

# 1865

La Patria Arma El Acto (Our Country is the Reason for Our Actions)

106 Admitted

68 Graduated

The Class of 1865 graduated on 23 June 1865 shortly after Lee had surrendered to Grant on 9 April ending the Civil War or War Between the States and after the assassination of President Lincoln on 15 April. Their time at West Point from 1861 until 1865 was under the cloud of a war ripping the nation apart. Five of their class were admitted in 1860 before the beginning of hostilities. Three were from the Southern States of Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana. They all graduated and served in the Union Army. Two who were admitted in 1860 were from the disputed states of Kentucky and Missouri and were dismissed before graduation for refusing to take the oath of allegiance. All others were from the 21 Union States. Seven resigned before graduation to join the Union Forces in combat. Two others died before graduation.

Fifty three of the graduating Cadets were commissioned as 1st Lieutenants and 15 graduated as 2nd Lieutenants. Virtually all were initially assigned to the occupation Army in the South during Reconstruction. This was not easy duty as the men they led in garrison were hardened war veterans and the surrounding civilian population was generally hostile. There were constant skirmishes between the Federal soldiers trying to enforce the peace particularly among the Freedmen, Carpetbaggers, Southern Plantation Class and insurgent forces who refused to completely surrender. The three most notorious, the Ku Klux Klan and the Red Shirts were particularly difficult in the Deep South and the Quantrill Raiders under Clement in the West. Four men of the Class of 1865 lost their lives in the South during the occupation.

In 1867 most were able to escape the onerous occupation duty by being assigned to Frontier duty or to Rivers and Ports reconstruction in the northern States. Twenty members of the Class were on the Frontier in the Western Territories or in West Texas where the Comanche and Kiowa had taken advantage of the absence of soldiers gone east for the Civil War. Nine of the members of the class all engineers and from the top of the class were assigned rivers and ports duties. Also seven members of the class were retained at West Point as instructors. Thirteen members of the class resigned or were honorably discharged by 1870 and three were dismissed. Seventeen members of the class remained on active duty for 39 years or longer. Three members of the Class served in the Spanish American War in 1898. **Charles Keller** served in the Philippines and **Charles Dempsey** received a Silver Star for action at Santa Cruz, Cuba. **Albert Farze** was killed in action in San, Juan Puerto Rico. Seven members of the class retired as Brigadier or Major Generals.

Among the class notables, **Charles Raymond** and **William Stanton** were responsible for building the Cadet Hospital and expanding the Cadet barracks in the mid-1880s. **William Heuer** was extremely instrumental in designing and building the Embarcadero in San Francisco and **Samuel Mills** was Commandant of Cadets from '92 to '97.