



Regular Army O!: Soldiering On The Western Frontier, 1865-1891.

By McChristian, Douglas C. With A Foreword By Robert M. Utley.

University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 2017. Hardcover. Condition: New. 768 pages. Hardcover with dustjacket. New book. MILITARY HISTORY. "The drums they roll, upon my soul, for that's the way we go," runs the chorus in a Harrigan and Hart song from 1874. "Forty miles a day on beans and hay in the Regular Army O!" The last three words of that lyric aptly title Douglas C. McChristian's remarkable work capturing the lot of soldiers posted to the West after the Civil War. At once panoramic and intimate, Regular Army O! uses the testimony of enlisted soldiers—drawn from more than 350 diaries, letters, and memoirs—to create a vivid picture of life in an evolving army on the western frontier. After the volunteer troops that had garrisoned western forts and camps during the Civil War were withdrawn in 1865, the regular army replaced them. In actions involving American Indians between 1866 and 1891, 875 of these soldiers were killed, mainly in minor skirmishes, while many more died of disease, accident, or effects of the natural environment. What induced these men to enlist for five years and to embrace the grim prospect of combat is one of the enduring questions this book explores....



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