

INTRODUCTION

While in the past I have primarily written about the Confederate Navy, a recent trip to the South-west 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.