

The Medal Of Honor In Arizona's Pioneer Days

By Philip J. Webster

...In September 1881, troops returning to Fort Apache under the command of Col. E.A. Carr after the Battle of Cibicu Creek were greeted by the sight of a fort surrounded by the Apaches. Private First Class William C. Barnes, the signal corps telegrapher stationed at the fort volunteered to go for help when he was unable to get a message through on telegraph wires which had been cut by the Indians. Permission was granted, and he and another man—a scout—set out by different trails for the nearest fort. Barnes managed to sneak his way through the Indian encampment to bring back the much-needed help. In the meantime, the scout had been brutally tortured and killed by the Apaches. Barnes received his Medal of Honor a year later, and after completing his enlistment as a sergeant, went into the cattle business in the Southwest....