American Civil War Guerrilla Tactics
Osprey Elite series No. 174 (2009)
By Sean McLachlan; illustrated by Gerry and Sam Embleton

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The Irregulars' War
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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’ distinction is clearly drawn between irregulars’ 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 'Wild West' character of the actions — there is so much potential here for skirmish games using ACW cavalry (rarely used in my 'proper ACW games') and Wild West figures (also rarely used outside of Hollywood gunfight type games).

--Paul Le Long
American Civil War
Guerrilla Tactics

SEAN MULACHAN
ILLUSTRATED BY G & S EMBLETON
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).

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. He has a special interest in the understudied Trans-Mississippi theater of the American Civil War. The main strategy and tactics of guerrilla warfare tend to involve the use of a small attacking, mobile force against a large, unwieldy force. The guerrilla force is largely or entirely organized in small units that are dependent on the support of the local population. Tactically, the guerrilla army makes the repetitive attacks far from the opponent's center of gravity with a view to keeping its own casualties to a minimum and imposing a constant debilitating strain on the enemy. This may provoke the enemy to respond with their own 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.