

Lesson 11  
READ THIS STORY #1, Advanced

## Fort Ruby

Visitors to old military posts are often surprised that they were established in such desolate places. Although there was enough water to sustain a regiment, these posts were often short of men, of timber for buildings, and of level land on which to erect barracks and officers' quarters.

The men were there to guard the territories so that stagecoaches and mail wagons could pass through without being robbed.

Fort Ruby, halfway between Salt Lake City, Utah, and Carson City, Nevada, was the worst post of all. It was more than one hundred miles from the nearest settlement. There was very little lumber and hardly any grass for the animals.

Duty at the post was dreary and boring. The first act of one commander sent to the garrison was to give himself six months of vacation. The men even offered to forgo back pay if the Secretary of War would order them to serve in the Civil War.

The fort was finally closed in 1869 when the railroad began carrying the mail.