

Military Posts of the Old Frontier *Arizona -- New Mexico*

By Frank A. Schilling



WHEN THE UNITED STATES, by virtue of the *Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo*, and the Gadsden Purchase, assumed control of the area comprising the present southwestern portion of the United States, it assumed the responsibility, under the terms of the treaty, of protecting the inhabitants of both nations, the United States and Old Mexico, against marauding and murderous Indians inhabiting that area. The Apaches and Navahos had been at war with Spain and Mexico for centuries, and could not understand why the United States would not permit them to continue their warfare against Mexico on both sides of the international boundary.

The annals of the colonization of Mexico are replete with accounts of the mistreating and enslaving of the Indians of that country, (despite warnings of the Spanish Crown and the laws of Spain, as well the pleadings of the Pope of Rome, that the Indians were human and had a soul) and the Indians retaliated in their own way — by pillage; by kidnap; by torture; by murder.

To fulfill the covenants of the treaty, insofar as the Indians were concerned, it became necessary to establish military posts, garrisoned with troops. The first military post was established at Santa Fe in 1846, when that city was occupied by American troops, and it was named Fort Marcy in honor of the then Secretary of

AUTHOR'S NOTE: The various dates on which the New Mexico and Arizona posts were established or abandoned, as well as the dates on which names were changed, were obtained from microfilms of old army records on file in the vaults of the National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. Photostatic copies of old military maps of the area under study, which were furnished by the National Archives, were of inestimable assistance in locating the old posts on modern maps. Much care and a great deal of checking was done, and barring the human element, it is believed the data is accurate and dependable. For this, we wish to credit the National Archives and to extend our thanks.

War, the Hon. W. L. Marcy, and not Capt. Randolph B. Marcy, Kearny's Regimental Quartermaster, under whose direction the post was constructed. Marcy was abandoned on September 15, 1894.

Due to evil influences which existed in Santa Fe when he arrived in that city on July 19, 1851, Col. E. V. Sumner decided "to break up the post at Santa Fe, that sink of vice and extravagance, and to remove the troops and the public property to Fort Union" — which was established on the Mora Grant, east of Santa Fe, on July 26, 1851. Fort Union was an important supply depot, providing military escort for wagon trains on the Santa Fe Trail, as well as protection for the early settlers.

It was the purpose of Gen. H. H. Sibley's troops when they invaded the Rio Grande Valley during the spring of 1861 to capture Fort Union with its large store of military materiel; continue their invasion westward, eventually over-running California and seizing her gold mines to finance the rebellion and gain West Coast sea-ports, but the debacle at Apache Canyon and Pigeon's Ranch at the hands of troops from Fort Union and the Colorado Volunteers effectively upset whatever plans Sibley may have had. The rebels were eventually driven back to Texas, in utter confusion and in a starving condition, half of them either killed, captured or wounded. Confederate troops never again invaded New Mexico. Fort Union served the nation well for many years and was broken up in 1891, fifty years after its founding. It is now being restored as a National Monument, and its broken walls are being mended.

During the ensuing years, from 1851 to 1859, Forts Conrad, Fillmore, Los Lunas, Thorn and Craig, along the Rio Grande; Stanton on the Rio Bonito in Lincoln County, New Mexico; Defiance in northeastern Arizona, and Forts Buchanan and Arivaipa (later Breckenridge) in southern Arizona, and Fort Mohave on the Rio Colorado near the Needles, were established. Not mentioned are several smaller and more or less temporary posts, among them Fort Webster near the Copper Mines in the Silver City district, established in 1853, for protection against the Apaches of the Ojo Caliente country, but abandoned the following year, not having accomplished its purpose.

Fort Fillmore of tragic memory, named in honor of President Millard Fillmore, was established on September 23, 1851, by Col. E. V. Sumner, at Bracitos, forty miles north of El Paso, on the site where Col. Alexander William Doniphan, defeated the Mexican Army on December 24, 1846. When Confederate troops of Col. John R. Baylor, CSA, invaded the valley of the Rio Grande during the latter part of July, 1861, the post, garrisoned by nearly 700

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well-equipped and trained troops, was abjectly abandoned by its Commanding Officer, Major Isaac Lynde, during the night of July 26, 1861, when Lynde and his inebriated troops began their fateful march across the shimmering desert sands to the Organ Mountains, on their way to Fort Stanton, over one hundred fifty miles distant. Many of his troops fell by the wayside clamoring for water to replace the whiskey in their canteens; the remainder were captured in San Agustin Pass. For his cowardly act, Lynde was dropped from the army on November 25, 1861; restored as Major, 18th Infantry, November 27, 1866, to date July 28, 1866, and was retired effective same date, on order of President Andrew Johnson. He died on April 10, 1886, never having again worn the uniform of an officer of the United States Army. Except for the period from August 11, 1862, to November 13, of the same year, Fort Fillmore was never again used as a military post of the United States. Its walls have since returned to Mother Earth, whence they came, and are covered with native vegetation to hide their shame.

Fort Craig was established on the west bank of the Rio Grande, near Valverde, by Co. K, 2nd Dragoons, and Co. I, 3rd Infantry, on March 31, 1854, when Fort Conrad, eight miles to the north was abandoned. Fort Craig was named in honor of Lt. Col. Louis S. Craig, who had distinguished himself during the Mexican campaign at Monterey, Contreras and Churubusco, in Mexico, and was killed by deserters on June 6, 1852.

An interesting feature of this post was the solitary cells, where prisoners were kept in solitary confinement. There were six, each cell five feet seven inches long, two feet ten inches wide and four feet ten inches high, three on each side of a narrow passageway. Around the doors were eight augur holes, and chinks around the doors were the only means of ventilation or light from the passageway. The entire amount was about a square foot for light and ventilation. The men slept on a single blanket laid on the damp earthen floor, which was frequently sprinkled to lay the dust. Sickness was frequent among the prisoners and, unless removed at once to the hospital, the sick were difficult to treat.

Troops from Fort Craig met Confederate troops in combat at Valverde on February 21, 1862, in a spectacular and dramatic engagement in which three Union Officers, Capt. Benjamin Wingate; Capt. Alexander McRae; Capt. George N. Bascom, and thirty-six enlisted men lost their lives. The Union forces retired to Fort Craig after the battle and the Confederates advanced to the north, capturing Albuquerque and Santa Fe, only to be decisively defeated in the battle at Apache Canyon. Through an error, Fort Craig was built

on private instead of public land, and the War Department was compelled to pay rental on the land for many years. It was abandoned on September 19, 1884.

Fort Buchanan was established in 1856, and it is claimed by some sources that Fort Arivaipa, later Breckenridge, was established during the same year, on the San Pedro River at its junction with the Arivaipa; other sources claim it was established during the year 1860. Both posts were abandoned and the garrisons removed to the Rio Grande at the outbreak of the Civil War during 1861.

When Confederate troops commanded by Captain S. Hunter invaded southern Arizona, they occupied old Fort Buchanan shortly after it was abandoned by Union troops and when the California Column advanced eastward compelling them to retire to the Rio Grande they destroyed the post buildings which were never rebuilt.

Fort Breckenridge, destroyed when abandoned by Union troops, was rebuilt by elements of the California Column, and named Fort Stanford in honor of Governor Stanford of California. It later became the well known Camp Grant, noted for the infamous Camp Grant massacre of April 30, 1871, when a band of 146 white men, Mexicans and Indians from Tucson, and led by W. S. Oury and Jesus M. Elias surprised the camp at dawn of April 30, while the able-bodied men were on a hunting expedition, and murdered 108 unarmed and helpless Apache women, children and old men. The raid was in retaliation for the killing of some white men near Tucson by Apaches whom it was thought belonged to Eskiminzin's band encamped near Camp Grant. The identity of the Apaches who did the killing has never been positively established, and the men involved in the raid on the camp were released, after having been arrested and tried in court in Tucson.

The site of Old Camp Grant was so malarious and unhealthy that the post was moved on December 19, 1872, to a site some sixty miles to the south at the westerly base of Mount Graham, and it became an important post during the succeeding Apache campaigns. It was abandoned on October 4, 1907, and is now used as a corrective school for delinquent boys. Only two of the original buildings remain, the old stone warehouse and one of the officers' barracks, and they are in excellent repair. The old parade ground now the site of a swimming pool, and additional buildings are added from time to time to accommodate more boys.

On May 18, 1859, Camp Colorado was established on the east bank of the Colorado River, north of the Needles, by Col. William Hoffman, 8th United States Infantry, at a point where Lieut. Edward F. Beale's camel caravan crossed the river on October 17,

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1857. The name of the post was later changed to Fort Mohave. It was abandoned May 28, 1861, on account of the civil War, but was reactivated on April 16, 1863, and garrisoned by Cos. B and I, 4th California Volunteers. It was finally abandoned on May 23, 1890.

Invading Confederate troops, Co. A, 7th Texas Volunteers, under the command of Captain S. Hunter occupied Tucson on February 12, 1862, and unfurled the Stars and Bars. There was no opposition and it was Hunter's instructions to proceed to California and open a line of communications between that state and Texas, in order to obtain gold so sorely needed by the South.

However, the California Volunteers, commanded by Gen. James H. Carleton, were moving eastward and the advance column of his troops moved into Tucson on the morning of May 20, 1862. The Post of Tucson was created by General Orders No. 11, Headquarters, Column from California. Hunter's rear guard retreated southward on its way to the Rio Grande, but not until the only battle of the Civil War in Arizona was fought at Picacho Pass between twelve California troops under Lieut. James Barrett, and sixteen Confederates under Lieut. Jack Swilling. Lieut. Barrett, Pvt. George Johnson and Pvt. W. S. Leonard of the First California Volunteers were killed. Two rebels were wounded and three were captured. The battle was fought on April 15, 1862, and its site near Picacho Peak has been marked with a monument by the *Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society* and the Southern Pacific Company.

The Post of Tucson was garrisoned by Co. A, 1st California Cavalry, Co. G, 1st California Infantry, and Cos. A and E, 5th California Infantry, and abandoned in September, 1864. The Post was re-established during July, 1865, and on August 29, 1866, was named Camp Lowell in honor of Brig. Gen. Charles R. Lowell, who died of wounds received in the battle of Cedar Creek, Va., May 21, 1862.

On March 31, 1873, Camp Lowell, which was located on a plot of ground between Twelfth and Fourteenth Streets, on the east side of Sixth Avenue of present day Tucson, was removed to a site on the Rillito, about seven miles east of Tucson, presumably because of sanitary conditions. On April 5, 1879, the name was changed to Fort Lowell, and during March, 1891, the post was abandoned.

During the month of October, 1860, Mickey Free, a Mexican boy, who was living on a ranch in the vicinity of Fort Buchanan, was kidnapped by some Indians from the Dragon Mountains who, it was believed, belonged to a band under Cochise. Second Lieutenant George N. Bascom, recently out of West Point, and who was stationed at Fort Buchanan, was given a detail of troops and ordered

to Apache Pass, south of present day Bowie, where he was visited by Cochise who had seen his troops moving eastward and was curious as to the reason therefore. Cochise denied that his people were involved in the kidnapping. With Cochise were his wife and boy, a brother and two nephews. During the argument Cochise slashed his way out of Bascom's tent and escaped. Another of his party jumped through the opening, but was bayoneted to the ground. The others remained in the tent and were made prisoners.

Cochise withdrew to his stronghold and returned to Apache Pass with a band of his followers. In the resultant fighting, that lasted several days, several of Cochise's relatives were killed and several Americans also lost their lives. A wagon train camped nearby was attacked, and three members tied to the wagon wheels head downward and burned to death. It was later proved that Cochise and his people were not involved in the kidnapping of Mickey Free — some Pinal Apaches were guilty. Bascom's tragic action embittered Cochise, who had heretofore been friendly to the Americans, and resulted in a conflict between Red Man and White that lasted for nearly eleven years, until September, 1872, when Gen. O. O. Howard and Cochise held their peace talk. An unknown number of persons, Red and White, were killed because of the hasty action of a green shavetail.

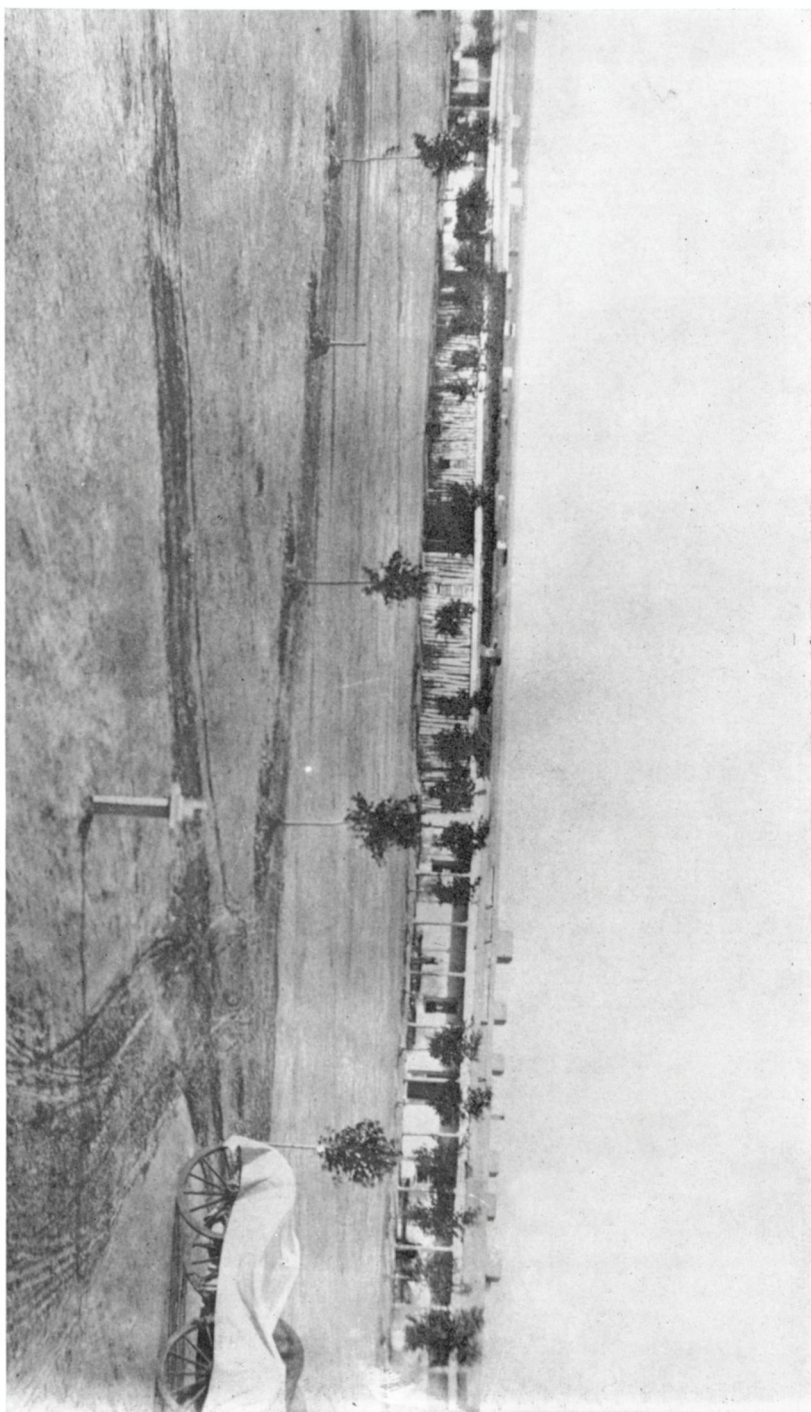
As a result of the depredations of Cochise and his band it became necessary to build a post in Apache Pass, which was named in honor of Col. George W. Bowie, of the 5th Infantry, California Volunteers, to protect the springs near the pass, and also the main route between El Paso and Tucson which wound its way through the pass. The waters of these springs were vital to man and beast passing through this desert.

On July 27, 1862, General Carleton issued orders to construct such a post and garrison it with troops of the Column, commanded by Major Coult. Fort Bowie was abandoned on October 17, 1894.

Fort Stanton on the Rio Bonito, in Lincoln County, New Mexico, was established on May 4, 1855, to control the Mescalero Apaches in the White and Sacramento Mountains, and to prevent raids into the Pecos country by the Kiowa and Comanches. The post was named in honor of Capt. Henry W. Stanton, 1st United States Dragoons who was killed in a skirmish with the Mescaleros in the Sacramento Mountains on July 9, 1855.

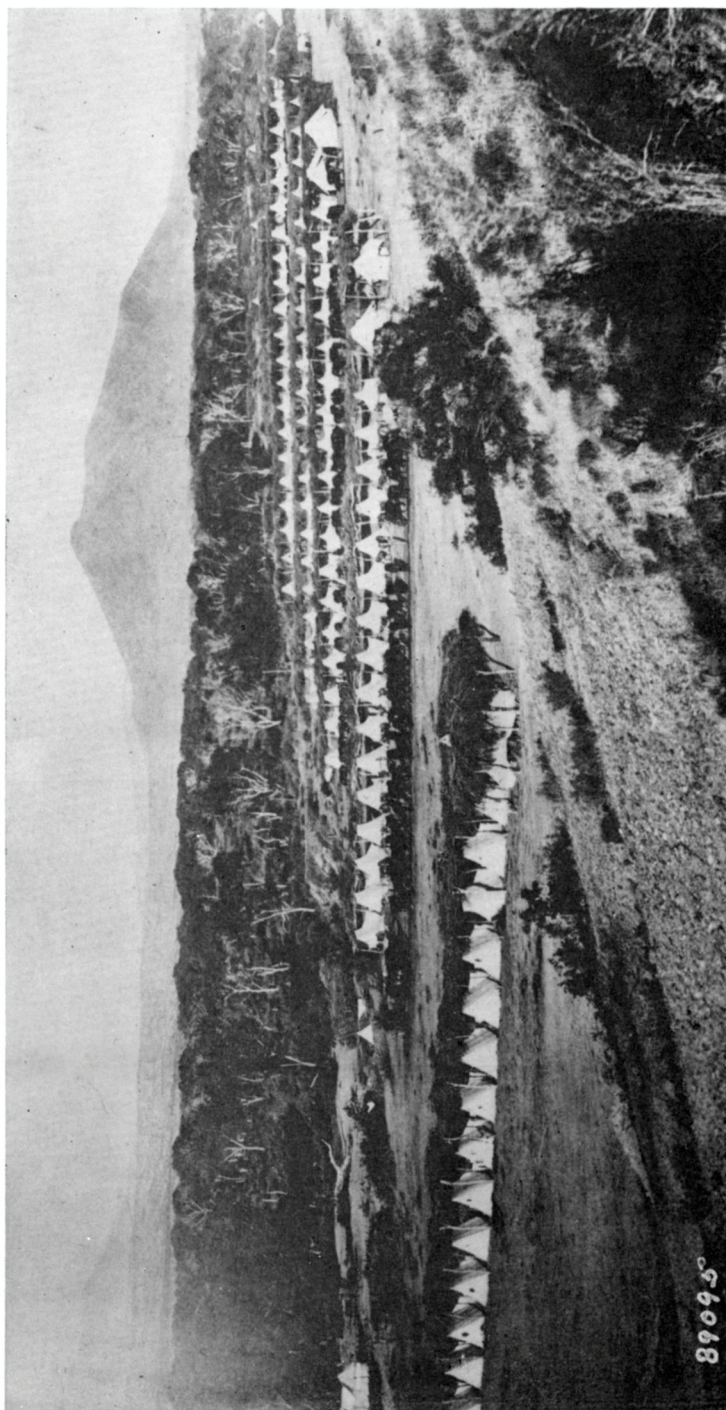
Fort Stanton became untenable when the Confederates invaded New Mexico and was abandoned on August 2, 1861, nine days after the cowardly abandonment of Fort Fillmore by Major Lynde. The Mescaleros immediately resumed their raids and the post was re-

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FORT CRAIG, NEW MEXICO
View shows Parade Ground in front of soldiers' quarters

— Photo from the Author's Collection



— Photo from the Author's Collection

CAVALRY CAMP ON THE GILA RIVER
Occupied at time of photograph (1885) by troops from
nearby Fort Thomas, Arizona

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activated during the latter part of 1862 by five companies of New Mexico Volunteers under the command of Col. Kit Carson sent there to subdue the Mescaleros. Subsequently, on April 8, 1863, the post was occupied by Federal troops; finally abandoned on August 17, 1896, and the reservation transferred to the Marine Hospital Service and accepted by them on April 27, 1899.

Navaho depredations continued in the north and the task of their subjugation was assigned to Colonel Carson after the Mescaleros were subdued. By midsummer of 1863, Colonel Carson had accomplished this task, and the Mescaleros imprisoned at the Bosque Redondo, at Fort Sumner.

On October 22, 1862, a military post was established on the Ojo del Gallo, near the village of San Rafael, southwest of the village of Grants on the southwestern base of Mount Taylor, and named Fort Wingate in honor of Capt. Benjamin Wingate, the builder of Fort Fountleroy, south of Gallup at the Ojo del Oso, and who lost his life in the battle at Valverde, New Mexico, on February 21, 1862. This post was garrisoned by Field and Staff, and companies B, C, E and F, 1st New Mexico Volunteers, commanded by Lt. Col. J. Francisco Chavez, step-son of Governor Connelly, and who was next in command under Kit Carson in the Navaho campaign.

His assignment against the Mescaleros having been completed, Carson and his men made ready against the Navahos. Los Pinos, about twenty miles south of Albuquerque, established May 27, 1862, was the mobilization headquarters for his command. On July 7, 1863, the command started for the Navaho country and arrived at Fort Defiance on July 20. A depot for supplies and hospital, known as Fort Canby in honor of Col. Edward R. S. Canby who was later killed by Modoc Indians in California on April 11, 1873, was established on the Rio Pueblo Colorado on July 23, 1863, and abandoned during August, 1864, the Navaho having been conquered within a period of some twelve months and removed to the Bosque Redondo at Fort Sumner.

As the Navaho were either captured, or surrendered, they were assembled at Fort Canby, or other posts nearby, and marched to the Bosque, four hundred miles distant — men, women, children — any human resembling a Navaho — a funeral-like procession, in two's and four's — silent; sad; dejected — all hope gone. They were stunned when they, at last, were prisoners of war in a foreign land, at Fort Sumner on the Pecos River.

Fort Sumner was established November 30, 1862, and was first garrisoned by Company A, 5th United States Infantry, under the command of Capt. Joe Updegraff, and was named in honor of Col.

Edwin Vose Sumner, who had distinguished himself in the war with Mexico, at Cerro Gordo and Molino del Rey, and commissioned Major General, United States Volunteers on July 4, 1862. Fort Sumner was abandoned on August 30, 1869, after the Mescaleros and Navahos had been returned to their homeland.

The Navahos, nearly eighty-five hundred of them, were exceedingly unhappy at the Bosque. Conditions were desperate and deplorable. They were starving and many had died — sickness had accomplished what bullets had failed to do. The land was bleak and barren; treeless; no timber with which to build their hogans — entirely different from their homeland. They did not get along with the Mescaleros, though of the same Athabascan family. Home-sick and heartsick; ill; discouraged; discontented; they had lost all hope.

At long last, after an investigation by Lieutenant R. McDonald, of the 5th Cavalry, the Bosque Redondo project was abandoned, and a treaty signed with the Navaho on June 11, 1868, permitted them to go home again. It was a long hike back to their beloved country, but they were happy again and have so remained. Their's is now the most numerous tribe in the United States and they have been loyal and true to their treaty.

Fort Wingate, established on the Rio Gallo was abandoned on July 22, 1868, and men and materiel moved to another location, sixty-five miles west, and near the site of former Fort Fountleroy, changed to Fort Lyon, when Col. Thos. T. Fountleroy resigned and went south during the Civil War, the new location being in the heart of the Navaho country. Wingate was abandoned as a military post on February 4, 1911. Subsequent to 1882, the fort was frequently used as headquarters and outfitting quarters from archæological and ethnological expeditions. During 1914 the old buildings were used to house refugees from the Villa revolution in Mexico. Some time after 1925 Congress appropriated \$500,000 for a school for the Navaho on the Wingate Military reservation. The former barracks were converted into dormitories, and the old parade ground is now a ball field.

Now that the Navaho question had been resolved it was possible to concentrate on the Apaches in the south. During the following years many additional posts were established — Cummings, Selden and Bayard in New Mexico; Whipple, Goodwin, McDowell, Verde and Crittenden in Arizona before the 1870's. Of these, only Bayard remains, today not a military post, but a sanitarium for military patients.

Fort Cummings, named after Dr. Joseph Cummings, a medical

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officer who was killed by a Navaho sniper near Canyon de Chelly, was established on October 2, 1863, at the eastern end of Cooke's Canyon on the Cooke's Mountains, east of Deming, New Mexico, to protect Cooke's Springs which supplied water for man and beast travelling on the Overland Mail trail. The mountain and peak, the canyon and the spring were given the name of Capt. Philip St. George Cooke, who led the Battalion from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to California during the war with Mexico, 1846-1847. Fort Cummings was abandoned in 1870, but due to renewed Apache depredations it was reactivated during 1881 and again abandoned during 1885.

Fort Whipple was originally established as Camp Clark on Postle's Ranch, in the Chino Valley, north of Prescott, on December 23, 1863, and five months later, on May 24, 1864, was moved twenty-two miles southward to a location on Granite Creek called Del Rio, about two miles north of the chosen site for the future city of Prescott, which was intended to be the Capital City of the Territory of Arizona. Camp Clark was named in honor of John A. Clark, Surveyor General of New Mexico, one of the first officials to report on the mines in Arizona. Fort Whipple was named in honor of Brigadier General Amiel Weeks Whipple, who served in Arizona as First Lieutenant of Topographical Engineers surveying a rail route on the 35th parallel. The beautiful Yucca Whipplei, known by the Spanish speaking peoples of California as the Candle of the Lord, was named in his honor by a botanist attached to the expedition. Fort Whipple was the temporary quarters for the newly appointed governor of the Territory of Arizona, John M. Goodwin, and was the temporary capitol until the mansion and capitol buildings were completed in Prescott.

The post was discontinued on March 30, 1898, and all of the buildings have disappeared. Its name was given the hospital for Veterans near Prescott.

Fort Goodwin, named in honor of the first governor of Arizona, John M. Goodwin, was established June 21, 1864, on the southern boundary of the San Carlos Indian Reservation, somewhere within six miles of the Gila River, evidently on the banks of Goodwin Wash, but was abandoned March 14, 1871, because of its unhealthy location. During May, 1870, Companies L and M, 1st United States Cavalry, were moved by the Post Commander, Maj. John Green, to the White Mountains to establish Camp Ord, which later became Fort Apache.

Camp Date Creek, some fifty miles southwest of Prescott, was established on the south bank of Date Creek as Camp McPherson,

during the year 1864 by elements of the California Column. Due to Indian depredations in Skull Valley to the north, the camp was moved to that locality during 1866 to protect the miners. During 1867 the command was returned to the former location at Date Creek, which proved to be unhealthy, resulting in another move later and the name changed to Camp Date Creek on November 23, 1868. The post was abandoned on August 30, 1873.

On November 4, 1871, a band of Apaches, members of the group then living on the Date Creek Reservation, attacked the San Francisco stage, some eight or ten miles west of Wickenburg, killing a young gentlemen named Fred Loring and five male companions. The attack and massacre was particularly brutal and fiendish and caused considerable reaction back east. General Crook investigated the matter and decided to have a pow-wow with these Indians at the Date Creek Agency at some future date. Owing to Crook's relentless warfare against this tribe, the Indians decided to kill him at this meeting, but Crook had been forewarned by a friendly Hualpai scout and appeared rather suddenly accompanied by what appeared to be packers — all armed with revolvers and knives. They were seated in a circle, the General facing the chief, and the pow-wow seemed to be friendly. At a pre-arranged signal, the rolling and lighting of a cigarette, by the chief, an Indian raised his rifle to fire, but his gun was diverted by one of the packers, and immediately pondemonium broke loose. Several Indians were killed and wounded and the balance made a hasty escape. The band was later surprised by troops led by Hualpai scouts and forty or more killed.

Camp Verde was originally established as Camp Lincoln during 1864 at a point about one mile north of the present village of Camp Verde.

On January 5, 1866, the camp was moved to its present location and garrisoned by Companies A and C, 1st Arizona Infantry, under the command of Capt. H. S. Washburn, to protect the settlers along the Verde, and as a base of operations against the Apaches east of the river. Co. A was made up of native Arizonans who were of Mexican ancestry, and Co. C was made up of Pima Indians, the traditional enemy of the Apache. The name of the post was changed to Camp Verde on November 23, 1868, and to Fort Verde on April 5, 1879. It was finally abandoned on April 25, 1891. Only three buildings remain today, two adobes that are used for dwelling purposes, and the old administration building that is being restored and converted into a museum.

Camp McDowell was established on September 7, 1865, by California Volunteers, on the west bank of the Verde River, and

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named for Gen. Irving McDowell, who had served his country with distinction in the battle of Buena Vista, Mexico, and in the battle of Cedar Mountain, Va., during the Civil War. On April 5, 1879, the post was designated Fort McDowell and it was abandoned on January 17, 1891. The reservation of 25,688 acres was turned over to the Department of the Interior for use as an Indian school.

On May 8, 1865, Fort Selden was established a mile and a half east of the Rio Grande, near the southern end of the Jornada del Muerto, and nine miles above Dona Ana, and named in honor of Col. Henry R. Selden, 1st New Mexico Volunteer Infantry. It was abandoned May 27, 1879, but was reactivated on December 25, 1880, due to proposed railroad construction. On August 23, 1890, it became a sub-post of Fort Bayard and was finally abandoned February 10, 1892.

On March 4, 1868, a military post was established on a hill about a half mile east of the site of former Fort Buchanan, and named Camp Crittenden in honor of Brevet Gen. Thomas L. Crittenden for gallant and meritorious service at the battle of Stone River, Tenn. It was abandoned January 1, 1873, when its troops were transferred to another post.

Fort Apache, in the White Mountain country, was established by Col. John Green, on May 16, 1870, and garrisoned with troops from the abandoned Camp Goodwin. It was probably the most important Military Post in Arizona, being located in the heart of Apacheland, and also having served as reservation headquarters of the White Mountain Indian Reservation. It was originally named Camp Ord, for Gen. E. O. C. Ord, Commander of the Department of California, and who will be remembered locally as having made the Ord Survey in Los Angeles. On August 1, 1870, the name was changed to Camp Mogollon; on September 12, 1870, to Camp Thomas; on February 2, 1871, to Camp Apache, and, finally, on April 5, 1879, to Fort Apache. The post was abandoned in 1922 and the buildings turned over to the Department of the Interior for Indian school purposes.

The most important fight in which troops from Fort Apache were engaged was the battle of the Cibecu, on August 30, 1881, by a detachment of the 6th United States Cavalry. Noch-ay-del-klinne, an Apache Medicine Man, had aroused his people by promises that the dead would return to life if the white man were evicted from the Indian's country. He and his followers were gathered at the Cibecu, apparently looking for trouble. On August 23, 1881, General Carr, in command at Fort Apache, received official orders to "arrest Noch-ay-del-kline or kill, or both" and in the ensuing

battle, the medicine man and an unknown number of Apaches were killed, as were Captain Hentig and seven troops. It was expected the Indians would attack Fort Apache also, and after the battle the troops hastily returned to Apache. Two days later, on September 1, the post was vigorously attacked by the Apaches, who were repulsed with no losses to the soldiers.

Camp San Carlos was established during 1873 and served as a military post, as well as reservation headquarters for the San Carlos Indian Reservation until 1900. It was known as "Hell's Forty Acres," and Indians of many clans were assembled there which resulted in much friction and fighting. Vegetation was scant, and temperature extremely high. During the late 1920's a dam was built across the Gila River, and the resultant lake has completely inundated old Camp San Carlos and its buildings. San Carlos was the home station of Al Sieber, the famed chief of Apache scouts, who lost his life at the Roosevelt Dam in 1907 when he attempted to save several Indians from a moving boulder.

Some thirty miles upstream on the Gila, Fort Thomas was established in August 12, 1876, and named in honor of Gen. George H. Thomas, who distinguished himself in the Florida Indian wars and in the battles of Monterey and Buena Vista, both in old Mexico, and who was tendered the thanks of Congress by resolution on March 3, 1865, for his "skill and dauntless courage, by which the rebel army under Wood was signally defeated and driven from the State of Tennessee." Fort Thomas also played an important role in the subjugation of the Apache, and was abandoned on December 3, 1892. Nothing remains of the old post, except some piles of adobe, and its name had been assumed by the old town of Maxie, which was just east of the post, and which was an important rendezvous for thirsty and lonely soldiers during the Indian campaigns.

General Cruse, in *Apache Days and After*, says that "the only building that even remotely resembled a habitation for civilized humans was the post trader's. This had adobe walls nicely plastered. The trader's was a long room, perhaps thirty feet by fifteen feet, partitioned into a big bar room for the men, and a smaller one for the officers and transient visitors. It was encircled by a broad veranda. All had been made as attractive as possible. The trader was there for money and he knew that, if the men had it, they would naturally come where it was pleasant and restful to spend it. If they did not buy liquor, they would buy something else." Cruse further says that "thirteen dollars (the soldier's monthly wage) would not buy much beer at one dollar a bottle for Anheuser-Busch, the current price at Thomas and Apache."

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Camp Huachuca, located in the Huachuca Mountains, on a site selected by Capt. Samuel Marmaduke Whiteside, was established on March 3, 1877, as a temporary camp in consequence of some Indian raids during the preceding year, as reported by General Kautz, "but circumstances prolonged its life. In 1882 it was designated a permanent post. Many of the original buildings of the 1880's are still in use as officers' quarters and the old adobe barracks on the opposite side of the parade ground now house the Electronic Warfare Department. Over the hill is the old post cemetery with its white granite or marble markers — row upon row in seried ranks they stand, marking the final resting places of many lads who made the supreme sacrifice that the old southwest be a better place in which to live.

Assistant Army Surgeon Leonard Wood, later Chief-of-Staff of the Army and Governor General of the Philippines, began his brilliant army career at Huachuca Post Hospital, and the old building in which he labored is now occupied by the Comptroller and Finance Departments.

During the Pancho Villa insurrection in Mexico, troops from Fort Huachuca, were dispatched to the field. During World War 1 Huachuca went through its second large building program, and it was rather ironic that it should outlast many older and more historic posts established during the Territorial days.

After the bombing at Pearl Harbor, it was host to thousands of boys in uniform and hundreds of buildings were constructed to meet the demand. Then came VJ day and in 1947 it was declared surplus. Many buildings were sold and moved away. But before the post was completely demolished came the Korean War during 1951 and it served as a training ground for Aviation Engineers. After the boys were sent overseas Huachuca again became inactive — the cavalry was no more and the cry, "Geronimo," became the jump word for paratroopers. It was again closed during May, 1953.

Lastly came the cold war from behind the Iron Curtain, and in February, 1954, Huachuca was selected as the site of the U.S. Army Electronic Proving Ground. Today Fort Huachuca is again doing its bit in the electronic warfare against world communism. Quarters for thousands of officers and enlisted men are being constructed at Huachuca and, side-by-side with the old primitive adobes, are doing their part in the world-wide struggle with the red monster. From an old primitive, temporary cavalry post on the early frontier it has risen to be a post of world-wide military importance.

Some fifty or sixty major military posts and camps were established during the forty year period, from 1850 to 1890, in New

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Mexico and Arizona, not including minor or temporary camps. None was fortified; they were not true forts in a military sense and had no heavy artillery; a very few had stockades, and the stockades were usually of posts or trees such as the country afforded. The buildings were constructed of whatever material was available, and in most cases were constructed by the troops.

In some instances the old records have disappeared, never to be found again. The early history of Fort Apache is clouded, as is the early history of Old Fort Grant. Perhaps destroyed by fire or flood — perhaps the Indian's arrow was instrumental in destroying the early records, *quien sabe*. Most of the posts have returned to Mother Earth and her dust, whence they came. Their former occupants, whether commissioned officer or private, for the most part have returned to dust and can tell us nothing, except for a few diaries or books which they left. If these mounds of earth could speak, what tales might they not tell; deeds of heroism and privation; loneliness and depression; suffering and death — many above and beyond the call of duty, that we, their followers, might live in peace and contentment. By such men the West was conquered.

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