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United States, WAR DEPARTMENT
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE

CIRCULAR No. 4

(+title) REPORT ON
BARRACKS AND HOSPITALS
WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF MILITARY POSTS
by John S. Billings, Assistant Surgeon, United States Army

AND
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CHAPTER ON "ARROW WOUNDS" FROM
CIRCULAR No. 3

REPORT OF SURGICAL CASES TREATED IN
THE ARMY OF THE UNITED STATES
by George A. Otis, Assistant Surgeon, United States Army

With an Introduction by
Herbert M. Hart
Colonel, United States Marine Corps



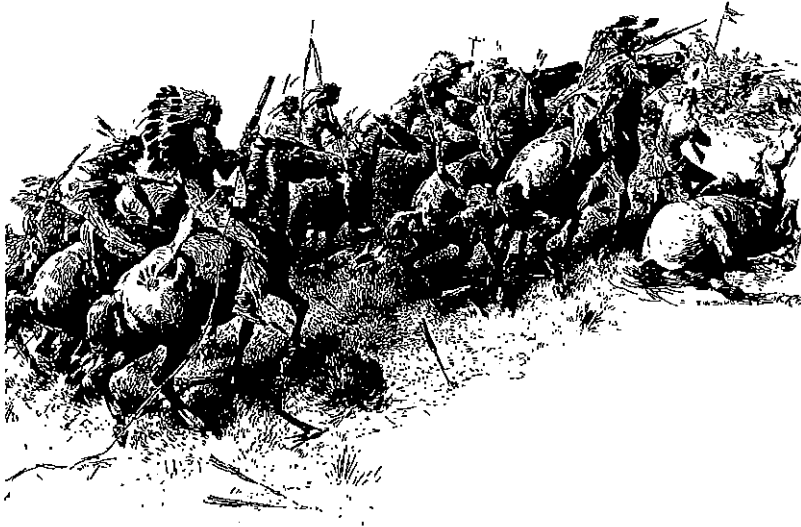
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New York 1974



THE WARNING by Joe Grandee

A VOLUME IN THE CUSTERIANA SERIES

John M. Carroll, Editor



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PREFACE

The republication of the Surgeon General *Circular #4* and *Circular #8* represents the final fulfillment of an ambition of mine to perpetuate a segment of our western heritage and the role played by the military in its evolution; and it almost did not come about.

Dustin lists *Circular #4* under "Military Posts of the United States Army, with Barracks and Hospitals, Description of . . . 154 Posts described." (Dustin #201) Of it he said: "There is no other publication containing the vast amount of information about frontier posts; contains much natural history." It has always been a difficult publication to obtain and Custer collectors have coveted copies whenever they became available. Fortunately I had a rather good copy in my collection and offered it for reprint purposes so all collectors and students of CUSTERIANA could share the information it contained. But before the publication got underway I became the possessor of *Circular #8* (not in Dustin) which included the description of an additional 95 posts not in *Circular #4*. Not only did it include most of the information in *Circular #4*, it addressed itself also to a report on the hygiene of the United States Army, a subject not covered in *Circular #4*. Both circulars are listed in Howes as B-450—indicating their worth.

My perplexity about which edition to reprint was resolved when my good friends, Ruth and Aaron Cohen of Scottsdale, Arizona, insisted both were needed simply because *Circular #8* did not contain everything from *Circular #4*, and *Circular #4* was important because of its listing in Dustin. That settled it! However, I felt uneasy because I feared collectors would be confused about which edition they should own. It was then I hit upon the concept of adding material to each which would make both attractive to the collector.

To *Circular #4* I elected to add that portion of *Circular #3* which addressed itself to the reports of arrow wounds. I opted for this primarily because of the obvious relationship between our western military posts and the ever-present danger of arrow wounds inflicted by Native Americans in the West. The selection of Joe Grandee's great picture, "The Warning," very graphically depicts that real danger.

The addition of *Circular #9* to *Circular #8* makes that one a highly desirable item for any collector because of its immediate association with General Custer. Entitled "Transportation of Sick And Wounded," it contains a section—including drawings—of pack transportation of soldiers from Reno's Hill to Gibbon's Camp. (Dustin #484) A second great painting by Joe Grandee again depicts the potential danger of serving at western posts. Both editions, however, contain a heretofore unpublished picture of Dr. John Shaw Billings, compiler of both circulars on military posts. The picture was discovered by the author of the new Foreword in the process of his research at National Archives in Washington, D. C., and is used here with their permission.

A better choice of author for the new Introduction to these publications than Lieutenant Colonel Herbert M. Hart, USMC, would be difficult to find. Before I made contact with the Colonel I was already certain—in my mind—he would be interested in the project since he was already established as one of the leading authorities in the country on this subject. Fortunately for everyone he was interested. His credentials include *Pioneer Forts of the West*, *Old Forts of the Far West*, *Old Forts of the Southwest* and *Old Forts of the Northwest*. To this im-

One company of infantry at the present time occupies this stockade. The dormitory is 80 by 20 feet, giving scarcely 300 cubic feet air space to each man of its average occupancy. The cavalry quarters, which were erected in 1867 for temporary shelters to the scouting troops, are about 100 yards lower down, and nearer the creek. They are log huts, each 53 by 19 feet, giving 400 cubic feet air space per man, of an occupancy of twenty men. For a long time they were without floors, windows, or bunks, but recently have undergone repairs and improvements which will contribute much to the preservation of the health of the men. All are heated by open fireplaces. Kitchens and mess-rooms for these troops are about to be constructed. The officers' quarters are similar in construction to those of the men, and in very poor condition. The guard-room is 16 by 20 feet, with three grated windows and no fireplace, and affords scarcely 300 cubic feet air space per man.

The corrals are stockades near the cavalry quarters. The water is of excellent quality and supplied from wells by means of a force-pump. The building used as a hospital was originally erected in 1864, as the quarters of the commanding officer, District of Arizona. It is a strong structure of hewn pine, floored, ceiled, and plastered, well lighted, with ridge ventilation, and warmed by open fireplaces and stoves. It can accommodate twenty-four patients, giving each 800 cubic feet of air space, but its average occupation is but fourteen. It has a kitchen, 12 by 12 feet, a mess-room, 12 by 16 feet, a dispensary, 16 by 16 feet, and store-room, 12 by 12 feet, with furnishings complete, and in excellent condition. The bath and wash room has the water supplied from tanks, and the waste water carried off by lead pipes. It is situated on an elevated ridge, about midway between the post and the town, with some shade trees around it. The drainage is natural, toward the bed of the creek. A garden of three acres adjoins the building, and is cultivated by the convalescents.

One great objection to this hospital is its distance from the post, and, among other things, the consequent labor required to keep the tanks supplied by the water-wagons. There is no ambulance at the post. One wheeled litter and Army wagons are the only transportation for the sick. Supplies are obtained yearly from the Assistant Medical Purveyor in San Francisco.

The ration issued is generally of good quality, and of the regulation allowance and variety. There are no company or post gardens, so that the vegetables obtained by the men are very limited in quantity, and mostly by personal purchases, as the company savings amount to little or nothing.

The market price of vegetables is 20 cents per pound. Milk, butter, eggs, and chickens are very rare articles of diet in this, as in other parts of the Territory, and are sold at high prices. It is expected that some of the land on the reservation will be laid out during the coming season as company gardens, so that scurvy, which has frequently appeared among the men, may be prevented in future. The cavalry companies have suffered considerably from sickness on account of the lack of fresh vegetables, their frequent absences from the post, placing them on a poorer ration, the hard riding, want of sleep, and exposure on scouts, and the poor quarters to which, until recently, they have had to return for rest. In addition to scurvy, and its frequent accompaniment, diarrhoea, intermittent and remittent fevers are the only diseases prevalent at the post and its vicinity.

The hostile Indians are tribes of Apaches on the east, and the Hualapais on the west. They are very active in their hostility, attacks upon settlements in the neighborhood or on travelers on the roads being of constant occurrence.

Statement showing mean strength, number of sick, and principal diseases at Camp Whipple, Arizona Territory, for the years 1868 and 1869.

Years.	Mean strength.	Whole number taken sick.	Malarial fevers.	Diarrhoea and dysentery.	Tonsillitis.	Veneral diseases.	Scurvy.	Rheumatism.	Phthisis.	Catarrhal affections.*	No. of deaths.
1868	163	353	87	60	1	20	31	39	4	40	1
1869	206.25	188	33	36	2	18	24	1	15

* Include laryngitis, bronchitis, pneumonia, and pleurisy.

CAMP McDOWELL, ARIZONA TERRITORY.

INFORMATION FURNISHED BY ASSISTANT SURGEONS CHARLES SMART AND C. DEWITT, UNITED STATES ARMY.

This post is situated on the west bank of the Verde, about eight miles above its junction with the Salt River, in latitude $33^{\circ} 40'$ north, and longitude $111^{\circ} 40'$ west, at an elevation of 1,800 feet above the sea-level. It is 45 miles north of the Maricopa and Pimo villages, and the same distance southwest of Camp Reno. It is reached by steamer from San Francisco to San Diego, California, thence by mail stage via Yuma to Maricopa Wells, from which place a weekly mail is carried north to the post. The Indians have seldom interfered with this mail route, but the rising of the Colorado in Southern California frequently delays the transmission of the mails, and the floods of the Gila and Salt River have cut the post off from communication with the outside world for three and four weeks at a time. Letters usually reach San Francisco in fifteen days, and Washington, by the eastern route in twenty-five. This part of the Rio Verde basin is surrounded by mountains; the high line of the Mazatsal peaks on the east, 20 miles distant; a lower range, to which no name has been applied, 15 miles distant on the west; the numerous low peaks from which the river issues on the north, and the grotesquely abrupt mountains of the Salt River country on the south. On both sides of the Verde, near the post, the mesa rises almost from the water's edge, becoming more and more broken by deep and narrow ravines, until it blends with the foot-hills of the mountain ranges on the east and west. The river is thus well confined, and its bottom lands free from marshes. The strip of easily irrigated bottom land is very narrow, yet much good soil could be reclaimed by irrigation from large acequias. Cottonwood, willow, and elder grow along its banks, tangled frequently by grape-vines, which yield a small acid fruit. Mesquite, ironwood, palo-verde, artemisia, and species of *opuntia* and *cereus* cover the mesa, in some parts even rendering it impassable; the more open parts furnish indifferent grazing. Scrub and live-oak, and pine of large growth are found on the Mazatsal, but the building timber is almost all in inaccessible situations. Quail and rabbits are abundant on the mesa, and deer are found in the mountains, but less frequently than in the more northern portion of the Territory. Coyotes, rattlesnakes, scorpions, lizards, centipedes, and tarantulas, are to be met with here as in other parts. The soil is dry and porous, and well drained by its decided slope toward the ravines.

Some remains of Aztec civilization are found in this part of the country. The ruins of a large and complex structure existed on the site selected for the post, but it is now almost destroyed, as its stones were used by the troops in constructing temporary shelters and laying foundations for some of the post buildings. It was built of washed stones from the river bed, and although the highest portion of its ruined wall did not exceed three feet, the ground plan was perfectly preserved. Another such is situated on a knoll at the southern border of the reservation. Again, where the road to Maricopa Wells crosses the Salt River some large acequias are to be seen, which at a former period must have irrigated many miles of adjacent country. Another system of acequias which, in former times, irrigated the country near the mouth of this river, has recently been cleared out in part, and a thriving settlement, named Phenix, established by American and Mexican settlers. Stone hammers and hatchets, and washed rocks, with rude pictorial and hieroglyphic etchings, are sometimes discovered near these ruins. Fragments of painted pottery are very common.

The post was established in 1865, by five companies of California volunteers, as a point from which to operate against, or treat with, the Indians of the neighboring mountains. The reservation taken up measured, from the center of the parade ground, three miles north and south and two miles east and west. This included the greater part of the arable land in the immediate neighborhood. Building was immediately commenced and continued until early in 1866, when the essential part of the post was finished. One hundred and fifty acres of the bottom land were then cleared for cultivation, water being brought to it by an acequia from a point four miles up the river. This labor was performed by the garrison, then consisting of three companies of the Fourteenth Infantry, who had been sent to relieve the California troops, but the subsequent working of this "Government farm" was by employes of the Quartermaster Department. After this it was leased to certain

citizens, under contract to produce grain for the quartermaster and cavalry animals, and furnish the same to Government at a given figure. This system is still in operation. Of the grounds ten acres were reserved by the troops as a post garden. Corn, sorghum, beans, tomatoes, beets, radishes, and melons grew well, but potatoes and onions did not thrive. Grape cuttings from Los Angeles were placed in the soil, but proved a failure, possibly from imperfect preservation during their journey.

After the construction of the buildings and preparation of the grounds for farming, the military history of the post consists of a record of scouting expeditions against the Indians, occasional parleys concerning cessation of hostilities, and the escort, fatigue, and guard details necessary at an exposed frontier post. Some portions of the command, chiefly F, Fourteenth, and A, Thirty-second Infantry, were employed during the winter of 1867-'68 in building a wagon-road through a pass in the Mazatsal range to a point on Tonto Creek, where an outpost, Camp Reno, was established and held. This creek is also tributary to the Salt River, which it joins at the southeastern base of the Mazatsal. The valley is very fertile and affords good grazing, but no settlers have yet ventured into it. Many old ruins are found in it, and remains of acequias, marking its former cultivation.

The climate is warm and dry. Although the thermometer in the day-time in summer may show a high degree of heat, the nights are commonly not oppressive. Thunder clouds from the mountains drop a heavy passing shower once or twice a month. In winter the rains are lighter, though of much longer duration. Snow falls on the mountains, but not on the mesa. For the year ending June 30, 1869, the average temperature was 69.46° F., the extremes being 25° and 114°. Difference between wet and dry bulbs, 7.68°. The winds are variable and light, except when immediately preceding a thunder storm.

The post as planned and built in 1865 consisted of a parade ground, 525 by 435 feet, with its center one-third of a mile from the margin of the river, and 50 feet higher than its level. This height, attained by gradual rise of the ground, gives, with the aid of some shallow trenching, a very efficient surface drainage. The buildings were arranged along the sides of the parade ground as follows: On the west and furthest from the river the quarters of the commanding officer, a comparatively large square building, with a hall and two rooms on either side. The house is shaded by brush awnings, and has in rear, fenced in, a small yard as a site for the necessary outbuildings. On the south a line of quarters for officers; four houses facing the parade, each divided into four rather small rooms. A kitchen was afterward attached to the rear of each of these buildings. Two adjoining rooms in this line are used as a post adjutant's office. On the north, immediately opposite the officers' quarters, four sets of company barracks; with their gables toward the parade. Each is 187 by 24 feet, and is divided by transverse partitions into two dormitories and four smaller rooms, for use respectively as kitchen, mess-hall, office, and store-room for company property. The hospital was placed on the west, and the quartermaster's store, bakery, and sutler's store on the east of this column of barrack buildings, and separated from them by broad streets. On the east the guard-house, ordnance store-house, and house for the preservation of fresh meat for issue. Outside of these lines of buildings were the corrals, of high, close-set upright posts, on the southeast, and the laundresses' quarters, of primitive looking adobe huts on the north. The sinks, still further north, were deep trenches, inclosed by a thick wall of willow and cottonwood branches. Dry earth is used as a deodorant. At its establishment this post was intended to be the largest and most solidly built in the Territory. For ornaments and future shade a line of cottonwood saplings were planted at short intervals along the sides of the parade ground, and were watered assiduously for two years, during which time they flourished and promised well, but after this they showed signs of decline, in spite of the attention paid to them, and so came to be neglected. All the buildings were of adobe, with earthen floors, mud roofs, and open fireplaces. The roofs were flat, and had mud, sand, and lime cement laid over *seguara* ribs, which in turn were supported by cottonwood timbers. These timbers, or *vigas*, raised the roof from 8 to 10 inches above the wall, and so left ample space for ventilation. But, however carefully built by the California troops, the buildings proved unequal to the heavy washing showers of the summer, and the penetrating rains of the winter months. The roofs leaked almost from their first exposure, and the walls cracked and washed away in place after place, until, in spite of constant repairs, many of the houses became almost untenable. Three of the barrack buildings are now abandoned. The fourth is still occupied.