



Private, Berdan's Sharpshooters

Dark green: coat, cap, trousers

Yellow: buttons, belt plate,
bayonet, bayonet
scabbard tip

Black: belt, cap pouch,
cartridge box, shoes

Gray: blanket

Brown: knapsack

Metallic: rifle lock barrel,
fittings

The men of this elite Union unit were carefully selected for their superb marksmanship. As a special combat force, they were usually given the most dangerous positions on the battlefield. Their forest green uniforms were an early attempt at camouflage. They were armed with the .50 caliber Sharps breechloading rifle, from which the word "sharpshooter" had its origins.