

DRAFT

Front side

To the Boys in Blue; the Union soldiers of the "California Column" and the California Volunteers who defended the Arizona Territory during the Civil War.

The California Column consisted of various Companies from:

1st California Volunteer Infantry

1st California Volunteer Cavalry

2nd California Volunteer Cavalry

Light Battery A, 3rd U. S. Artillery

5th California Infantry

1861-1865

DINGBAT

7th California Volunteer Infantry (1864-66)

Not part of the "California Column"

Side A

In Memory of the 1st Regiment, California Cavalry Volunteers, killed by Confederates at Picacho Pass

April 15, 1862:

Second Lieutenant James Barrett, Co. A

Private George Johnson, Co. A

Private William S. Leonard Co. D

Side B

In Memory of the following who were killed by Apaches at Apache Pass

June 18, 1862:

Sergeant William Wheeling, Co. F, 1st California Infantry

June 25, 1862:

Private Albert Schmidt, Co. B, 1st California Cavalry

Private James F. Keith, Co B, 1st California Cavalry

Private Peter Maloney, Co. B, 1st California Cavalry

In Memory of California Volunteers killed by Apaches at the Battle of Apache Pass July 15-16, 1862:

Private John Barr, Co. E, 1st, California Infantry

Private Charles O'Brien, Co. G, 1st California Infantry

Rear side

The California Column and the Civil War in the Southwest

DINGBAT

In 1861 the Confederate government hoped to gain a foothold in the Southwest and the state of California and in 1862 Confederate forces from Texas invaded the territory of New Mexico for that purpose. After finding little or no resistance from U. S. Army forces in an area of New Mexico commonly referred to as Arizona (these forces were, for the most part, withdrawn to assist in other areas of the country) Confederate troops occupied Tucson.

To counter the invasion, a portion of California volunteer troops nicknamed "The California Column" entered Arizona from California through Yuma and following the old Butterfield Stage route marched to Tucson. Confederate forces were discovered at Picacho Pass (about 50 miles north of Tucson) which resulted in the skirmish or (Battle) of Picacho Pass costing the lives of three soldiers from the "Column." April 15, 1862. The "Column" continued to Tucson and finding that Confederate forces had withdrawn continued its march east to Texas. During this march it lost six soldiers from contacts with the Apache Indians.

After securing the territory of Arizona the "Column" and later, the 7th California Volunteer Infantry remained throughout the war to thwart any re-invasion by Confederate forces and to provide protection to miners, ranchers, farmers and civilians of the fledgling territory. Many of the Volunteers, once mustered out in California, chose to return to work and live in Arizona, thus contributing to its formation and prosperity.