

## 1<sup>ST</sup> ARIZONA VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The U.S. War Department authorized Governor John Noble Goodwin of Arizona to raise five companies of Arizona Volunteers in 1864. The War Department intended that the recruitment of native Arizonans would supplement the California Volunteers, who hesitated to go on long scouting missions against the Apaches because their Civil War enlistment would soon be up.



By the fall of 1865, more than 350 men had been issued into service under the command of nine officers.

The overwhelming majority was Mexicans, many of them from Sonora, or Pima and Maricopas from the Gila River villages, who had grown up fighting Yavapais and Apaches, as had their fathers and grandfathers.

The Indian soldiers received a blue blouse, trimmed in red for the Maricopas and blue for the Pimas, one pair of blue pants, and one pair of shoes and one yard of flannel for a headdress. Most of them wore “teguas” — shoes of un-

tanned hide with broad soles turned up at the toes with a hole to admit air and remove dirt. Many never received shoes or warm clothing. They lived in hovels and marched for days on beef jerky and parched cornmeal. Scouts were often carried out on foot with packs containing a canteen, a blanket, and some dried beef and pinole, a food made of one part sugar to two parts roasted ground corn or wheat mixed with water.

The Indians were expected to provide their own horses, but allowances were sometimes made for feed. The Pimas and Maricopas were used to hardship, and they were familiar with the country and knew the Apaches. They carried .54-caliber (14 mm) rifles with plenty of ammunition, in addition to bows, arrows, and war clubs.

These Arizona volunteers guarded wagon trains between Prescott and La Paz and campaigned relentlessly across central Arizona. The Arizona Volunteers' one year service gave them an opportunity to seek revenge against the Apaches while acquiring much-needed guns from the government. The Third Arizona Territorial Legislature said that the volunteers inflicted "greater punishment on the Apaches than all other troops in the territory."

If their enlistments had been extended, as many territorial officials and army officers requested, the centuries-old alliance of Hispanic, Pima, and Maricopa frontiersmen might have conquered the Apachería for the Anglo newcomers.

After their year in service ended, the Arizona Volunteers were disbanded. The official reason was that the army did not have the authority to retain native recruits.