

0. A DESERTER - Story Preface

**1. A DESERTER**

2. PETERSBURG

3. PETERSBURG HOLDS

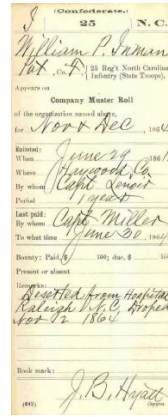
4. BATTLE OF THE CRATER

5. SIEGE OF PETERSBURG

6. THE HOME GUARD

7. OF MONEY AND BOOKS

8. THE REAL COLD MOUNTAIN



The "William Inman" of Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* was a real soldier who fought for the Confederacy during America's Civil War. The U.S. National Archives (NARA) still has some of his records. Inman actually deserted twice. NARA describes this document: "This card in Inman's service record shows that he deserted from the hospital in Raleigh, North Carolina, in 1864. This was the second time Inman deserted from the Confederate army." (War Department Collection of Confederate Records, RG 109, at the National Archives and Records Administration.) Click on the image for a better view.

In Charles Frazier's award-winning book, *Cold Mountain*, Inman is a grievously wounded Confederate soldier who has had enough of war. After nearly losing his life, he walks south - convinced he will never turn back.

At the beginning of the story (on page 9 of the paperback edition), Inman thinks about the awful battles he has experienced as a Confederate soldier:

*Where to begin? . . . Malvern Hill. Sharpsburg. Petersburg. Any would do admirably as example of unwelcome visions. But Fredericksburg was a day particularly lodged in his mind.*

Later, Inman ponders *Petersburg*, the battle scene of his near-fatal injury. What was the battle of Petersburg really like? Could it have so traumatized a Confederate soldier - like Inman - that he would leave his post without permission?

Thanks to America's National Archives, we can examine primary sources of the battle. Some of the photographs, including those of a subsequent siege - the longest in U.S. history - are gruesome.

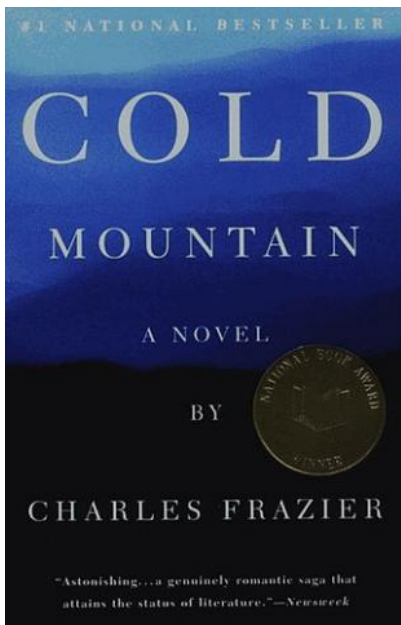
The experience must have been forever seared in the memory of those who survived.

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/A-DESERTER-Cold-Mountain)

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See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/A-DESERTER-Cold-Mountain)

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### Cold Mountain - by Charles Frazier

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Cold-Mountain-by-Charles-Frazier>

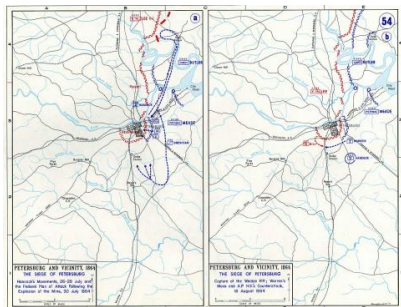


### Petersburg

Image online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

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View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Petersburg>



### Map: Petersburg and Vicinity

Image online, courtesy Map Atlases from the U.S. Military Academy.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Map-Petersburg-and-Vicinity>

(Confederate.)  
 S | 25 | N. C.  
 William P. Inman  
 Pat, Co. F, 25 Reg't North Carolina  
 Infantry (State Troops).  
 Appears on  
 Company Muster Roll  
 of the organization named above,  
 for Nov & Dec, 1864  
 Enlisted:  
 When June 24, 1861.  
 Where Haywood Co.  
 By whom Capt Lenoir  
 Period 1 year  
 Last paid:  
 By whom Capt Miller  
 To what time June 30, 1864.  
 Bounty: Paid, \$ 100; due, \$ 100  
 Present or absent  
 Remarks:  
 Deserted from Hospital  
 Raleigh N. C. Dropped  
 Nov 2 1864  
 Book mark:  
 J. B. Hayatt  
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