

# C15 – Young Soldiers

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## Introduction

When the Civil War broke out, many young men wanted to join the army to fill one of the many different roles available. The minimum age for a soldier was 18 years, although many younger boys lied about how old they were, while other jobs like drummer or flag bearer were open to boys as young as 14. Some felt a sense of duty to defend their country, others were simply seeking adventure, but their reasons for joining were not the only factor that limited their options for the jobs they could do. Explore the different roles young soldiers could play in the war and discover the vital contributions they made.

## Character Creator Steps

There are 4 steps in this Character Creator Connection:

| Step # | Title                       | Descriptive Text                                                                                                      | Options                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1      | Select CHARACTER'S LOCATION | Whether a boy was from the North or South made a big difference in what how he could contribute to the war.           | NORTH<br>SOUTH                                                                                                                                                |
| 2      | Select EDUCATION            | Having an education could make a big difference in a boy's options, but was not available to everyone.                | EDUCATED<br>NOT EDUCATED                                                                                                                                      |
| 3      | Select MOTIVATION           | The reason why a boy joined the army would have had an impact on the kind of things he'd do there.                    | ADVENTURE<br>DUTY                                                                                                                                             |
| 4      | Select OCCUPATION           | There were a lot of things a boy could do in the army, but the specific options open to you depended on who you were. | Ambulance Driver<br>Bugler<br>Cook<br>Drummer boy<br>Flag Boy<br>Laborer<br>Nurse<br>Officer<br>Orderly<br>Sentry<br>Sailor<br>Scout<br>Soldier<br>Stable Boy |

## Occupation Table

The table below shows available career options based on previous choices.

# YOUNG SOLDIERS: OCCUPATION TABLE

| North       |                   |              |                   | South       |                   |              |                   |
|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Educated    |                   | Not Educated |                   | Educated    |                   | Not Educated |                   |
| Adventure   | Duty              | Adventure    | Duty              | Adventure   | Duty              | Adventure    | Duty              |
|             | Ambulance Driver  |              | Ambulance Driver  |             | Ambulance Driver  |              | Ambulance Driver  |
| Bugler      | Bugler            | Bugler       | Bugler            | Bugler      | Bugler            | Bugler       | Bugler            |
|             | Cook              |              | Cook              |             | Cook              |              | Cook              |
| Drummer Boy | Drummer Boy       | Drummer Boy  | Drummer Boy       | Drummer Boy | Drummer Boy       | Drummer Boy  | Drummer Boy       |
| Flag Boy    | Flag Boy          | Flag Boy     | Flag Boy          | Flag Boy    | Flag Boy          | Flag Boy     | Flag Boy          |
|             | Laborer           |              | Laborer           |             | Laborer           |              | Laborer           |
| Officer     | Officer           |              |                   | Officer     | Officer           |              |                   |
|             | Orderly           |              | Orderly           |             | Orderly           |              | Orderly           |
| Sailor      | Sailor            | Sailor       | Sailor            |             |                   |              |                   |
| Scout       |                   |              |                   | Scout       |                   |              |                   |
|             | Sentry            |              |                   |             | Sentry            |              |                   |
| Soldier     | Soldier           | Soldier      | Soldier           | Soldier     | Soldier           | Soldier      | Soldier           |
|             | Stable Boy        |              | Stable Boy        |             | Stable Boy        |              | Stable Boy        |
|             | Stretcher Carrier |              | Stretcher Carrier |             | Stretcher Carrier |              | Stretcher Carrier |

## “Not An Option” Text

The following table provides the popup text that appears when someone tries to choose an occupation is unavailable:

| Option            | “Not An Option” Popup Text                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ambulance Driver  | Although driving an ambulance into the middle of combat to rescue injured soldiers was dangerous and challenging, you would rather a more glamorous job.                              |
| Cook              | Cooking was too menial a role for someone looking for adventure.                                                                                                                      |
| Laborer           | Let others fortify defenses, chop trees, dig trenches, build roads, gather wood and water, and bury the dead – you’re looking for adventure!                                          |
| Officer           | You lack the necessary qualifications to be an officer: you must be educated.                                                                                                         |
| Orderly           | An adventure-seeker would think that caring for the wounded wasn’t important...until you get injured, of course.                                                                      |
| Sailor            | The South did not have a large navy, and was blockaded by the North – being a sailor was not an option for you.                                                                       |
| Scout             | Sorry, this is not the job for you: either you lack the ability to read and write or the adventurous spirit needed to scout ahead into enemy territory and report back what you find. |
| Sentry            | The role of policing the camp needs someone who can read and has a strong sense of duty.                                                                                              |
| Stable Boy        | Cleaning the stables and caring for the horses lacks the adventure you’re seeking.                                                                                                    |
| Stretcher Carrier | Although the job of carrying wounded off the battlefield by hand is one of the most dangerous and exciting there is, you wouldn’t have seen it that way.                              |

## Changes to the Scene


The following tables describe graphic changes to the scene that occur as options are selected.

At the start, there is only the basic white boy. The background is a basic empty field.

| SELECT STARTING LOCATION |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Option                   | How does the scene change?                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| North                    | The boy wears a blue Union soldier’s uniform – NO HAT YET.<br><br>The background is a military camp, with tents and cannon, and a Union flag.                                                                                                                 |
| South                    | The boy wears a grey Confederate soldier’s uniform – NO HAT YET.<br><br>The background is also a military camp, with tents and cannon, and a Confederate flag. (It could be the same camp except for the flag, but would be better if it was more different.) |

| <b>SELECT EDUCATION</b> |                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Option</b>           | <b>How does the scene change?</b>  |
| Educated                | The character has reading glasses. |
| Not Educated            | No change.                         |

| <b>SELECT MOTIVATION</b> |                                                                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Option</b>            | <b>How does the scene change?</b>                                              |
| Adventure                | The boy's hat appears tilted at a jaunty angle. His expression is mischievous. |
| Duty                     | The boy's hat appears on straight and proper. His expression is proud.         |

| <b>SELECT OCCUPATION</b> |                                                                                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Option</b>            | <b>How does the scene change?</b>                                                                                                                                |
| Ambulance Driver         | There is an ambulance beside him. (We have lots of reference images.)                                                                                            |
| Bugler                   | He holds a bugle.                                                                                                                                                |
| Cook                     | He stands in front of a cauldron and has a ladle.                                                                                                                |
| Drummer Boy              | He has a drum.                                                                                                                                                   |
| Flag Boy                 | He holds signal flags – note, not the Union/Confederate flags, but these:<br> |
| Laborer                  | He has a shovel.                                                                                                                                                 |
| Officer                  | He has an eyeglass, notebook, and some insignia on his uniform.                                                                                                  |
| Orderly                  | He has a blood-stained white apron and holds a bedpan.                                                                                                           |
| Sailor                   | His uniform changes to a sailor's.                                                                                                                               |
| Scout                    | He has a lantern and notebook.                                                                                                                                   |
| Sentry                   | He has a lantern and whistle.                                                                                                                                    |
| Soldier                  | He has a rifle.                                                                                                                                                  |
| Stable Boy               | He has a shovel, and stands beside a horse.                                                                                                                      |
| Stretcher Carrier        | He has a blood-stained white apron and holds a stretcher.                                                                                                        |

## **“Story” Changes**

The following tables show what text is added to the story as different options are selected.

The story unfolds in sequence, with new text always being added to the end in a new paragraph/section, so that the length of each bit doesn't matter since the new stuff is always starting fresh below and not having the complications of lining up or fitting in with other text.

| <b>SELECT STARTING LOCATION</b> |                                                                                |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Option</b>                   | <b>New Text Added – Name and subheading under the name, as per the mockups</b> |
| North                           | Elisha Stockwell<br>Alma, Wisconsin -- 1863                                    |
| South                           | John Delhaney<br>Chattanooga, Tennessee – 1863                                 |

| <b>SELECT EDUCATION</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Option</b>           | <b>New Text Added – body text underneath</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Educated (North)        | Elisha came from a simple farming family in Wisconsin. His parents weren't rich, but Elisha was like most boys in America at the time and got a basic education in a one-room schoolhouse.                                                                                         |
| Not Educated (North)    | Elisha's family were not rich, and struggled hard to survive. Elisha was never able to attend the local one-room schoolhouse because he was needed to work on the family's wheat farm.                                                                                             |
| Educated (South)        | John was born a true Southern gentleman. His parents were rich plantation owners, with a stable of slaves to do the housework and work the fields. John received the best of everything, including education: he was taught by a private tutor in his home since a very early age. |
| Not Educated (South)    | John was not lucky enough to be born into a wealthy Southern family, but instead worked alongside his parents and siblings on the family's small farm. He was never able to go to school, and never learned to read or write.                                                      |

| <b>SELECT MOTIVATION</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Option</b>            | <b>New Text Added – body text underneath</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Adventure (North)        | When the war began, lots of local men and boys rushed to enlist. Wisconsin was a powerful supporter of abolition, so most joined up through a sense of duty to defend the Union and end slavery, but for Elisha the war represented the chance to have a great adventure.       |
| Duty (North)             | When the war began, lots of locals rushed to enlist. Wisconsin was a powerful supporter of abolition, so like most of the men and boys Elisha knew he joined up through a sense of duty to defend the Union and end slavery.                                                    |
| Adventure (South)        | When the war began, lots of local men and boys rushed to enlist. Tennessee was a proud Southern state, so most joined up through a sense of duty to defend the Confederacy and the Southern way of life, but for John the war represented the chance to have a great adventure. |
| Duty (South)             | When the war began, lots of locals rushed to enlist. Tennessee was a proud Southern state, so like most of the men and boys Elisha knew he joined up through a sense of duty to defend the Confederacy and their Southern way of life.                                          |

## SELECT OCCUPATION

| Option           | New Text Added – more body text under the previous                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ambulance Driver | Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. Instead he was encouraged into a vital supporting role as an ambulance driver. His ambulance was really just an old milk wagon hauled by a mule, but he drove it bravely into the middle of the battlefield. They called it a non-combat role, but in his days driving that wagon he saw more than his share of fighting, and learned first-hand the horrors that war brings. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle against another man, and was proud that he was able to save many a soldier's life by taking him to the surgeon's tent for medical care.                       |
| Bugler           | Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. When they learned he had some musical experience, they put him to work as a bugler. His work was important not only in the camp to tell the troops what time it was and what duties needed to be performed, but to relay orders during battle. They called it a non-combat role, but in his days as a bugle boy he saw more than his share of fighting, and learned first-hand the horrors that war brings. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle against another man, though the memory of so much death and pain would haunt him for the rest of his life.                      |
| Cook             | Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. Lacking any other skills, he was put to work in the camp kitchen. They called him a cook, but really his job was to try to help the real cooks make the scarce supplies they managed to get look like food. Although he never stepped food on the battlefield, he saw more than his share of fighting, and learned first-hand the horrors that war brings. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle against another man, and although his job in the war was not the most glamorous, he knew he made a difference by helping make the day-to-day lives the soldiers a little better. |
| Drummer Boy      | Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. When they learned he had some musical experience, they put him to work as a drummer. His work was important not only during long marches to help the troops keep time, but to relay orders during battle. They called it a non-combat role, but in his days as a bugle boy he saw more than his share of fighting, and learned first-hand the horrors that war brings. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle against another man, though the memory of so much death and pain would haunt him for the rest of his life.                                                           |
| Flag Boy         | Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. Instead he was put to work in the signal corps. With a flag in each hand, his job was to use them to communicate orders and enemy troop movement sightings. They called it a non-combat role, but in his days of waving those flags he saw more than his share of fighting, and learned first-hand the horrors that war brings. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

|         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         | <p>against another man, though the memory of so much death and pain would haunt him for the rest of his life.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Laborer | <p>Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. Instead he was given the job that lots of young men and boys got: manual labor around the camp. They called it fatigue duty, which meant work that didn't require the use of arms such as fortification of defenses, felling trees, digging trenches, building roads, and gathering wood and water. They called it a non-combat role, but he saw more than his share of fighting, and learned first-hand the horrors that war brings. Part of fatigue duty also meant burying the dead. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle against another man, though the memory of so much death and pain would haunt him for the rest of his life.</p> |
| Officer | <p>The recruiter knew he was lying about his age, but even though he was too young to enlist as a soldier the army needed smart, educated boys like him to be officers. There was no time to give him formal military education at an academy like West Point, so he had to learn on the job. It was a difficult, harrowing experience, but he knew he had it better than the common soldier. Still, he saw more than his share of fighting, and learned first-hand the horrors that war brings.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Orderly | <p>Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. Instead he was encouraged into a vital role supporting the surgeons and nurses. They called it a non-combat role, but he saw as much or more than the soldiers did of the horrors that war brings through the pain and death that passed through the medical tent. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle against another man, and was proud that he was able to help save many a soldier's life in the medical corps.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Sailor  | <p>Although the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist, the fact that he was lying about his age was overlooked because he wanted to be a sailor. The Union navy was faced with a problem: they had hundreds of miles of Confederate coast to blockade, and not enough ships or sailors. Every recruit was welcome. It was not a glamorous or well-respected job, but it was never boring. Through his time in the navy he learned saw first-hand the horrors that war brings. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle on the battlefield as an infantry soldier.</p>                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Scout   | <p>Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. But they recognized his bravery and saw he could read and write, so they suggested he could help as a scout. He would move ahead of the main force, discovering what lay ahead and reporting back to the officers in command. It was a dangerous, exciting, and important role: just the kind of thing he signed up for. They called it a non-combat role, but he learned first-hand the horrors that war brings. Long after the war, the memory of seeing so much death and pain after the battles were over would haunt him for the rest</p>                                                                                                              |

|                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                   | of his life.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Sentry            | Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. But they recognized his loyalty and saw he could read and write, so they suggested he could help by guarding the camp. They called it a non-combat role, but he learned first-hand the horrors that war brings. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle against another man, though the memory of seeing so much death and pain after the battles were over would haunt him for the rest of his life.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Soldier           | Somehow the recruiter failed to notice that he was lying about his age, and although he was too young to enlist as a soldier he soon found himself wearing the uniform and marching alongside his fellow infantrymen. Through his days as a soldier he learned first-hand the horrors that war brings, and considered it a miracle that he survived the ordeal. It turned out that war was nothing like what he had thought it was then he ran away and enlisted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Stable Boy        | Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. When they learned about his ability to work with animals, they put him to work in the stables. The horse was an essential tool to the army, and was used not only by the cavalry to move quickly into battle, but also as a beast of burden to move equipment in those days before the motor. His job was to feed, brush, and groom the horses, as well as clean up after them. They called it a non-combat role, but he still learned first-hand the horrors that war brings, and the memory of seeing so much death and pain would haunt him for the rest of his life.                         |
| Stretcher Carrier | Although he tried to lie about his age, the recruiter knew he was too young to enlist as a soldier. Instead he was encouraged into a vital supporting role as an stretcher carrier. In many ways his job was even more dangerous than that of a soldier: he was still required to charge into the middle of a battlefield, only instead of being armed with a rifle to defend himself with, all he had was a stretcher to carry out the injured. If let him see first-hand the horrors that war brings. In the end, he was glad he never had to lift a rifle against another man, and was proud that he was able to save many a soldier's life by taking him to the surgeon's tent for medical care. |



## Summary

### The horrors of war

Many young men joined with a glamorous idea of what war would be like in their heads, but when they were faced with the reality of the Civil War – America’s bloodiest conflict ever – they quickly wished they’d never left home. The lucky ones who survived the battles to make it back again never forgot the horrors they saw, all before their 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

### Suggested Connections

- Women During the War
- North and South

### You Earned

*Badges - View your profile to see all your Badges*

- Connection Complete - finished your Reflection
- Madcap Hunter - found the video

*Bonus Items - Unlocked items to use in other activities*

- TBD