

American Civil War Guerrilla Tactics

Osprey Elite series No. 174 (2009)

By Sean McLachlan; illustrated by Gerry and Sam Embleton

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Comments:

A really excellent book this. It has a bit of history and context, some discussion of weapons and organisation, leaders and activities of guerrillas ó distinction is clearly drawn between irregulars ó from cavalry raiders (part of the army), through partisan rangers (semi-autonomous irregulars who enjoyed some level of recognition from the army), to guerrillas (who were recognised by no one and did pretty well as they pleased). The emphasis is very much on Confederate irregulars.

The sorts of operations conducted by irregulars and the tactics they adopted are all well described and this takes up about a third of the book.

I found this topic fascinating in its own right as I knew relatively little about it and I would recommend the book on that basis alone. But the most interesting thing for me was the øWild Westø character of the actions ó there is so much potential here for skirmish games using ACW cavalry (rarely used in my øproperø ACW games) and Wild West figures (also rarely used outside of Hollywood gunfight type games).

--Paul Le Long

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Guerrilla Tactics



SEAN McLACHLAN

ILLUSTRATED BY G & S EMBLETON

Editorial Reviews. Review. "American Civil War Guerrilla Tactics does provide a comprehensive introductory summary to the conduct of irregular warfare worthy of a prospective buyer's consideration, with some anecdotes and examples from both sides." - Civil War Books and Authors (November 2009). Read more. About the Author. Sean McLachlan worked for ten years as an archaeologist before becoming a full-time writer. He has published several books on history and travel and divides his time between Missouri, England and Spain. This book looks at how guerillas operated during the Civil War. Both sides had forces "behind the lines," with men who disagreed with the side their respective state chose. They attacked enemy targets, including people, when possible. Their tactics including robbing banks and trains, kidnapping soldiers and civilians, rustling cattle, and cutting telegraph lines. In fact, it is during the violence of the war that many of America's future outlaw legends would be born, most notably Cole Younger and Frank and Jesse James. In this book, new Osprey author Sean McLachlan explores the varied and often daring tactics employed by these famous warriors. Pre-war raids: 'Bleeding Kansas' Early operations 1861-62 The Partisan Ranger Act, 1862-64 - expansion of bands & operations Organization & leadership Weapons & Tactics Guerrillas and the Civil Populations Guerrillas and the Regular Armies Impact of Guerrilla Warfare The War after the War - the James and Younger brothers.