

THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN

(Selected)

At the beginning of the Civil War there were United States troops stationed at Fort Buchanan, but when it became known that rebel forces intended to come into what is now Arizona and attach this country to the Southern Confederacy the force at Buchanan was not sufficient to hold that section of the country for the Union and the commander of the fort was ordered to destroy the fort and everything pertaining to it and proceed to New Mexico and join the federal forces there. The departure of the federal troops from Fort Buchanan was soon followed by the arrival of a confederate force under Captain Hunter, an advance guard of Colonel Sibley, who soon afterwards arrived at Mesilla, where he issued a proclamation creating Arizona as a territory of the Southern Confederacy and naming some subordinate officers, and himself as governor.

Captain Hunter reached Tucson where he established headquarters and soon headed a force west, going as far as the Pima Villages. At the Pima Villages he arrested a man named White, an Indian trader, and captured Captain McCleve with a small force, being an advance of the California Column, which came into Arizona to chase out the rebels and reinstate Union control in the Arizona country, which was done.

With the California Column came a number of men who, after being mustered out of the service, remained here to become prominent and they had much to do with the early development of Arizona after it became a territory, by Act of Congress in 1863.

The following article telling of the creation and composition of the California Column was written by Brevet Captain George H. Pettis, first lieutenant California Volunteer Infantry, who served from 1861 to February 15, 1865.

This article was published in pamphlet form by the Historical Society of New Mexico in 1918:

"Immediately after the first battle of Bull Run, July 24, 1861, Governor John G. Downey, of California, 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, near where are now located the railroad shops, eastward of the Mole.

In the meantime the government at Washington had an insane idea of preparing an army, on the Pacific, to be composed principally of regulars, then stationed on the coast, and under the command of General E. V. Sumner, who was in command of the Department of California, then ship them down the coast to Mazatlan, where they were to disembark and proceed overland "to western Texas and regain the public property in that state and draw off insurgent troops from Arkansas, Missouri, etc." This movement was not to General Sumner's taste, although the governor had been directed to organize four more regiments of infantry and one of cavalry, to take the place of the regular troops that were to go on the Texas raid."

"The First Infantry, with the battalion—five companies of the First Cavalry—were being well drilled and disciplined at Camp Downey, when news was received at Department Headquarters that the Secessionists in the south part of the state were becoming turbulent and more outspoken and on September 17 General Sumner ordered Colonel Carleton's command to Southern California. The Texas raid was countermanded by the Washington authorities and an order was issued for all the regulars to be sent by steamer to New York as soon as they could be relieved by the volunteers,

which movement was immediately undertaken. The First California Infantry, under Colonel James H. Carleton, and the First California Cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin F. Davis, had arrived at San Pedro, the seaport of Los Angeles and had marched some eighteen miles north of that village and laid out a camp for fifteen companies, near a small creek, about three miles east of where Santa Monica now is and called it "Camp Latham," in honor of one of the senators from the state. When the order came for the relief of the regular troops, Major Edwin A. Riggs, of the First California Infantry, was sent with several companies to Fort Yuma. Some of the regulars were at Los Angeles, (at which point Captain Winfield Scott Hancock, afterwards Major General, was on duty as captain and assistant quartermaster), some of the regulars were at San Bernardino and others were at San Diego. They were, however, all soon relieved and rendezvoused at San Pedro for shipment to New York.

The secession element in Southern California, upon the arrival of the volunteers, became less violent and the effect of their arrival was salutary. On the 20th of October, General E. V. Sumner was relieved of the command of the Department of California by Colonel George Wright, of the Twelfth U. S. Infantry. Colonel Sumner was lost on the steamer Brother Jonathan, en route to Oregon. Some weeks later Colonel Wright was anxious for authority to throw troops into the State of Sonora and indited several letters to the War Department for this purpose. November 20th, Colonel Carleton was called to San Francisco for the purpose of proceeding to and taking command of the troops on the overland route via Salt Lake City. While there, news was received of the invasion of New Mexico and Arizona, by General S. H. Sibley, with Texas troops. Wright and Carleton consulted on a plan to proceed with a command through Arizona and attack Sibley on his flank and rear. General Wright made this matter a subject of a communication to the War Department, under date of December 9th, 1861, in which he urged the importance of the movement

and its feasibility and at the same time he reiterated the necessity of putting troops into Sonora. The latter proposition never received any support from the authorities at Washington, but the movement through Arizona was immediately approved and authorized by General McClellan, as soon as it was submitted to him. About this time, a number of prominent secessionists, who were anxious to go east, and show their devotion to the cause of the rebellion, organized a party in Southern California, and with one "Dan. Showalter" at their head attempted to get out of the state but were captured by a detachment of the First Infantry and were taken, bag and baggage, and landed in Fort Yuma. Although this made a great deal of talk and noise at the time, the persons in sympathy with the rebellion throughout the state announcing that it was an infringement on the constitutional rights of the citizens to molest them when they were quietly proceeding along the highways, but these fellows were caught in the "chapparell," a long way from the road or trail, where they were trying to avoid the troops. Their incarceration was approved by the war department.

The movement against the rebels, under Sibley, having been approved, Fort Yuma was made the starting point of the expedition and troops were forwarded to that place with all promptitude, an intermediate camp having been made at Warner's Ranch, (a point about half way between Los Angeles and Fort Yuma), which was named "Camp Wright," in honor of the general commanding the department. Supplies were being rapidly pushed forward, both by teams across the Colorado Desert, as well as by water up the Gulf of California and the Colorado River."

The "California Column" originally consisted of the First California Infantry, ten companies, under the command of Colonel James H. Carleton; First California Cavalry, five companies, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel E. E. Eyre; Lieutenant-Colonel Davis having resigned and gone east, and who was killed at Beverly Ford, Virginia, June 9, 1863; Light Battery A, Third U. S. Artillery, under the command of Lieutenant John B. Shinn, and Company B,

Second California Cavalry, under the command of Captain John C. Cremony. This command contained fifteen hundred men, well drilled, well disciplined, and all eager to show what stuff they were made of. Later on the Fifth California Infantry, under command of Colonel George W. Bowie, was added, which brought the command up to about 2,350 men, rank and file. The advance guard, or detachment, left "Camp Latham" last, and consisted of Company C, Captain McMullin, and K, Captain Nicholas S. Davis, First Infantry and Company B, Captain Charles A. Smith, and Company G, Captain Hugh L. Hinds, Fifth Infantry, and followed the route of those in the advance to "Camp Wright."

While these movements of the California troops were being made, General H. S. Sibley had arrived in New Mexico with about 3,000 men and had relieved Colonel Baylor from command. Colonel John R. Baylor had arrived in the territory about the 1st of July, 1861, with several hundred men of his regiment, the "Second Texas Mounted Rifles, Confederate States Army," and had announced himself as the Provisional Governor of New Mexico and Arizona.

On July 25, Major Isaac Lynde, 7th U. S. Infantry, who was in command of Fort Fillmore, which was about three miles east of La Mesilla, and all the Union forces south of the "Jornado del Meurto," proceeded to attack Baylor's forces at La Mesilla and after a desultory assault upon the village he, (Lynde), in the most cowardly manner, returned to the adobe walls of Fort Fillmore, having had three men killed and two officers and four men wounded. On the morning of the 27th, Lynde vacated the fort and commenced a retreat for Fort Stanton, having over five hundred men well equipped, armed and officered.

As soon as Baylor learned of Lynde's flight, he pursued him, with less than three hundred poorly armed men and overtaking him near San Agustin Springs, captured the whole party, which consisted of seven companies of the 7th U. S. Infantry, and three companies of the U. S. Mounted Rifles, without firing a shot. About this time, an independent company of rebels was formed under the command of a

Captain Hunter, who was ordered to proceed to Tucson and operate down the Gila River as far as Fort Yuma. Sibley had, soon after his arrival in the territory, gone up the Rio Grande to find General Canby, as the latter would not go down the river, and finding Fort Craig too strong to attack, had avoided it, and crossed the river to the easterly side within two miles and in plain sight of Craig. His attempting to reach the river again to get water for his men and stock at Valverde, just above the "Mesa de la Contedera," brought on the sanguinary struggle at Valverde, which took place on the 21st of February, 1862, and which was precipitated by that gallant soldier and estimable gentleman, Colonel Benjamin S. Roberts, United States Army.

Early in April, the scouts brought in news to Fort Yuma that the rebels had left Tucson and were on their way down the Gila River, having captured Captain William McCleave and nine of his Company A, 1st Cavalry, who were scouting at White's Mills, near the Pima Villages, and sent them as prisoners to the Rio Grande. McCleave was soon paroled and returned to the column. A command, under Captain William Calloway, consisting of his own Company I, 1st Infantry, a detachment of Company A, 1st Cavalry, commanded by Lieutenant James Barrett, with Lieutenant E. C. Baldwin, Company D, 1st Cavalry, and a detachment of Company K, 1st Infantry, under Lieutenant Jeremiah Phelan, with two mountain howitzers, were sent out from Fort Yuma to proceed along the Overland Mail route, with Tucson as the objective point. This command reached the Pima Villages with no other signs of the rebels than a number of burned hay stacks along the way, and in due time started from that point for Tucson. When they were approaching the "Picacho Peak," the Indian scouts brought in information that a detachment of the rebels was in the immediate front. The detachment was ordered to make a wide detour, so as to strike them in the flank, while Calloway, with the main party, were to attack in front. The enemy were not found in the immediate front, but after traveling several miles, on April 15, 1862, rapid firing was heard in advance and arriving upon the spot

it was found that Lieutenant Barrett had located the rebels picket and the first intimation they had of results was that Lieutenant Barrett and two men were killed and three were wounded. The rebel loss was two men wounded and three taken prisoner. The graves of the killed, the Union Lieutenant and the men, may now be seen within twenty feet of the California Southern Pacific Railroad, as it goes through "Picacho Pass." The Union force camped on the ground that night and the next day Calloway, having lost his head, ordered a return to be made, against the protests of all his officers. This party was met near Stanwix Station by Colonel West and the "advance detachment," and all proceeded forward to the Pima Villages.

A permanent camp was established at the Pima Villages and an earth work was thrown up about the flour mill of Ammi White, who had been carried away, a prisoner, by the rebels a few weeks before. This earth work was named Fort Barrett, in honor of the lieutenant who had been killed in the skirmish at the Picacho Pass. It required several weeks for the "Column" to get to this point, as only detachments of not over four companies could move over the route through Southern California and through the entire length of Arizona, within twenty-four hours of each other, on account of the scarcity of water. On the 15th of May, Colonel West and his advance detachment moved out of the Pima Villages for Tucson. They left the overland route at the Sacaton Station, going via White's Ranch, through the "Casas Grandes," Rattlesnake Springs, and arrived at old Fort Breckenridge, near the confluence of the Gila and San Pedro rivers, where the American flag was run up again, on the flag staff of the fort, amid the hurrahs of the men and the field music playing the "Star Spangled Banner."

At this point the Pima Indian herders, who had been employed to drive along the live stock of the command and some others, who had been employed as scouts, refused to go any further and demanded their pay of the quartermaster. They asserted that the command was too small to take Tucson; that they were greatly outnumbered by the rebels,

and besides there were rifle pits fully manned, more than a mile in length, to be overcome. They were allowed to return home. The command encamped that night in the "Canon de Oro." The next day, May 19, a short march of fifteen miles was made and the party encamped within ten miles of Tucson. An early reveille on the morning of the 20th, and the command moved forward with a light step. When it had arrived within two miles of the town, Captain Emil Fritz, Company B, 1st Cavalry, was sent forward; the first platoon to make a detour and come in on the east side of the town; the second platoon, under Lieutenant Juan Francisco Guirado, afterwards aide-de-camp on the staff of Brigadier-General Joseph R. West, in New Mexico, and later in Arkansas and Missouri, since deceased, was to charge in on the north side, while the four companies of infantry were to move directly on the road and come in at the west side of the town. The programme was completely carried out, as the three parties came on the plaza of Tucson at the same moment, the cavalry at a charge and the infantry on the double quick, but found no enemy. In fact, there was no enemy, nor were there any people, the only living things found within the limits of the town were an unsuspected number of dogs and cats. The rebels, before they had hurriedly left, had publicly announced that the "Abs" would soon take the fair city, which would then be given over to the ravages of a brutal soldiery. The rebels retreated to the Rio Grande accompanied by a number of desperadoes, amongst whom was the notorious Judge (?) Ed. McGowan, of San Francisco, of "Vigilante Days" fame, who were also rebels at heart, while the Mexican population, men, women and children, started southward for the Sonora line. Good quarters were found here for the troops, and it required two months time, or until July 20th to get the "Column" assembled here, with food and forage enough to make another start. Everything, except a small amount of wheat, which was purchased of the Pima Indians, was brought by teams from Southern California, via Fort Yuma, a distance of several hundred miles. No forage or food could be had in or about Tucson, and the men could eat

nearly as much as the few trains could bring up. No news had been received from the Rio Grande since the column had commenced its march from California. Several express parties had been sent forward to open communications with General Canby, but none had ever returned.

On June 15th, a party of three persons, consisting of Sergeant William Wheeling, Company F, 1st Infantry, expressman John Jones, and a Mexican guide named Chaves, left Tucson with dispatches for General Canby, written on tissue paper. It was afterwards learned that this party was attacked by Apache Indians as they were emerging out of the Apache Pass, on the 18th; Chaves was killed at the first fire and Sergeant Wheeling was seriously wounded, he soon fell from his horse, and was immediately dispatched. Their bodies were afterwards found horribly mutilated, disemboweled and "spread-eagled"—fires having been built over them, and were filled with arrows, after the manner of "John Apache." Years afterwards the same fate fell to Jones. Jones escaped almost by a miracle, and getting through the Indians, who followed him for a long distance, he succeeded after a ride of over two hundred miles, in reaching the Rio Grande, at Picacho, a small village about five miles above Mesilla. Here he was taken prisoner by the rebels, who brought him before Colonel William Steele, who examined him, took his dispatches, and threw him into jail. He managed, however, to get word to General Canby that he was there, and that the "California Column" was really coming, an achievement that was considered absolutely impracticable.

On the 21st of June, a strong reconnoitering party of cavalry, under Lieutenant-Colonel Eyre, left Tucson for the Rio Grande. After a hard march they arrived at old Fort Thorn on July 4th, which they found abandoned by the rebels. Here he was reinforced by a squadron of the 3rd U. S. Cavalry, under Captain Howland, and would have proceeded to attack the rebels at Mesilla, but was obliged to forego that pleasure, by peremptory orders from Colonel Chivington, 1st Colorado Volunteers at Fort Craig, who was in command of the southern military district of New Mexico, and who

was acting under General Canby's orders, as Colonel Steele greatly feared he would be overtaken by the California troops, and in his hurried retreat burned a number of his wagons, and destroyed a large amount of ammunition. The rebel forces were so disheartened and so thoroughly disorganized, that, had they been attacked by even a small force, they would have at once surrendered.

On July 9th Thomas L. Roberts, with his Company E., 1st Infantry, and Captain Cremony's Company B, 2nd Cavalry, and two mountain howitzers, under command of Lieutenant William A. Thompson, 1st Infantry, left Tucson for Rio De Sauze, where they were to establish a camp, having with them rations and forage for Colonel Eyre's command, in case they were forced back by the Texans.

When this command reached Apache Pass, (now Fort Bowie), they were attacked by a large force of Apache warriors, under the leadership of "Cochise," the Indians having possession of the water at that point. After a stubborn contest, in which both trails of the mountain howitzers were broken, in elevating the pieces to reach the Indians upon the hill where the spring was, the Indians were forced to retire with a loss of nine killed, while the troops suffered a loss of two killed and two wounded.

On the 20th of July Colonel West, with Companies B, Captain Valetine Dresher, C, Captain William McMullin, and K, Lieutenant George H. Pettis, 1st Infantry, and Company G, Captain Hugh L. Hinds, 5th Infantry left Tucson for the Rio Grande.

On the 21st, a second command, consisting of Lieutenant John B. Shinn's Light Battery A, 3rd U. S. Artillery, and Company A, Captain Edward B. Willis, 1st Infantry and Company B, Captain Charles A. Smith, 5th Infantry, left Tucson for the same destination, under command of Captain Willis. On the 23rd, Lieutenant Colonel Edwin A. Rigg, with a third command, consisting of Companies I, Captain William Calloway, F, Captain Washington L. Parvin, D, Captain Francis S. Mitchell, and H, Captain Lafayette Hammond all of the 1st Infantry, followed. Each of these detachments had

subsistence for thirty days, with a full supply of entrenching tools. Up to the time of the arrival of the troops at Tucson, the infantry had packed their knapsacks the entire march, a notable achievement, considering the nature of the country—and its lack of resources—through which they had so far marched, and the fearful heat and thirst which they had encountered.

General Orders, No. 10. "Headquarters of the Column from California, dated Tucson, July 17th, 1862," contained the following paragraphs:

"10. 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.

"11. This is the time when every soldier in this column looks forward with a confident hope that, he, too, will have the distinguished honor of striking a blow for the old Stars and Stripes; when he, too, feels in his heart that he is the champion of the holiest cause that has ever yet nerved the arm of a patriot. The general commanding the 'Column' desires that such a time shall be remembered by all, but more particularly by those who, from their guilt, have been so unfortunate on such an occasion. He therefore orders that all soldiers under his command, who may be held in confinement, shall be at once relieved."

The troops had been in Tucson for two months, from May 20th, to July 20th. After the first alarm, upon the arrival of the Union troops, scouts were sent forward towards the Sonora line, and the Mexican residents returned to their homes. A number of American desperadoes also put in an appearance. A number of these were arrested by General Carleton, who, in a letter to General Wright at San Francisco, said, under date of Tucson, June 10th, 1862: "I shall send to Fort Yuma, for confinement, starting them today, nine of the cut-throats, gamblers, and loafers, who have infested this town to the great bodily fear of all good citizens. Nearly every one, I believe had either killed his man or been engaged in helping to kill him."

I have always believed that General Carleton wanted me killed, for he put this detachment under my command to escort them to the Pima Villages, a distance of nearly two hundred miles, and gave me a cavalry detachment of ten men, the worst disciplined ones I ever met. The first night out, when I was encamped at the "Point of Rocks," an express arrived from Colonel West, then in command at Tucson, in which I was informed that my prisoners had stated before we left that point, that they would never be taken through alive, and cautioning me to be ever on the alert or I would not get through. Carleton did not send me for the honor. He was much surprised when I returned safe, but not as much as I was.

G. H. P."

Sylvester J. Mowry, of Rhode Island, who had been an officer in the U. S. Army, was living near Tucson, at the Patagonia Mine, and being an uncompromising rebel, was arrested, examined by a military commission, was sent down to Fort Yuma at this time. Tucson soon became a cleanly and model town, and the long rest here repaid the command for the many days of previous marching.

General Carleton, with headquarters of the "California Column" arrived at Fort Thorn, on August 7th, and immediately communicated with General Canby. The balance of the "Column" arrived on the Rio Grande in detachments, as they had left Tucson, one day apart, and by the 15th, Mesilla was made the headquarters of the district of Arizona, and had as a garrison companies B, C, D, and K, 1st Infantry, and Company A, 5th Infantry. Shinn's Light Battery A, 3rd U. S. Artillery, Companies A and E, 1st Infantry, B, 5th Infantry, Band D, 1st Cavalry, and B, 2nd Cavalry, were sent as a garrison to Fort Fillmore, opposite to and about three miles from Mesilla. Shinn's battery being shortly afterwards sent to the "Cottonwoods" about 25 miles south of Fort Fillmore, to recruit their horses. Company A, 1st Infantry, was sent to Franklin, Texas, (now El Paso), to take care of Simeon Hart's flour mill and look out for the "mail carrier" of the rebels—the notorious "Captain Skillman," afterwards killed by Captain Albert H. French, at Spencer's

Ranch, near Presidio del Norte, April 15th, 1864, on the Rio Grande, in an attempt to carry the rebel mail into Texas. All the regular troops were soon relieved and sent up to Fort Craig, and the Californians proceeded to Forts Quitman, Bliss, and Davis, in Texas, and hauled up the Union Flag.

The Southern Overland Mail Route had been opened and the United States military posts in Arizona, Southern New Mexico, and Northwestern Texas, had been reoccupied by troops composing the "California Column." General Carleton in his report to Assistant Adjutant General Drum, of the Department of California, under date of September 20th, 1862, said: "It was no fault of the troops from California that the Confederate forces fled before them. It is but just to say that their having thus fled is mainly attributed to the gallantry of the troops under General Canby's command. That they were hurried in their flight, by the timely arrival of the advance guard of the "California Column" under Lieutenant Colonel Eyre there cannot be a doubt. The march from the Pacific to the Rio Grande by the "California Column" was not accomplished without immense toil and great hardships, or without many privations and much suffering from heat and want of water."

* * * * *

"The march of the 'Column from California' in the summer months, across the great desert in the driest season that has been known for thirty years, is a military achievement creditable to the soldiers of the American army; but it would not be just to attribute the success of this march to any ability on my part. That success was gained only by the high physical and moral energies of that peculiar class of officers and men who composed the 'California Column'. With any other troops I am sure I should have failed.

"I send you a set of colors which have been borne by this column. They were hoisted by Colonel West over Forts Breckenridge and Buchanan, and over Tucson by Colonel Eyre over Forts Thorn and Fillmore, and over Mesilla, New Mexico; and over Fort Quitman, and by Captain Shirland

over Fort Davis, in Texas, and thus again have those places been consecrated to our beloved country."

On the 18th of September, 1862, General Carleton assumed command of the Department of New Mexico, General Canby having been ordered east by the War Department, the "Column" was soon distributed throughout the Department, and active operations commenced against the hostile Indians—the Apaches and the Navajos. Treason was at a discount in New Mexico, and no treasonable utterances were allowed; when anything of this kind was attempted, it resulted in the person being immediately arrested, confined in the guard house, and tried by a military commission. The most incorrigible of this class of persons, was Samuel J. Jones, the well known pro-slavery sheriff at Lecompton, Kansas, in 1857 and '58. Upon the advent of Colonel Baylor's forces in 1861, he was the post-sutler at Fort Fillmore, owning a fine estate at Mesilla, and during the rebel occupation of the territory he was constantly in hot water with the rebels, but not on account of political matters, however, as he was an unadulterated fire-eater. After the "Column" arrived in the District of New Mexico, Jones was brought up in the guard-house about once a month an average.

When General Carleton assumed command of the Department of New Mexico he relinquished the immediate command of the "California Column" and published the following order:

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

General 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 acknowledgment of the conduct and services of the officers and men of that command. Traversing a desert country, that has 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 without 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 with 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 abnegation 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 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.

(Signed) JAMES H. CARLETON.

Brigadier General U. S. Volunteers,
Commanding Department.

During the years of '63 and '64 there were continual reports that the rebels in Texas were organizing expeditions to retake New Mexico and Arizona, which required a large force to be kept in the southern part of the territory. They were, however, kept busy against the Apaches and skirmishes were numerous, and the duty very hard on account of long distances between water. Among the memorable events in 1863, was the taking of the celebrated Apache chief "Mangus Colorado," (The Red Sleeve) and his being killed by Captain E. D. Shirland's Company C, 1st Cavalry. The old chief had been taken prisoner in a skirmish, and was confined in a Sibley tent at old Fort McLean, near the Mimbres river, in January, 1863. The guard had strict orders that if he attempted to escape, to shoot him. In the early morning the

soldier on guard in rear of the tent, saw "Mangus" rise up from the tent and started to run. He raised his carbine, fired, and the scoundrel fell dead in his tracks. He had committed so many murders and outrages that the question of whether or not he really attempted to escape, was never satisfactorily settled—probably on the score that "the only good Indian is a dead one." The other event was the expedition against the Navajos, under the command of Colonel Kit Carson, and of which Captain Asa B. Carey, 13th U. S. Infantry, who was since Paymaster General of the U. S. Army but now retired, was chief commissary of subsistence, was general aid and military adviser, in which Companies B and D, 1st California Cavalry, and Companies H and K, 1st California Infantry, took part. Company G, 1st Infantry, Captain Henry A. Greene, established on July 3rd, 1863, Fort McRea, at the "Ojo del Muerto," about two miles west of the "Mornado del Muerto," and there the captain gained much credit for his constant and repeated conflicts with the Indians. The Navajo Expedition, by July, 1864, had been successful in capturing over 9,000 of the Indians, and they were taken to Fort Sumner, ("Bosque Redondo") on the Pecos river, about five hundred miles from their own home. These Indians were completely whipped into subjugation, all of their crops and plantings were destroyed, and all of their stock captured. They were taken back to their old homes in 1868, and they have never been on the war path since. A large number of the "Column" were stationed at Fort Sumner guarding these prisoners.

During the year 1863, there were three commissioned officers killed and four wounded; fourteen enlisted men were killed and twenty-one wounded. Three hundred and one Indians were killed, eighty-seven wounded and seven hundred and three taken prisoners. During 1864 there were the usual number of skirmishes, and the Navajo war was completed.

Some of the "Column" was in the celebrated "Sand Creek Fight," which took place north of the Canadian river near "Bent's Old Fort," Company K, 1st Infantry and

Companies D and B, 1st Cavalry, were as far east as Fort Dodge, Kansas, escorting trains. In Carson's fight with the Comanche and Kiowa Indians, November 25th, on the Canadian river, at the Adobe Walls, the "Column" was represented by detachments from Company B, Captain Emil Fritz, 1st Cavalry, and Company K, 1st Infantry, Lieutenant George H. Pettis. Major William McCleave, 1st Cavalry, was second in command.

During this year there was one commissioned officer killed and two wounded, six enlisted men killed, and twenty-three wounded. Three hundred and sixty-three Indians were killed, one hundred and forty wounded. Eight thousand and ninety-three were taken prisoners in the Department of New Mexico.

Nine companies of the 1st California Infantry, and the five original companies of the 1st California Cavalry, were discharged in August and September, 1864, their term of service having expired. On January 20th, 1865, John Wilson, the last enlisted man of Company K, the tenth company of the 1st California Infantry, was discharged. On February 15th, Lieutenant George H. Pettis, of said Company K, was mustered out at Santa Fe, New Mexico, by Captain Asa B. Carey, Thirteenth United States Infantry, Chief Mustering Officer, when the record of the "California Column" ceased.'