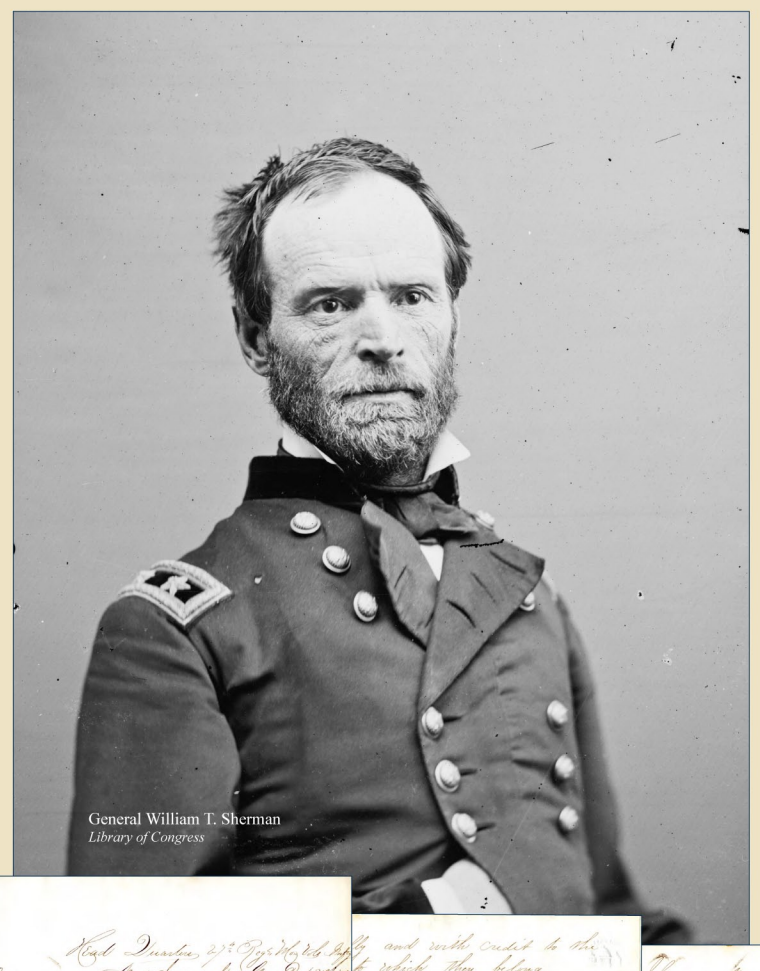
DIVIDED LOYALTIES
CIVIL WAR DOCUMENTS FROM THE
MISSOURI STATE ARCHIVES

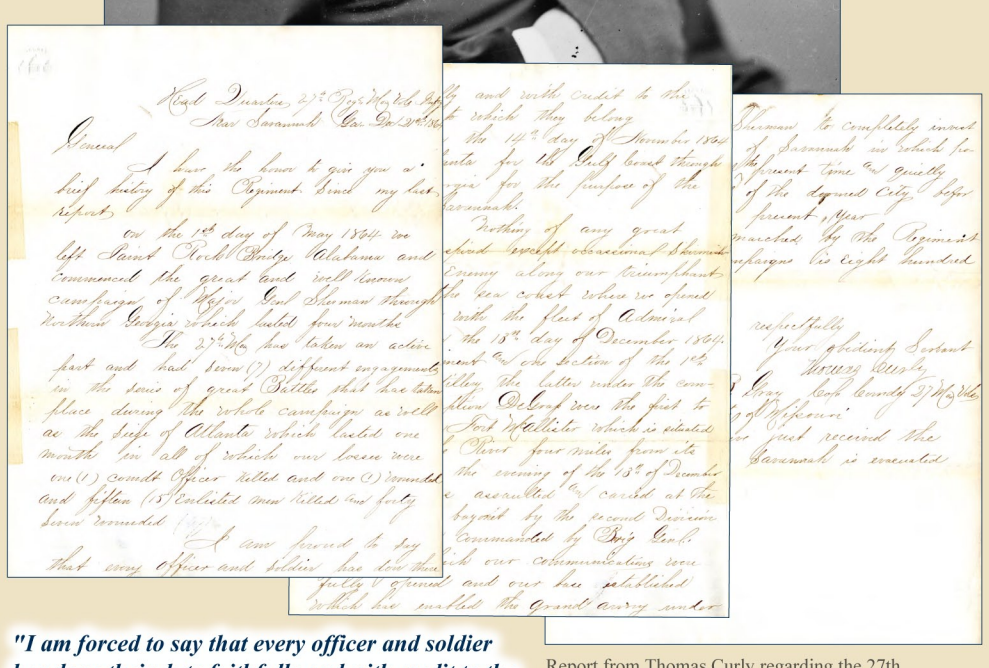
FIGHTING AWAY FROM HOME

ON THE MARCH WITH SHERMAN

Not all Missourians fought in State Militia or Home Guard units close to home. Many joined Union and Confederate regiments that fought outside the state. Federal forces called the Missouri Volunteers fought for the Union in many of the Civil War's most important battles. Shown here are records from three regiments of the Missouri Volunteer Infantry that fought with General William T. Sherman on his destructive march through Georgia in the fall of 1864.

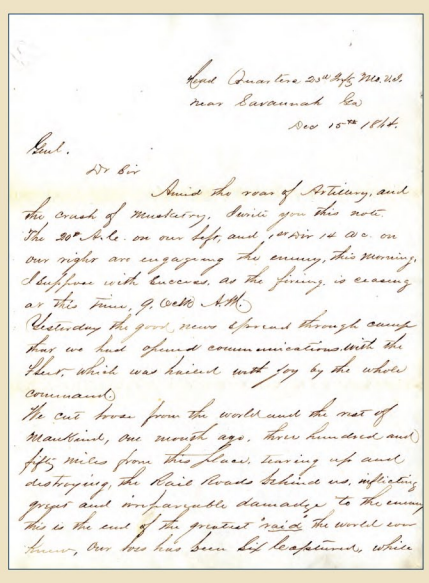


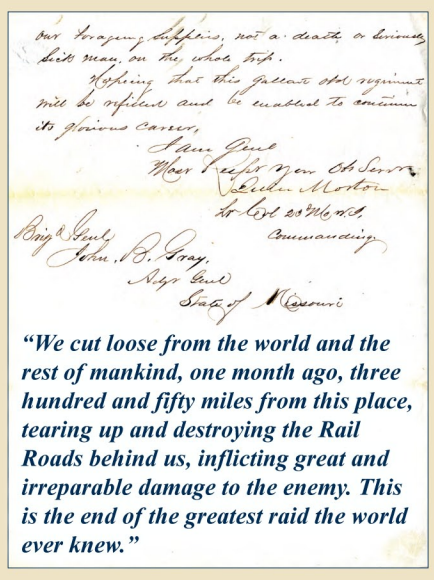
General William T. Sherman
Library of Congress



"I am forced to say that every officer and soldier has done their duty faithfully and with credit to the great State to which they belong. . . The distance marched by the Regiment during both campaigns is eight hundred miles."

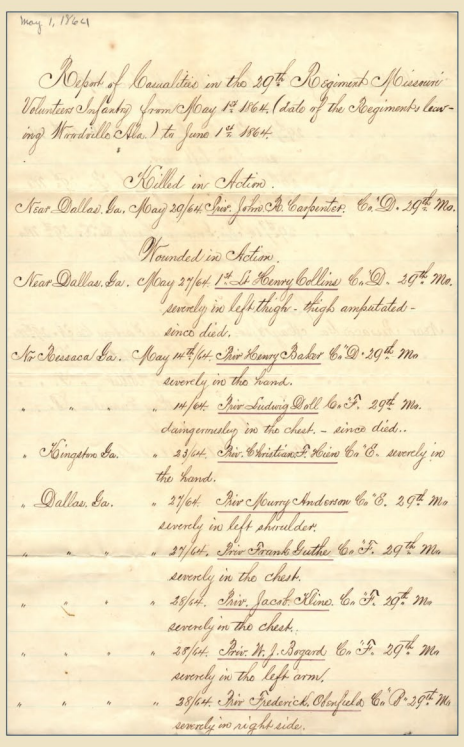
Report from Thomas Curly regarding the 27th Regiment Infantry Missouri Volunteer and their role Sherman's March, December 21, 1864.
Missouri State Archives

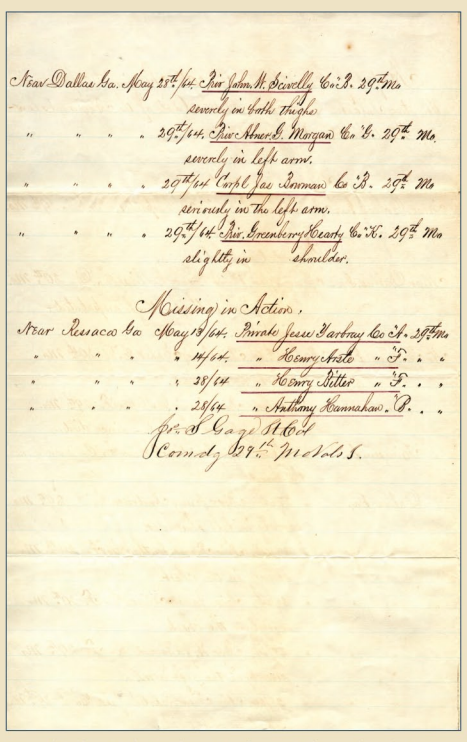




"We cut loose from the world and the rest of mankind, one month ago, three hundred and fifty miles from this place, tearing up and destroying the Rail Roads behind us, inflicting great and irreparable damage to the enemy. This is the end of the greatest raid the world ever knew."

Report from Lieutenant Colonel Quin Morton regarding the 24th Regiment Infantry Missouri Volunteer and their role in Sherman's March, December 15, 1864.
Missouri State Archives



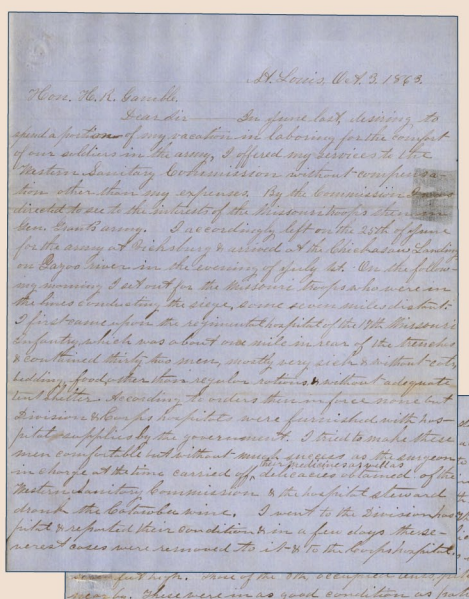


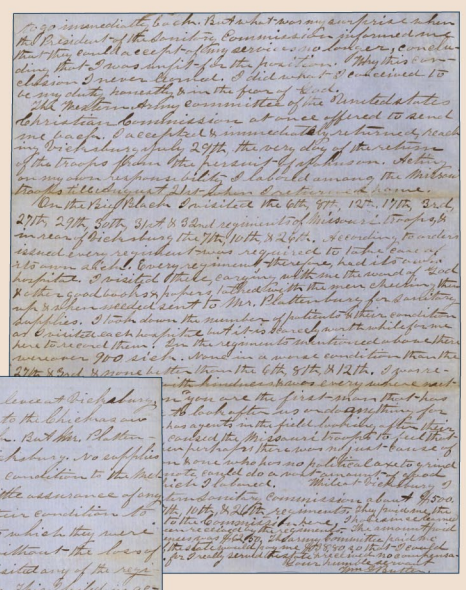
Casualty list, 29th Regiment Infantry Missouri Volunteer, May 1, 1864.
Missouri State Archives

CARE FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED

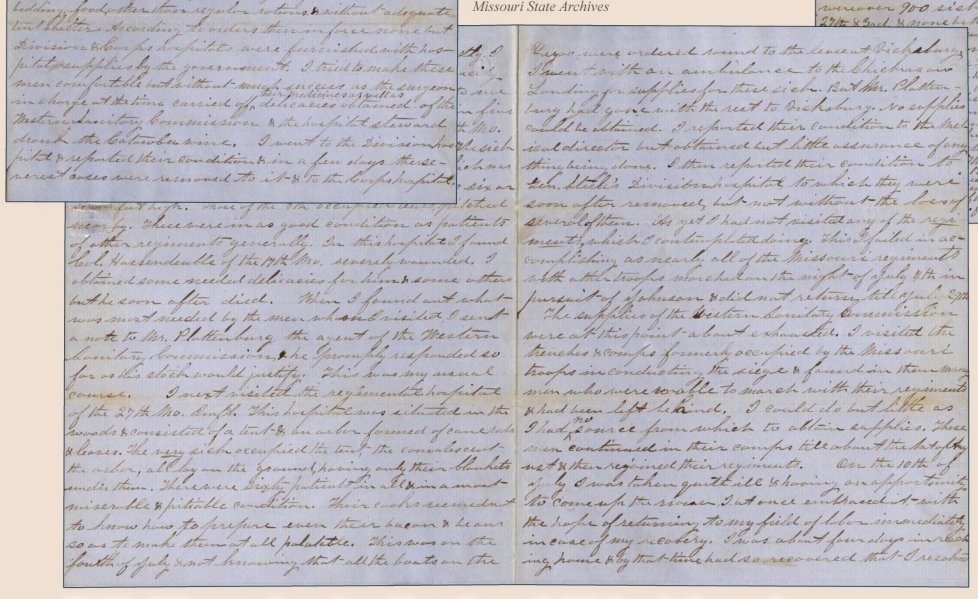
Because Missourians fought outside the state, many were killed and wounded far from home. The Union military was ill prepared to care for those who were sick and wounded. Volunteer agencies, such as the Sanitary Commission and the Christian Commission stepped in to fill the void. A Missourian named William Butler volunteered for both organizations and visited Missouri troops engaged in the siege on Vicksburg, Mississippi in the summer of 1863. His report to Governor Hamilton Gamble is shown here.

Among the units that Butler visited was the 17th Regiment Infantry Missouri Volunteers. The "Inventory of Effects" forms shown here indicate that some soldiers from that unit died of disease at Vicksburg.



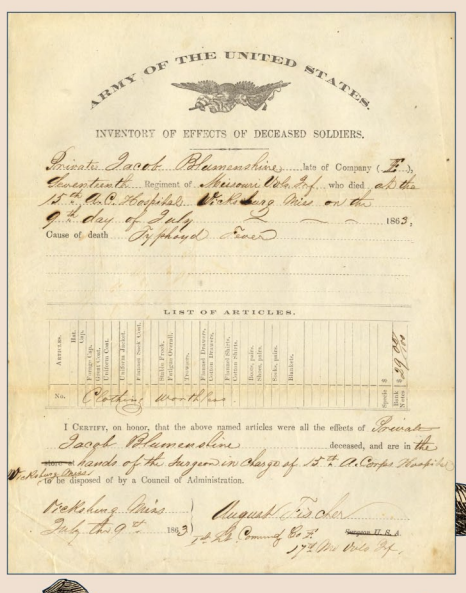


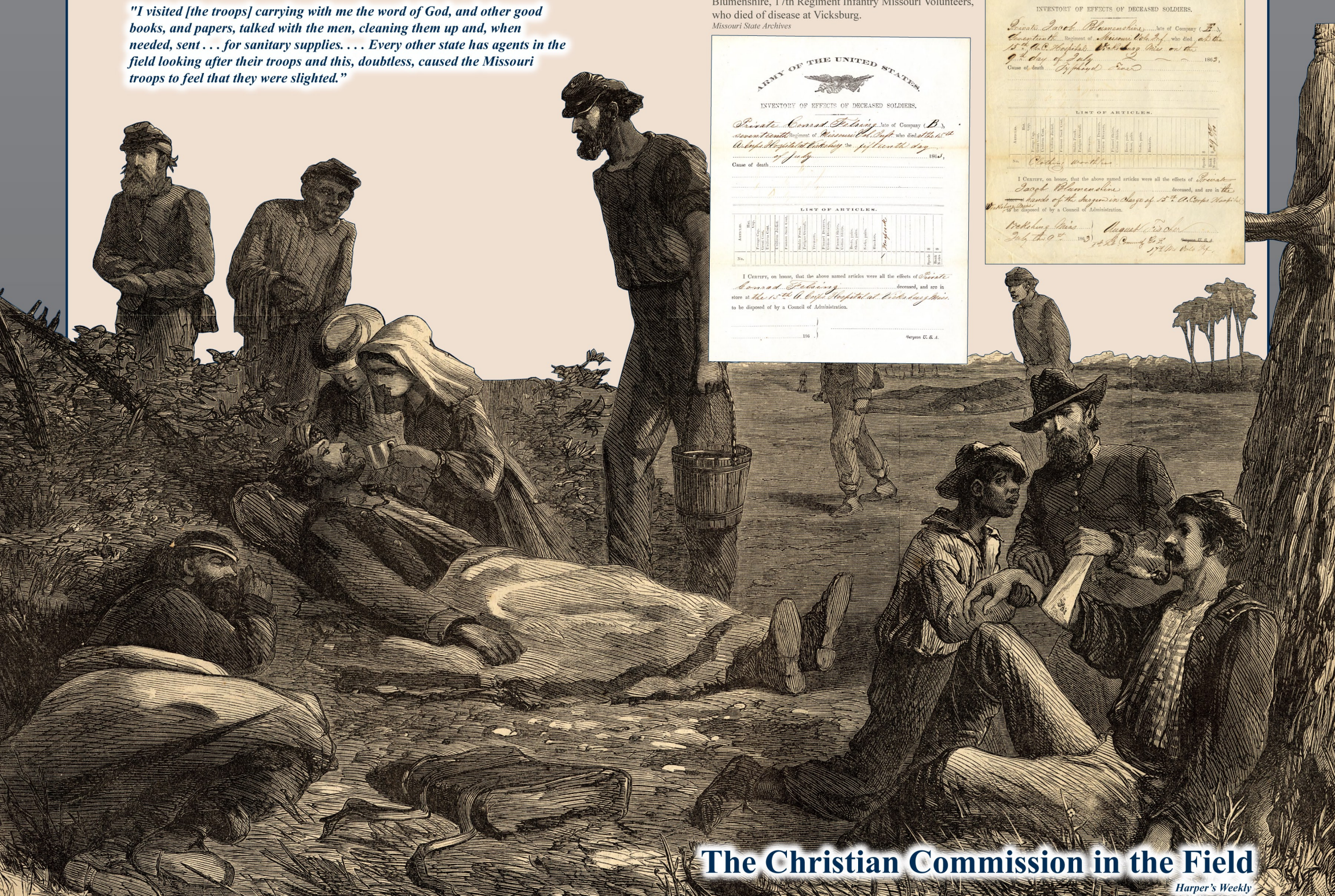
Christian Commission volunteer William Butler to Missouri Governor Hamilton Gamble, October 3, 1863.
Missouri State Archives



"I visited [the troops] carrying with me the word of God, and other good books, and papers, talked with the men, cleaning them up and, when needed, sent . . . for sanitary supplies. . . . Every other state has agents in the field looking after their troops and this, doubtless, caused the Missouri troops to feel that they were slighted."

Inventory of the effects of Conrad Felsing and Jacob Blumenshire, 17th Regiment Infantry Missouri Volunteers, who died of disease at Vicksburg.
Missouri State Archives





The Christian Commission in the Field
Harper's Weekly

1861 - 1865