CIVIL WAR
- San Pedro History



DRUM BARRACKS

CIVIL WAR MUSEUM

Wilmington, California

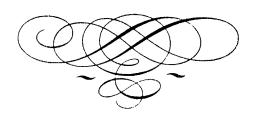


U.S. ARMY HEADQUARTERS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA TERRITORY

1861 - 1871

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A facility of the City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks



CALIFORNIA AND THE CIVIL WAR

Between April, 1861, and April, 1865, our country was torn apart by that terrible conflict known variably as the Civil War, the War of the Rebellion or the War between the States. Because all of the major battles took place east of the Mississippi, the role of California is largely overlooked, but it was important, compared to its small population and distance from the main arena.

Approximately 17,000 Californians enlisted in the Union forces dring the war years, mostly in regiments of California Volunteers. This included the only units to fight in the eastern theater of war, the "California Hundred" and the "California Battalion", which became part of the Second Massachusetts Cavalry, fighting in many important engagements from early 1863 to the end of the war and suffering more than 60% casualties.

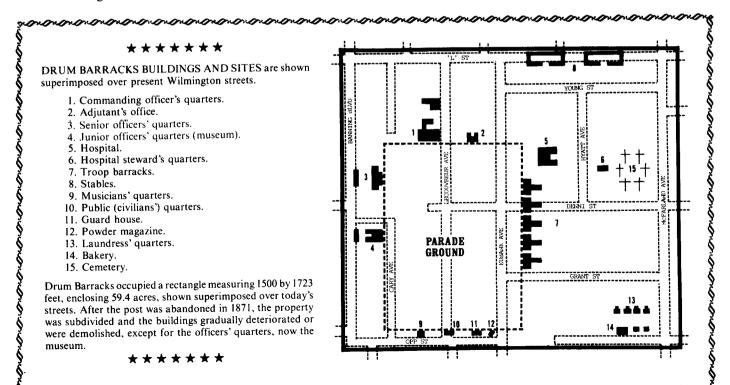
ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMP DRUM

Military activities in the West in 1861 were under the command of the Department of the Pacific, with head-quarters at the Presidio in San Francisco. Even before the start of hostilities, it became apparent that a strong military presence would be required in Southern California to control the strong Secessionest elements made up of recent emigrants from southern states. The First

Dragoons from Fort Tejon under Major James Henry Carleton were ordered to Los Angeles to support Captain Winfield Scott Hancock, the quartermaster and one-man garrison. Shortly thereafter, Major Carleton was promoted to Colonel and given command of the First California Volunteer Infantry, stationed first at Camp Latham near present Culver City, then at Camp Drum near New San Pedro, soon to be redesignated Wilmington. The name "Camp Drum" honored the Adjutant General of the Department of the Pacific, Richard Coulter Drum.

THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN

In December, 1861, Col. Carleton received orders to organize an expedition to the Rio Grande to assist New Mexico and Colorado forces in repelling a Confederate army of Texans who had captured several Union posts along the Rio Grande and were planning an advance west through Arizona and eventually into California. The planning for this expedition, to be known as "The California Column", was performed by Colonel Carleton and his staff at Camp Drum. The operation was launched in April, 1862, and was successfully concluded in August after the retreat of the Texans. This march of 2300 men and a massive supply train across the California and Arizona deserts in the heat of summer will always be recognized as a masterpiece of military planning and execution.



TODAY-DRUM BARRACKS AND THE MUSEUM

Camp Drum was a tent encampment. After the completion, in 1863, of nineteen permanent buildings on sixty acres of land donated by Phineas Banning and B.D. Wilson, it was redesignated "Drum Barracks". It served as the main training, staging and supply base for military operations in Southern California and Arizona, mostly against hostile Indians, gradually diminishing in importance after the war until it was deactivated in 1871. The Drum Barracks Civil War Museum is located in the original junior officers quarters, a sixteen room structure owned by the State of California and operated by the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks. It is the only intact U.S. Army building from the Civil War era in Southern California and one of the few remaining in the Western United States.

DRUM BARRACKS CIVIL WAR MUSEUM 1052 Banning Blvd., Wilmington, CA 90744 Marge O'Brien, Director (213) 548-7509

VISITING HOURS

Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 12:30 to 3:30 p.m.



JAMES HENRY CARLETON
FIRST COMMANDER OF DRUM BARRACKS
COMMANDER OF THE CALIFORNIA COLUMN

