

## EARLY ARIZONA TERRITORY

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo formally ended the Mexican-American War in February 1848, but tensions between the Governments of Mexico and the United States continued over the next six years. The two countries each claimed the Mesilla Valley as part of their own country. The Mexican Government demanded payment for Indian attacks in the region because, under the Treaty, the United States had agreed to protect Mexico from such attacks; however, the United States refused to comply, insisting that while they had agreed to protect Mexico from marauding Indians, they had not agreed to financially compensate for attacks that did not occur.



The persistent efforts of private American citizens to enter Mexico illegally and incite rebellions in an effort to gain territory caused more tensions between the two governments. The discovery of gold in California and the mass-migration of the “49ers” and others seeking fame and fortune out west added to the tensions.

In 1854, the Gadsden Purchase (Treaty) was an agreement between the United States and Mexico, in which the United States agreed to pay Mexico \$10 million for a 29,670 square mile portion of Mexico that later became part of Arizona and New Mexico. Gadsden's Purchase provided the land necessary for a southern transcontinental railroad and attempted to resolve conflicts that lingered after the U.S.-Mexican War.

In July 1861, the U.S. government called on California for volunteer troops after the fall of Fort Sumter and the secession of eleven Southern states. The army needed soldiers to suppress potential rebellion in southern California and protect the transcontinental mail routes from secessionists and Indian raiders. As California enrolled and mustered two regiments of cavalry and five regiments of infantry and two mountain-howitzer batteries trained in Arizona, there was a Confederate invasion of New Mexico and Arizona.

Colonel James Henry Carlton was to lead his "California column" through Arizona to strike the Confederates as quickly as possible. A thrust from southern California across Arizona and New Mexico to the Rio Grande would block the Texas Rebels from joining the California secessionists, reopen the southern overland mail route, provide garrisons for abandoned posts, and provide protection to the citizens of the territories. The California Volunteers stationed in Arizona during the Civil War marched across the desert and thwarted the Confederate threat in the far west. They held foreign invaders south of the border in check while spurring the growth of the territory and protecting settlers and prospectors who built homes and opened mines. Prospecting boomed as the soldiers announced new discoveries, established military posts in mining districts, and made travel and living conditions safe and profitable once again. Soldiers opened and worked entire mining districts, and many of them returned after they left the service.

The California Volunteers also dealt the Navajos in the area a serious blow, causing them to lose their ability to wage war. The California Volunteers inaugurated a system of military-civilian cooperation and a policy of total war against hostile groups. Other tribes such as the agricultural Pimas and Maricopas flourished under the Californian occupation because they benefited from army contracts and the military alliance against their traditional Apache enemies.