



## 2ND MINNESOTA BATTERY OF LIGHT ARTILLERY

### Adolph Appitz

If Adolph would have known what was waiting for him in the Army, he may not have been so eager to enlist as the Second Minnesota Battery was forming in January of 1862. He had been born in the Kingdom of Prussia and eventually made his way to the new frontier of central Minnesota. Adolph was working as a blacksmith in St. Cloud, Stearns County, when he decided to join the army.

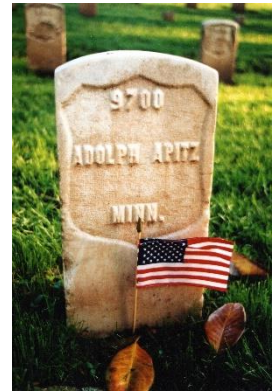
The descriptive role showed him to be 5' 8 1/4" tall, with gray eyes, light hair and a light complexion. He was 41 years old and married. His wife's name was Doris.

Adolph served as a private in the Battery and decided he was not willing to reenlist when his three years were up. While the men who had reenlisted went home to Minnesota for a veteran's furlough, Adolph, with other men who chose not to reenlist, served on detached duty with the Second Illinois Battery, Company I. With that unit, Adolph was a part of Sherman's army trying to take the Southern city of Atlanta, Georgia. Adolph, though, did not live to see the city fall. He was admitted to a field hospital where he was treated for "disease." Army records conflict as to what may have been troubling Adolph. The surgeon of the 14th Michigan called the disease that killed Adolph "Acute Pneumonia." The assistant surgeon of the army decided it was "Rheumatism" that took Adolph's life. Pension records filed by Adolph's wife, Doris, suggest yet another cause of death--the bite of a scorpion. While none agreed on the cause, Adolph died on August 9th, 1864, in the field hospital before Atlanta, Georgia.

Captain Hotchkiss, commanding officer of the Second Minnesota Battery settled Adolph's affairs. Adolph had been last paid on December 31, 1863, and had pay due until the date of his death, some seven months of pay. However, Adolph had drawn clothing from the quartermaster for which he owed \$29.39 and an additional \$2.30 for a tent shelter half. Adolph did not owe the sutler or laundress anything. Doris was owed about \$60 in Adolph's back pay. Adolph enlisted at a time when he was promised a bounty of \$100. Records do not indicate he received any of this money, so Doris should have also received that as well, less any bounty money Adolph had received. It is unknown if she actually received any of the money.

Doris applied for Adolph's pension as his widow. It took two years to get the application approved, that approval coming in August of 1866, and she was awarded \$8.00 a month.

Adolph's body was not returned to Minnesota. His first burial place is unknown, but with the establishment of National Cemeteries, Adolph was reinterred in the Marietta National Cemetery in Marietta, Georgia. Since his death came while serving on detached service with the Illinois Battery, Adolph's grave marker does not list the Second Battery. It simply reads, "Minnesota."



*Researched and compiled by the reenactors of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Minnesota Battery of Light Artillery. Visit our website at <http://www.2mnbattery.org> for more information about our soldiers and our organization.*

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