderness
West Point	Po River
Fair Oaks	Spotsylvania
Peach Orchard	North Anna River
Savage's Station	Totopotomy
Glendale	Cold Harbor
Malvern Hill	Petersburg
Chantilly	Strawberry Plains
Antietam	Ream's Station
Fredericksburg	Boylston Road
Chancellorsburg	Vaugh Road
Gettysburg	Hatchers Run
Bristol Station	

I have also included some statistics on the 20th. Is this a research project that you are doing? Let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Encls: as attached

Sincerely,

  
JAMES E. FAHEY  
MILITARY ARCHIVIST



The royal governors affixed their personal seals to commissions issued to officers in the military service.

When the conflict began in 1775, between the province and England, General Thomas Gage, the royal governor, had the custody of the province seal. As his authority was no longer recognized by the province it became necessary to establish a new public seal.

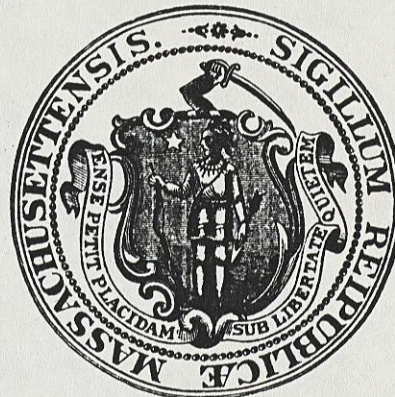
Therefore, on July 28, 1775, the General Court passed an order appointing a committee to consider "what is necessary to be done relative to a Colony Seal." The design adopted was that of the English-American in the following representation.

A motto was also chosen: "Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem" which, down through the years, since the day of its adoption, has remained the motto of the Commonwealth. Freely translated this means, "By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty." It was written about 1659, and is attributed to the famous English patriot, Algernon Sydney.



Soon after the first meeting of the state legislature under the Constitution, on Dec. 13, 1780, the council accepted Nathan Cushing's design for a new seal for the Commonwealth. This action of the council was the only authority for the seal until 1885, when the legislature by act prescribed its present form.

The arms of the commonwealth shall consist of a shield having a blue field or surface with an Indian thereon, dressed in a shirt and moccasins, holding in his right hand a bow, and in his left hand an arrow, point downward, all of gold; and, in the upper corner of the field, above his right arm, a silver star with five points. The crest shall be a wreath of blue and gold, whereon, in gold, shall be a right arm, bent at the elbow, clothed and ruffled, with the hand grasping a broadsword. The motto shall be "Ense petit placidam sub libertate quietem."

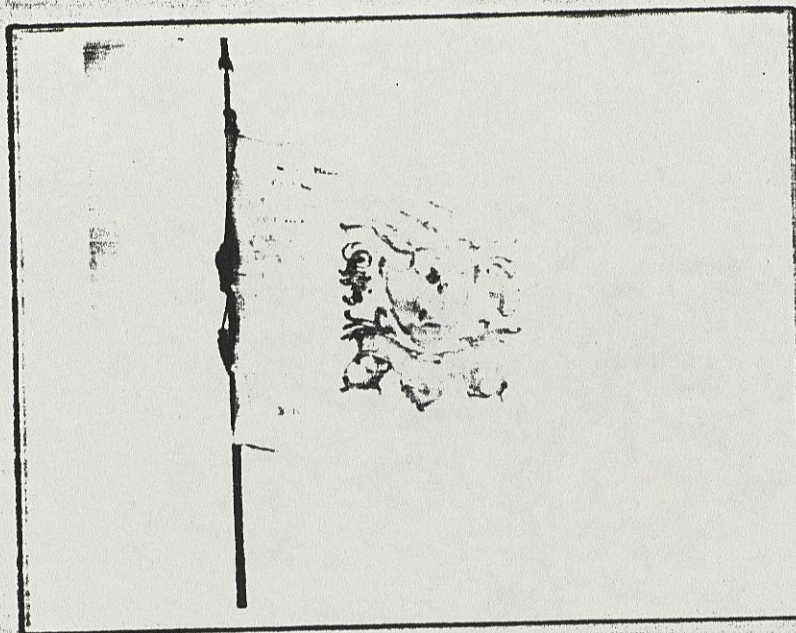


Seal used prior to 1898

The coat-of-arms as drawn and emblazoned under the direction of the state secretary in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-eight and deposited in his office shall be the official representation of the arms of the commonwealth of Massachusetts, and all designs of said coat-of-arms for official use shall conform strictly to said representation.

The great seal of the commonwealth shall be circular in form, bearing upon its face a representation of the arms of the commonwealth encircled with the

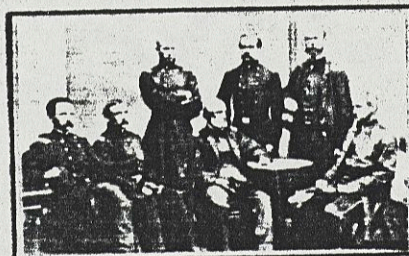




# 20<sup>th</sup> MASSACHUSETTS INFANTRY.



Bvt. Major-Gen G. O. N. MACY



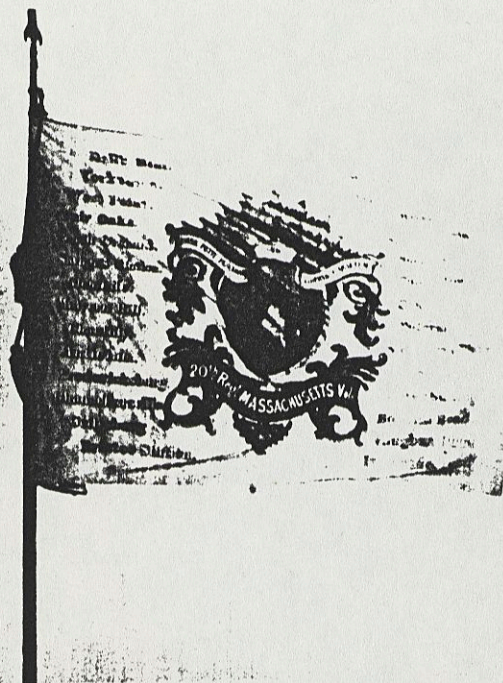
Adj. Quar. Gt. Bldg. Gt. Bldg.  
Col. Lee A. Bump. Bldg. Bldg.  
Major Reserve-Adj. Bldg.

Field and Staff  
1861.



Major W. F. PERKINS







### Twentieth Regiment Massachusetts Infantry.

(1) COL. WILLIAM R. LEE, Bvt. Brig. Gen. U. S. Vols.

(2) COL. FRANCIS W. PALFREY, Bvt. Brig. Gen. U. S. Vols.

(3) COL. PAUL J. REVERE, Bvt. Brig. Gen. U. S. Vols.

(4) COL. GEORGE N. MACY, Bvt Maj. Gen. U. S. Vols.

(4) COL. GEORGE N. MACY, Bvt Maj. Gen. U. S. Vols

	Field and staff.	Line.	Band.	COMPANIES.											Unassigned Recruits.	Totals.
				A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K			
Number on regimental rolls,—																
Officers, . . . . .	25	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	117
Enlisted men, <sup>1</sup> . . . .	16	—	24	258	225	220	216	217	247	245	221	243	229	—	—	2,399
Totals, . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,516
Enlisted men (included above) commissioned in regiment. <sup>1</sup>	4	—	—	2	4	3	4	—	6	4	3	4	2	—	—	36
Enlisted men (included above) serving elsewhere within regiment.	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	4	—	—	—	10
Totals, . . . . .	4	—	—	4	5	4	4	—	6	5	4	8	2	—	—	46
Actual total of members of regiment,—																
Officers, . . . . .	25	92	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	117
Enlisted men, . . . .	12	—	24	254	220	216	212	217	241	240	217	235	227	—	—	2,353
Totals, . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2,470

<sup>1</sup> Including non-commissioned staff.

The 20th Mass. Infantry was recruited at Readville, Mass., in July and August, 1861. The officers having been mustered in during July and the main body of the regiment August 23, the command left the State September 4 under Col. William Raymond Lee, a graduate of West Point. As it was not yet recruited to the maximum, two officers remained in Massachusetts for further recruiting. The regiment was sent to Poolesville, Md., and took an active part at Ball's Bluff October 21, crossing the river at Harrison's Island about noon of that day and engaging in the battle of the afternoon with great loss. Colonel Lee was made prisoner and Lieutenant-Colonel Palfrey took charge of the regiment. Under his command it moved to the Shenandoah valley in March, 1862; returning to Washington, it embarked for the Peninsula, becoming part of Sumner's Corps, Army of the Potomac. It was engaged during the siege of Yorktown, took part at the battle of Fair Oaks May 31, at Allen's Farm, Savage's Station, Glendale and Malvern Hill, engaging again at Malvern Hill August 4. Colonel Lee had rejoined the regiment just before the surrender of Yorktown.

The regiment, as part of Sedgwick's Division, joined in the charge in support of the 1st and 12th Corps on the morning of September 17 at Antietam. At Fredericksburg it formed part of the volunteer force to cross the river and advance into the town on the morning of December 11, engaging again on the 13th. It was in action at Chancellorsville May 3, 1863, and was engaged at Gettysburg July 2 (when Colonel Revere was mortally wounded), and took part again during Pickett's charge on the afternoon of July 3. While in winter quarters, at Stevensburg, Va., 173 members of the regiment enlisted for another term of service. As part of the 2d Corps, the regiment shared in the engagements at the Wilderness, Spotsylvania, North Anna and Cold Harbor, engaging in the assault of Petersburg and in the siege. On July 18, 1864, those whose term of service had expired returned to Massachusetts and were mustered out. About 200 men were added to the regiment from the 15th Mass. Infantry, and it continued in service in the trenches, under command of Major Patten. At Reams' Station, August 25, nearly all the members of the regiment were taken prisoners. Its ranks much depleted, it took part in the final operations about Petersburg, and, following the Confederates to Farmville and Appomattox, encamped, after the surrender, at Burke's Station, Va. Taking part in the grand review at Washington May 23, it encamped near the capitol until its muster out on July 15, and, returning to Massachusetts, it received its final discharge and payment July 28, 1865.



## Twentieth Regiment Massachusetts Infantry.

	Field and staff.	Line.	COMPANIES.										Unassigned Recruits.	Totals.
			A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K		
Killed and died of wounds, —														
Officers, . . . . .	4	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	14
Enlisted men, . . . . .	—	—	25	12	16	31	16	23	19	29	34	19	—	229
Totals, . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	243
Missing, . . . . .	—	—	2	—	1	—	4	—	1	—	2	—	—	10
Died by accident or disease, —														
Officers, . . . . .	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Enlisted men, . . . . .	—	—	12	6	11	4	3	4	8	5	4	7	4	68
Totals, . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70
Died as prisoners, —														
Officers, . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enlisted men, . . . . .	—	—	13	8	4	2	7	1	11	4	11	5	3	69
Total losses, —														
Officers, . . . . .	4	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16
Enlisted men, . . . . .	—	—	52	26	32	37	30	33	39	38	51	31	7	376
Totals, . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	392

## Casualties by Engagements.

<b>1861.</b>														
Oct. 21, Ball's Bluff, Va., . . . . .	—	1	7	—	—	10	2	—	7	3	4	—	—	34
Place unknown, . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	4
<b>1862.</b>														
May 31–June 1, Fair Oaks, Va., . . . . .	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	4
June 30, Glendale, Va., . . . . .	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	7
Sept. 17, Antietam, Md., . . . . .	1	—	—	2	1	—	3	3	—	3	2	2	—	17
Dec. 11–13, Fredericksburg, Va., . . . . .	—	2	1	—	1	7	—	4	—	1	14	5	—	35
Place unknown, . . . . .	—	1	2	2	2	—	1	—	—	3	—	1	—	12
<b>1863.</b>														
May 3, Chancellorsville, Va., . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
July 2–3, Gettysburg, Pa., . . . . .	1	2	4	2	2	8	3	4	3	2	5	2	—	38
Oct. 14, Bristoe Station, Va., . . . . .	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Place unknown, . . . . .	—	—	1	2	—	1	2	5	—	1	1	2	—	15
<b>1864.</b>														
May 6–12, Wilderness, Va., . . . . .	1	—	3	2	5	2	6	4	4	11	—	1	—	39
May 10–18, Spotsylvania, Va., . . . . .	—	2	1	—	1	1	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	9
June 3–9, Cold Harbor, Va., . . . . .	—	—	3	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	1	—	8
June 21–22, Petersburg, Va., . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1	—	4
June 23–24, Before Petersburg, Va., . . . . .	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	3
Aug. 5, Before Petersburg, Va., . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Aug. 14–17, Deep Bottom, Va., . . . . .	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Oct. 18, Petersburg, Va., . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Oct. 23, Hatcher's Run, Va., . . . . .	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Place unknown, . . . . .	—	1	2	1	2	1	1	3	1	2	2	—	—	16
<b>1865.</b>														
Feb. 5, Hatcher's Run, Va., . . . . .	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1

Present also at Yorktown, West Point, Peach Orchard, Savage's Station, Malvern Hill, Chantilly, Mine Run, North Anna River, Totopotomoy, Strawberry Plains, Reams's Station, Sailor's Creek, Farmville and Appomattox.



TWENTIETH REGIMENT MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER  
INFANTRY

## THREE YEARS

## (Re-enlisted)

The 20th Regt. Mass. Vol. Inf. was recruited at Camp Massasoit, Readville, in July and August, 1861. The main part of the regiment was mustered in August 28. Its colonel, William Raymond Lee, had once been a cadet at West Point. The regiment left Camp Massasoit Sept. 4, and on the 7th reached Washington. Assigned to Gen. Lander's Brigade, Gen. Stone's Corps of Observation, it was stationed near Poolesville and was occupied in picketing the Potomac. October 21 it was engaged at Ball's Bluff, where it lost 194 officers and men, of whom 38 were killed or mortally wounded. The regiment also lost Col. Lee as a prisoner. Now under Lieut. Col. F. W. Palfrey it remained at Camp Benton, near Poolesville, during the rest of the fall and winter picketing the Potomac from Edward's Ferry to Seneca Mills.

In March, 1862, the 20th, forming a part of Dana's Brigade, Sedgwick's Division, was sent to the Shenandoah Valley, but before the end of the month it was ordered to the Peninsula, becoming a part of Sumner's (2d) Corps. It participated in the siege of Yorktown in April, the battles of Fair Oaks, May 31, Allen's Farm, June 29, Glendale or Nelson's Farm, June 30, and was slightly engaged at Malvern Hill, July 1. After a six weeks stay at Harrison's Landing the regiment was brought back to Alexandria and early in September joined the advance toward Frederick, Md. At Antietam, Sept. 17, it was severely engaged in the West Wood, losing 141 officers and men, 20, including Asst. Surg. Revere, being killed or mortally wounded. At Fredericksburg it was one of the regiments of Hall's Brigade, Howard's Division that crossed the river in boats on the 11th of December and fought in the streets of the city. Here its losses were very severe. In the assault on Marye's Heights on the 13th it again suffered severely, its total casualties on both days amounting to 200, of whom 48 were killed or mortally wounded. The winter of 1862-63 was spent at Falmouth.

During the Chancellorsville campaign in May, 1863, Gibbon's Division, including the 20th Regt., remained in Fredericksburg in coöperation with Sedgwick's (6th) Corps, and suffered small loss. At Gettysburg, July 3, it was heavily engaged near the Union left center, losing Colonel Revere and 43 officers and men killed or mortally wounded. On Oct. 14, the 20th was in action at Bristoe Sta., and was in the Mine Run campaign in late November. The winter was spent near Stevensburg. Here during December, 1863, 173 of the original members of the regiment re-enlisted.

At the Wilderness, May 6, 1864, as a part of Webb's Brigade, Gibbon's Division, Hancock's (2d) Corps, the 20th was heavily engaged on the Plank road losing Maj. Abbott and 35 officers and men killed or mortally wounded. At Spottsylvania it was in action near Laurel Hill, May 10, in the assault on the Bloody Angle, May 12, and in the general assault, May 18. In this last assault Capt. John Kelliher was most severely wounded, but survived, returned to the regiment, and served many years after the war in the Regular Army.



The 20th was engaged at North Anna, May 23, lost heavily at Cold Harbor, June 3, and moved on to the front of Petersburg. Here on the 22d of June, when the 2d Corps was outflanked and the men of the 15th and 19th regiments were largely made prisoners, the 20th changed front to the left and stopped the enemy's progress. About July 18 the men, present and absent, about 60 in number, whose time was about to expire were sent to Boston to be mustered out.

After being engaged in both movements to Deep Bottom in July and August, at Reams' Sta., August 25, the regiment suffered great disaster, being outflanked and all but one officer and ten men made prisoners. This fragment, increased by recruits and returned convalescents to a battalion of three companies, was engaged at Boydton Road, after which it went into winter quarters near Fort Emory. Feb. 5, 1865, it was in action at Hatcher's Run, and April 2, in the assault on Petersburg, then joined in the pursuit toward Appomattox.

Returning to Washington it received 223 men from the 37th Regt., and on July 15 was mustered out of the service. On the 17th it left for Massachusetts and was assembled for the last time at Readville, July 28, when the men were paid off and discharged.