

The Civil War in Arizona: The Story of the California Volunteers, 1861–1865. By Andrew E. Masich. (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2006. xiv + 368 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$32.95.)

In this well-rounded and highly readable volume, author Andrew Masich brings to life the story of the Column from California. Colonel, and later Brigadier General, James H. Carleton led these Civil War volunteers across southern California and the deserts of Arizona early in 1862, expecting to meet and defeat the Confederates then occupying New Mexico and southern Arizona.

Part One of this book outlines the concerns that led to the creation of this force in California. Masich uses many archival sources to detail the backgrounds of the soldiers, their weapons, clothing, and other equipment (including woolen undergarments). The command moved as small units, first to Fort Yuma on the Colorado River, then up the Gila River to the Pima Villages and on to Tucson. A skirmish at Picacho Pass cost them three dead and three wounded. The march of the Californians met with few problems, due largely to Carleton's thorough logistical preparations.

In Arizona, the Column provided the only government and set about organizing a supply system, establishing a vedette corps to carry mail, arresting desperate characters, and campaigning against hostile Apaches. The general theme is what the California troops accomplished in a non-military role—in exploring for mining wealth, encouraging settlement, aiding the development of business and commerce, and establishing a territorial government. As enlistments expired in 1864, some Californians stayed after their discharges while others rejoined as veteran volunteers, to be replaced by new California troops and New Mexico and Arizona volunteers.

Part Two is a generous selection of annotated articles by volunteer correspondents in the army, written to the San Francisco *Daily Alta California*, the leading newspaper in the state. These are reprinted in their entirety, commencing in April 1862, sent from a variety of stations in Arizona.

Carleton had issued explicit orders against letters to the press, which did little to stem the flood of correspondence. Most writers used a *nom de plume* or just an initial. Masich has identified several of the contributors. The dispatches in 1862 are the most interesting, but contain an abundance of hearsay and duplication by different authors along with the first-hand descriptions. There are relatively few from 1863 and 1865, while all but two of the nine letters in 1864 came from a single soldier at the isolated post of Fort Mojave. The later articles largely concern mining interests and the prospects for receiving discharges from the army.

The author identifies many of the places and individuals mentioned in the letters, and there is an excellent selection of contemporary photographs. Andrew Masich has given us a thoroughly researched and very well-written account of the California Column in Arizona, using themes that are rarely followed out. Highly recommended.

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Distant Bugles, Distant Drums: The Union Response to the Confederate Invasion of New Mexico. By Flint Whitlock. (Boulder: University Press of Colorado, 2006. xix + 293 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, bibliography, index. \$29.95.)

Had the Colorado Volunteers not entered the Civil War in New Mexico Territory, the conflict in the desert Southwest might have

been radically different. It is even conceivable the Confederate Army of New Mexico could have taken California, thus acquiring valuable ports and creating a transcontinental Confederacy ripe for diplomatic recognition from Great Britain and France.

World War II historian Flint Whitlock tells the story of the "Pikes Peak" in his *Distant Bugles, Distant Drums: The Union Response to the Confederate Invasion of New Mexico*. The subtitle of the book is a bit misleading, however, since Whitlock concentrates on the Colorado Volunteers and not the predominantly Hispanic New Mexico Volunteers or the army regulars who were also critical to the defense of the territory. Even when the *Nuevo Mexicanos* are mentioned, they are seen through the ethnocentric eyes of the regular army officers who consistently used the natives as scapegoats.

Whitlock is at his best when recalling the organization of the Colorado Volunteers. His treatment of Gov. William Gilpin's role in the war is excellent. The author does not do as well when describing the Confederate invasion of the territory. Gen. Henry Hopkins Sibley was born at Natchitoches, Louisiana, not Grand Ecore; his grandfather's plantation was never auctioned off after his father's death; Sibley was brevetted for bravery during the Mexico War for gallantry at Medellín, not Cerro Gordo; the Union commander in New Mexico, Gen. Edward Richard Sprigg Canby did not graduate two years ahead of Sibley at West Point, but one year after Sibley in 1839. At the beginning of the 1861–1862 New Mexico campaign, it was not necessary for Sibley to capture forts along the Lower Military Road leading from San Antonio to Fort Bliss since these had already been given up by the Federals and occupied by Confederates under Col. John Robert Baylor.

Despite a profusion in the last decade of scholarship on the war in the Southwest, Whitlock concludes that Sibley's New Mexico

Campaign is "relatively unknown" (p. xvii). This perhaps explains the total absence of recently published books and articles in either the notes or the bibliography. Nevertheless, the book is nicely illustrated with fifty-three photographs, many of them never before published, and twenty-three maps drawn by Whitlock himself. The map of the Fort Fillmore-Fort Bliss area, however, is out of proportion and the map of the Confederate retreat is inaccurate (pp. 47, 235). Attempting to avoid Fort Craig during their disastrous retreat in April 1862, the Rebel Texans left the Rio Grande near Bernardo (near where the Rio Salado empties into the larger river), and not south of Socorro. The Magdalena Mountains (not "Magdelenas" as indicated consistently in the text) appear to be missing from the map.

With minor glitches aside, Whitlock has written a valuable and meaningful book. He is a professionally good historian. He is interested in the Civil War will enjoy what he has to say.

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History May Be Searched in Vain: A Military History of the Mormon Battalion.

By Sherman L. Fleek. (Spokane: Arthur H. Clark, 2006. 414 pp. Illustrations, maps, appendices, notes, bibliography, index. \$37.50.)

Sherman Fleek has written a well-researched history of the Mormon Battalion, applying his twenty-five-year background in the United States Army as well as his participation as the chief historian of the National Guard Bureau. Fleek notes that this Mexican War battalion formed of five companies of volunteers inducted for one year of federal service was unique, having been recruited solely from one religious body—the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The