

American Civil War Guerrilla Tactics

Osprey Elite series No. 174 (2009)

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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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