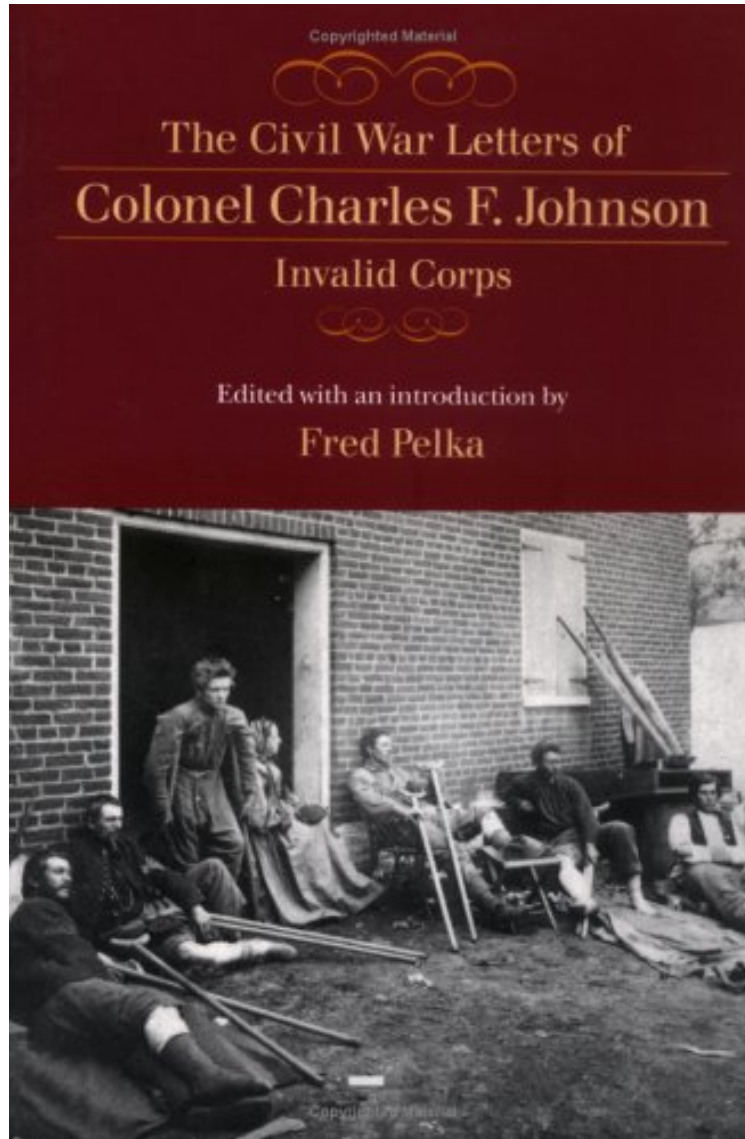


(Free pdf) The Civil War Letters of Colonel Charles F. Johnson, Invalid Corps

The Civil War Letters of Colonel Charles F. Johnson, Invalid Corps

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From Brand: Univ of Massachusetts Pr : The Civil War Letters of Colonel Charles F. Johnson, Invalid Corps before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Civil War Letters of Colonel Charles F. Johnson, Invalid Corps:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy John DupreyGreat resource for those interested in the VRC.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Different View of the WarBy CustomerWell, I have to admit that part of the reason I like this book is that Colonel Johnson is my Great-Great-Grandfather. What a treasure to have

and read. It also shows the not so acceptable side of the Colonel in his views of african-americans. But then, as a product of his time, he was probably more interested in keeping the union intact than he was in the plight of slaves. I love the fact that he is so open about his feelings for his wife. It was totally surprising to see his picture - my word, he and my father could have been twins! I also like the fact that it presents a view of the war that really hasn't been shown before. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. 4 Stars By Mark S. Maranto Great collection of letters which helps you understand what an officer went thru during the Civil War.

Organized in May 1863 to meet the Union Army's growing manpower needs, the Invalid Corps later renamed the Veteran Reserve Corps was a unique military unit. With more than twenty-four regiments of troops, nearly all of them men disabled by illness or combat wounds, it was at one point twice as large as the entire pre-war United States Army. During four years of service its troops enforced the draft, guarded prisoners and vital outposts, protected rail lines and supply depots, and served as military police in cities all across the country. Members of the Corps escorted President Lincoln's body home to Illinois, and after the war its officers formed the nucleus of the new Freedman's Bureau. This volume brings together some 143 letters written by Colonel Charles F. Johnson, an officer who served with the 18th Veteran Reserve Corps after sustaining debilitating wounds during the Seven Days' Battles in June 1862. Edited with an introduction by Fred Pelka, the letters describe the day-to-day circumstances of "The Cripple Brigade," as it was derisively called, as well as guerrilla warfare in Missouri, combat in Virginia, and barracks life in Washington, D.C. Johnson was a keen observer of his nation at war, and his correspondence with his wife Mary is by turns literate and comic, objective and personal. In his introduction and annotations, Pelka provides a detailed history of the Invalid Corps and explores the experience of disability in nineteenth-century America. He looks at how the nation responded to the sudden appearance of tens of thousands of newly disabled young men, and traces how members of the Invalid Corps fought not only to restore the Union but also to retain their dignity as Americans and as human beings.

"Civil War historians and others will value this book. It provides a fascinating and insightful introduction to the disabled soldiers of the Civil War era, and presents the first analysis of the Invalid Corps and the twists and turns of its history. Fred Pelka performs a great service by calling long-overdue attention to the experience of those who served in this unit." John David Smith, editor of *Black Soldiers in Blue: African American Troops in the Civil War Era* "This collection should be of interest not only to Civil War historians, nineteenth-century Americanists, and disability historians, but also to historians of gender relations and to family and marriage historians. Readable as Johnson's letters are, the book should appeal to general readers as well." Paul K. Longmore, coeditor of *The New Disability History: American Perspectives* "This fascinating collection is a welcome addition to the growing list of published Civil War correspondence." *Civil War History* "Historians of the VRC will benefit from an examination of these letters." *Indiana Magazine of History* From the Publisher *Chronicles* the untold story of disabled combat veterans who continued to serve in the Union Army. About the Author A freelance writer and researcher, Fred Pelka is the author of the ABC-CLIO Companion to the Disability Rights Movement, and a 2004 Guggenheim Fellow.