

## First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment

The First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment was born on April 14, 1861, the day after the surrender of Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Over 1000 men were enlisted, 1009 to be exact. The regiment was the first regiment developed by Minnesota, and among the first in the nation, to serve in the Civil War. The regiment fought in most of the major battles and became well known as a hard-fighting regiment.

Soldiers were trained under the command of Colonel Willis A. Gorman. The regiment was engaged at the First Battle of Bull Run (July 21, 1861), the Battle of Balls Bluff (October 21, 1861), and the Seven Days Battles (May through July 1862). It also fought at Antietam (September 16-17, 1862), in which it suffered significant losses, and at the Battle of Gettysburg (July 1-3, 1863), which was the regiment's most noteworthy battle.

At Gettysburg, the First Minnesota fought Confederate soldiers at close range. The First Minnesota also contributed to the Confederates' failed Pickett's Charge, which ended the Battle of Gettysburg. Two soldiers from the First Minnesota received the Congressional Medal of Honor for their actions at Gettysburg. Unfortunately, the battle resulted in the injuries or deaths of hundreds of Minnesota soldiers. The regiment was nearly destroyed.

After the Battle of Gettysburg, the regiment helped to end the New York City Draft Riots (July 13-16, 1863) and then rested. In the fall, the regiment returned to fighting and engaged in its last fights: the Battle of Bristoe Station (October 14, 1863) and the Mine Run Campaign (November 27-December 2, 1863).

The regiment later received a new commanding officer, whom soldiers were unwilling to reenlist under. As a result of the reduced numbers, the First Minnesota could not continue as a reenlisted regiment of "veteran volunteers." The First Minnesota headed home in February of 1864. The remaining 16 officers and 309 enlisted men of the regiment were treated like returning heroes. On April 28, 1864, a final parade was held, and the First Minnesota was dismissed from service.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

1. Underline all the dates mentioned in the passage.
2. Use dots and dates to put the following in order by date on the timeline below:
  - a. First Battle of Bull Run
  - b. Battle of Gettysburg
  - c. Battle of Bristoe Station
  - d. First Minnesota Parade
  - e. Surrender of Fort Sumter
  - f. New York City Draft Riots

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3. How many volunteers were in the First Minnesota Volunteer Infantry Regiment in a) 1861 and b) 1864.

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4. Explain why First Minnesota lost its soldiers and why it could not continue.

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5. Explain why a parade was held for First Minnesota.

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