

CONFEDERATE CAMPAIGNS OF THE SOUTHWEST
by Ted Fisher

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INTRODUCTION

While in the past I have primarily written about the Confederate Navy, a recent trip to the Southwest in which I visited Mesilla, Forts Fillmore, Craig and Union as well as Glorieta Pass intrigued me regarding this little known Civil War theater of operations. Since my return, I have given you bits of the total picture, now this is an attempt to tie those pieces together into a formal presentation for your enjoyment. Some critical factors regarding these campaigns and the Federal responses: Three adversaries were involved, each bent on destroying the other two- Confederates, Federals and Apaches. Secondly, the availability of water in this arid land determined the course of each Confederate campaign and the Federal response, and the Rio Grande Valley became a highway for invasions and retreats because of its proximity to the river. Each of the forts mentioned above is located near large sources of water. Where water holes had to be depended upon, such as for the advance of the California Column, advancing units had to be broken down into squads of 100 men as they moved across the landscape as 100 was the maximum number of men which could be serviced by many water holes in any 24 hour period. Hence it would take at least 20 days for an army of 2000 to advance over a land where they were dependent upon water holes. This text is broken up into the following sections:

Provisioning the Confederate Southwest Campaigns

Baylor's Campaign

The Federal Response to the Invasion

Hunter's Arizona Campaign

Sibley's Campaign

The Federal Retaking of the Confederate Arizona Territory

Spotted throughout the above categories are the actual Confederate Battle and Skirmish Reports by the Confederate Commanders as researched by researcher Bill Manley. These do much to give this offering the flavor of the period.

PROVISIONING THE CONFEDERATE CAMPAIGNS

Georgian David Emanuel Twiggs was the son of a distinguished Revolutionary War Officer. Born in 1790, he was a favorite of Andrew Jackson. Twiggs' military career spanned 50 years and included service in the War of 1812, the Seminole War, the Black Hawk War and the Mexican War during which he was brevetted to Major General for meritorious conduct at Monterrey. Following the Mexican War, Twiggs was given command of the Department of Missouri headquartered in St. Louis, a post he held until his retirement in 1857. This retirement was to be short-lived. In November 1860, at age 70 and no longer suited to command, he was recalled to active duty and given command of the Department of Texas by President Buchanan. At that time, Twiggs was second in seniority to Winfield Scott and was in line to assume the duties of Commander in Chief had Scott retired. The headquarters of the Department of Texas was in San Antonio which also served as the main quartermaster depot for supplies to the 17 Texas forts under Twiggs' span of control.

Twiggs arrived in San Antonio and took command in a department beset by the issue of secession. In January, 1861, the Texas legislature approved the calling of a Secession Convention. On January 28, 1861, the Secession Convention assembled and passed by a vote of 168-7 an Ordinance of Secession, which provided for the final separation of Texas from the Union. During the month, a Committee of Public Safety was appointed to negotiate with Twiggs the surrender of all Federal forts with their arms and equipment within the state. To give further teeth to their negotiations, the Committee of Public Safety appointed Ben McCullough (later killed at the battle of Pea Ridge) the task of raising a militia to insure the surrender.

Though a Southern sympathizer, Twiggs procrastinated because his duty was clearly to retain all Federal property. Further, he also did not want to be the man to fire the first shot in a Civil War. He reported the situation to Washington asking for guidance, but got none from the lame-duck Buchanan administration.

Deeming negotiation to be a failure, the commissioners ordered Ben McCullough to seize the San Antonio garrison. On February 16, 1861 about 1000 Texan militia united with secessionist San Antonio militia companies and surrounded the 3 garrison buildings manned by 160 troops. A detail was sent to Twiggs' house, intercepted him on his way to work in a buggy and brought him at shotgun point to Ben McCullough. McCullough demanded surrender of the garrison. At first Twiggs refused, but finally he surrendered the installation in San Antonio and further agreed to evacuate all 17 Texas forts on condition that the troops would be allowed to take their weapons and light artillery to Corpus Christi where they would embark on ships sailing to the north.

The evacuation of the northern troops was never completed for political and distance reasons. For example Fort Bliss near El Paso was 550 miles from San Antonio. Much time was needed to get dispatches there, and have the troops march across Texas to their departure destination.

Additionally, the Confederate government considered Twiggs agreement with Texas to be null and void. Earl Van Dorn stopped the evacuation and imprisoned the Federal troops at Camp Tyler for the duration of the war.

General Twiggs was accused of treachery and fired. He became a Confederate Major General but died 6 months later.

Thus the Texas Confederates gained the arsenals, border forts and logistical support of an army. Much of this material was later used in the Confederate campaigns in the South-west.

BAYLOR'S CAMPAIGN

The Arizona Territory (which encompassed the present states of New Mexico and Arizona) was sympathetic to the Confederacy and in convention in 1861 formally declared that the territory was part of the Confederacy. The territory asserted that all its problems (especially Apache depredations) were due to neglect by the U.S. government. While of little value to the Confederacy, Arizona was essential because it connected Texas to southern California with its strongly pro-Confederate population, and the possibility of making the Confederacy an ocean to ocean nation. Confederate Lieutenant-Colonel John Baylor embarked on the "Arizona Campaign" in June 1861 utilizing 350 Texas Mounted Rifles stationed at Fort Bliss. The balance of his troops remained at Fort Bliss to protect the fortification. The invasion route was up the Rio Grande Valley and its initial target was Fort Fillmore in present Mesilla, New Mexico (just south of the present day city of Las Cruces). Fort Fillmore was garrisoned by 700 members of companies A, B, D, E, G, I and K of the 7th U.S. infantry under command of Major Isaac Lynde, a 34 year veteran of infantry service. Companies C, F and H were en route to Fort Fillmore from Fort Craig to the North and Fort Buchanan to the West in present day Arizona. Vastly outnumbering the Texans, Lynde was supremely confident of victory and ordered the garrison to attack the Confederates in Mesilla on July 25th 1861. But after losing 4 killed and 7 wounded in the Battle of Mesilla, Lynde withdrew. He had Fort Fillmore burned and commenced a 150 mile retreat of his troops to Fort Stanton. The Texans in pursuit first encountered 200 troops of Lynde's rear guard who had lived up to the 7th Infantry tradition of being a unit with an alcohol problem. The Federal troops had filled their canteens with whiskey prior to leaving Fort Fillmore and were found by the Texans strung out along the trail, dehydrated and too drunk to walk, much less fight and barely able to comprehend their capture and transport back to Mesilla by wagon.

The Texans reached Lynde's main force and demanded surrender even though they were outnumbered by the Federal troops. Federal officers begged Lynde to attack and defend their honor. Lynde instead choose to surrender. Three days later, the Federal prisoners were returned to Las Cruces where they were paroled and commenced a 300 mile march to Fort Union where they were immediately put to work to repulse the invasion.

Upon learning of the fall of Fort Fillmore and Lynde's surrender, commanding officer B.S. Roberts of Fort Stanton ordered the forts abandonment and destruction with its supplies by fire. A storm came in behind the retreating forces which put the fire out. This allowed the Mescalero Apaches to salvage all that the semi-destroyed fort had to offer. Upon their arrival, the Confederates were attacked by the Apaches and while able to take the fort, were unable to control the Apaches and abandoned the fort.

Baylor issued the following proclamation to the people of the Territory of Arizona on August 1, 1861: "The social and political condition of Arizona being little short of general anarchy, and the

people being literally destitute of law, order and protection, the said territory, from the date hereof, is hereby declared temporarily organized as a military government until such time as congress shall otherwise provide. I, John Baylor, Lieutenant- Colonel, commanding the Confederate army in the territory of Arizona, hereby take possession of said territory in the name and on behalf of the Confederate States of America. For all purposes herein specified, and until otherwise decreed or provided the Territory of Arizona shall comprise all of that portion of New Mexico lying below the 34th parallel of North latitude."

Baylor designated Mesilla the capital, organized a military government, and appointed himself governor. He ordered the evacuation and destruction of Forts Buchanan and Breckenridge. This action enabled the Apaches to take repossession of the area and start their depredations anew. The people of Arizona subsequently elected Granville Oury to the Confederate congress in Richmond and on February 14, 1862 Jefferson Davis issued a proclamation accepting the Confederate Territory of Arizona.

The following are the official Confederate Battle and Skirmish Reports of Baylor and his subordinates as researched by Bill Manley:

July 25-27, 1861 - Skirmish at Mesilla

Report of Lieut. Col. John R. Baylor, (C. S. Army, of the skirmish at Mesilla, and the surrender of Union troops at San Augustine Springs, and subsequent operations.

PICACHO, MESILLA VALLEY, Arizona, August 3, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I had an engagement with the U.S. forces, numbering over 500 cavalry and infantry with four pieces of artillery, at Mesilla, on the evening of the 25th of July, in which the enemy were repulsed with a loss of 3 killed and 7 wounded.

On the 27th, I captured at San Augustine Springs the entire command of the enemy under Major Lynde, consisting of eight companies of infantry, three of Mounted Rifles, with four pieces of artillery, together with all their transportation, arms, ammunition, commissary and quartermaster's stores, all of which, with Fort Fillmore, are now in my possession.

Too much praise cannot be given to the officers and soldiers under my command, and especially to Captain Hardeman and company, who were the only part of the command engaged with the enemy.

I have thought proper to release upon parole the entire command of officers and men, as I could not,

with less than 300 men, guard over 600 and meet another force of 240 of the enemy that is looked for daily.

I have the honor to be, respectfully,

John R. Baylor,
Lieut. Col., Comdr.. Second Regiment Mounted Rifles, C.S.A.

HEADQUARTERS, Dona Ana, Ariz, September 21, 1861.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the engagement at Mesilla on the 25th of July, the capture of the United States forces the day after the next succeeding at San Augustine Springs, in the Organ Mountains, Territory of Arizona, and of my operations in the Territory up to the present time:

On assuming at Fort Bliss I ascertained that the United States forces were concentrating in force at Fort Fillmore, and the proximity of that post I supposed that the object of the enemy was to attack the forces under my command at Fort Bliss. I was satisfied that if I permitted them to concentrate, my command was too weak to maintain my position. I therefore determined to attack the enemy in detail, and prevent, if possible, the contemplated concentration. For that purpose I sent a detachment, under Major Waller, to reconnoiter Fort Fillmore and see the position of the enemy pickets, and also whether the fort could be approached without discovery. The report of Major Waller satisfied me that I could easily gain a position between the fort and the river (Rio Grande), and cut off the animals as they went for water, then the enemy would have to attack me in a strong position, thus rendering the protection afforded by the fort of no use. I accordingly took up the line of march in the night of the 23rd of July with 258 men, and in the night of the 24th succeeded in taking a position on the river near Fort Fillmore. The surprise of the enemy would have been complete except for the desertion of a private from Capt. T. T. Teel's company who reported to Major Lynde our strength and position. The long roll call was distinctly heard, which apprised us that our approach was known to the enemy.

On the morning of the 25th I determined to occupy Mesilla, and prevent, if possible, the enemy from getting a position there, as it was one that would be easily held, and would enable them to hold the country. I reached Mesilla in the afternoon of the 25th and was soon informed that the enemy were marching to attack us. I posted my men in position and awaited the arrival of the enemy. At about 5 o'clock I discovered their cavalry approaching the town by the main road, and soon after the infantry came up in sight, bringing with them three howitzers. They formed within 300 yards, and were, as near as I could tell, about 600 strong. A flag was sent in to demand the "unconditional and immediate surrender of the Texas forces," to which I answered that "we would fight first, and surrender afterward," the answer was followed by the enemy opening on us with their howitzers. After four or five rounds of bombs, grape, and canister, the cavalry formed and marched up within 250 yards, preparatory

to making a charge. Captain Hardeman's company, being in position nearest the enemy was ordered to open on them with his front rank, to see if they were within range of our guns. The fire was well directed and proved effective, killing 4 of the enemy and wounding 7. The cavalry was thrown into confusion and retreated hastily, running over the infantry. In a few moments the enemy were marching back in the direction of their fort, but supposing it to be a faint, intended to draw me from my position, I did not pursue them, but kept my position until next morning, the 26th, expecting that they would attack us under cover of night.

The enemy not appearing, I sent my spies to reconnoiter, and discover, if possible, their movements. The spies reported the enemy at work at the fort making breastworks, and evidently preparing to defend themselves. Upon hearing this, I sent express to Fort Bliss, ordering up artillery to attack the fort on the arrival of my re-enforcements

On the morning of the 27th, a little after daylight, my spies reported a column of dust seen in the direction of the Organ Mountains, distant 15 miles, on the Fort Stanton road. I could from the top of a house with a glass the movements of the enemy. I immediately ordered the command to saddle and mount, for the purpose of intercepting them at San Augustine Pass. I had reached the river, distant 1 mile, when I received intelligence that a messenger had arrived from the fort, and stated that the enemy had fired the buildings, that it had been extinguished, and but little had been destroyed. I at once ordered Major Waller to take a detachment of men and go to the fort, and save, if possible, the property therein, and to leave enough men to guard the post, and then to overtake me as soon as possible. On reaching the foot of the mountain, distant 15 miles, I could see the rear of the enemy, composed chiefly of famished stragglers, endeavoring to make their way to water. I disarmed and collected a number of them, and finding most of them dying of thirst, we gave them water we had, and were compelled ourselves to go to a spring in the mountain for water. Lieutenant Baylor and Mr. Barnes, a citizen of Las Cruces, who acted as a guide, found 24 of the enemy at the spring, who had from exhaustion gone to sleep, whom they captured.

After getting water for my men I started in pursuit of the enemy, who had passed through San Augustine Pass. I was delayed for some time waiting for Major Waller, who, mistaking my orders, had carried with him the whole command, except Captain Hardeman's company, to Fort Fillmore. So soon as they joined me I started in pursuit, and found the enemy's cavalry drawn up to cover the retreat through the pass. These I charged with Captain Hardeman's company. They retreated in haste, leaving behind their wagons and artillery and all their supplies. Upon gaining the summit of the Pass, a plain view of the road to San Augustine Springs was presented. The road for 5 miles was lined with the fainting, famished soldiers, who threw down their arms as we passed and begged for water. At the springs the enemy had drawn up in line of battle some 200 or 300 strong. I ordered Major Waller to charge with Captain Hardeman's company until he reached the end of straggling soldiers, then to form and cut them off from the main body. I followed, disarming the enemy, and as fast as out jaded horses would go. On reaching Captain Hardeman's company, who were formed, I saw Major Waller and Captain Hardeman riding into the enemy's lines. I was in a few moments sent for by Major Lynde, who

asked upon what terms I would allow him to surrender. I replied that the surrender must be unconditional. To this Major Lynde assented, asking that property should be respected. The articles of capitulation were signed, and the order given for the enemy to stack arms.

Major Lynde's command was composed of eight companies of infantry and four of cavalry, with four pieces of artillery, the whole numbering nearly 700 men. My own force at the surrender was less than 200. I regret to report that the regimental colors were burned by the enemy to avoid surrendering them.

I was delayed at the place of surrender for two days on account of the condition of the enemy and the want of transportation. As soon as possible I marched them to Las Cruces and there paroled them, as I was informed that Captain Moore was enroute for Fort Fillmore, from Fort Buchanan, with 250 men. I could not guard the prisoners I had and meet the coming forces. Being desirous, to, to afflict the enemy in every way, I considered that it was much better for them to bear the expense of finding the prisoners than for me to do so.

After getting rid of the prisoners, I immediately selected a strong position near the village of Picacho to await the arrival of Captain Moore's command. Here I was joined by Brig. Gen A. S. Johnston, with a party of officers of the U.S. Army, who had resigned and were en route for Richmond, Va., also a party of Californians, under Capt. Alonzo Ridley. I tendered to Brigadier- General Johnston the command of my forces, believing that the best interest of the service required that I should relinquish the command to an officer of his rank and distinguished ability, which he did me the honor to accept, and remained in command until there was no further necessity for his services. He sent Captain Coopwood's spy company to meet the enemy and send him word where they were, and to watch their movements and prevent any communications with them. The spies discovered them on the Miembres, and reported them moving carelessly, evidently not suspecting danger. On the evening of the 6th of August an express reached Captain Moore from Fort Craig, telling him of the defeat of Major Lynde's command, and ordering him to burn up his transportation and supplies, and to make his escape to that place. This was done. The jaded condition of our animals alone prevented us from capturing them.

The accompanying abstracts of quartermaster's subsistence, medical, and ordnance stores will show but a part of the property captured, much of it having been stolen and destroyed while I was awaiting the enemy at Picacho and some since I left the command to Major Waller. A number of muster rolls are lost, the remainder only showing about half of the prisoners captured, and the correspondence with the commanding officer in reference to his regimental colors was lost. I regret the loss of these papers, but in the hurry and excitement it was unavoidable. I can only give the number of the enemy as it was reported to me by the officers captured.

On the 10th of August an express reached me from Fort Stanton, stating that the news of the capture of Major Lynde's command had created a stampede among the United States troops, who hastily abandoned the fort after having destroyed a considerable portion of their supplies and

Government property of all kinds, and all would have been destroyed but for a storm of rain, which extinguished the fire intended by the enemy to destroy the fort. The few citizens living near the fort took possession of it, and saved a valuable lot of quartermaster's and commissary stores. The Mexicans and Indians in large numbers demanded the right to pillage the fort, which was granted. The citizens being too weak to resist, and not knowing that they would get aid from me or not, were forced to abandon the fort to the Mexicans and Indians. Captain Walker's company, on receipt of the express from Fort Stanton, was ordered to that post, and he succeeded in recovering a portion of the property stolen. For particulars of his operations I refer you to his report. I sent a train to bring from Fort Stanton all the property and stores of value. The invoices will acquaint you with the property recovered from the post. I will mention, among other things, four pieces of artillery, two of which are uninjured and two so much injured as to be of no use. Believing that the interest of Arizona demanded imperatively some form of government, I issued my proclamation, of date 1st August, 1861, to the people, a copy of which I forward to you.

I cannot conclude this report without alluding to the courage, fortitude, and patriotism of the officers and soldiers of my command and to those citizens who participated with us, all did nobly their part. I cannot make distinction between men so willing and ready to do their whole duty. To the courage of my officers and men the country is indebted for the success of our arms and the acquisition of a Territory valuable in many respects.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN R. BAYLOR,
Lieut. Col., Comdg, C. S. Forces in Arizona

CAPT. T. A. WASHINGTON,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., C. S. Army, San Antonio, Tex.

August 2, 1861.--- Fort Stanton, N. Mex., Abandoned by Union Troops
Report of Lieut. Col. John R. Baylor, C. S. Army.

SIR: I regret to report that the United States troops, consisting of four companies-- two of cavalry and two infantry-- that were en route from Fort Buchanan to Fort Fillmore, succeeded by ignominious flight in making their escape. On the night of the 7th instant an express reached them from Fort Craig, when they immediately burned all their transportation and supplies, and fled in great disorder and haste, saving nothing but their arms and animals.

By express from Fort Stanton I learn that upon the receipt of the news that Major Lynde had surrendered, Colonel Roberts, in command of that post, fled in haste, leaving the post on fire, which was extinguished by a storm of rain. Most of the commissary and quartermaster's supplies were saved and a battery. On the receipt of this intelligence I sent Captain Walker's company to occupy

Stanton, and will send a train for the commissary and quartermaster's stores, leaving only a two months' supply for the troops now there. The families there were at the mercy of Indians and Mexicans, and I thought it proper to garrison the post, at least until I could learn the wishes of the Government. I have also established a Provisional Government for the Territory of Arizona, and made appointments to fill the offices necessary to enforce the laws. I have proclaimed myself the governor, have authorized the raising of four companies to hold the Territory and afford protection to the citizens, and extended the limits of the Territory to the parallel of 36 degrees 30 minutes thence due west to the Colorado, and down that stream to its mouth.

The vast mineral resources of Arizona, in addition to its affording an outlet to the Pacific, make its acquisition a matter of some importance to our government, and now that I have taken possession of the Territory, I trust a force sufficient to occupy and hold it will be sent by the government, under some competent man.

I urge acceptance of the companies I have raised, as they are composed of the very best material, and are invaluable as soldiers. Captain Coopwood's company has been of great service to me, as supplies cannot be supplied.

I have acted in all matters relating to the acquisition of Arizona entirely upon my own responsibility, and can only refer the matter, through you, for approval of the government.

Inventories of all property captured from the Army will be sent to you as early as possible. I regret to say that a good deal has been stolen by both prisoners and Mexicans, but in the excitement of the time I could not avoid such acts, my time being occupied with other matters. The arms and ammunitions are valuable, and many that are broken and injured by the enemy can be repaired. I will send down to the arsenal by the first opportunity, the artillery (twelve pieces) can be used by mounting them again, as no damage was done to the guns except spiking them.

I cannot conclude without alluding to the manner in which my men have conducted themselves in this short campaign. They have endured hunger and fatigue without complaint, and for a week did not eat more than a meal in twenty-four hours. For four days they did not unsaddle their horses, and during the whole time behaved worthy of veterans.

Yours, very respectfully,
JOHN R. BAYLOR, Lieut. Col., Comdg.
Second Reg't Texas Mounted Rifles

General EARL VANDORN,
Commanding Department of Texas

SEPTEMBER 25, 26, 1861.— Skirmish at Canada Alamosa (25) and near Fort Thorn, N. Mex. (26th). Report of Capt. Bethel Coopwood, Confederate Forces Dona Ana, Ariz., September 29, 1861

SIR: In obedience to your order of date September 18, 1861, I started from Camp Robledo on the 22nd instant to make a reconaissance of the country around Fort Craig with a detachment of 112 men, including officers, detailed from Captain Pyron's company, B, and Captain Stafford's company, E, Second Texas Mounted Rifles, and my spy company, as shown by lists from the different companies, hereto annexed; also one man, the Rev. William J Joyce, of Captain Hardeman's company, A, Second Texas Mounted Rifles.

Having obtained reliable information that a company of U.S. volunteers had started from Fort Craig to occupy the town of Alamosa, 35 miles from Fort Craig, I marched with all precaution to that place, and on the morning of the 25th instant succeeded in getting between that place and Craig without being discovered. I immediately marched my force into town, and after some skirmishing captured Capt. J. H. Minks, Second Lieut. Metiase Medina, and 23 privates and non-commissioned officers. In the skirmish 4 of the enemy were killed and 6 wounded. The remainder of Capt. Minks' company fled early in the action, and escaped by crossing the river and taking to the mountains.

In the camp of Capt. Minks I found an amount of public property, and immediately appointed Lieutenant Poore to take charge of the same; and the duplicate of his inventory, hereto annexed, exhibits the amount of property taken, except for four Sibley tents and a number of saddles and other articles of small value, which were burned by my order, not having transportation for the same. Not having transportation for the prisoners, I administered to 22 of them a strong oath, binding them not to take up arms against the Confederate States during this war unless exchanged, & c., and then set them at liberty without arms; but I held Capt Minks and Lieutenant Medina and one sargeant as prisoners, and delivered them to you to abide your order.

From Alamosa I marched along the river road with the property taken to the place known as E Company Grove, and encamped for the night. On the morning of the 27th, while at breakfast, I was informed that my pickets were running into camp, and, rising to my feet, I saw the enemy pursuing them. In less than ten minutes my camp was surrounded by U.S. troops, numbering about 190. None of the ordinary ceremonies of attack were performed. There being no misunderstanding, we at once commenced business. The firing commenced at 7 o'clock and ended at 11 a.m. The enemy began to retreat before 11, and about that hour fled from the field. I lost 2 men killed, and had 2 severely wounded, each in the arm, besides 6 others slightly wounded, all of which will more fully appear from the list hereto annexed. The enemy removed their dead and wounded as they retreated, so as to evade a discovery of their losses; but, from the number of horses led away with bodies lashed across them, there were 12 or 13 killed, but the number of their wounded could not be ascertain.

The principal portion of the battle was fought with the enemy's force formed in two lines, forming the angle of a square, and my forces formed the same way as theirs, my lines being much shorter. One of my lines was composed of the detachment from Captain Pyron's company and a portion of the detachment from Captain Stafford's company, under the immediate command of Lieutenant Poore, Sergeant O'Grady and Sergeant Browne. My left line was composed of the detachment from my company and a part of the detachment from Captain Stafford's company. This line was under the immediate command of Lieutenant Sutherland, being divided into two platoons, one led by Sergeant Coulter, and the other by Private Tevis, who was named for the special occasion.

I remained upon the field till 10 o'clock a.m. the next day, but was prepared to receive another attack should the enemy return re-enforced. In relation to the men and officers under me I would say to you sir, that I witnessed such a display of manly courage and perfect order during my experience in the wars. Each officer and man conducted himself as though he thought the destinies of himself and his country were depending upon his action on that occasion. The wounded would not even utter a cry, lest it would be injurious to the cause. A remarkable instance of this was displayed in the case of Sergeant O'Grady. After being severely wounded, and after having fallen to the ground from loss of blood, he continued to cheer his men and encourage them to fight, telling them not to cease firing until they had avenged his blood. This kind of courage was also displayed by others whose wounds were not so severe. Sergeant Quinn, Sergeant Robinson, and Antonio Lambert, after having each received a wound, continued to fight, if possible, with more courage and determination. The officers and men paid strict attention to every order, and acted more like veteran troops than volunteers. I cannot with words express the esteem I have for all who were with me. Nothing short of witnessing a similar occasion can impress you with an idea of the value of such troops and the credit due them for what they have already done. I herewith annex a list of the names of all who were with me, that you may know that number of men by name who did not flinch under the most trying circumstances.

Regretting much that some of my esteemed fellow soldiers have suffered the fate of war on this scout, I most respectfully submit to you this report of the same.

I am, sir, your most obedient servant,

BETHEL COOPWOOD, Capt., Commanding Scout
Lieut. Col JOHN R. BAYLOR.

THE UNION RESPONSES TO THE INVASION

On September 9, 1861, New Mexico Territorial Governor Henry Connelly issued a call to arms saying "Citizens of New Mexico, your Territory has been invaded, the integrity of your soil has been attacked-----and the enemy is already at your gates". In response to the invasion and Connelly's call to arms, 3500 New Mexicans were recruited as volunteers even though many had been U.S. citizens for less than 15 years. The majority were of Hispanic descent and came from the Northern New Mexican towns of Las Vegas, Mora, Santa Fe, Taos and other surrounding villages. At that time, the population of New Mexico was 80,000 excluding Indians. Their assistance became vital as all but a skeleton number of regular troops were being moved to the eastern theater.

Five regiments composed of five to ten companies (80-100 men per company) were raised and included both infantry and cavalry. The recruits were assembled and organized at Fort Union and Albuquerque under such prominent officers as Kit Carson, Ceran St. Vrain, Manuel Chavez, Miguel Pino, Raphael Chacon and Francisco Chavez.

Throughout the late summer and fall the New Mexico Volunteers were outfitted and received their initial training. In mid- August, those at Fort Union were assigned to construct star-shaped earthworks to defend against the invading Confederates. Three shifts worked 24 hours a day to complete the work before the Confederates arrived.

As soldiers, native New Mexicans experienced a multitude of frustrations in the service. First, English was the language of the military and confusion was inevitable. Second, ethnic jealousies surfaced, New Mexicans were labeled peons, greasers and called unprincipled, lazy, cowardly and ignorant. Additional frustrations resulted from poor training and obsolete equipment with the .69 caliber model 1842 musket being a standard issue to the volunteers.

Colonel Edward R. S. Canby (later commanding officer at the Battle of Mobile and the only general officer to die in the Indian Wars) commanding the Military Department of New Mexico, sought to stem the Confederate tide by protecting powerful Fort Craig (30 miles south of present day Socorro) and Fort Union so as to control the Rio Grande Valley. At Fort Craig, Canby called in garrisons from Arizona, activated the New Mexico Volunteers and militia, and drew ammunition and supplies from military depots at Albuquerque and Fort Union. In early February, Canby combined Col. Christopher (Kit) Carson's First Volunteer Regiment with regulars of the Fifth and Seventh Infantry (many refugees from the defeats at the forts to the south), detachments of the First, Second and Third Cavalry, and a company of Colorado Volunteers. By mid- February (just before the Confederates arrived on Feb. 16th) Canby had collected 3800 men at Fort Craig, but only 1200 were seasoned soldiers. The rest were of questionable value, hence the reason for combining the novices with the veterans. Canby reasoned that with untried troops, he could fight only under the most

favorable conditions. Realizing that he would need reinforcements, Canby contacted the Department of Colorado for assistance.

Meanwhile, another potential source of assistance was the State of California and the following deals with that state's organization of troops and their eventual commitment against the Confederates in Arizona/ New Mexico. The following is from the "California Column" by Lieutenant George H. Pettis, commander, company K, 1st Regiment of Infantry, California Volunteers and describes events leading up to the counter- attack by the Californians." You will meet Lieutenant Pettis again after the counter- attack is launched in the final segment of this presentation." Immediately after the first battle of Bull Run on July 24, 1861, Governor John G. Downey received from the Secretary of War, Simon Cameron, a communication which said: "The War Department accepts, for three years, one regiment of infantry and five companies of cavalry to guard the Overland Mail Route from Carson Valley to Salt Lake City and Fort Laramie." This was the first official action towards organizing troops in California, and it required but a short time to raise the required number of men, and as fast as the companies were mustered in at the Presidio near San Francisco, they were transported across the bay to Camp Downey (in present day Oakland).

The First California Volunteer Infantry and five companies of the First Cavalry were being well drilled and disciplined at Camp Downey when news was received at Department Headquarters that Secessionists in the southern part of the state were becoming turbulent and more outspoken, and on September 17th General Sumner ordered Colonel Carleton's command to Southern California. (There they were to quell the uprising and thus end John R. Baylor's concept of an ocean to ocean Confederacy).

The First Infantry, under Colonel James H. Carleton since July 26, 1861, and the First Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin F. Davis, arrived at San Pedro and marched some eighteen miles north to lay out a camp for fifteen companies near a small creek (Ballona Creek in present Culver City). They named it "Camp Latham" in honor of one of the California Senators. When the order came for regular Army troops to transfer to the East Coast, Major Edwin A. Riggs of the First California Infantry was sent with several companies to replace those leaving Fort Yuma. Other regulars from Los Angeles, San Bernadino and San Diego were soon assembled at San Pedro for shipment to New York.

On The 20th of October 1861, Colonel George Wright of the Twelfth U.S. Infantry replaced General Sumner as commander of the Department of California. General Sumner shortly thereafter, was drowned on his way to take command of the Department of Oregon when the steamer "Brother Jonathan" sunk off the mouth of the Columbia River. On November 20th, Colonel Carleton was called to San Francisco to take command of the California troops heading east by the overland route through Salt Lake City. But these orders were superseded when news was received of the successful invasion of New Mexico and Arizona by a force of Texans under Confederate General H. H. Sibley. Within a few days, Wright and Carleton developed a plan to proceed with a command through

Arizona and attack Sibley on his flank and rear. General Wright submitted this plan to the War Department on December 9, 1861, and received immediate approval from General McClellan.

It was decided that Fort Yuma, on the California side of the Colorado River, should be the jumping off point for the expedition, and advance units were sent with all promptitude to prepare for the increased activity which would take place in a few months, and to strengthen its defenses in case Confederates arrived there before the main force of California Volunteers. A small camp at Warner's Ranch (near present Warner's Springs), named Camp Wright was enlarged to serve as an intermediate supply and staging point halfway between Wilmington and Fort Yuma. Supplies started moving forward, both by Phineas Banning's teams across the desert and by steamship to the head of the Gulf of California and then up the Colorado by river steamboats of the Colorado River Navigation Company.

The "California Column" originally consisted of ten companies of the First California Infantry, five companies of the First California Cavalry, one company of the Second California Cavalry and Light Battery A of the Third U. S. Artillery. This command contained 1500 men, well drilled, well disciplined, and eager to show what stuff they were made of. Later on, Lieutenant Colonel George W. Bowie's Fifth California was added, bringing the total strength to 2350 rank and file. It should be pointed out here that never did the entire column move as one unit. Advance parties, some quite large, were sent ahead to scout, to strengthen fortifications at camping points, and to collect what food and forage was available for the large groups to follow. Another reason for breaking the column into smaller units was to conserve the water supply at springs and water holes, many of which only had enough water for a few hundred men with their mounts and mule teams at one time".

The Federal buildup of troops at Fort Yuma did not go unnoticed by the Confederates and was one of the major reasons for the campaign of Captain Sherod Hunter and his contingent of Arizona Rangers discussed following Sibley's Campaign.

SIBLEY'S CAMPAIGN

Henry Hopkins Sibley of Louisiana was less than a model officer having deficiencies of character which resulted in his having difficulties getting along with superiors, alcoholism and an inability to manage his finances. He was to prove to be one of the worst Confederate generals ever to be appointed to command. His deficiencies were evident even at West Point which he commenced attending at age 17. He failed one year and was held back. He was arrested for making a false report, yet he graduated and received a commission to the Second Dragoons. This in itself was surprising as assignments upon graduation at West Point were based on class ranking. Those with the top marks were assigned to engineering, while those with the lowest marks were assigned to the infantry. Sibley's class ranking therefore fell somewhere toward the middle of his class. He subsequently served well in the Mexican War where he was decorated for bravery and rose in rank.

In the mid 1850's he was assigned to Fort Belknap, Texas. There he designed the Sibley tent for use by the troops in the field. The tent was adopted by the War Department, but while acceptable for semi-permanent locations, was impracticable with troops on the move due to its size and the space it used in transport.

In 1860, Sibley was assigned to New Mexico to fight Navajos and prior to resigning his commission in May 1861, was in command at Cantonment Burgwin at Taos and Fort Union. Upon his resignation, he immediately traveled to Richmond where he won a Generalcy and approval from Jefferson Davis for recruiting a brigade of Texas volunteers to occupy New Mexico, seize the rich mines of Colorado Territory, then turn west through Salt Lake City, and take over the seaports of Los Angeles and San Diego. By one stroke, with a minimal force living off the land, Sibley would bring the entire southwest under Confederate control. He further believed that the native New Mexicans, as well as recent immigrants in Colorado, Utah and California would join his ranks, and that the Union troops in New Mexico would desert to his banner. Another of Sibley's assumptions which doomed the expedition was that he could take Fort Union and re-supply there. Fort Union served as the Quartermaster depot for all the forts in New Mexico and was at the opposite end of the Santa Fe trail from Missouri.

By the fall of 1861, in San Antonio, Sibley had raised the Fourth, Fifth and Seventh Texas Mounted Volunteers plus attached artillery and supply units carrying supplies surrendered by General Twiggs. On October 22, he started west with 3200 men along the San Antonio-El Paso road, moving in detachments so as to not drain the scant water holes along the route. By late December, Sibley reached Fort Bliss where he incorporated the troops left by Baylor into what came to be known as the Sibley Brigade.

During January, the brigade marched to Mesilla, where Sibley proclaimed his invading force the "Army of New Mexico", and while at Mesilla, absorbed several local spy companies. On February 7th, Sibley started up the Rio Grande Valley toward Fort Craig, seventy miles away. Excluding

detachments to staff his hospital and guard supplies, Sibley commanded 2500 Texans, fifteen pieces of artillery, and an extensive supply train.

On February 16 Sibley following the Rio Grande reached Fort Craig and found that Canby had made the fort too strong to be taken by assault. Sibley offered to do battle on the plains adjacent to the fort, but Canby refused. On advice from his colonels, Sibley decided to bypass the fort by retreating seven miles down river to a ford where they could cross to the east bank, and march one day to re-cross the river at Valverde Ford six miles up river from Fort Craig. Realizing that Valverde Ford was Sibley's objective, Canby sent a battery of artillery and two regiments of volunteers across the river to stop the Texan advance. This force was driven off by rebel artillery.

At daybreak on February 21, 1862 Sibley sent troops to reconnoiter a road to Valverde. The force consisted of 180 men under Major Pyron and was followed by five companies under Major Raguet. Pyron's force collided with Federal cavalry and a firefight erupted. In response, Canby hurried Col Benjamin S Roberts with regular and volunteer cavalry to the scene. Hearing the same gunfire, Major Raguet joined by additional troops also raced to the river. By 10am, a section of Capt Teels Confederate artillery also reached Valverde. Several advances to the river by the Texans were driven off by a Union artillery bombardment. At this time, Union forces moved to envelop the rebel right by crossing the Rio Grande upriver from Valverde. Meanwhile, Capt. Alexander McRae continued to pound the rebel position on the east bank with the Union artillery. The rebels were forced to withdraw and by noon, the tide of battle was swinging in favor of the Federals.

By one o'clock as additional units, both Union and Confederate raced to the field, General Sibley had become so ill (some say due to passing a kidney stone), exhausted and drunk that he retired by ambulance to the rear. He was to remain drunk for most of the remainder of the campaign and any subsequent successes were due to the strong colonels in his command.

Colonel Thomas Green assumed command of the Confederate army. On the rebel right, Capt. Willis L Lang whose company was armed only with lances launched a charge against a company of Colorado volunteers. The Coloradoans held fire until the lancers were within a few yards and wiped them out. Shortly after three in the afternoon, Canby arrived on the field and decided to advance his right and center while using his left as a pivot, thus forcing the rebel left. To reinforce his army, Canby ordered Colonel Kit Carson's regiment of volunteers across the river. Simultaneously, Colonel Green decided to launch an all out attack on the Federal artillery. Concealed by sand hills, Green advanced on the Union center as Major Raguet moved against a Federal battery firing on the rebel left flank. Raguet's cavalry was repulsed, Green's advance on the right however proved to be the decisive maneuver of the battle. Despite McRae's battery pouring a deadly fire of grapeshot into the charging Texans, the rebels fell upon the Union artillery and in hand to hand savagely overran the Union guns. McRae and half of his men died at their guns.

Canby blamed the loss of the artillery on the New Mexico Volunteers, who refused to obey orders to counterattack the lost guns and instead fled the field. At this point Canby's forces were withdrawn, crossed the river where additional men were killed and retreated to the safety of Fort Craig. Canby sent a white flag into the rebel lines asking for a cessation of hostilities to remove the Federal dead and wounded. Union casualties at Valverde were 222 men killed and wounded while the Confederates lost 183. The next day the rebel dead were wrapped in blankets and buried in trenches. Federal dead, unless claimed by relatives for private burial, were interred at Fort Craig. When Fort Craig was abandoned at the end of the Indian wars, the dead with the exception of Capt. McRae were moved to Fort Union. When Fort Union was obsolete, they were again moved to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. McRae was subsequently interred at West Point.

Although winning the Battle of Valverde, the Confederates failed to take Fort Craig which sat athwart their supply lines from Mesilla. The following are the Confederate Battle Reports on Valverde as wonderfully researched by Bill Manley:

FEBRUARY 21, 1862-- Engagement at Valverde, N. Mex.
Report of Brig. Henry H. Sibley,
C. S. Army, Commanding Army of N. Mex.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NEW MEXICO
Battle Ground of Valverde,
February 22, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report to you, for information of the President, that I encountered the enemy at this point (6 miles above Fort Craig) in force at 11 o'clock yesterday morning, and after one of the most severely- contested actions, lasting until 5 pm, the enemy was driven from the field with a loss, as estimated, of four captains of the Regular Army and some 300 killed and wounded, and the capture of his entire field battery, the disabling of one 24- pounder, and the abandonment of another in the river. We have but few prisoners; among them is Capt. William H. Rossell, of the Tenth Infantry.

The enemy had upon the field about 3500 men, 1200 of whom were regulars. We never had more than 1500 engaged. For the first time, perhaps, on record batteries were charged and taken at the muzzle of double- barreled shot- guns, thus illustrating the spirit, valor, and invincible determination of Texas troops. Nobly have they emulated the fame of their San Jacinto ancestors.

Our loss was severe.-- 40 killed, including Maj. S. A. Lockridge, of the Fifth Regiment, and Capt. M. Heuvel of the Forth. I have no reports of the wounded, but I think 100 will cover it.

Before closing this report it is especially due to Col. Thomas Greene, of the Fifth, to say that, in consequence of severe and prolonged illness and weakness resulting from it, I could only keep my saddle until 1 o'clock, and at that hour I relinquished to him the full direction of active operations. His coolness under the heaviest fire and intrepidity under the most trying circumstances are sufficiently attested by the results. I cannot commend Colonel Green too highly to the favorable consideration of the Executive.

Where so much gallantry was displayed I cannot, before reaching the reports of commanders, particularize individuals.

It will be necessary, to secure our purpose, to reinforce me largely from Texas at as early a day as possible. The force we had to contend against to near 6000 men.

I beg leave, in conclusion, to bring to your notice the intelligence and valor of the members of my staff, Maj. A.M. Jackson, assistant adjutant-general, Maj. R. T. Brownrigg, commissary of substance, Lieutenant Ochiltree, aide-de camp, and Col. W. J. Roberts, Major Magoffin, and Capt. J. Dwyer, volunteer aides

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. H. SIBLEY,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

General S. COOPER,
Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.

P.S.-- Lieut. Col. J. S. Sutton, of the Seventh Regiment (Col. William Steele's), in command of his battalion, and Capt. Willis L. Lang, of the Fifth, greatly distinguished themselves, and were both severely wounded, and I should not omit Lieut. D. M. Bass, of the Captain Lang's company, who was severely wounded in front of the charge leading the Lancers upon the enemy.
I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. H. Sibley,
Brigadier-General

FEBRUARY 21, 1862.-- Engagement at Valverde, N. Mex.
Report of Maj. Charles L. Pyson, Second Texas Cavalry.
SOCORRO, N. MEX., February 27, 1862

MAJOR; on the morning of the 21st instant I left our camp, opposite Fort Craig, with 180 men of my command, under Captains Walker and Stafford, Lieutenant Nicholson, of Capt Coopwood's Spy Company, and Lieutenant Jett, Company B, Second Regiment Mounted Volunteers, to reconnoiter the road leading to the river near Valverde. Upon reaching the river, I could see the water, with none of the enemy intervening. I immediately dispatched a note to the general commanding, stating the road was clear and the water in sight, and proceeded leisurely to the river to water our horses, they having been over twenty-four hours without water.

When I reached the woods I discovered a body of cavalry, which I supposed to be about four companies, and immediately gave chase, they withdrawing to my left. I followed until reaching the bank of a slough in the bottom, when I found myself of a large force of small arms. Immediately my men were formed along the bank, when the action commenced, and for over one hour, by courage and determination of the men, I was enabled to maintain the position in the unequal struggle, when I was relieved by the Forth Regiment Texas Volunteers, under the Command of Lieut. Col. W.R. Scurry.

For nearly two hours our joint commands held our position against odds of three to one, checking every attempt to outflank us and checking every effort to drive us back. The arrival of Teel's battery of artillery was the first re- enforcement we received, but it was soon followed by Major Lockridge's battalion, of the Fifth Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers, and about 1 o'clock Colonel Green reached the field and took command.

Late in the afternoon a general charge was made along our line, by which a battery of artillery, consisting of six guns, was taken and their left driven back.

Following rapidly up on our successes, the enemy were driven back on all points, and the field at Valverde was won.

It is proper to state that the officers and men of my command behaved in the most gallant manner, and where all were equally brave it would be invidious to particularize. It is sufficient to say that it was a day on which deeds of personal valor were continually occurring.

I cannot consent to close this report without bearing testimony to the gallant bearing and personal valor of Colonels Green, Scurry, and Sutton, and Majors Ragnet and Lockridge, and others equally courageous.

I have the honor to be, sir, your, most respectfully.

C. L. PYRON,
Major, Second Texas Mounted Rangers
Maj. A.M. JACKSON,
Assistant Adjutant-general, Army of New Mexico.

FEBRUARY 21, 1862.—Engagement at Valverde, N. Mex.
Report of Lieut. Col. William R. Scurry, fourth Texas Cavalry

VALVERDE, N. Mex., February 22, 1862.

MAJOR: Early in the morning of yesterday, while the army was encamped on the east side of the Rio Grande, opposite Fort Craig, I received orders to march with my command, Fourth Texas Mounted Volunteers, and take possession at as early an hour as practicable of some point on the river above Fort Craig at which water might be obtained. By 8 o'clock the regiment took up the line of march, accompanied by Capt. George M. Frazier, of Major Pyron's battalion, with his company acting as guide for the command. Supposing that we were the advance of the army, to prevent surprise I ordered Major H. W. Ragnet to take the advance, with four companies and Captain Frazier's company, throwing out the same front and flank patrols. In a short time, I learned that Major Pyron, with 180 men, was in our advance. Aware of the great vigilance of that active officer, I recalled Major Ragnet and reunited the regiment. A report was received from Major Pyron that the road was clear of the enemy and the river in sight, but in a short time, a second message was received, through Capt. John Phillips, from the major, informing me that a large mass of the enemy was in his front and threatening an attack. As his force was but small, I was fearful that he would be overpowered before we could reach him, and accordingly pushed forward, guided by Capt. Phillips, as rapidly as our horses could carry us, to his relief, and found him gallantly maintaining a most unequal contest against vastly superior numbers. Dismounting my command, we formed on his right and joined in the conflict. For nearly two hours we held our position in front of an enemy now known to be nearly 5000 strong, while our own forces were not over 700 in number.

Immediately upon reaching the field Captain Frazier joined the command to which he belonged, where he did good service during the remainder of the day.

Upon opening fire with the light howitzer battery, under Lieut. John Riley, it was found to be ineffectual against the heavier metal of the enemy. It was therefore ordered to cease firing and be withdrawn under cover.

At about 1 o'clock Captain Teel, with his two guns of his battery reached the ground. Being placed in position on our right he opened a galling fire upon the left flank of the enemy, whereupon the enemy commenced a furious cannonade upon him from their entire battery, consisting of eight guns. So heavy was their fire that the captain soon found himself with but five men to work the two guns. A bomb exploding under his pieces had set the grass on fire, still, that gallant officer held his position and continued to fire upon the enemy, himself seizing the rammer and assisting to load the piece.

Seeing his situation, I ordered Lieutenant Riley, with his command, to join him and assist in the efficient working of the guns. During the balance of the day this brave little band performed the duty assigned them. Judging by the heavy fire on the left that Major Pyron was hard pressed, Captain Teel, with

more of his guns, which had just reached the ground, was dispatched to his relief. Major Ragnet, with four companies of the regiment, was ordered to maintain our position there. I remained on the right with the balance of my command and two pieces of Teel's battery, under Lieut. J. H. McGinnis, to hold in check the enemy, who were moving in force in that direction to turn our flank. At this time Major Lockridge, of the Fifth Regiment, arrived on the field and reported himself with a portion of that command. He was ordered to join our troops on the left. During all this time the fire of the enemy had been extremely heavy, while, owing to the shorter range of most of our guns, our fire was reserved until they should approach sufficiently near our position to come within range of our arms, when they were invariably repulsed with loss. Soon after the arrival of Major Lockridge, Colonel Green reached the field and assumed command.

At about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, in extending our line to prevent the enemy from turning our right, I found myself with only two companies, Captain Hardeman's and Crosson's, opposed to a force numbering some 400 men, the other four companies being several hundred yards to my left. It was there that the daring charge was made by Captain Lang, of the Fifth Regiment, with a small body of lancers. But desperate courage was ineffectual against great odds and superior arms, and this company there sustained the greatest loss of life of any company in the brigade. This charge, otherwise unfortunate, had the effect of bringing the enemy within range of our guns, when two pieces of Captain Teel's battery and the small arms fire of Captain Hardeman's and Crosson's companies opened an effective fire upon them, before they rapidly retreated with considerable loss. Just before sunset Lieut. Thomas P. Ochiltree, of General Sibley's staff, brought an order to prepare for a charge all along the line of our position went our brave volunteers, unmindful of the driving storm of grape and canister and musket balls sent hurling around them. With yells and ringing shouts they dashed on and on, until the guns were won and the enemy in full retreat before them. After carrying the battery, their guns were turned upon themselves, Captains Hardeman and Walker manning those on the right. Lieutenant Ragnet, of Riley's battery, being on the ground, I placed one gun in his charge, manning it with such of the men as were nearest. The rammer being gone, a flag staff was used instead. Captain Teel coming up, an effectual fire was kept up as long as the enemy was within reach. In the meantime a most timely and gallant charge was made by Major Ragnet from our left, thus effecting a favorable diversion at the moment of our charge upon their battery. This charge by Major Ragnet and his command was characterized by desperate valor.

In the last brilliant and successful charge, which decided the fortunes of the day, there were six companies of the Fourth Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers, under their respective Captains, Hardeman, Crosson, Lesueur, Foard, Hampton and Nunn. Besides those, I saw Captains Shropshire, Killough and McPhaill of the Fifth Regiment and Captain Walker of Major Pyron's battalion.

The brave and lamented Major Lockridge, of the Fifth Regiment, fell almost at the muzzle of the enemy's guns.

Major Pyron was also in the thickest of the fray, and contributed much by his example to the success of the charge, as did also Lieutenant Ochiltree, of the general's staff.

There were others there whom I now regret my inability to name. Where all, both officers and men, behaved so well it is impossible to say who is deserving of praise. The enemy retired across the river, and were in full retreat when Major Ragnet, Captains Shannon, Adair, Alexander Buckholts and Lieut. Thermond reached the field with their companies, mounted. I asked and obtained permission from Colonel Green to cross the river with these companies to pursue the fleeing foe.

When the head of the column reached the opposite shore we were ordered to return. Night closed in on the hard won field of Valverde. This brilliant victory, which, next to Heaven, we owe to the heroic endurance and unfaltering courage of our volunteer soldiers, was not won without loss. Of the regiment which I have the honor to command there were 8 killed and 56 wounded, 2 of which were mortal.

It affords me great pleasure to be able to bear testimony to the calm, cool and discriminating courage of Colonel Thomas Green during the fight. Major Pyron also deserves great credit for his soldierly bearing from the commencement to the close of the battle. Of the general's staff, Major Jackson was early on the ground, as was also Major Brownrigg, Captain Dwyer, and Lieutenant Ochiltree, actively engaged in the discharge of the duties assigned them. Each of these gentlemen exhibited that high courage which I hope will ever distinguish the officers of the army. To Majors Jackson and Brownrigg I am indebted for valuable aid in the early part of the action.

It is due to the adjutant of this regiment, Ellsberry R. Lane, that I should not close this report without stating that he was actively and bravely engaged in the discharge of his duties on horseback until his horse failed, when, taking a gun, he entered the ranks of Captain Hampton's company, and did duty as a private during the remainder of the day.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant

W. R. SCURRY

Lieutenant Colonel, Comdg. Fourth Regt. Texas Mounted Vols

A. M. Jackson,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of New Mexico

FEBRUARY 21, 1862.—Engagement at Valverde, N. Mex.
Report of Major. Henry W. Ragnet, Fourth Texas Cavalry

CAMP VALVERDE, ARMY OF NEW MEXICO
February 23, 1862

MAJOR: About sunrise on the 21st instant, while in camp opposite Fort Craig, I was ordered by Lieut. Col Scurry to take four companies of the Fourth Texas Mounted Volunteers, to which would be added Captain Frazier's company, from Major Pyrons battalion, and march as an advance to the river at the best point for approaching it above the fort, supposed to be about 6 miles distant. After marching 3 miles I was ordered to halt and join Lieut. Col Scurry who was approaching with other companies of the regiment and Lieut. Riley's artillery.

Our course was then changed for the nearer point on the river. After a half hours march, while descending a cation, the rapid advance of the head of our column gave notice that we were approaching the enemy, and emerging into a valley, the firing of skirmishers told that Major Pyron, who had been marching on our left flank, was already engaged with the enemy. A half a mile gallop brought us within range of the enemies artillery, when Lieut. Col. Scurry ordered us to dismount and advance, when we were soon within range of their small arms, and took position on the right of Major Pyron, behind a low bank, about 9am.

After we had taken this position about half an hour the enemy moved up on our right with the evident intention of flanking us, which at the time would have been fatal, when Lieut. Col. Scurry, dividing the command, assigned that position to me, and moved up to the position occupied by him during the day, and checked their advance.

The troops at this time with me were Major Pyron, with his battalion of 180 men, under Captains Walker, Stafford and Frazier, and Lieutenants Nicholson and Jett, and four companies of the Fourth Regiment, under Captains Buckholts, Scarborough, Heuvel and Alexander.

About noon one piece of Captain Teels battery, Lieut. Bradford, was added to my position, which did good service until the heavier metal of the enemy silenced it. Soon after the arrival of this gun Major Lockridge arrived with three companies of the Fifth Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers, under Captains Shropshire, Campbell and Ragsdale and Major Pyron, and Lieut. Bradford's commands were withdrawn to the right. Major Lockridge called my attention to the gun, which had been partly disabled and silenced, on our left, at the foot of the mesa, where it had been placed in an endeavor to disable the enemy's battery on the west bank of the river. I ordered Company B, Fourth Regiment, Captain Scarborough, to the rescue, and with part of that company, under their captain and Sargeant Nelson, of Company H, Fourth Regiment, Captain Alexander, and some of that company, I succeeded in drawing the gun by hand from its perilous position amid the hottest cannonading on that part of the field, losing only one man killed and a few wounded..

The horses of this gun had nearly all been killed by the enemy's artillery. This gun then used by three of Lieut. Riley's company, assisted by a few others, until I ordered the fire discontinued for want of gunners, leaving it double shotted, to await an anticipated charge of the enemy. The enemy threatened us in such large numbers and their fire was so heavy that Major Lockridge and myself sent messengers to Col. Green for re-enforcements, failing to get which, Major Lockridge deemed it prudent to fall back to a sand bank, about 100 yards to our rear, which was done by companies, after the artillery and the wounded had been removed. This gave us a better position, as the ground was somewhat broken in front.

The section of Teel's Artillery was now withdrawn to the right, leaving only one howitzer, under Lieut. Woods, who had arrived at our position. Lieut. Col. Sutton now arrived on the field, approaching in our rear, when a messenger was dispatched asking that he be ordered to remain with us. He soon marched up to the right and then returned. Major Lockridge now told me that we were to move up and join the forces on the right for a charge, that he would cover any movement to get horses, which were on the left and rear. Ordering the companies of the Fourth Regiment to horse, I soon marched up on the right of the rear of the rest of the command, dismounted, and ordering the companies then with me, under Capts Buckholts, Heuvel and Alexander, of the Fourth, and Capt. Ragdale, of The Fifth, into line of advance.

Col Green rode up and ordered me to reserve my command for a charge as cavalry. No sooner were we mounted than an order came from Major Pyron to move down on the left and menace the enemy, now flanking us in large force, Marching down to within 600 yards I dismounted my command under cover, when I was joined by Capt. Scarborough, of the Fourth, and received an order through Capt. Dwyer to charge the enemy.

Aligning in single rank, I charged to within about 100 yards of the enemy's lines, composed of infantry, supported by cavalry on each flank and in the rear and by artillery on their right, when, looking back, I saw great confusion from the wounded and fallen horses, for we had aligned and advanced under heavy fire of their infantry and artillery. I thought we could break their lines, and ordered my command to fall back and rally at the sand bank which we left on our rear and left. When I arrived at the sand bank I found that most of my command had passed it for some others still on their left, and that the position was untenable, as the enemy's artillery now raked it. I ordered those there to follow those yet in advance, and rallying, we could return.

Finding Lieut. Woods, with one howitzer, uselessly exposed under the enemy's fire, I ordered him to a position between the enemy and the train, to protect it as well as he could, and ordering such of my command as I meant to join in on the action on the right, I galloped down, then too late, however, to participate in that brilliant charge which gave us victory.

A few moments after reaching the river bank Lieut. Co. Scurry asked permission of Col. Green to cross and pursue the enemy with fresh companies that had just come up, which permission granted, I

joined with my command who were present, and as the head of our column gained the opposite shore we were ordered back. Shortly after the arrival of the flag of truce ended the battle of Valverde after sunset.

During the entire day my position on the left was under fire of the enemy's heaviest artillery, and their small arms, whose longer range enabled them to keep out of our small arms range. When they threatened an advance and would reach our aim they were repulsed.

The gallant Major Lockridge, of the fifth, while in command of the left, won the admiration of all who saw him, and whose regrets are now mingled with those of his other friends at his death. The brave Heuvel, of this command, who fell in the charge he had so impatiently waited for, added another to the list of our gallant dead at Valverde.

For the officers and privates whom I had the honor to command on that day I can well say that they never faltered in their dangerous duty, and for those, less than 200, whom I lead to the charge against more than eight times their numbers, together with artillery, the recital of the act is their praise. This charge, though at the cost of nearly one-fifth of the men and horses in killed and wounded, succeeded in checking the flank movement of the enemy in time to enable the charge which won the day to be made. Very Respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY W. RAGNET,
Major, Fourth Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers

A. M. JACKSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of New Mexico

FEBRUARY 21, 1862.—Engagement at Valverde, N. Mex.
Report of Col. Thomas Green, Fifth Texas Cavalry
CAMP VALVERDE, N. Mex.,

February 22, 1862

SIR: I have the honor of submitting to you the following report of the battle of Valverde, fought on yesterday a part of the brigade of General Sibley, under my command.

While in the act of turning Fort Craig, on the east side of the Rio Grande, Major Pyron, with 200 men, was sent to reconnoiter, early on the morning of the 21st, the route around the mesa, north of the fort, and secure a footing on the river above. While Major Pyron was approaching the river with his command the enemy appeared in considerable numbers between his command and the river on the north of the mesa, and opened on him, about 8 o'clock, a heavy fire of artillery and small arms. The gallant Pyron, with his brave little force, kept up the unequal contest for an hour or two, until the arrival of Lieut. Col. Scurry with a part of his regiment, and Lieut. Riley's howitzer battery. Scurry took position behind a low line of sand hills. About this time one section of Capt. Teel's battery came up and took position and replied to the fire of the enemy.

Confederate Col. Greens Battle report on Valverde

At 12 o'clock, while under the orders of the general, I was threatening the fort on the south side of the mesa. I received his orders to move up, with all my disposable force, to the support of Lieut. Col. Scurry and Major Pyron, after leaving a sufficient force to protect the train which was then moving from our late camp around the mesa to the battlefield, and which was stretched out for several miles. Our train was threatened by a considerable body of troops of the enemy, who made their appearance on the mesa. Detaching Lieut. Col. Sutton's command and a detachment from my own regiment to protect the train, I moved up, with as much speed as practicable, with eight companies of my regiment, sending forward Major Lockridge, with two companies of lancers, under Capts. Lang and McCown. My companies were placed in the line of battle, between Pyron on the left and Scurry on the right, except three, which were sent by me, under Lieut. Col. McNeill, to drive the enemy from the north point of the mesa, where they were annoying our left and threatening our train.

After these dispositions I moved up to the line of battle myself, and by orders of the general took command of the forces present. The enemy during the day, and, with little intermission, kept up a brisk cannonade upon us, to which our 6 pounders, under Captain Teel, replied with effect. The enemy repeatedly advanced with their skirmishers to near our lines, killing many of our horses tied in the rear.

About 3pm a most galling fire was opened upon Lieut. Col. Scurry's command, on our right, by 300 or 400 of the enemy's riflemen. Captain Lang, of the Fifth Regiment, with about 40 of his lancers, made at this time one of the most gallant and furious charges on these light troops of the enemy ever

witnessed in the annals of battles. His little troop was decimated, and the gallant captain and Lieut. Bass severely wounded, the latter in seven places. The enemy were repulsed by this gallant charge, and our right was for some time unmolested.

Large bodies of the enemy's infantry having crossed the river about 3:30 pm, bringing over with them six pieces of splendid artillery, took position in front of us, on the bank of the river, at a distance of 600 yards. In addition to this body of troops two 24-pounder howitzers were placed on our left flank by the enemy. These were supported by a regiment of infantry and a regiment of cavalry. The heaviest fire of the whole day was opened about this time on our left, which was under the command of the gallant Lockridge. Our brave men on that part of the line maintained the unequal fight with desperate courage, though overwhelmingly outnumbered. Lieut. Col. Sutton, now coming up with part of his battalion, took position on our left.

The enemy, now being on our side of the river, opened upon us a tremendous fire of round shot, grape and shell. Their force in numbers was vastly superior to ours, but, having the most unbounded confidence in the courage of our troops, I ordered a charge on their battery and infantry of regulars in front, and at the same time Major Ragnet, of the Fourth, with four companies of the same, and Captain Ragsdale's company, of the fifth, were directed by me to charge as cavalry upon the infantry and Mexican cavalry and the two 24-pounder howitzers on our left flank.

Our dismounted troops in front were composed of parts of the Fourth and fifth Regiments Texas Mounted Volunteers and parts of Lieut. Col. Sutton's and most of Major Pyron's battalions, and Teel's, Riley's and Wood's batteries of artillery, numbering about 750 on the ground. Major Ragnet's cavalry numbered about 250, making about 1000 men in the charge.

At the command to charge, our men leaped over the sand bank, which had served as a good covering for them, and dashed over the pen plain, thinly interspersed with cottonwood trees, upon the battery and infantry in front, composed of the United States regulars and Denver City Volunteers, and in a most desperate charge and hand to hand conflict completely overwhelmed them, killing most of their gunners around their cannons and driving the infantry into the river. Never were double barreled shotguns and six shooters used to better effect. A large number of the enemy were killed in the river with shotguns and six shooters in their flight.

While we were occupied with the enemy in front, Major Ragnet made a gallant and most timely charge upon the infantry and cavalry of the enemy on our left flank. This charge was made against ten times the number in Ragnet's force, and although we suffered severely and were compelled to fall back, he effected the object of his mission, and occupied the attention of our powerful enemy on the left, while our dismounted men were advancing upon those in front and running them into the river. So soon as the enemy had fled in disorder from our terrible fire in front, we turned upon his infantry and cavalry and 24-pounders on our left flank, just engaged by Major Ragnet. We charged them as we did those in front, but they were not made of as good stuff as the regulars, and a few fires upon them

with their own artillery and Teel's guns, a few volleys of small arms, and the old Texas war-shout completely dispersed them. They fled from the field, both cavalry and infantry, in the utmost disorder, many of them dropping their guns to lighten their heels, and stopping only under the walls of the fort. Our victory was complete. The enemy must have been 3000 strong, while our three actually engaged did not exceed 600. Six splendid pieces of artillery and their entire equipage fell into our hands, also many fine small arms. This splendid victory was not achieved without severe loss to us.

Major Lockridge, of the Fifth, fell at the mouth of the enemy's guns, gallantly leading our brave troops to the assault.

Lieut. Col. Sutton, of the Seventh, fell mortally wounded at the head of his battalion while assaulting the enemy's battery.

Several of our officers were desperately wounded, some of them no doubt mortally. Among them are the gallant Captain Lang, of the Lancers, and Lieutenant Bass, both of Company B. Lieut. Hubbard, of Company A, Fifth Regiment.

Captain Heuvel, of the Fourth, fell in the gallant charge of Major Ragnet. He was one of the most distinguished of the heroes of the day. Like the gallant Lang, of the fifth, he could not appreciate odds in a battle.

I cannot say enough praise of the gallantry of our surviving officers and men. it would be invidious to mention names. Were I to do so, the rolls of captains, lieutenants, and men would have to be inserted. I will only mention the principal field and staff in the engagement. The cheering voice of Lieut. Col. Scurry was heard where bullets fell the thickest on the field. Lieut. Col. McNeill, and the gallant Major Pyron, who has been mentioned, displayed the most undaunted courage. Major Ragnet, of the Fourth, though wounded, remained at his post, and retired not until the field was won. The captains, lieutenants and men in the action displayed so much gallantry that it would be invidious to make distinctions. They fought with equal valor and are entitled to equal credit with the field and staff here mentioned.

I will not close this report without a just need of praise to the general staff, who served me as aides-de-camp during the day. Col. Robards was in the dashing charge of the gallant Lang, and wounded in several places.

Capt. Tom Ochiltree, aide-de-camp to General Sibley, was exceedingly useful to me on the field and active during the whole engagement. He assisted me in the most critical moment to cheer our men to the assault. He deserves the highest praise for his undaunted chivalry and coolness, and I recommend him to the general for promotion.

Captain Dwyer was also very useful, gallant, and active during the whole action.

I cannot close without the mention of Captain Frazier, of the Arizona Volunteers. To him, more than others, we are indebted for the successful turning of Fort Craig. He led us over high ground around the mesa to the east of the fort, where we at all times had the advantage of the enemy in case he had attacked us in the act of turning the fort.

I will only personalize further by mention of my own regimental staff.

Sergeant Maj. Sheppard shouldered his gun and fought gallantly in the ranks of Capt. McPhail's company in the charge. Lieut. Sayers, adjutant of the Fifth, during the whole day, reminded me of a hero of the days of chivalry. He was a gallant, daring and dashing soldier, and is as cool in a storm of grape, shell, canister, and musketry as a veteran. I recommend him, through the general, to the President for promotion.

Our killed and wounded are as follows:

2nd Regiment Texas Mounted Vol., Major Pyron's Command

Killed 4, Wounded 17 Missing 1

4th Regiment Texas Mounted Vol., Lieut. Col. Scurry's command

Killed 8 Wounded 36 Missing 0

5th Regiment Texas Mounted Vol. Col. Green's command

Killed 20 Wounded 67 Missing 0

7th Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers. Lieut. Col Sutton's command

Killed 2 Wounded 26 Missing 0

Teel's battery

Killed 2 Wounded 4 Missing 0

Totals:

Killed 36 Wounded 150 Missing 1

Since which time Lieut. Col Sutton of the Seventh, and 2 privates of the Fifth, and 2 of Teel's battery, have died from wounds received in battle. The enemy's loss was far greater than ours. The precise number cannot be ascertained by us, as many were killed in the river, and as the enemy's white flag, asking permission to gather up their dead and wounded, came almost before the sound of the last cannon had ceased to reverberate in the hills. It is confidently asserted by many of our officers and men that the enemy, under the flag of truce, picked up many small arms and carried them off with the dead wagons, that they also carried off their two 24-pounder howitzers which were left by them in the river. It is certain that during the cessation of the hostilities they picked up a company flag and guidon of my

regiment, left on the field during our charge, while they were gathering up their wounded and dead, and it is said these are considered by them trophies. I do not believe that the commanding officer of the enemy is aware of these facts, as he would have spoken of stolen flags as trophies.

I think, from the best information in my possession, that the enemy's loss must have been in killed and wounded at least 350 or 400. Among their killed were several gallant officers. The gallant McRae fell at his guns. Several other captains and lieutenants were killed. Captain Rossell, of the Tenth U.S. Infantry, and several privates of the Fifth and Tenth Infantry and Denver City Volunteers, were taken prisoners.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS GREEN,
Colonel Fifth Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers.

Maj. A.M. JACKSON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of New Mexico

FEBRUARY 21, 1862.—Engagement at Valverde, N. Mex.
Report of Col. William Steele, Seventh Texas Cavalry.
CAMP NEAR FILLMORE, N. MEX.,

March 1, 1862

GENERAL: I have received a verbal express from General Sibley, the numerous parties of Mexicans in the employ of the enemy rendering it dangerous to write. Our forces turned the enemy's position by crossing the river to the east side, which drew him out of his entrenchments, and an engagement ensued just above Fort Craig, which commenced about 9 o'clock in the morning on February 21, and lasted, with little intermission until near sunset, when the enemy was driven in confusion from the field. We captured seven pieces of artillery and a considerable number of small arms were picked up. Much of the Mexican portion of the enemy fled to the hills. The regulars and Pike's Peak Volunteers returned to the fort. Our forces were encamped on the field when my informants left. Our loss is stated at 38 killed and 106 wounded. Major Lockridge is recollected as one of the killed. General Sibley had been sick some days previous to the action, and the command devolved upon Col. Thomas Green, who was in command most of the day, General Sibley being unable to remain long upon the field.

This account agrees with the information I had a few days previous as to the contemplated movement. I received this intelligence the day after the stage left for San Antonio and have delayed writing, hoping to get some more particulars, but as yet have none.

Very respectfully, Your obedient servant,

WM. STEELE,
Colonel Seventh Texas Mounted Regiment

GENERAL S. COOPER,
Adjutant General

FEBRUARY 21, 1862.—Engagement at Valverde, N. Mex.
Report of Capt. Powhatan Jordan, Seventh Texas Cavalry.
IN CAMP NEAR SOCORRO, N. MEX.,

February 27, 1862.

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the First Battalion of the seventh Texas Mounted Volunteers in the battle of Valverde, N. Mex., on February 21. The first Battalion of the Seventh Regiment, under the command of Lieut. Col. J. S. Sutton, with Companies C and H of the Fifth Regiment, were detailed as a guard for the transportation on the morning of the 21st. Before the train had gotten barely out of camp we were apprised of the fight having commenced at Valverde Crossing of the Rio Grande by hearing the sullen roar of the cannon. The train being in danger of attack, we were kept in position as the guard, and all thought for a time the Seventh would have no share in the conflict, but in two hours after the commencement of the battle an officer appeared with the order for us to move on to the battlefield. Colonel Sutton detached from his command Companies A and F, of the Seventh, and Company C, of the Fifth, to remain, and then gave the order to go forward, when the remainder of his command, consisting of Companies B, F, and I, of the Seventh, and F, of the Fifth, moved on to the scene of action. We went at a gallop, and were met on the field by Major Lockridge, who ordered us to take position on the left. We were held for an hour or more, running the gauntlet by countermarch under a most galling and destructive fire from their batteries.

While in this position we lost two men and some 3 horses were killed. The battle having now continued several hours, the charge was ordered, and the Seventh was most gallantly led in the charge by Lieut. Col. Sutton, who fell mortally wounded when within 20 paces of the enemy's battery. The battle was now soon ended, and victory was ours, though purchased by the Seventh with the death of the heroic Sutton. The Seventh did its duty bravely, nobly, all acting gallantly.

To make mention of individuals would be unjust. They all share equally the dangers of the field, and all deserve equal praise. To Capt. Rudden S. Pridgen and his company (H, of the Fifth), who acted with our command, we must give great credit for their coolness and gallantry, and wish himself and company to share with us whatever credit may fall to our command.

Accompanying is the list of killed and wounded, together with the horses killed in the battle, as furnished by captains of companies. (note: list not affixed)

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your obedient servant,

POWHATAN JORDAN,
Captain Comdg. First Battalion,
Seventh Regiment Texas Mounted Volunteers, Army of N. Mex.

General H. H. Sibley,
C. S. Army

Note: One source (not mentioned elsewhere or in the Confederate battle reports) indicated that the Texans lost many supply wagons to a surprise cavalry charge by the New Mexico Volunteers and gives this shortage of supplies as a reason for Sibley's decision to bypass Fort Craig and continue north toward supply depots in Albuquerque. If this is true, obviously the Confederates learned little from this supply train loss and were to repeat the error as Glorieta Pass with disastrous consequences.

FEBRUARY 21, 1862.—Engagement at Valverde, N. Mex.
Report of Capt. Trevanion T. Teel, Texas Light Artillery.
CAMP LOCKRIDGE, N. Mex., February 27, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to report to the general commanding the Army of New Mexico the operations of the light battery which I had the honor to command in the battle of Valverde, N. Mex., on February 21.

I received orders on the morning of the 21st, at camp, 8 miles below the battleground, and opposite Fort Craig, to detach one section of the battery, under Lieut. Bradford, to march to the front of the column and head of the train to Valverde, and place the other section and remain myself in the rear with the Second Regiment of Sibley's brigade, which orders were executed.

About an hour after the head of the column had moved I received intelligence that a large body of the enemy's cavalry, infantry, and artillery had taken up the line of march for Valverde.

I then placed the section of the battery in command of Lieuts Bennett and McGinnis, and went to the head of the column, before reaching the head of the train I heard the firing of the advance at Valverde.

I found Lieut. Bradford, with his section, at the head of the train, and ordered the pieces to the place of firing at a gallop, and in a few minutes it was placed in battery about the center of Lieut. Col. Scurry's regiment, and commenced firing upon the battery of the enemy and his line in a few minutes. I lost 1 man killed and 2 wounded, which left but 5 cannoneers to man the two pieces. I then kept up the fire alternately with the pieces. Finding it impossible to use the two pieces with steady and effective fire, I called upon Lieut. Col. Scurry for men to fill up the detachments of the guns, which were immediately sent from Lieut. Riley's company of howitzers. After sustaining the action for some time the enemy changed his front. I then placed the section in another position. Lieuts. Bennett and McGinnis having by this time reached our line, I ordered them to place their section in battery, which they did, and opened upon the enemy with good effect.

From the great length of the enemy's line and his superior number I found it necessary to detach the pieces. Lieut. Bradford was sent to the extreme left flank with his piece to support Majors Lockridge and Pyron's commands, which had been engaged with the enemy for more than an hour, Lieut. McGinnis, with his gun, on the right of Major Lockridge's battalion, Lieut. Bennett at the center of the right flank, and the other piece at the extreme right flank, Lieut. Riley, with his battery of howitzers, on the left wing, and Lieut. Woods with his battery of howitzers on the right wing. The different pieces and howitzers changed positions, however, during the action as circumstances required, and were used with effect whenever the enemy presented a front or his battery in view.

Having received orders that our troops were about to charge the enemy, I placed the guns in battery upon the extreme right flank as a reserve, in case the charge was unsuccessful, so that I could open the

line of the enemy with raking shots or engage his battery until our troops would prevent my firing by closing with the enemy. The charge was made by our line, and in eight minutes his battery was captured and his troops completely routed. Lieut. Ochiltree, aide- de- camp, rode back and ordered the guns forward, which order was executed, and soon the enemy's guns, as well as ours, were opened on his retreating forces. Firing was kept up from our guns until the enemy's rear was out of range of them. I then ordered the firing to cease.

I lost 4 men killed, including 2 who died the day after the battle, and 6 wounded, 25 horses killed and wounded, one gun partially disabled, and eight sets of harness rendered unserviceable.

I refer with great pleasure to the gallant conduct of Lieut. Bennett, McGinnis, and Bradford, of my company, as well as Lieuts Riley, Woods, Ragnet, and Falcrod, of the batteries of howitzers, also of the non- commissioned officers and privates of all the batteries.

I cannot close my report without bearing testimony to the bravery and coolness of the officers under whom I acted during this sanguinary and well- contested battle. Col. Green, and especially Lieut. Col Scurry, who so promptly manned my guns from his regiment (the First), and who was present with my guns under the heavy fire in the morning, and whose voice was heard above the din of battle and smoke, and flame, and death, encouraging the men to stand by their posts. Also the lamented Lockridge, Major Jackson, assistant adjutant- general, Major Brownrigg, brigade commissary, Lieut. Col McNeill and Lieut. Ochiltree, aide-de- camp, who were rallying the men to charge and were in the line leading on the troops, also Capt. Dwyer, of the staff, Col. Robards, and Major Ragnet. Also the deep obligations I am under to Lieut. Col Scurry, and Capt. Scarborough and his company, who hauled out a disabled piece by hand under hot fire, to Capts. Campbell, McPhaill, and Killough, and their respective companies, for the promptness and willingness with which they replaced the killed and wounded of my guns, many of their comrades having been killed and wounded while aiding in manning the battery during the action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. T. TEEL,
Captain, Artillery.

Maj. A.M. JACKSON,
Assistant Adjutant- General, C. S. Army.

Thus ended the Battle of Valverde. The Confederates won the battle and by crossing the Rio Grande to the north of Fort Craig, hoped to cut the federal supply line from Fort Union. They failed to take Fort Craig to augment their 10 days rations and in fact, left Fort Craig as an impediment blocking their supply line from Mesilla. Further, the Confederate logistical supplies were insufficient and Sibley's Brigade too lightly equipped to be anything more than a large raiding party. Losses in animals and supply trains made their situation even worse. Facing starvation, the Confederates could not invest further efforts on Fort Craig and they abandoned the battlefield and resumed their march north toward Albuquerque hoping to find supplies.

Today little remains of Valverde Battlefield as it was fought on a sandy flood plain and subsequent floods since the battle have obliterated everything.

Due to the heavy losses of horses at Valverde, the 4th Texas was dismounted and their horses were distributed to the 5th Texas. Abe Hanna, a Confederate enlisted man wrote in his journal: "I had my horse killed in the battle of Valverde and I am now on foot.....] now feel the pleasure of soldiering in New Mexico more plainly than I have ever done before, notwithstanding the severity of the climate and the hardships of the march.....without wood or water and but little grass and being in the dead of winter.

On March 2, Sibley's Brigade reached Albuquerque and found that the federals had destroyed the military depot there prior to abandoning the site. An advance party of Confederates reaching Santa Fe 2 days later, found the same state of affairs. The Texans did capture a small post at Cubero, which was reported as follows:

MARCH 3, 1862.-- Capture of Cabero, N. Mex.

Report of Capt. A.S. Thurmond, Third Regiment, Sibley's Brigade.

CUBERO, N.MEX., March 19, 1862

SIR: In making an official report of my entry into this place, &c., I will furnish a transcript of the notes handed me by men whom I have myself found to be sound.

NOTE 1.-- At 9 am, March 3, Dr. F.E. Kavanaugh, in command of three Americans, demanded of Capt. Francisco Aragon, U.S. Army, commanding military post of Cabrero, the surrender to him for the Confederate States of himself and command, consisting of Dr. Boyd, surgeon of post, 42 New Mexican soldiers, and 3 Americans, one of whom was Sergeant Wahl, bugler, U.S. Army, together with the post, and all stores, arms, ammunition and property of whatsoever description, belonging thereto. Captain Aragon was allowed ten minutes to decide whether he would peaceably comply with the demand or resist. At the expiration of the time, he not having returned an answer, one of Kavanaugh's party was sent to receive the arms, which were formally demanded. The following

correspondence will show the formal surrender of the post to Dr. Kavanaugh and his regiment, to hold in the name of the Confederate States of America, which said correspondence I herewith inclose.

The amount of property turned over will be accurately shown by the quartermaster's invoices, which show a large and valuable lot of quartermaster's commissary, and ordnance stores. The surgery is also well supplied with valuable medicines, &c. There was not less than 60 arms and 3000 rounds turned over. Captain Aragon and company were furnished with arms and transportation sufficient to take and protect them to Albuquerque upon promise to deliver the Government property furnished them the Confederate States Army officer commanding there.

Upon taking command of the post Dr. Kavanaugh dispatched MR. Richmond Gillespie, one of his party, to take information to Albuquerque of the surrender of the post, and to procure assistance in holding it. This trip was performed by Mr. Gillespie greatly to his credit, having voluntarily risked his life a second time in passing through a most dangerous portion of hostile Indian country to a post where he was not certain but what he might fall into the hands of the enemy. The successful execution of this hazardous trip brought to the protection of the post Capt. A.S. Thurmond, C. S. Army, with 25 men of his command, arrived at Cubero on March 5, at 2pm.

Next day the command was turned over to him by Dr. Kavanaugh. George Gardenheir, one of Dr. Kaenaugh's party, has rendered most valuable services as assistant quartermaster and commissary, working incessantly in saving and protecting property belonging to those defenses.

Mr. R.T. Thompson was not only at the capture of the post, but always, been truly Southern, being a Virginian by birth, and certainly his services were most efficient in carrying out the duties of adjutant, treating the enemy always with much leniency, but with the sternness and decision of a true Southern gentlemen.

In conversing with both friends and enemies I have found the above to be substantially true, yea, more than true, for such an act of bravery, under the circumstances, could not be expected from the number of men. Dr. Kavanaugh and Messrs. Thompson, Gillespie, and Gardenhier constituted the whole force in the side of the Confederate States, and they too, men who had been persecuted by the Federal Government. They were not only suspected but known to be friends of the Confederate States, consequently there was but one game to play, and they did play it with profit to the Confederate States and great credit to themselves. The game would be in other countries called bluff, though it was not intended so by them, although it had that effect. Dr. Boyd is among us, a gentlemen of high medical attainments, and at this time doing valuable service as I have quite a number of cases of pleurisy in my company.

This at Cubero, March 20.

A.S. THURMOND,

Comdg. Co A, Third Regt., Sibley's Brig., Army of N. Mex.

To the OFFICER COMMANDING C. S. FORCES,
Albuquerque, N. Mex.

General Sibley remained in Albuquerque due to alleged illness and turned command of the Confederate troops over to Colonel Scurry. Scurry's instructions were to capture Fort Union- the principal Quartermaster Depot of the South- West for all supplies coming down the Santa Fe trail from Missouri. Fort Union was manned by 400 troops who were busy building fortifications for defense. Upon reaching Santa Fe, the Confederate flag was raised, but snow storms held up any further advance for two weeks. During this period, Fort Union was reinforced by the 1st Colorado Volunteers (950 men) known as the Pikes Peakers who made the trip through a blizzard from Denver in 13 days. Commanding them was Colonel John Slough who also assumed command of Fort Union and it's garrison due to his rank. Slough's orders from Canby were to protect Fort Union at all costs and not to start a major battle. Contrary to those orders, Slough thought the best place to defend Fort Union was on the road to Santa Fe, so he started down the road toward Glorieta Pass, with 1348 men- the Fort Union Garrison, the Colorado Volunteers and a company of the 4th New Mexico Volunteers.

Learning of the Federal force hastening south from Denver to Fort Union, Scurry detached a force of 400 Confederates under the command of Major Pyron to investigate. On March 26, 1861, Pyron was scouting the western end of Glorieta Pass, called Apache Canyon when the Confederates ran into Slough's advance party of 415 men under the "Fighting Parson" Major John Chivington. Chivington attacked at once and drove the Confederates down the canyon, capturing dozens of Texans. Fearing the entire Confederate Brigade was near-by, Chivington halted and withdrew to Kozlowski's Ranch near Pecos. Pyron fell back to wood and water and sent to Scurry for help. Scurry put his two battalions on the road and embarked for an all night march through bitter cold reaching Pyron's position at dawn. An expected Federal assault did not take place on March 27th.

At Kozlowski's, Slough and Chivington decided on a plan of attack to take place on the 28th. Slough would take 2/3's of the troops, including all the artillery down the pass toward Santa Fe. Chivington would take his battalion of 113 men, guided by Lt. Col. J. Francisco Chavez of the New Mexico Volunteers over the shoulder of Glorieta Mesa on a 12 mile trail to attack the Confederate flank.

Scurry decided not to wait at Apache Canyon. He started almost all his force eastward through the pass, leaving his supply wagons with a small guard at Johnson's Ranch at the junction at Glorieta Pass and Apache Canyon. At mid- morning, he attacked Slough's lead elements near Pigeon Ranch, located on the Santa Fe trail. Both sides deployed their men in a long line, but Slough's line was shorter by 300 men.

Scurry's battalions attacked with great vigor but were met with equal vigor by the Coloradoans. Slough's men fell back to a better position, from which Slough tried unsuccessfully to send men around Scurry's right. Scurry kept pressure on the Federals while organizing a three pronged assault.

It was during this assault that Abe Hanna who's journal was quoted previously was mortally wounded and Lieutenant John Shropshire telling his troops " Follow Me" took a shot to the head and was killed. The Confederate's attacked Slough's entire front, driving in the flanks and threatening the center. The Federals retreated and Scurry's men pursued, but were too exhausted from the all night march and 6 hour battle. Slough abandoned the field, leaving the Confederates in undisputed possession.

While the Confederates won the battle, the turning point of the campaign took place at Pigeon's Ranch. Chivington completely missed Scurry's flank, falling instead on the Confederate supply train parked in Apache Canyon. Rapelling down to the canyon floor, the lightly guarded 80 wagon train was captured and destroyed leaving Scurry with no ammunition, food, blankets or other supplies. Chivington returned to Kozlowski's and Slough's reunited command withdrew to Fort Union. Unable to sustain his men in the field, Scurry returned to Santa Fe. The Federal dead were buried at Fort Union. The Confederate officers except John Shropshire were placed in coffins and buried in Santa Fe. Shropshire due to his size would not fit in a coffin and was buried in a mass grave with the Confederate enlisted dead. This mass grave remained undiscovered for well over 100 years and was found by an man digging a foundation for his home. Shropshire was one of the few identifiable bodies and was removed to Kentucky for burial with his parents. The balance of confederate dead were taken to the National Cemetery in Santa Fe.

In Sante Fe, Scurry was joined by Sibley and there learned that Col Canby was marching north from Fort Craig to threaten Albuquerque. The balance of the Sibley Campaign will be continue after the following battle reports on Glorieta Pass:

Colonel John P Slough, a Denver attorney turned soldier, was commanding officer of the First Colorado Infantry. He dispatched his battle report to Colonel Edward S. Canby the day after the fight at Pigeon's Ranch

Kozlowski's Ranch, March 29, 1862

COLONEL: Learning from our spies that the enemy, about 1000 strong, were in the Apache Canon and at Johnson's Ranch beyond, I concluded to reconnoiter in force, with the view of ascertaining the position of the enemy and of harassing them as much as possible; hence left this place with my command, nearly 1300 strong, at 8 o'clock yesterday morning. To facilitate the reconnaissance I sent Maj. J.M. Chivingtonwith about 430 officers and picked men, with instructions to push forward to Johnson's. With the remainder of the command I entered the canon, and had attained but a short distance when our pickets announced the enemy was near and had taken position in a thick grove of trees, with their line extending from mesa to mesa across the canon, and their battery, consisting of four pieces, placed in position. I at once detailed a considerable force of flankers, placed the batteries in position, and placed the cavalry...nearly all dismounted... and the remainder of the infantry in position to support the batteries.

Before the arrangement of my forces was completed the enemy opened fire upon us. The action began about 10 o'clock and continued until after 4 p.m. The character of the country was such as to make the engagement of the bushwacking kind. Hearing of the success of Major Chivington's command, and the object of our movement being successful, we fell back in order to our camp. Our loss in killed is probably 20...; in wounded probably 50...; in missing over 100. In addition we took some 25 prisoners and rendered unfit for service three pieces of their artillery. We took and destroyed their train of about 60 wagons, with their contents, consisting of ammunition, substance, forage, clothing, officer's baggage, etc....During the engagements the enemy made three attempts to take our batteries and were repelled in each with severe loss.

The strength of the enemy, as received from spies and prisoners, in the canon was altogether some 1200 or 1300, some 200 of whom were at or near Johnson's Ranch, and were engaged by Major Chivington's command. The officers and men behaved nobly. My thanks are due to my staff officers for the courage and ability with which they assisted me in conducting the engagement. As soon as all the details are ascertained I will send an official report of the engagement.

MARCH 28, 1862.-- Engagement at Glorieta, or Pigeon's Ranch, N. Mex.
Report of Brig. Gen. Henry H. Sibley, C. S. Army

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NEW MEXICO

Albuquerque, N. Mex.,

March 31, 1862

GENERAL: I have the honor and the pleasure to report another victory.

After the battle of Valverde our advance was uninterrupted to this city. Here sufficient supplies were secured for sixty days, while from Cubero, a village 60 miles distant, large supplies have been drawn from the enemy's depot. We have been surrounded with every description of embarrassment, general and individual. Whole trains had been abandoned, and scantily provided, as they had originally been, with blankets and clothing. The men had, without a murmur, given up the little left them. More than all this, on the representation of their officers that forage could not be procured with one accord the regiment agreed to be dismounted.

These preliminary facts are stated because it is due to the brave men under my command that they should be known and the hand-to-hand desperate contests duly noted.

The battle of Glorieta was fought March 28 by detached troops, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Scurry, and Federal forces, principally Pike's Peakers, under the command of Colonel Slough, the one having 1000 men and the other estimated at 1500 or 2000. Glorieta is a canon 23 miles east of Santa Fe.

Pending the battle the enemy detached a portion of his forces to attack and destroy our supply train which he succeeded in doing, thus crippling Colonel Scurry to such a degree that he was two days without provisions or blankets. The patient, uncomplaining endurance of our men is most remarkable and praiseworthy.

Our losses was 33 killed and 35 wounded. Among the killed are majors Ragnet and Shropshire and Captain Buckholts. Colonel Scurry had his cheek twice grazed by minie balls, and Major Pyron had his horse killed under him.

In consequence of the loss of his train Colonel Scurry has fallen back to Santa Fe. I must have re-enforcements. The future operations of this army will be duly reported. Send me re-enforcements.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. H. SIBLEY

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

General S. COOPER

Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.

MARCH 28, 1862.-- Engagement at Glorieta, or Pigeon's Ranch, N. Mex.

Reports of Col. W.R. Scurry, Fourth Texas Cavalry.

SANTA FE, N. MEX.,

March 30, 1862.

GENERAL: I arrived here this morning with my command and have taken quarters for the present in this city. I will in a short time give you an official account of the battle of Glorieta, which occurred on the day before yesterday, in the Canon Glorieta, about 22 miles from the city, between the confederate troops under my command and the Federal forces, commanded by Colonel Slough, of the Colorado Volunteers, (Pike's Peakers), when another victory was added to a long list of Confederate triumphs.

The action commenced at about 11 o'clock and ended at 5:30, and, although every inch of the ground was well contested, we steadily drove them back until they were in full retreat our men pursuing until sheer exhaustion we were compelled to stop.

Our loss was 33 killed and I believe, 35 wounded. Among the killed was that brave soldier and accomplished officer Major Ragnet, the gallant and impetuous Major Shropshire, and the daring Captain Buckholts, all of whom fell gallantly leading the men around the foe. Major Pyron had his horse shot under him, and my own cheek was twice brushed by a Minie ball, each time just drawing blood, and my clothes torn in two places. I mentioned this simply to show how hot was the fire of the enemy when all the field officers upon the ground were either killed or touched. As soon as I can procure a full report of all the casualties I will forward them.

Our train was burned by a party who succeeded in passing undiscovered around the mountains to our rear. I regret to have to report that they fired upon and severely wounded Rev. L.H. Jones, our chaplain, of the Fourth Regiment. He was holding in his hand a white flag when fired upon.

The loss of the enemy was very severe, being over 75 killed and a large number wounded. The loss of my supplies so crippled me that after burying my dead I was unable to follow up the victory. My men for two days went unfed and blanketless uncomplainingly. I was compelled to come here for something to eat.

At last accounts the Federals were still retiring towards Fort Union.

The men at the train blew up the limber box and spiked the 6- pounder I had left at the train, so that it was rendered useless, and the cart- burners left it.

Lieutenant Bennett writes for more ammunition. Please have it sent. As soon as I am fixed for it I wish to get after them again.

From three sources, all believed reliable, Canby left Craig on the 24th.

Yours, in haste,

W.R. SCURRY.

P.S. -- I do not know if I write intelligently. I have not slept for three nights, and can scarcely hold my eyes open.

W.R.S.

SANTA FE, N. MEX.,

March 31, 1862

MAJOR: Late on the afternoon of the 26th, while encamped at Gallisteo, an express from Major Pyron arrived, with the information that the major was engaged in a sharp conflict with a greatly superior force of the enemy, about 16 miles distant, and urging me to hasten to his relief. The critical condition of Major Pyron and his gallant comrades was made known to the command, and in about 10 minutes the column was formed and the order to march given. Our baggage train was sent forward under a guard of 100 men, under the command of Lieutenant Taylor, of the Seventh Regiment, to a point some six miles in the rear of Major Pyron's position, the main command marching directly across the mountains to the scene of conflict. It was due to the brave men making this cold night march to state that where the road over the mountain was too steep for the horses to drag the artillery they were unharnessed, and the men cheerfully pulled it over the difficulties of the way by hand.

About 3 o'clock in the morning we reached Major Pyron's encampment at Johnson's Ranch, Canon Cito. There had been an agreed cessation of hostilities until 8 o'clock the next morning. Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the courage of the officers and men engaged in the affair of the 26th.

As soon as daylight enabled me I made a thorough examination of the ground, and so formed the troops as to command every approach to the position we occupied, which was naturally a very strong one. The disposition of the troops was soon completed, and by 8 o'clock were ready to receive the expected attack.

In this position we remained until the next morning. The enemy still not making their appearance, I concluded to march forward and attack them. Leaving a small wagon guard, I marched in their direction with portions of nine companies of the Fourth Regiment, under their respective officers, Captains Hampton, Lesueur, Foard, Crosson, Giesecke, Alexander, Buckholts, Odell, and Lieutenant Holland, of company B, Captain Scarborough being unwell, four companies of the Seventh Regiment, under Captains Hoffman, Gardner, Wiggins and Adair, four companies of the Fifth Regiment, under Captains Shannon and Ragsdale and Lieuts. Oakes and Scott, three pieces of artillery, under Lieutenant Bradford, together with Captain Phillips' company of independent volunteers.

From details and other causes they were reduced until (all combined) they did not number over 600 men fit for duty. At about 6 miles from camp the advance guard gave notice that the enemy was near in force. I hastened in front to examine their position, and found they were about one mile west of Pigeon's Ranch, in Canon Glorieta. The mounted men who were marching in front were ordered to retire slowly to the rear, dismount, and come into action on foot. The artillery was pushed forward to a slight elevation in the canon and immediately opened fire. The infantry was rapidly deployed into line, extending across the canon from a fence on our left up into the pine forest on our right.

About the time these dispositions were made the enemy rapidly advanced in separate columns both upon our right and left. I dispatched Major Pyron to the right to check them in that direction, and placing the center in command of Major Ragnet I hastened with the remainder of the command to the left. A large body of infantry, availing themselves of a gulch that ran up the center of an inclosed field on our left, were moving under its cover past our left flank to the rear of our position. Crossing the fence on foot, we advanced over the clearing some 200 yards under heavy fire from the foe, and dashed into the gulch in their midst, pistol and knife in hand. For a few moments a most desperate and deadly hand- to- hand conflict raged along the gulch, when they broke before the steady courage of our men and fled in the wildest disorder and confusion.

Major Pyron was equally successful, and Major Ragnet with his force charged rapidly down the center. Lieutenant Bradford, of the artillery, had been wounded and borne from the field. There being no other officer of the artillery present, three guns, constituting our battery, had been hastily withdrawn before I was aware of it. Sending to the rear to have two of the guns brought back to the field a pause was made to reunite our forces, which had become somewhat scattered in the last re-encounter. When we were ready to advance the enemy had taken cover, and it was impossible to tell whether their main body was stationed behind a long adobe wall that ran across the canon or had taken position behind a large ledge of rocks in the rear. Private W.D. Kirk, of Captain Phillips' company, had taken charge of one of the guns, and Sergeant Patrick, of the artillery, another, and brought them to the ground.

While trying by the fire of these two guns to ascertain the locality of the enemy, Major Shropshire was sent to the right, with orders to move up among the pines until he should find the enemy, when he was to attack them on the flank. Major Ragnet, with similar orders, was dispatched to the left. I informed these gallant officers that as soon as the sound of their guns was heard I would charge in front with the remainder of the command. Sending Major Pyron to the assistance of Major Ragnet, and leaving instruction for the center to charge as the fire opened on the right, I passed in that direction to learn the cause of the delay in making the assault. I found that the gallant Major Shropshire had been killed. I took command of the right and immediately attacked the enemy who were at the ranch. Majors Ragnet and Pyron opened a galling fire upon their left from the rock on the mountainside, and the center charging down the road, the foe was driven from the ranch to the ledge of rocks before alluded to, where they made their final and most desperate stand. At this point three batteries of eight guns opened a furious fire of grape, canister, and shell upon our advancing troops.

Our brave soldiers, heedless of the storm, pressed on, determined if possible to take their battery. A heavy body of infantry, twice our number, interposed to save their guns. Here the conflict was terrible. Our officers and men, alike inspired with the inalterable determination to overcome every obstacle to the attainment of their objective, dashed among them. The right and center had united on the left. The intrepid Ragnet and the cool, calm, courageous Pyron had pushed forward among the rocks until the muzzles of the guns of the opposing forces passed each other. Inch by inch was the ground disputed, until the artillery of the enemy had time to escape with a number of their wagons. The infantry also broke ranks and fled from the field. So precipitate was their flight that they cut loose their teams and

set fire to two of their wagons. The pursuit was kept up until forced to halt from extreme exhaustion of the men, who had been engaged for six hours in the hardest contested fight it had ever been my lot to witness. The enemy is now known to have numbered 1400 men, Pike's Peaker miners and regulars, the flower of the U.S. Army.

During the action a part of the enemy succeeded in reaching our rear, surprising the wagon guard, and burning our wagons, taking at the same time 16 prisoners. About this time a party of prisoners, whom I had sent to the rear, reached there, and informed them how the fight was going in front, whereupon they beat a hasty retreat, not, however, until the perpetration of two acts which the most barbarous savage of the plains would blush to own. One was the shooting and dangerously wounding of the Rev. L.H. Jones, chaplain of the Fourth Regiment, with a white flag in his hand, the other an order that the prisoners they had taken be shot in case they were attacked in their retreat. These instances go to prove that they have lost all sense of humanity in the insane hatred they bear to the citizens of the Confederacy, who have the manliness to arm in the defense of their country's independence.

We remained upon the battle-field during the day of the 29th to bury our dead and provide the comfort of the wounded, and then marched to Santa Fe, to procure supplies and transportation to replace those destroyed by the enemy.

Our loss was 36 killed and 60 wounded. Of the killed 24 were from the Fourth Regiment, 1 of the Fifth Regiment, 8 of the Seventh Regiment, and 1 of the artillery.

That of the enemy greatly exceeded this number, 44 of their dead being counted where the battle opened. Their killed must have considerably exceeded 100.

The country has to mourn the loss of four as brave and chivalrous officers as ever graced the ranks of any army. The gallant Major Trashier fell early, pressing upon the foe and cheering his men on. The brave and chivalrous Major Ragnet fell mortally wounded while engaged in the last and most desperate conflict of the day. He survived long enough to know and rejoice at our victory, and then died with loving messages upon his expiring lips. The brave, gallant Captain Buckholts and Lieutenant Mills conducted themselves with distinguished gallantry throughout the fight and fell near its close. Of the living it is only necessary to say all behaved with distinguished courage and daring.

This battle proves conclusively that few mistakes were made in the selection of the officers in this command. They were ever in the front, leading their men into the hottest of the fray. It is not too much to say that, even in the midst of this historic band, among whom instances of individual daring and personal prowess were constantly occurring, Major Pyron was distinguished by the calm intrepidity of his bearing. It is due to Adj. Ellsberry R. Lane to bear testimony to the courage and activity he displayed in the discharge of his official duties, and to acknowledge my obligations for the manner in which he carried out my orders.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W.R. SCURRY,
Colonel, Commanding Army of New Mexico.

Maj. A.M. Jackson
Assistant Adjutant-General, Army of New Mexico

While winning the Battle of Glorieta, the Confederates lost most of their horses and supplies, and had no recourse except to retreat. Sibley's plans to subsist on federal supplies and recruit Mexican Americans failed because of the deep distrust the New Mexicans had for the Texans. Further, Sibley's men considered him incompetent, a drunkard and a coward since he had not commanded in any of the battles they fought.

In order to remove the Confederates from Santa Fe and Albuquerque, Cols Slough and Canby coordinated efforts with Slough attacking Santa Fe with troops from Fort Union and Canby faking an attack with troops from Fort Craig on Albuquerque. By April 12, the Confederates evacuated Santa Fe and Albuquerque with whatever supplies they could find. Canby joined forces with the Federal troops from Fort Union and for the first time, Federal forces outnumbered the Confederates. The combined force followed the Confederates southward.

On April 15, 20 miles south of Albuquerque, Canby surprised Sibley's straggling column at what came to be called the Battle (skirmish) of Peralta. The Confederates were Col. Green's Fifth Texas Mounted Volunteers, approximately 500 men, or about 1/3 of Sibley's force. Green's position was a strong one behind the adobe walls of New Mexico territorial Governor Connelly's mansion. An excerpt from Federal Lieut. Bell's diary describes what happened next. "Our attention was almost immediately diverted to the North, however, where a Confederate supply train approached Peralta from the direction of Albuquerque, Consisting of 7 heavily laden wagons, the train was escorted by a detachment of Texans with a mountain Howitzer. The Texans had to stop and defend themselves when the Federal troops charged within 50 feet of the wagons and cannon. One Union man was mortally wounded, and four Confederates were killed." Canby at mid-day sent separate columns under Cols Gabriel and Chivington around the north and west of Peralta to prevent re-enforcements.

At about 2 o'clock in the afternoon a dust storm arose during which the Confederates managed to escape, after setting fire to Connelly's mansion.

Peralta was to be the last Civil War Battle in New Mexico. Canby decided that both armies could not subsist on the meager rations of the region and permitted the Texans to escape.

Sibley detoured around Fort Craig through the rugged San Mateo Mountains and reached the Mesilla valley with 1800 weary men. They marched on to Fort Bliss where they spent May and part of June gathering supplies and raiding north into New Mexico for the horses needed for their journey home to San Antonio. Thus ended the Disaster of Sibley's campaign.

HUNTER'S WESTERN ARIZONA CAMPAIGN

General Henry Hopkins Sibley in a sober moment recognized the importance of Tucson and Western Arizona to the Confederacy. Thus he wrote on January 27, 1862 a letter to the Adjutant General of the Confederate Army, General Samuel Cooper that he was ordering one company of Col Baylor's command to take post at Tucson.

On February 10, 1862, the following order was issued by Lieut. Col (and Governor of the Confederate Arizona Territory) John Robert Baylor:

Headquarters, Mesilla
February 10, 1862

Captain Sherod Hunter

SIR: You will, without delay move your company to Tucson and select some point in the vicinity of that place for a camp until further orders. You will also escort Col. Jas Riley to the Mexican border, or to some point where he can get an escort from the Mexican authorities. The detachment of Capt. Helms company will return with Col Riley.

Respectfully,
John R. Baylor
Col. Cmdg.

A separate document to Hunter gave specific orders for his operations. These were:

1. Maintain law and order among the citizens and soldiers.
2. Cultivate amicable relations with the citizens of the Mexican state of Sonora.
3. Make a treaty with the chiefs of the Pima and Papago Indians to secure their aid against the Apaches
4. Open communications with Confederate sympathizers in California and secure recruits for the Confederate armies from that source.
5. Scout toward Fort Yuma and report the activities of Union forces stationed there.

Renamed the Arizona Rangers, after Baylor's favorite unit, the Texas Rangers, Hunter and approximately 100 men saddled up and began the trip from Mesilla to Tucson in stormy weather throughout the journey. During the trip, Pvt. Benjamin Mays succumbed to pleurisy at San Simon while enroute.

The battered and ragged company of Confederate Arizona Rangers rode into Tucson and raised the Confederate flag on March 1, 1862. There they found Tucson under siege by the Apaches who

were under the impression that they had driven out the bluecoats, rather than it being the result of the Civil War.

Hunter, in his report of April 5, 1862, described in glowing terms the reaction of Tucson's people to the arrival of the Confederate troops saying "My timely arrival with my command was hailed by the majority, may I say the entire population of the town of Tucson". The majority of the Anglo population of Tucson was for the Confederacy and the local militia had carried the Confederate flag into battle against the Apaches even before Hunter's arrival. There had even been secession conventions in Tucson in March and August of 1861.

Shortly after his arrival, Hunter called in all Union men and gave them the option of either signing the following oath or leaving Tucson:

"I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will be a true and loyal citizen of the government of the Confederate States of America. And that I will bear true allegiance to the same. That I will as a faithful and good citizen observe and obey all laws of said government. That I will at all times whenever required by the proper authority take up arms in defense of the rights and liberties of said government, and that I hereby renounce allegiance to all and every other government but that of the Confederate States of America, so help me God".

Those refusing to sign were given one hour to evacuate and Hunter confiscated their property to provide for the needs of his men. Union - owned mines were also confiscated by Hunter, but none of them were put into operation for the Confederacy.

Col. James Riley and his escort had accompanied Hunter's command to Tucson. Riley participated in the flag raising and gave a rousing speech to all assembled. On March 3, he departed on a diplomatic mission to the Governor of the Mexican State of Sonora with an escort of 20 men.

Hunter was able to gain 8 recruits from the Tucson residents to partially replace the loss of the men to the escort.

On March 3, Hunter set out with 20-30 men (the rest of his men had been sent out in detachments against the Apaches) for the villages of the Pima Indians located on the Gila River (near present day Casa Grande) for the following reasons; First to enlist Pima aid in fighting their enemy- the Apache, Second to investigate rumors of an imminent invasion of Arizona by a Union army from California, and thirdly to delay the progress of any invasion, if it was true.

Upon arriving, Hunter secured a mutual defense treaty against the Apaches with Antonio Azul, Chief of the Pimas and discovered the truth of the rumors about the formation of a Union army in California and its intention to invade Arizona. The California Column, a 1500 man brigade under the command of Colonel James Henry Carleton, was indeed preparing to invade Arizona. In preparation,

a Union agent Ammi M. White who owned a grist mill located at the villages had stockpiled 1500 sacks of wheat for the column. White was arrested and, his property (especially the wheat) confiscated. With no transportation, Hunter distributed the wheat to the Pimas, who subsequently again sold it to the Union.

This was an inconvenience to the California Column who was depending on the wheat being at the Pima villages and delayed their advance by more than 2 weeks because the Union leaders could not arrange for the supplies needed by their men. The Pimas refused Union currency and would trade their wheat only for manta, a type of broadcloth, which the Union forces did not have. Union Captain William Calloway wrote the following to his superiors "Send us manta or we will starve. We have only one days rations at present." It took 2 weeks to procure sufficient supplies of manta in order to purchase enough wheat to supply the Union troops. In the interim, the troops lived on their scanty supplies and the generosity of the Pimas.

Hunter later wrote of a further incident "While delaying at the Pima villages, awaiting the arrival of a train of 50 wagons which was reported to be en route for this place for said wheat (which report, however, turned out to be untrue) my pickets discovered the approach of a detachment of cavalry, and which detachment, I am happy to say, we succeeded in capturing without firing a gun. The detachment consisted of Captain William McCleave and nine men of the First California Cavalry." McCleave and his men along with Ammi White were soon on their way, under guard, to Tucson.

McCleave's capture did not end Hunter's activities at the Pima villages. While there, he learned that the Union forces were storing hay at all of the former Butterfield Overland Stagecoach Stations between the villages and Fort Yuma. Hunter sent out detachments to burn the hay, which they succeeded in doing at six of the stations. These probes marked the westernmost penetration of the Confederate Army during the war and would precipitate the furthest west skirmish at Stanwix Station.

On March 30, 1862, Confederates under the command of Lieutenant John W. Swilling were torching hay stored at Stanwix Station located on the Gila River, about 80 miles east of Fort Yuma. While engaged, they encountered the vanguard of a 272 man force sent from Fort Yuma to the rescue of Captain McCleave. The Union force was commanded by Captain William Calloway. The Confederates fired at the approaching Yankees, wounding one in the shoulder, then fled pursued by a detachment of Union horsemen. They eluded capture and brought word to Hunter in Tucson.

Captain Hunter, upon learning of the Union force disposed of his prisoners- paroling McCleave's nine men escort and sending McCleave and miller White under guard to Mesilla. He further stationed a picket detachment of nine men under the command of Sergeant Harry Holmes on the Fort Yuma-Tucson road at a place with a sweeping view of the country called Picacho Pass.

The Union force encountered at Stanwix Station soon moved on to the Pima villages, thus setting the stage for the westernmost battle of the War Between the States, the Battle of Picacho Pass. Realizing that the pickets would warn the Confederate commander of his approach, Calloway was determined to capture them before they could issue any warning. Calloway divided his force, detaching two squads under the commands of Lieutenants Baldwin and Barrett to circle around the Eastern and Western faces of Picacho Peak thus entering the pass from the South and cutting off any retreating Confederate pickets while he lead the main force directly down the Tucson road. On April 15, 1862, brash Lieutenant James Barrett with 12 men arrived early, disobeyed orders and attacked the Confederate campsite capturing Sgt Holmes and two others. Alerted by the gunfire, the other Confederates gathered in a defensive position in a nearby thicket. Barrett ordered his men to mount and flush them out. This strategy proving unsuccessful, Barrett ordered his men to dismount and advance on foot. For 90 minutes, the two sides fought desperately. When the shooting ended, 3 Federals including Barrett lay dead and 3 others were wounded. The Confederates escaped to warn Hunter.

The Union dead were buried where they fell on the battlefield. In 1892, the army removed the remains of the two enlisted men to the National Cemetery at the Presidio, in San Francisco, California. Barrett's remains were undiscovered until 1928, when Southern Pacific Railroad workers found them only yards away from the railroad embankment they were constructing. A monument to the Union dead was erected on Barrett's grave, but later was removed to Picacho Peak State Park. Barrett lies where he fell in 1862.

The Union report of April 18, 1862, by Captain Calloway states that in addition to the three captured Confederates, three others were wounded. Hunter's report does not indicate that there were any wounded.

Captain Calloway, upon learning of the results of the Battle of Picacho Pass, thought he faced an enemy force of 200- 230 men. California newspapers estimated that the Confederate force in Tucson could muster up to 1500 men. Calloway retreated through the Pima villages to Stanwix Station where he awaited reinforcements. These under Lieutenant- Colonel Joseph West soon arrived, advanced on the Pima villages, built an earthwork fortification named Fort Barrett, and settled down to gather supplies and prepare for the final advance on Tucson.

Captain Hunter's reaction to the Picacho Pass Battle was to send a detachment of 10 men under the command of Lieutenant James H. Tevis to search for the missing pickets. Tevis arrived in time to see the retreating Federal force which he accurately estimated at 200 cavalry and five wagons. Upon receiving Tevis's report, Hunter realized he would quickly need reinforcements if he was to hold Western Arizona. Governor Baylor at Mesilla was apprised of this fact but could do nothing as the Confederate Army of New Mexico had met defeat at Glorieta and was in full retreat back to Texas.

On May 5, 1862, Captain Hunter's Arizona Rangers had the first of two engagements with the Apaches. A foraging party, gathering cattle in the vicinity of Dragoon Springs (near the current town of Dragoon) was ambushed by a large band of Apache warriors led by Cochise and Francisco. Four of Hunter's men were killed and the Apaches stole 25 horses and 30 mules in addition to the cattle. The dead Confederates were buried at the Butterfield Overland Stagecoach Station at Dragoon Springs where they remain to the present day.

The Confederates would exact revenge when a force of 30 men under the command of First Lieutenant Robert L. Swope was sent out to recover the cattle and mounts. Swope surprised the Apaches, killing 5 and recovering the livestock without Confederate loss.

On May 14, Hunter was apprised of the Confederate reversals in New Mexico, and gave the order to evacuate Tucson. Lieutenant Tevis and a small detachment remained in Tucson with orders to watch for the Union forces and report their arrival to Captain Hunter.

That same day, West and four companies of California infantry and cavalry left the Pima villages for Tucson. Instead of moving directly, they moved first to occupy Fort Breckenridge Northeast of Tucson. The fort had lain abandoned since the departure of the U.S. Army in May, 1861 who burned it before leaving. West arrived at the fort on May 18, raising the Stars and Stripes over its blackened ruins. The fort's name was changed to Fort Stanford after Governor Leland Stanford of California. Former Vice-President Breckenridge's name was inappropriate after he went South.

West and his troops marched into Tucson on May 20, 1862, the cavalry with bugles sounding and guidons fluttering. The infantry marched in with fifes and drums playing "Yankee Doodle". Both amused the remaining citizenry. The last remaining Confederates in the town- Lieutenant Tevis were almost captured when the Union forces entered the town by a different route.

After repeated skirmishes with the Apaches, Captain Hunter and Company A, Arizona Rangers, reached Mesilla on May 27, 1862 where it was soon combined with two other units for the defense of the Mesilla valley. Thus ended Hunter's Western Arizona Campaign.

In their new capacity, The Arizona Rangers became part of Lieutenant Philemon Herbert's battalion of Arizona Cavalry. While most of the Confederate Army of New Mexico departed for San Antonio, Herbert's battalion was among the units left behind under the command of Colonel William Steele, in a forlorn attempt to hold the Mesilla Valley and the El Paso region for the Confederacy.

A primary concern of Steele's command at this time was obtaining adequate supplies. Foraging parties were sent out to requisition food, horses, mules and other supplies from the native Mexicans of the surrounding region. Hunter's Rangers were involved in these foraging expeditions and encountered resistance from armed parties of New Mexican guerillas. On July 1, 1862 Hunter and his men had a sharp clash with the guerillas near Mesilla.

Three days later, on July 4, 1862, advance elements of the California Column reached the banks of the Rio Grande River near Fort Thorn. Within three days after that, Colonel Steele and his entire command (including Hunter and the Arizona Rangers) were in retreat to San Antonio and safety. The Arizona Rangers were thus amongst the very last Confederate units to withdraw from the Confederate territory of Arizona, and with their going, Confederate Arizona ceased to exist.

THE UNION COUNTER-OFFENSIVE

You met Lieutenant Pettis previously in Part 3 of this presentation. Pettis was a member of the California Column and wrote a history of same in 1907 at age 73. Much of the following is from his history.

The California Column consisted of 10 companies of the 1st California Infantry, 5 companies of the 1st California Cavalry, the Fifth California and Light Battery A of the 3rd U.S. artillery, with a total strength of 2350 rank and file. Their campaign started from Fort Yuma on the California-Arizona border.

Never did the column move as one unit. Advance parties were sent ahead to scout, strengthen fortifications at camping points, and to collect what food and forage was available for the larger groups to follow. As we saw in the previous part, Confederate Sherrod Hunter and his Arizona Rangers did much to delay the column by destroying these accumulations of supplies whenever found. Another reason for breaking up the column as previously mentioned was the limited water supplies at springs and waterholes.

Following the Battle of Picacho Pass, Union Captain Calloway returned to the Pima Villages and started work on a permanent camp, the earthworks of which were named Fort Barrett. It took several weeks for the main elements of the column to reach the Pima Villages.

On May 15th, an advanced detachment under Colonel West left the villages for Tucson, going through "Casa Grande" and Rattlesnake Springs for old Fort Breckenridge (later named Fort Grant), where the American flag was run up on the flagpole of the abandoned fort amid the cheers of the men and the field music playing "The Star Spangled Banner".

On May 19th, the detachment marched 15 miles and encamped within 10 miles of Tucson. The grand entrance to Tucson was made from 3 different roads on the 20th. There they found that the Confederates had publicly announced that the "Abs" (abolitionists) would soon take control of the town which would be given over to a brutal soldiery. The alarmed population, mostly Mexican, had evacuated starting southward for Sonora.

The troops would stay in Tucson for two months, until July 20th, while the column was being assembled and accumulating enough food and forage to start the final leg to the Rio Grande, still almost 200 miles away. Almost all supplies were being brought by wagon train from Southern California. It was during this period that Carleton and Canby were promoted to Generals.

Repeated efforts were made to open communications with Federal troops in New Mexico and to alert them that the California Column was on it's way. None of the express parties ever returned. The following expedition though successful explains why. On June 15, 1862, Sergeant William Wheeling,

Expressmen John Jones and a Mexican guide named Chaves left Tucson with dispatches for General Canby at Fort Craig. This party was attacked by Apaches at Apache Pass, about 75 miles East of Tucson, on June 18th. Chaves was killed by the first exchange of shots and Wheeling so seriously wounded that he fell off his horse and was dispatched. Both bodies were later found badly mutilated. Jones escaped and after a ride of 200 miles reached the Río Grande near Mesilla, where he was captured by the Rebels who relieved him of his dispatches and threw him in jail. He still somehow got word through to Canby, probably via a Union sympathizer.

On June 21st, a strong party of cavalry left Tucson, arriving at Fort Thorn on the Río Grande (between Mesilla and Fort Craig) on July 4th. Thorn had been abandoned by the rebels. Lieutenant Commander Eyre was reinforced by a squadron of the 3rd U.S. Cavalry and proposed attacking Mesilla, but received peremptory orders from the "Fighting Parson" now Colonel Chivington of the 1st Colorado Volunteers at Fort Craig, who under General Canby's orders was in command of the Southern Military District of New Mexico.

The largest battle of the California Column took place in early July when Captain Roberts, Company E, 1st Infantry, Captain Cremony's Company B, 2nd Cavalry and with two mountain howitzers under the command of Lieutenant Thompson left Tucson for the San Simeon River to establish a camp for the relief Eyre's command should they be forced back by the Texans. This relief command was attacked by a large force of Apache warriors under Cochise. The howitzers turned the tide and the Apaches were forced with a loss of nine killed, while the troops suffered 2 killed and 2 wounded.

The California Column commenced advancing from Tucson on July 20th with five companies of infantry under the command of Colonel West departing. They were followed the next day by Captain Willis with two companies of infantry and Battery A, 3rd U.S. Artillery. On July 23, Lieutenant Colonel Rigg with five companies of infantry followed. Each detachment had subsistence for 30 days, with a full supply of entrenching tools. Upon their arrival in Tucson, the infantry had carried full fifty pound packs, a notable achievement considering the nature of the country through which they marched in woolen uniforms and the heat and thirst they encountered. Much to their relief, General Carleton issued General Order #10 on July 17th stating "that every soldier may move forward with a light, free step, now that we approach the enemy; he will no longer be required to carry his knapsack".

Carleton arrived at Fort Thorn on August 7, 1862 and immediately communicated with Canby. The balance of the column arrived on the Río Grande in detachments as they left Tucson, one day apart. By August 15th with the retreat of the Confederates to San Antonio, Mesilla was made headquarters of the Federal District of Arizona. The Southern Overland Mail Route was opened and troops of the California Column reoccupied U.S. military posts in Arizona, New Mexico and Northern Texas.

On September 18th, 1862, General Carleton assumed command of the Department of New Mexico (General Canby had been ordered East) and active operations commenced against the hostile Apaches and Navajos. To congratulate the troops on the end of the Confederate threat, Carleton issued the following:

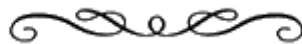
Headquarters of the Department of New Mexico, Santa Fe, N.M.,
Sept 21st, 1862

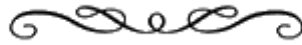
Gen. Orders No 85

In entering upon the duties that remove him from immediate association with the troops constituting the "Column from California", the Commanding General desires to express his grateful acknowledgement of the conduct and services of the officers and men of that command. Traversing a desert country that had heretofore been regarded as impracticable for the operations of large bodies of troops, they have reached their destination and accomplished the object assigned them, not only with out loss of any kind, but improved in discipline, in morale, and in every other element of efficiency. That patient and cheerful endurance of hardships, the zeal and alacrity which they have grappled with, and overcome obstacles that would have been insurmountable to any but troops of the highest physical and moral energy, the complete abrogation of self and subordination of every personal consideration to the great object of our hopes and efforts give the most absolute assurance of success in any field or against any enemy.

California has reason to be proud of the sons she has sent across the continent to assist in the great struggle in which our country is now engaged. The Commanding General is requested by the officer who preceded him (Canby) in the command of this department, to express for him the gratification felt by every officer and soldier of his command at the fact that troops from the Atlantic and Pacific slope, from the mountains of California and Colorado, acting in the same cause, inspired by the same duties, and animated by the same hopes, have met and shaken hands in the center of this great continent.

The California Column would spend the remainder of the war in campaigns against the Indians. In 1863 they captured Apache chief Mangas Coloradas who was subsequently killed trying to escape. California troops were to escort immigrant and government wagon trains as far as Fort Dodge, Kansas until discharged in 1865.





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