

## Honoring their service

Moved to Bristoe Station, Virginia, April 5-6, 1862  
Falmouth, Virginia, April 15-19, 1862  
McDowell's advance on Richmond, Virginia May 25-29, 1862  
Operations against Jackson June 1-21, 1862  
Blackburn's Ford July 19, 1862  
Reconnaissance to Orange Court House July 24-26, 1862  
Pope's Campaign in Northern Virginia August 16-September 2, 1862  
Fords of the Rappahannock August 21-23, 1862  
Sulphur Springs August 26, 1862  
Battle of Groveton August 29, 1862  
Bull Run August 30, 1862  
Maryland Campaign September 6-22, 1862  
Battles of South Mountain September 14, 1862  
Antietam September 16-17, 1862  
Camp near Sharpsburg until October 29, 1862  
Movement to Falmouth, Virginia, October 29-November 17, 1862  
Battle of Fredericksburg December 12-15, 1862  
"Mud March" January 20-24, 1863  
Chancellorsville Campaign April 27-May 6, 1863  
Battle of Chancellorsville May 1-5, 1863  
Gettysburg Campaign June 11-July 24, 1863  
Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania July 1-3, 1863  
Pursuit of Lee July 5-24, 1863  
Action at Wapping Heights, Virginia July 23, 1863  
Bristoe Campaign October 9-22, 1863  
Auburn and Bristoe October 14, 1863  
Advance to line of the Rappahannock November 7-8, 1863  
Kelly's Ford November 7, 1863  
Brandy Station November 8, 1863  
Mine Run Campaign November 26-December 2, 1863  
Payne's Farm November 27, 1863  
Demonstration on the Rapidan February 6-7, 1864  
Campaign from the Rapidan to the James River May 4-June 15, 1864  
Battles of the Wilderness May 5-7, 1864  
Laurel Hill May 8, 1864  
Spotsylvania May 8-12, 1864  
Po River May 10, 1864  
Spotsylvania Court House May 12-21  
Assault on the Salient, "Bloody Angle," May 12, 1864  
Harris Farm, Fredericksburg Road, May 19, 1864  
North Anna River May 23-26, 1864  
On line of the Pamunkey May 26-28, 1864  
Totopotomoy May 28-31, 1864  
Cold Harbor June 1-12, 1864  
Before Petersburg June 16-19, 1864  
Siege of Petersburg June 16, 1864 to February 20, 1865  
Jerusalem Plank Road, Weldon Railroad, June 22-23, 1864  
Demonstration north of the James River July 27-29, 1864  
Deep Bottom July 28-29, 1864  
Demonstration north of the James August 13-20, 1864  
Strawberry Plains, Deep Bottom, August 14-18, 1864  
Poplar Springs Church, Peeble's Farm, September 29-October 2, 1864  
Boydton Plank Road, Hatcher's Run, October 27-28, 1864  
Expedition to Weldon Railroad December 7-12, 1864  
Dabney's Mills, Hatcher's Run, February 5-7, 1865

## JOIN TODAY

### Why become a reenactor?

You can learn more about history by being part of it. It is a good way to honor their service, educate the public, and the hobby is very family friendly.

### Can my family participate?

We encourage it! There are always well organized and well supervised children's groups and activities at events. Wives can be in disguise in a uniform or wear a hoop skirt. We often have dances and other community activities at events.

### How do I choose a unit?

Some join units because of family ancestry while others join out of personal interest or compatibility with the unit. You should walk around and get to know the people in the unit before you commit. This way you can ensure it will be a good fit and a fun time for you in the long run.

### Isn't it really expensive?

Many units have loaner gear which allows you to participate sooner while you collect your gear. There is even modern camp at every event saving even more money. Each unit has different expenses with gear and each unit also has different standards. Quality gear costs more, looks better, and lasts longer than "mainstream" gear. Many deals can even be found online including your rifle. We encourage our members to start with a budget that works for them and work towards more authenticity as the budget allows. Company commanders will let you know where to best invest your money for the most benefit.

### Where do I go to learn more?

Events are listed at [www.wcwa.net](http://www.wcwa.net) or to learn more about our group you can visit [www.2ndUSSS.com](http://www.2ndUSSS.com) or reach us directly:

### Captain Ethan Whitehall:

[ethanbugs17@gmail.com](mailto:ethanbugs17@gmail.com)

### 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Jerad Koepf:

[jeradkoepf@gmail.com](mailto:jeradkoepf@gmail.com)

## Company D

2<sup>nd</sup> United States Sharpshooters



**Enlist Now!**

[www.2ndUSSS.com](http://www.2ndUSSS.com)

## Sharpshooters

### Who were the Co. D sharpshooters?

They were mustered in Augusta, Maine November 2, 1861. They included lumbermen, whalers, and tradesmen.

### Who could become a sharpshooter?

The sharpshooters were the only unit a recruit had to qualify for.

Sharpshooters had to put 10 rounds in a 5 inch circle at 100 yards while standing and the same at 200 yards at a bench rest. Because of their skill they earned \$18 a month compared to \$14 for the average soldier.

### What weapons did they use?

Sharpshooter's weapon of choice was the breech-loading, .52 caliber New Model 1859 Sharps with dual triggers.



The rifle cost \$42.50 each while the standard issue Springfield rifle cost only \$20. It was only with the support of President Lincoln that the Sharps became officially issued.

Sharpshooters were first issued the Colt Revolving Rifle.



Most sharpshooters were very unhappy with this rifle. It was less accurate and could dangerously chain fire all cylinders at once.

Sharpshooters also used heavy target rifles for long distance shots.

### Did Sharpshooters get their name from the Sharps rifle?

No. The term sharpshooter originated in Germany in the early 1700's as *sharpfschutzen*.

### Why did they wear green uniforms?

Green was a traditional color of European rifleman. It also served as camouflage.

### Sharpshooters were the only unit to have a bounty on their heads.

Confederate President Jefferson Davis offered a \$300 bounty for the capture of a working Sharps rifle and one of their black rubber buttons. No one was ever able to collect the bounty.

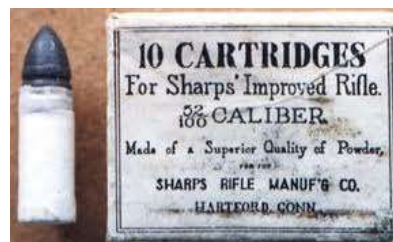
### What tactics did they use?

They were used as snipers, scouts, and skirmishers. At a time when 3 out of 4 soldiers had no skirmish instruction at all, the Sharpshooters were invaluable in finding and engaging the enemy's front lines. This meant high casualties for Sharpshooters who spent an extraordinary amount of time in combat.

Sharpshooters often fired in the 3-400 yard range but there were accounts of shots as long as 1,400 yards with target rifles. The longest known shot with a Sharps rifle was about 1,200 yards.

### Who was Hiram Berdan?

He was a world-class marksman and inventor with over 30 patents. He was the father of the Sharpshooters, though regularly accused by the men of cowardice.



### Other Civil War Facts:

While in camp of instruction soldiers could fire 3 rounds in a minute, in combat the average was about 1 shot every 4.5 minutes.

There is a lot of talk about the deadly accuracy of the rifled muskets but during combat when shells were exploding, bullets flying, powder smoke reducing visibility, and black powder's nature to quickly foul rifles, most shots were simply pointed towards the enemy.

Gen. Rosecrans figured it took 145 rifle shots to hit one enemy. He also calculated it took as many as 27 cannon shots for one hit.

Few soldiers had any target instruction or had even fired a rifle. One Illinois regiment lined up to target shoot at a barrel 180 yards away and only 4 in 160 shots hit. The 5<sup>th</sup> Connecticut practiced firing at a barn 100 yards away and only 4 of 40 shots hit.

**66.7%** of all soldiers died from disease.

**7:1** were the odds of surviving a wound.

**18-29** was the average age of a soldier.

**5'8"** was the average height

**145 lbs** was the average weight

**\$6.19 billion** (\$146 billion today) was the cost of the war.

**2%** of the American population died in the Civil War. In today's numbers that would be equivalent to losing 6 million soldiers in service.