

PROTECTION OF THE FRONTIER OF TEXAS.

LETTER

FROM THE.

SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING, IN COMPLIANCE WITH

*A resolution of the House, copies of correspondence between the officers of the United States Government and Governor Runnels, and similar correspondence between the Secretary of War and General Twiggs.*

JANUARY 6, 1859.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 6, 1859.*

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 23d ultimo, requesting "copies of all the correspondence in this department between the officers of the government of the United States and Governor Runnels, of Texas," and, "also, similar correspondence between the Secretary of War and General Twiggs," I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of the papers referred to, so far as the same are in possession of this department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. J. L. ORR,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*List of papers accompanying letter of the Secretary of War, January 6, 1858.*

- No. 1. General Twiggs to Army Headquarters, January 13, 1858, enclosing letter from Governor Runnels, January 9, and reply, January 13.
- No. 2. Governor Runnels to Messrs. Bryan and Reagan, January 15, enclosing letters from Lieutenant Frost, January 8; Lieutenant Carmack, January 7; and Mr. Forbes, January 13.

- No. 3. Joint resolution of Texas legislature, January 16.
- No. 4. General Twiggs to Army Headquarters, January 20, enclosing letters from Mr. Neighbors, to Indian office, January 19.
- No. 5. Same to same, January 30.
- No. 6. Joint resolution of Texas legislature, January 29.
- No. 7. Governor Runnels to General Twiggs, February 2, enclosing instructions to Captain Ford, January 28.
- No. 8. General Twiggs to Governor Runnels, February 7.
- No. 9. Acting Governor Anderson to the President, March 20.
- No. 10. Secretary of War to Acting Governor Anderson, April 19.
- No. 11. General Twiggs to the Adjutant General, June 2, enclosing report from Captain Ford to Governor Runnels, May 22, with enclosure from Lieutenant Nelson.
- No. 12. Same to Army Headquarters, July 6.
- No. 13. General-in-Chief to General Twiggs, July 22.
- No. 14. General Twiggs to Army Headquarters, July 27.
- No. 15. Same to the Adjutant General, August 9, enclosing letter to Army Headquarters, August 4.
- No. 16. Adjutant General to General Twiggs, July 24, forwarding letter from General-in-Chief to same, July 22.
- No. 17. Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War, July 10, enclosing his letter to General Twiggs, July 9.
- No. 18. Same to same, August 9, enclosing report of Captain Ford July 5.
- No. 19. Same to same, August 12.
- No. 20. Secretary of War to Governor Runnels, August 28.
- No. 21. General Twiggs to Army Headquarters, August 24, enclosing letter from Captain Prince, August 9.
- No. 22. Same to same, September 17, enclosing letters from Agent Leeper, August 31, and Lieutenant Van Camp, September 2.
- No. 23. Same to same, October 7.
- No. 24. Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War, October 8, enclosing his letter to Colonel Bourland, October 4, and statement of expenses incurred by the State for protection against Indians.
- No. 25. General Twiggs to Army Headquarters, October 18, enclosing letters from Major Van Dorn, September 26, Captain Whiting, October 2, Captain Prince, October 3, with enclosures, and Major Van Dorn, October 5.
- No. 26. Same to same, October 22.
- No. 27. General-in-Chief to General Twiggs, November 9.
- No. 28. Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War, October 27, enclosing letter from Colonel Bourland, October 18.
- No. 29. General Twiggs to Army Headquarters, October 30, enclosing letter from Governor Runnels, October 27.
- No. 30. Same to same, November 1, enclosing letter from Major Van Dorn, October 11.
- No. 31. General-in-Chief to General Twiggs, November 19.

- No. 32. Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War, November —, enclosing two memorials from citizens of Cook, Wise, and Montague counties, letters from Messrs. Bishop, Palmer, and Hubert, and Captain Williams; affidavit of Windham and Willis; letters from Lieutenant Cowan and Mr. Ryan; petition of citizens of Lampasas county, and instructions to Captain Ford.
- No. 33. General Twiggs to Army Headquarters, November 15.
- No. 34. Same to same, November 18.
- No. 35. Same to same, November 26.
- No. 36. Major Van Dorn to Texas Headquarters, November 28, enclosing his orders, No. 11.
- No. 37. General Twiggs to Army Headquarters, December 8.
- No. 38. Same to same, December 13.

No. 1.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, January 13, 1858.*

SIR: Enclosed I herewith transmit a communication from his excellency the governor of the State of Texas, with my action in the matter and reply to the governor. Expresses will be immediately sent to the posts nearest the point where the murders and robberies are said to have been committed, to despatch such force as can be spared. It is extremely mortifying to be placed in this situation with an inadequate force.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General, U. S. Army, Com'g. Dep't.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS, *Assist. Adj't. Gen'l,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York City, N. Y.*

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
*Austin, January 9, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication, bearing date, headquarters, January 6, 1858, enclosing copies of the communications of G. R. Paul, captain of 7th infantry, and brevet major, U. S. A., dated December 18, 1857, and of Major R. S. Neighbors, dated December 9.

This office is now in possession of information as late as the 2d and 3d of January 1858, from the counties of Erath and Bosque, giving intelligence of new and additional depredations on that frontier; since the date of the communications you have been pleased to enclose, several citizens and one negro have been murdered, a boy has been taken into captivity and a large amount of property stolen. The frontier citizens are under arms and the highest degree of excitement

prevails. Of the one hundred men which have been called out by the State, there is one company of twenty stationed in that immediate vicinity, but owing to the vast extent of country exposed and the smallness of their numbers, they have been found inadequate for its protection.

I therefore beg leave, respectfully, to request that you will cause such mounted force as you may be able to spare from other service, to be removed to that frontier, and if you have not such disposable force that you will authorize the raising of two or three companies of mounted men by the authorities of the State, for three or six months as circumstances may require, with as little delay as possible, in order to meet the existing emergency.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

H. R. RUNNELS.

D. E. TWIGGS, *Brev't. Maj. Gen'l U. S. A., Com'g. Dep't.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, January 13, 1858.*

SIR: Yours of the 9th of January is received. An express will be sent immediately to the posts of Fort Mason and Camps Cooper and Colorado to send a portion of their command in pursuit.

I regret to say I am not authorized to call for volunteers, and can only employ the force now at my disposal.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General, United States Army,  
Commanding Department*

His excellency the GOVERNOR OF TEXAS,  
*Austin, Texas.*

No. 2.—*Governor Runnels to Messrs. Bryan and Reagan.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
*Austin, January 15, 1858,*

SIRS: I have the honor to enclose you herewith copies of reports from two of the lieutenants in command of companies on the frontier, including a statement of Colonel Forbes, of Nacogdoches, who is just now from that frontier.

I have addressed General Twiggs, requesting aid, but have not yet received an answer.

By all means you should press action on the government, if it is intended to afford us that protection which the exposed condition of our frontier demands.

I am, sirs, very respectfully,

H. R. RUNNELS.

Messrs. GUY M. BRYAN and J. H. REAGAN.

COMANCHE COUNTY, TEXAS,  
Cora, January 8, A. D. 1858.

SIR: In accordance with the conditions of my instructions as lieutenant of Coryell and Comanche county company, I herewith transmit my official report, which was due a few days since, but uncontrollable circumstances have prevented me from making it until the present.

After the organization of the company I proceeded in a northwestern direction from this place, up the Leon river, on a regular scout; passed up and on the western side of the same for the distance of fifteen miles; thence north twenty miles; thence west twenty-five miles, striking Pecan bayou at the northern extremity of what is known as the Narrows, a defile in the mountains, which has, from all appearances, recently been a general rendezvous for thieving parties of Indians.

We examined this place carefully and with much toil, and no direct success. I then passed down said stream some twenty miles, where an express reached me from the eastern portion of Comanche county, informing me that a band of Indians were in said county collecting all the most valuable horses, property of the county, destroying every kind of stock, murdering and capturing our citizens. I hurried to the point, but found that Lieutenant Carmack and several volunteer citizens were in pursuit of them too far distant for me to reach or overtake them.

This party of Indians came down on the eastern side of Leon river into Comanche county, killed two of our most worthy citizens, wounded seriously and left as dead one valuable negro man and killed another, took a boy prisoner, and have with them a lady supposed to be taken from some family on the Leon river. They have destroyed property of great value and carried with them some hundred and fifty head of horses. They passed out of this county into Bosque, thence through Erath into Palo Pinto in a direct course for the reservation, and I would state that from a number of conspiring evidences it is almost proved that if the Indians on the reservations are not the aggressors, they are unquestionably concerned in the numerous and recent atrocities.

Major Neighbors has been petitioned time and again by our citizens to give some attention to the affair, and they have only received curses, threats, insults, and renewed outrages. The charge may be untrue in toto; but it does seem that no evil could accrue from an investigation of the matter, and I would therefore modestly suggest its consideration to your excellency.

Our citizens are terrified, and our country in consequence gradually depopulating, and unless we get further security the emigration will decrease; in short, our country will be ruined for the present without further assurance of safety.

I have under my command only twenty men, and a country of fifty miles in extent to range. I cannot promise security with such a number of men, though I shall use every exertion in my power. Again, the Indians have taken the last horses from Brown county, just west of us, and have now attacked this, the next county, and

their whole attention will be directed to this county until we are robbed of our last horses, and many of our best citizens murdered. I am not unaware of the fact that affright and selfishness frequently produce many complaints, and would not murmur if there was not the greatest necessity for it.

I submit the facts to your consideration, and earnestly solicit whatever of assistance can be given me. The Indians are daily expected by our terrified citizens, and consequently I shall hold my men in perfect readiness. All of which is most respectfully submitted.

THOMAS C. FROST,

*Lieutenant in command.*

His excellency H. R. RUNNELS.

#### HEADQUARTERS OF LIEUTENANT THOMAS R. CARMACK.

SIR: I herewith transmit to your excellency, my official report, as lieutenant of the ranging company of Erath and Palo Pinto counties. I hereby notify you that I have been out on the lookout for Indians, ever since my last report to you. I received notice the Indians were in the settlements stealing horses. I immediately started to intercept the Indians on their return, but falling in ahead of the Indians, and before we could examine other points and get back, the Indians had passed the point where we had first examined, and we then pursued after them, but having to pass through a boggy portion of the country, our horses became so much exhausted that we were unable to overtake the Indians, and I discovered that they pushed the horses very hard after they had found my ranger's horses trail. I am satisfied they had men and fresh horses placed along upon the trail, to help them push the horses through. I think there should be at least three hundred men put upon the frontier, and I would be glad to have an order to fill out my company a full company. There was, as near as could be ascertained, about 125 or 150 head of horses taken, valuable American horses, besides valuable cattle killed and not used, besides what they did use. They also killed some good citizens, three are known to be killed, on the highway, and one boy, 13 or 14 years old taken prisoner, and taken off; also, a woman is supposed to be taken on the Leon river; one valuable negro man was wounded.

I will make a more full report in a few days, as I am in great haste in making this out. I send it by Colonel John Forbes, as he is en route for Austin, this 7th day of January, A. D., 1858.

THOMAS R. CARMACK,

*Lieutenant of Ranging Company.*

His excellency, the GOVERNOR OF TEXAS.

AUSTIN, *January 13, 1857.*

The undersigned respectfully represents that sometime in December last a marauding band of Indians entered the counties of Palo Pinto, Erath, Comanche, and Bosque on another foray. They appear to have

separated into three parties, one of which was in the immediate vicinity of Stephenville, Erath county, on the 30th day of December last, and in a very bold and audacious manner stole and drove off from thence a number of valuable horses. Another party, on the same day, acted upon the settlements on Resley's creek, some twenty miles southeast of Stephenville, and stole the horses of Mr. Turnbolt, Barbee, and others. They also shot some seven or eight arrows into the body of Barbee's negro, and left him for dead, but it is supposed that the negro will recover. A citizen of the name of Isaac Bean, living on the waters of Resley's creek, and his negro man was barbarously murdered by them on the same day; and the next day a Mr. Johnson, a well known citizen, who was driving his wagon on the public road from Meridian, accompanied by his son, a lad of about ten years old, was also murdered by them; his little boy was missing, and supposed to be taken prisoner; and it is said that an American female has been taken a prisoner and carried off by them. A third party ranged in the neighborhood of Meridian. The Indians, after collecting some 150 head of the best horses in these several settlements, reunited again and herded about eight miles west of Stephenville, on the waters of South Bosque; from thence they took up the divide between the waters of Barton's creek and the North Leon, crossing the head waters of the Palo Pinto and Joni; and from thence their broad trail continued in the direction of the Indian reserve, on the Clear Fork of the Brazos river.

The citizens of Stephenville and its vicinity went immediately in pursuit of the Indians, and followed on their trail over 100 miles but could not overtake them, and finally had to abandon their unsuccessful pursuit. The undersigned, who was travelling through the before-mentioned districts at the time these occurrences took place, has been requested by their inhabitants to place before your excellency the great losses they have sustained and the injuries inflicted upon them by this band of lawless savages, and of their great apprehension of a repetition of the same or greater calamities. They therefore pray your excellency to adopt the most prompt and vigorous measures to prevent the recurrence of Indian incursions by an efficient defence of the frontier and for the protection of the lives and property of your fellow-citizens.

The undersigned has the honor of handing to you the official reports of Lieut. Thomas C. Frost, (an active and intelligent officer,) of Comanche county, and of Lieut. Thomas R. Carmack, of Erath county, relating to the above matters.

All of which is respectfully submitted by your obedient servant,  
JOHN FORBES.

His Excellency H. R. RUNNELS,  
*Governor of Texas.*



No. 3.—*Joint resolution instructing our senators and requesting our representatives in Congress on the subject of Indian spoliations.*

Whereas certain Indians located by the United States upon territory adjacent to that of the State of Texas have, at various times, made descents upon citizens of this State, committing robberies and other crimes; and whereas it is the duty of the general government to furnish protection against the assaults of the Indians, and that that government is consequently liable to indemnify the sufferers in such cases: Therefore—

*Be it resolved by the legislature of the State of Texas,* That our senators in Congress are requested, and our representatives requested to call the attention of the general government to the frequent recurring depredations committed by Indians, and to urge the adoption of a more adequate system of protection against them.

*Be it further resolved,* That our senators be further requested, and our representatives requested, to assist those of our citizens whose property may have been stolen or destroyed by the Indians aforesaid to enforce their claims for indemnity against the general government in such manner as to them may seem meet and most effective.

*Be it further resolved,* That the governor is hereby requested to transmit copies of these resolutions to our senators and representatives, and to the President and Secretary of War of the United States.

Approved January 16, 1858.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Austin, Texas, January 23, 1858.*

I, the undersigned, secretary of state of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a correct copy of the original joint resolution on file in this department.

Given under my hand and the seal of the department of state the day and year first above written.

T. S. ANDERSON,  
*Secretary of State.*

[L. s.]

No. 4.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, January 20, 1858.*

SIR: Enclosed herewith I transmit a copy of the Indian agent's report to the superintendent of Indian affairs. By it you will perceive he has attributed the robberies, murders, and thefts in Texas to parties of Indians who in summer receive, on the Arkansas river, presents of arms and ammunition. The agent (Major Neighbor) represents those Indians to be Comanches, Kioways, and Kickapoo, and to be the depredators on the Texas frontier, and are the same



Indians that receive arms and ammunition on the Arkansas river. One of the guns I have in my possession. As I do not understand the policy of the government in arming those Indians who, it is notoriously known to be those that are harassing the Texas frontier, I do not complain of it, but think 't strange that such things are. The losses for the last six months on the frontier are estimated at six hundred horses, some six or eight of the inhabitants killed, and other property destroyed amounting to \$60,000 or \$100,000.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Bvt. Major General U. S. A., Commanding Dep't.*

Lieut. Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A.,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York city.*

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS,

January 17, 1858.

SIR: Owing to the want of mail facilities, I have been compelled to delay my usual quarterly reports until my arrival at this point.

In my last report, soon after my arrival at Brazos agency, I called your attention to the very serious Indian depredations committed on our citizens residing on the waters of the Brazos and Colorado rivers, about 150 miles below the Indian agencies, in which I notified you that a large portion of the depredations and murders, viz, the murder of the two Kenfros, had been traced to the Kickapoos, and that they had stolen a large number of horses. It appears by after investigations that the horses stolen from Mr. Mullens, near the mouth of Pecan bayou, and the murder of Mr. Davis, is attributable to a band of northern Comanches, (viz, Noconees and Kioways.) They stole from Comanche reserve and the citizens in the neighborhood, about the same time, about fifty head of horses. Ka-tem-e-see, principal chief, sent a small party to follow the trail, who went into their camp on the middle fork of Red river; but they refused to return the horses, although the party saw several of the horses that were stolen near the reserve. They arrived in their camp at that time with one hundred and ten head of stolen horses. Major Van Dorn, with a large force, followed the trail of those horses as far as the Canadian river, but failed to overtake them, they having travelled from 75 to 100 miles between camps from the time they left the settlements until they crossed the line of the State of Texas. He stated in his official report that there was evidence found at several points to prove that they were Kioways; and I have full proof, through the Indians at Comanche agency, that the Comanches were with them.

A party of our citizens with the second An-ah-dah-ko chief followed the trail of the horses stolen on the waters of the Leon, a branch of the Brazos, and in addition to the description of the dress by those who saw them, several articles were found on the trail which convinced the An-ah-dah-kos fully that the Kickapoos were the parties

who murdered the two Kenfros and stole the horses from that neighborhood.

On the 2d day of January, another party of eight or ten Comanches and Kioways were seen passing within eight miles of Comanche agency with about 50 head of stolen horses, who stated to the reserve Indian who saw them that they had got the horses from the Leon, near the head of Bosque. The weather was so unfavorable, there having been a very heavy fall of snow during the night after they passed, that they could not be followed. On the 5th of January, on my way down, I learned that they, the Indians, had attacked the house of a Mr. Johnson, killed him, one other man, a negro man, and carried his son into captivity; and I learn, from various sources, that there have been, during the past three months, a number of other minor depredations, and I am fully convinced that they can all be traced to the same parties, viz: Kickapoos, Kioways, and the middle or more northern Comanches; and in no case, although the subject has been as fully investigated as it was possible to do, can I trace any connexion between these depredatory parties and the Indians settled on the reserves, but in all cases I have found them willing to give what information they could obtain and assist as far as possible in protecting the frontier against those outside bands, who have been engaged in the latter depredations, and there can be adduced from the Comanche reserve, positive proof to convict the middle Comanche bands, viz: No-co-nees and Ten-a-wish, who inhabit the region near the Wichita mountains, and the Kioways, with the depredations traced to them, and from the An-ah-dah-kos and other Indians, together with the evidences of a number of our most respectable citizens, to convict the Kickapoos, who reside somewhere on the borders of the Creek nation near the Canadian fork of the Arkansas, of the murder of Mr. Skidmore in 1855, and of the depredations lately traced to them, viz: The killing of the two Mr. Kenfros, and the stealing of a large number of the horses taken from the Leon fork of the Brazos river.

To sum up, the whole on investigation shows that there have been stolen and driven off from our frontier since the 1st of November about 600 head of horses, and that seven persons have been killed or captured by Indians in same time, viz: one Mr. Davis, two Messrs. Kenfro, two Messrs. Johnson and man, one Mr. Johnson's negro, and one Mr. Johnson's son taken captive. The amount of property destroyed and driven off is estimated by our citizens at at least \$60,000, without taking into consideration the lives that have been sacrificed.

This subject requires your serious consideration, and absolutely demands that you should inquire into the causes that have produced a state of things so contrary to the usual peace and quiet that has prevailed on our frontier for the last three years or since the establishment of the reservations and the settlement of the Indians proper of Texas. In order to save a repetition and the necessity of extending this report, I beg leave, most respectfully, to refer you to the views and suggestions contained in my several reports in regard to the Indians bordering on our frontier, "their starving condition," &c.,

&c., and the absolute impossibility of preventing an annual recurrence of the serious inroads made upon our exposed frontier settlers and their property until the general government should procure them a permanent home, supply their actual necessities, and place them under proper control.

You will find this subject discussed in every annual report that I have made since I have had the honor of being an agent of the general government, and I must be permitted here to say that the late depredations are attributable more particularly to the fact that the government has entirely failed in making suitable provisions for those bands of Indians and placing them under proper control, when the Indians themselves have repeatedly agreed to the measure, than to any failure on the part of the Indian agents of Texas or the military authorities to perform faithfully the duties intrusted to them.

By the treaty made with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians a large reserve was obtained, and Congress, at its last session, appropriated fifty thousand dollars to settle those bands of Indians on that reserve. In March last that subject was brought fully before your department, and ample reasons urged by the representatives of Texas, at Washington, why that measure should be at once consummated; but up to the present time I can hear of no measures that have been adopted for the control of those Indian bands by the superintendent and agent to whom that duty was assigned, or of relieving the Texas frontier from a recurrence of the serious depredations that have been committed this fall.

The consequence is that the agents of Texas are liable to continual censure by the citizens of the State, the friendly Indians on the reserves brought into jeopardy, and unless measures are adopted at an early date to relieve our frontier from the forays of the depredating bands it will be impossible to prevent the people of Texas from making an indiscriminate war upon the Indians, that will endanger the peace of our whole frontier.

There are now settled down at Brazos agency 1,012 Indians, and at Comanche agency 381 Comanches. Is it better to maintain those Indians under good control in their present condition, when they are in a fair way to subsist themselves, and are rapidly advancing in the arts of civilized life? or shall they again be driven to their former roving and predatory habits because other Indian bands on our borders are unrestrained and permitted to depredate at pleasure? This will be the inevitable result if measures are not at once adopted to arrest the depredators and protect the whites from their frequent forays; and as Congress has apparently placed the necessary means at the disposition of your department, I can see no good reason why measures have not ere this been adopted for that purpose. Although your department has been notified frequently that the northern bands of Comanches, Kioways, &c., were hostile, and, in addition to their attacks on our frontier settlers, rendering our roads across the State to El Paso unsafe for travellers, as well as the transportation of the mails, they have received their annual presents at Fort Atkinson, amongst which was a portion of arms and ammunition, thus arming

them the better for their attacks. It is certainly time that this policy should be abandoned, and active military measures adopted to coerce those hostile bands into subjection, and to force them to abandon their predatory habits; and I would again urge this subject upon your immediate attention.

As it appears clear that all the Indian depredations this fall have been committed by Indians who do not properly belong to the State but intruders from the United States Indian Territories, our citizens are preparing their papers, and claims will be urged against the general government for indemnity for the losses they have sustained.

Hoping that you will give the subject your early attention, and that measures will be immediately adopted to relieve our frontier from those hostile attacks,

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. S. NEIGHBORS,  
*Supervising Agent Texas Indians*

CHARLES E. MIX, Esq.,  
*Acting Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.*

No. 5.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, January 30, 1858.*

SIR: Herewith is transmitted an account of Indian depredations near and south of Belknap. All the disposable force of cavalry from camp Verde, Fort Mason, camps Colorado and Cooper have been ordered to that part of Texas, leaving other portions of the frontier in some measure unprotected. That is all I can do with the present force. This is the first time in a number of years that the Indians have committed depredations in that vicinity.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,  
*Bvt. Major General U. S. A., Commanding Dep't.*  
Lieut. Colonel L. THOMAS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General,  
Headquarters of the Army, New York city.*

[From the Austin Intelligencer.]

THE INDIANS.—Captain John H. Conner, who had been appointed by Governor Pease to look after the recent Indian depredations, came to town yesterday and made a report of some skirmishes in which he had one man wounded, and killed "one Indian that he got" and perhaps one more. Five citizens of Brown county have been killed.

and 326 horses driven off. The frontiersmen are retreating to the settlements, and the greatest consternation prevails.

A meeting was held on Monday night at Smith's hotel, at which Captain Conner detailed the facts, and Colonel J. M. Adams confirmed them. Colonel Forbes Britton, General Hugh McLeod, A. J. Hamilton, and H. C. Knight, also made some stirring speeches. Enthusiastic resolutions were passed calling upon the legislature for aid.

A bill passed both branches of the legislature yesterday authorizing the governor to call out one hundred rangers for the protection of the frontier and appropriating \$70,000 for the purpose.

This is a step in the right direction. What with the Utah war and Kansas, the United States fails to afford Texas the protection necessary to save the scalps of our citizens. Let us therefore protect ourselves and charge the bill to Uncle Sam.

The legislature has nobly performed its duty; let the governor see to getting the right sort of men.

If the thing must occur, we think it fortunate that it occurred while the legislature is in session.

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#### No. 6.—*Joint Resolution.*

Whereas it is a fact ascertained to the satisfaction of the governor that the depredations committed upon the frontier citizens of this State are done chiefly by United States Indians, who enter our territory about the junction of the larger Wichita and Red rivers, near which there is no military station or post: And whereas it is believed by many well-informed citizens living on the frontier that the Comanche and other Indians who are fed by the United States, on the Texas Indian reserve, are also directly or indirectly engaged with them in their hostile forays, which is rendering the civilizing and feeding policy of the government unpopular, if not useless, which would not be so if it were efficiently carried out; therefore,

*Be it resolved by the legislature of the State of Texas,* That the governor be, and he is hereby, requested to urge upon the authorities of the federal government at Washington the great necessity of the immediate establishment of a permanent military post as near the junction of the larger Wichita and Red river as practicable, and that the Indian agents in charge of the Indians on the Texas Indian reserve be instructed to require every male Indian over the age of twelve years to be upon the reserve, under his control, every day, unless such Indian or Indians have his special written permission to be absent; and that such agents be instructed not to permit any Indian or Indians to be absent from said reservations by special permission more than three days at any one time, unless they are accompanied by some white man or men, to be sent with them by him, to prevent them from committing depredations on the citizens of the country, or communicating with other Indians not known to be at peace with Texas; or sent with white men as guides, hunters, &c.,

or sent by said agents as spies or express-bearers; and that the agents be required to enforce these instructions; and that the government furnish and keep constantly at each reserve a sufficient military force to enable the agents to carry out such instructions; and that our senators and representatives in Congress be requested to co-operate with the governor in accomplishing the objects of this resolution, and that the governor be requested to furnish each of them and the President and the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Interior of the United States with a copy of the same.

Approved January 29, 1858.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,  
*Austin, Texas, February 1, 1858.*

I, the undersigned, secretary of state of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a correct copy of the original joint resolution on file in the department of state.

Given under my hand and the seal of the department of state, the [L. S.] day and year first above written.

T. S. ANDERSON,  
*Secretary of State.*

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No. 7.—*Governor Runnels to General Twiggs.*

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
*Austin, February 2, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the instructions I have issued to Captain John S. Ford, commanding Texas frontier. In the course of a few days the additional one hundred men he has been ordered to raise will be in the field, which will augment his command to one hundred and ninety men.

In the present exposed condition of the frontier, I deem the services of these troops indispensable for the purpose of protection. In view of these facts, I tender them to the government, through you, and request that they be recognized and mustered into the service of the United States. Should this offer be declined, I request, at least that the co-operation of the officers and others under your command be secured in aiding Captain Ford in the discharge of the duties with which he is intrusted.

H. R. RUNNELS

To Brevet Major General D. E. TWIGGS,  
*Commanding Department.*

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, *January 28, 1858.*

You will take immediate command of the troops in the service of the State of Texas, called out to protect the frontier.

You will organize the one hundred additional men, to assimilate

as near as can be with the organization of volunteers in the service of the United States. When the organization is completed, you will proceed without delay to take post at some suitable point on the frontiers, and establish your headquarters. The men raised by the State will be disposed in the manner you conceive most conducive to the effective protection of the exposed frontier settlements.

In all matters pertaining to your duties as commander of the State troops, you will co-operate with the officers of the regular army, if expedient, convenient, or practicable; also with the Indian agents. The interests of the frontier require the existence of a good understanding between the officers of this State and those of the United States, as well as concert of action when it can be had without detriment to the efficiency or the good of the State service.

Of course you will not be expected to submit to any improper interference in the execution of your duties, from any quarter, yet, at the same time you are required not to intermeddle with the affairs of others in matters outside your line of duty. Your position in this respect will be one of some delicacy, but I hope your sense of duty, your desire to be useful to the State, and your judgment, will be sufficient to steer you safely through any difficulty.

I impress upon you the necessity of action and energy. Follow any and all trails of hostile or suspected hostile Indians you may discover, and if possible overtake and chastise them if unfriendly.

Your powers in regard to supplying the troops will be co-extensive with the law; any legal contract you may make in this connexion will be recognized and approved by me. As regards the details of the service, the number of pack mules, the quantity of medicine, the number of guides, &c., I cannot give you any definite instructions. The law, a just regard for economy and the public good in matters pertinent to the service, must govern you. You are clothed with the full and complete command of all the State troops now in the service, and of all to be called out in contemplation of the law of January 28, 1858—subject, of course, to my orders alone. In virtue of your commission, and my orders as commander-in-chief of the militia of Texas, all officers now in the service of the State, or to be hereafter elected, in accordance with the law of January 28, 1858, or any other law, will act in obedience to your orders until otherwise directed by me.

H. R. RUNNELS.

JOHN S. FORD,

*Senior Captain Commanding Texas Frontier.*

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No. 8.—*General Twiggs to Governor Runnels.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, February 7, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter the 2d instant, enclosing a copy of your instructions to Captain Ford, and have to say, in reply, that there is no authority by which I can accept the services of the company of State troops without first referring



the matter to the War Department; this reference will, however, be immediately made.

The commanding officers of the several posts in the section of country in which the State troops may be serving will be directed to co-operate with them as far as possible.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General, U. S. A., Commanding Department*

His excellency the GOVERNOR OF TEXAS, *Austin Texas.*

No. 9.—*Acting Governor Anderson to the President.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

*Austin, Texas, March 20, 1858.*

SIR: I have this day received information from the Hon. Guy M. Bryan, that all the military force of the United States now stationed in Texas, will probably be removed from our frontier at an early day.

I have the honor to request that your Excellency will, (in the event of the contingency alluded to,) authorize the executive of this State to call into the field, immediately, and for such a length of time as may be necessary, a force which will be adequate to the protection of the extensive frontier of Texas.

I feel that your Excellency cannot fail to perceive the absolute necessity of the course suggested. Hostile tribes of Indians have always "infested" and continue to infest the whole of the northern and western frontier of Texas, and nothing save the actual presence of an efficient military force can afford any protection or security whatever to the citizens of Texas residing on and near that border.

I deem it unnecessary to give further reasons at present for the exercise of that power with which you are vested, but most earnestly request your Excellency's prompt action in compliance with the wishes I have expressed, immediately upon the happening of the emergency referred to.

I am, sir, with sentiments of much esteem,

T. S. ANDERSON,

*Secretary of State and Acting Governor.*

His Excellency JAMES BUCHANAN,

*President of the United States, Washington, D. C.*

No. 10.—*The Secretary of War to Acting Governor Anderson*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *Washington, April 19, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to inform you in answer to your communication of the 20th ultimo stating that you had been informed that all the military forces of the United States now in Texas are to be removed at an early day, and requesting, in that event, that the executive there

may be authorized to call into the field immediately a force sufficient to protect the frontier from the hostile Indians; that it is believed that the regiment of mounted volunteers authorized to be raised for service in your State under act of April 7, 1858, will be sufficient to replace the second regiment of cavalry, ordered from Texas to Kansas.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

Hon. T. S. ANDERSON,  
*Secretary of State and Acting Governor, Austin.*

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No. 11.—*General Twiggs to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, June 2, 1858.*

COLONEL: I have the honor to report my arrival at the headquarters of the Department yesterday, and assumed command.

Enclosed I send you the report of the commander of the Texas troops of an action with the Indians, (Comanches,) in the limits of the Cherokee country.

D. E. TWIGGS,  
*Brevet Major General U. S. A., commanding department.*

Colonel S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant General, U. S. A.*

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HEADQUARTERS TEXAS RANGERS,  
*Camp Runnels, May 22, 1858.*

Gov. RUNNELS: I have the honor to report that on the 22d of April I made a forward movement from this camp at the head of one hundred and two men, including officers, non-commissioned officers, privates and guides. I also had two wagons, one ambulance, and fifteen pack mules.

At the Cottonwood Springs I was joined by Captain S. P. Ross and one hundred and thirteen Indians of the Brazos reservation. We directed our march upon Red river, reaching and crossing that stream on the 29th. The command marched up the valley of the river, made frequent halts, and sent out spies and detachments to make frequent reconnaissances of the surrounding country. This plan of operations was continued until the 7th of May, without discovery of any very recent Indian sign. We then determined to march in the direction of the Wichita river, a branch of which was reached on the 8th of May. Our spies reported a large trail leading down the country. We followed it for two days. On the evening of the 10th the spies brought in a couple of Comanche arrow-heads, extracted from a buffalo found wounded, which they killed. Convinced that we were now in the vicinity of a large body of the enemy, every precaution was taken to avoid being discovered, and every possible exertion made to find their

camp. Had we succeeded in the latter, we should have moved near it in the night, and just before daylight sent in a party of our Indians to *stampede* the horses, and we should have attacked the enemy immediately. On the 11th the spies reported having seen Comanches running buffalo, and they likewise had gotten a correct notion of the course of their camp, by watching pack animals as they transported buffalo meat to it. I prepared to move upon the enemy without delay. I left a small guard at my camp, and at 2 o'clock p. m. marched with one hundred Americans and Captain Ross' command of one hundred and thirteen friendly Indians. When we reached the Fort Smith and Santa Fé road we saw Comanches moving about in the valley beyond the "divide," apparently unconscious of our proximity. When they had gone we resumed our march, confining ourselves to the low grounds and ravines, to keep out of sight. We halted at dusk, camped, and sent forward some Indians to overtake our Keechi spy and trailer. Unfortunately they missed him and he remained outside of camp until daylight on the morning of the 12th, when he joined us on the march. Our plan was frustrated, and we were compelled to march upon the foe in open day. The pursuit was made most of the time at a gallop. At 7 o'clock a. m., a small camp of five lodges was discovered and taken. The Toncahua Indians remained, demolished the camp, took some prisoners, and mounted their footmen. Two Comanches fled towards the Canadian, and were followed by the whole command at nearly full speed. After a run of three miles, a large encampment was visible from a hill top about three miles distant, and on the Cherokee side of the Canadian.

We saw the two Comanches passing the river, and followed at a run, crossing the stream without holding up, and reached the camp just after they had given the alarm. Captain Ross led his Indians between the lodges and the river, and they engaged the enemy. I halted for a moment for my men to come up, and then gave the order to charge the camp, which was executed promptly and gallantly. The Comanches intended to have made a stand at this point; the rangers pressed them closely and they fled in every direction. The right wing, in charge of myself and Lieutenant William A. Pitts, moved straight through the camp and poured in a galling fire upon the retreating enemy. Lieutenant Allison Nelson in command of the left wing, assisted by Lieutenant James H. Tankersley, and Lieutenant William G. Preston, charged to the left, and pursued the flying Comanches with vigor and effect. In the mean time, the head chief, Iron Jacket, had ridden out in gorgeous array, clad in a coat of mail, and bore down upon our red allies. He was followed by warriors and trusted for safety to his armor. The sharp crack of five or six rifles brought his horse to the ground, and in a few moments the chief fell riddled with balls. Our Shawnee guide, Doss, and Jim Pockmark, the Anadarco captain, claim the first and last wounds. The fight was now general, and extended very soon over a circuit of six miles in length, and more than three in breadth. It was, in fact, almost a series of single combats. Squads of rangers and Indians were pursuing the enemy in every direction. The Comanches would occasionally halt and endeavor to make a stand, however their efforts were

unavailing, they were forced to yield the ground to our men in every instance. The din of the battle had rolled back from the river, the groans of the dying, cries of frightened women and children, mingled with the reports of fire-arms and the shouts of men, as they rose from hill-top, from thicket, and from ravine.

The second chief had rushed into the conflict with the friendly Indians. A shot from the Shawnee captain, Chul-le-qua, closed his career. The Comanches, between the camp and the river, were all killed or driven from the field, and our red allies sent up a wild shout of triumph. By direction of Captain Ross a portion of them held the camp of the enemy.

The rangers and the friendly Indians still pressed the Comanches, nor did they stop pursuing until their falling horses admonished them that they could do no more. Between 12 and 1 o'clock the firing had almost ceased, and squad after squad of the troops were returning to the Comanche camp, bringing with them horses, prisoners, and other trophies of victory. Captain Ross had very properly suggested to Lieutenant Nelson the propriety of keeping the men well together, and when I returned from the pursuit I found a large proportion of the men drawn up in order of battle.

The Comanches had another large encampment three or four miles above on the Canadian. They had heard the firing, embodied and threatened to charge us. They were evidently playing for an advantage and their manœuvres induced our Indians to believe them very strong. Our allies proposed to draw them out, and requested me to ~~keep~~ my men in line to support them if necessary. The Comanches descended from the hill to accept their proffered invitation. With yells and menaces, and every species of insulting gestures and language, they tried to excite the reserve Indians into some act of rashness by which they could profit. A scene was now enacted begging description. It reminded me of the rude and chivalrous days of knight errantry. Shields and lances, and bows and head dresses, prancing steeds and many minutiae were not wanting to complete the resemblance. And when the combatants rushed at each other with defiant shouts nothing save the piercing report of the rifle varied the affair from a battle field of the middle ages. Half an hour was spent in this without much damage to either party. A detachment of rangers was advanced to reinforce the friendly Indians, and the Comanches quitted the field, and the imposing pageant vanished from the view, like a mimic battle upon the stage.

It was determined to leave the Indians in possession of the prisoners and captured horses, and to hurl the rangers upon the Comanches. My men made a forward movement, if not with the precision of practiced veterans, yet with as much coolness and bravery. The enemy instantly began to retreat. I directed Lieutenant Pitts to show himself and detachment upon the hill with the intention to steal upon them. Lieutenant Nelson anticipated me and passed around the base of the eminence at a run. The unfortunate arrival of the Toncahua Indians upon our left flank prevented the complete success of the manœuvre. The Comanches broke and fled in various directions. We pursued as fast as our jaded horses could carry us. After a run

of two and a half or three miles, I saw we could effect no more, and called off the men. In this second conflict the enemy lost seven killed and left on the ground, and several wounded. Our loss was one Waco Indian killed, and one ranger wounded, (George W. Paschal, jr.) It was now 2 o'clock p. m., and we had been running our horses most of the time since 7 o'clock a. m. I determined to march to my camp that night, fearing the Indians might ascertain its locality and overpower the weak guard I left to protect it. We learned from a captured woman that Buffalo Hump was twelve miles below us with a considerable body of warriors, and we knew fugitives had reached his camp and notified him of our presence.

The forces of the enemy in these two engagements amounted to upwards of three hundred. The captured camp had seventy lodges and fires. The other party numbered over one hundred. Our entire force was two hundred and thirteen. The loss of the enemy ascertained by actual count, of those remaining on the field, was as follows: first engagement, killed 69; second engagement, killed 7; total 76.

Our loss, first engagement, killed 1; wounded, 2; second engagement, killed 1; wounded 1; total killed, 2; wounded, 3.

The enemy had many wounded, but it was impossible to ascertain the number, and therefore no guess at it will be made. We captured over three hundred head of horses; most of them are in possession of the friendly Indians; some fifty or sixty are in the hands of my men. There are few, if any, American horses among them. We took eighteen prisoners, mostly women and children.

For further particulars in regard to the operations of the left wing I beg leave to refer you to the report of Lieutenant A. Nelson.

A Mexican boy was taken prisoner, and told a Mexican muleteer that the Comanches were drying and packing meat to make a campaign against the whites and Reserve Indians. It may not be true, though the bales of dry meat were there to show for themselves. The Mexican escaped the night of the twelfth.

I am under weighty obligations to Captain S. P. Ross for his valuable advice and cordial co-operation during the expedition. He did much to render it successful. I beg leave to recommend to your favorable notice Lieutenants Nelson, Pitts, Tankersley, and Preston. They performed their duties promptly, cheerfully, and ably. The conduct of the men of my command was characterized by obedience, patience, and perseverance. They behaved, while under fire, in a gallant and soldier like manner, and I think that they have fully vindicated their right to be recognized as Texas Rangers of the old stamp. I could point out many instances of chivalrous daring on their part during the engagements, but where all have done their parts well, nobly well, distinctions would be invidious.

In justice to our Indian allies, I beg leave to say they acted their part with zeal and fidelity, and they behaved most excellently on the field of battle. They deserve well of Texas, and are entitled to the gratitude of the frontier people.

About two o'clock we took up the line of march for camp. In a little while signal smokes of the Comanches were shooting up from different quarters. They indicated flight. Our horses were worn

down by service, our rations of meat had been exhausted several days, and there appeared but little prospect of effecting anything by remaining longer; therefore it was decided to leave on the morning of the 13th for Camp Runnels, which we reached on the 21st, after an absence of thirty days.

Accompanying is a map defining our line of march. This expedition has decided several questions. Indians can be pursued and caught in the buffalo region; the country beyond Red river can be penetrated and held by white men, and the Comanches can be followed, overtaken, and beaten, provided the pursuers will be laborious, vigilant, and are willing to undergo privations.

The two wagons and ambulance were broken down, and abandoned on the homeward march. They answered a valuable purpose.

I am at a loss to know what to do, and am awaiting orders.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JOHN S. FORD,

*Captain Commanding Texas Frontier.*

H. B. RUNNELS,

*Governor of Texas, Austin, Texas.*

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CAMP RUNNELS, *Texas, May 21, 1858.*

SIR: In obedience to orders, I submit a report of the action of the left wing of your command, which you placed under my command, in the two engagements with the Comanche Indians on the 12th instant, on the north side of Canadian river

In the first engagement the left wing, composed of my own and Lieutenants Tankersly and Preston's detachment, moved in connexion with the right in the charge on the enemy's camp, until the chief, Iron Jacket, was slain, when I discovered the enemy were abandoning their camp and escaping over the hills and through the ravines to my left. I directed the left wing so as to intercept their retreat. Lieuts. Tankersly and Preston, anticipating my design, extended the line by a flank movement to the left. The enemy now abandoned all attempts to make a stand, and fled for life. The pursuit was arduous, and continued for three miles, when I considered further pursuit as promising no material results; and the men being very much scattered, I called them off and returned to the enemy's camp, where we were soon after joined by yourself. The known loss of the enemy in this engagement with the left wing was nine killed, two wounded, three prisoners, and two large droves of horses and mules.

I regret to have to report the loss of private Robert Nickel, of my detachment, who became separated in the ardor of pursuit from his comrades, and was killed by a party of six of the enemy. Private Searcy, also of my detachment, had his horse killed, and narrowly escaped after killing two of the enemy.

It affords me pleasure to bear testimony to the gallantry of both officers and men under my command. The only distinction perceptible in the ardor of the entire command was the relative speed of



their horses. My acknowledgments are due to Lieutenants Tanker and Preston for their able and efficient support, and the gallant manner in which they brought up the extreme left at a very opportune moment, thereby contributing materially to the success of the movement intercepting the enemy's retreat.

In the second engagement, when the enemy, after being reinforced, showed themselves in considerable force on the hill west of the village, (then in our possession,) the left wing moved on in connexion with the right until masked from the enemy by an intervening ridge, when it was detached by an oblique movement to the left, and moved around the base of the ridge. Seeing you favored the movement by moving slowly forward in a direct line over the ridge in full view of the enemy, I indulged sanguine hopes of falling on the enemy's right flank by surprise. This movement was attended with only partial success, owing to the impetuosity with which a small party of our allies, the Toncahua and Waco Indians, came dashing across the river to join us, they having been prevented from joining us earlier from being engaged in taking the first camp of the enemy, some five or six miles south of the river. The loss of the enemy that came under my knowledge in this engagement was seven killed, and two known to be wounded. I regret to have to report the loss of one of our allies, a Waco Indian, a gallant fellow, who fell gallantly charging the enemy after having exhausted his arrows.

In this, as in the first engagement, both officers and men under my command bore themselves gallantly, and as men sensible they had to maintain the character of "Texan Rangers."

In closing this report, sir, permit me to congratulate you on the signal success attending your efforts to hunt down and chastise this roving enemy, that has hitherto baffled all attempts to visit merited chastisement by carrying the war into his own camp. The beneficial results do not stop with the signal punishment inflicted. It demonstrates the practicability of following the enemy with white men, well provided with subsistence transported by wagons, to the fastnesses from which they have hitherto sallied forth to rob and murder on our frontiers with impunity.

They have relied on their inaccessibility, until even many of our own people had come to believe it. This prestige you have destroyed which alone would be a success of material importance.

In conclusion permit me to tender you my warmest acknowledgments for the uniform kindness, and courtesy, and confidence with which you have seen proper to honor me.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. NELSON,

*2d Lieutenant of Texas Rangers*

Captain JOHN S. FORD,  
*Commanding Texas Rangers.*



No. 12.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, July 6, 1858.*

SIR: The second cavalry remains at or near Belknap. If they are intended to be placed under the orders of the department commander for the defence of this frontier, I would respectfully recommend a change of policy with the Indians. For the last ten years we have been on the defensive. I would suggest that it would be better not to detach the regiment to the posts as formerly, but send two detachments (say, four companies each) into the Indian country, and follow them up winter and summer; thus giving the Indians something to do at home and taking care of their families, and they might possibly let Texas alone. I think the experiment worth making. Guides and trailers, I am informed by the agent, can be had from the Indian reservations in Texas.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 D. E. TWIGGS,  
*Brevet Major General, U. S. A., commanding department.*

No. 13.—*General-in-Chief to General Twiggs.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*West Point, New York, July 22, 1858.*

GENERAL: I am instructed by the general-in-chief to say, in answer to your letter of July 6th, suggesting a plan of sending the 2d regiment of cavalry into the Indian country, to follow up the Indians, winter and summer, that in General Orders No. 18 you were authorized to make such change in the disposition of the 2d cavalry as the state of the service or our Indian relations might require.

Under this discretion, if you are of opinion the inhabitants of Texas can be better protected by the troops under your command in the way you suggest than in any other, you have the necessary authority for the purpose. In doing so, the general desires you will carefully consider the question of supplies.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
 IRVIN McDOWELL,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Brevet Major General D. E. TWIGGS,  
*Commanding Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.*

No. 14.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, July 27, 1858.*

SIR: By Department Order No. 18 you will find I have made a disposition of the second cavalry companies on this frontier. I respect-

fully ask permission of the general-in-chief to detach three or four companies, in the fall, to leave on the 15th of September, to go into the Indian country and follow up the Comanches to the residence of their families; this command to remain some three or four months; or until spring. It is necessary to have the orders of the general-in-chief, as the command might find it necessary to follow the Indians into another department.

I intend, if the permission is given, to put the command under Major Van Dorn, as I have every confidence in his capacity and energy to conduct such an expedition.

The second cavalry, being concentrated at Fort Belknap, has, in my opinion, restrained the Indians from retaliating on the settlers for the attack on them by the Texans lately.

I again would respectfully represent that, in my opinion, one or two topographical officers might be very usefully employed in this department.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A., commanding department*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A.,*

*Headquarters of the Army, West Point, N. Y.*

P. S. The above movement on the plains will involve no additional expense, as the public mules and wagons can be used for transportation.

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A.*

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No. 15.—*General Twiggs to the Adjutant General.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

*San Antonio, August 9, 1858.*

SIR: Your letter of the 24th July, enclosing one from the headquarters of the army, is received. In reply, I beg leave to transmit a copy of my letter to army headquarters of the 4th of August, which will give my views more in detail. For the last ten years the troops in this department have been acting mostly on the defensive. The Indians will not remain quiet, and they must be made to feel the power of the United States. An expedition like the one I proposed can be made without any additional expense, and I think if it remained in the Indian country for some time it would give quiet to this frontier. The post about to be established on the Rio Grande, where the El Paso road strikes the river, is of great importance. It will give security to emigrants and to the mail. Two companies of infantry will occupy that position so soon as arrangements can be made.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A., commanding department*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General U. S. A., Washington, D. C.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, August 4, 1858.*

SIR: If I am permitted to send a command into the Indian country, my plan is this: To send three companies of cavalry into the Indian country with guides (Indians from the reservations) to where their families reside; one company of cavalry and fifty infantry to follow on with a train of wagons with provisions, the animals to rely on grazing. This command to open a road as far as they go. The mounted force to get their supplies from this train, and to remain in that country some three or four months, and indeed until spring, if practicable. This, I think, will give security to the Texas frontier, and enable us to give up the defensive as we have now necessarily to resort to. Not a dollar additional need be expended, as the public transportation will be sufficient.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A., commanding department.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General,*

*Headquarters of the Army, West Point, N. Y.*

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16.—*The Adjutant General to General Twiggs.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, July 24, 1858.*

GENERAL: The enclosed letter from the headquarters of the army was sent to this office to be submitted to the Secretary of War. In forwarding it, with the Secretary's approval, I am directed to advert to two communications addressed to the War Department on the subject of affairs in Texas. One relates to the establishment of a post near the junction of the Red and Great Wichita rivers; the other to the pursuit of Indians living outside the limits of Texas, who commit predations on citizens of Texas, the pursuit to be regardless of the limits of the military department, and also to protecting the Indian agents and Indians living on the Texas reservations. All these measures are urged upon the Secretary of War, who, at the same time that he conceives them to be within the authority already given to you by the general-in-chief, would be glad to have your views in relation to them, that he may reply understandingly to such communications.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. TOWNSEND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Brevet Major General D. E. TWIGGS,

*United States Army, Commanding Department of Texas.*

*San Antonio, Texas.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
West Point, New York, July 22, 1858.

GENERAL: I am instructed by the general-in-chief to say in answer to your letter of July 6, suggesting a plan of sending the 2d regiment of cavalry into the Indian country to follow up the Indians winter and summer, that in general orders No. 18 you were authorized to make such change in the disposition of the 2d cavalry as the state of the service or our Indian relations might require. Under this discretion, if you are of opinion the inhabitants of Texas can be better protected by the troops under your command in the way you suggest than in any other, you have the necessary authority for the purpose. In doing so the general desires you will carefully consider the question of supplies.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
IRVIN McDOWELL,  
Assistant Adjutant General

Brevet Major General D. E. TWIGGS,  
Commanding Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.

No. 17.—Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
Austin, July 10, 1858.

SIR: Enclosed I have the honor to forward you a copy of a letter, addressed to General Twiggs, to which I would respectfully call your attention at your earliest convenience. The disbandment of the little band of rangers which has been stationed on the frontier will take place about the 1st of August, and I fear will occasion great consternation and alarm to the exposed settlements, unless prompt action should be taken by the general government in substituting an active and effective force in their stead.

I would also ask leave to call your attention to a joint resolution forwarded you last winter in regard to the establishment of a military post at or near the junction of the larger Wichita and Red river. This point is on or near the great thoroughfare traversed by the northern Indians in making their descent on the settlements near to and in the vicinity of the Indian reserves. If established and provided with an active and energetic though it might be a small force, there is scarcely a doubt to be entertained of the salutary influence it would exercise in restraining the wild and predatory bands north of Red river. The resolution on this subject was recommended by me to the legislature, after the most thorough investigation I had been able to give the subject; and I must think it well worthy of the consideration of the department, in providing the means of defence against the hostile incursions to which that frontier is subject.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
H. R. RUNNELS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
Secretary of War.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, *Austin, July 9, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to forward you the enclosed copy of an order to Captain John S. Ford, commanding Texas Rangers, stationed in the vicinity of Fort Belknap, for the protection of the frontier against the Indians.

I am not without great apprehension that, on the removal of that command from the frontier, disturbances equally and perhaps of a more serious character than those which induced it to be stationed there in the first place will arise, as soon as intelligence of the fact shall become known to the Indians, now the more exasperated because of the recent retribution visited on them for the many outrages perpetrated during the last winter and spring; unless its place can be promptly supplied by an efficient and adequate force of the general Government, an abandonment of their homes and property may be suddenly looked for, and result in the most irreparable injury to our citizens of the frontier. I therefore take the liberty of addressing you, as the commander of this military department, trusting in the hope that you will give such order and direction to the force under your command as may be best calculated to avert the threatened evils, and quiet the alarm and apprehension of the exposed settlements.

In connexion with this subject I beg leave respectfully to suggest, and through you to the department at Washington, the expediency of making a campaign against the Indians during the ensuing fall and winter. The experience of Indian warfare has proven that the only safe and certain method of reducing them to subjection, and thereby insuring a lasting peace, is to pursue and punish them in their own country, and drive them from their hiding places. If this has always been so, the reasons are four-fold in its favor in controlling the wild and roving Comanche, who imagines himself secure when he commits his depredations to-day, and to-morrow or in a few hours sets at defiance all pursuers in traversing the trackless deserts which he inhabits and are known to him alone.

The desert plains, however, are not habitable in winter; there are necessarily certain districts to which they must resort, and take up their temporary abode during the colder winter months; it is in these holds that their women and children are stationed, especially during the more inclement seasons of the year; and then that they should be attacked in order to make an effective campaign against them. I am strongly inclined to the opinion that the most certain and effective if not the only manner of affording anything more than nominal and temporary protection to the lives and property of the frontier citizens is to pursue and attack them in their places of temporary abode, and, by breaking up their lodges, reduce them to the necessity of making peace and settling down under government protection and authority, or of meeting starvation and death on the plains.

I am fully aware that, under the former regulations of the department, the course indicated cannot be pursued without additional latitude, and discretion should be confided to the commanding officer.

In conclusion, I beg leave to add that I shall forward a copy of this communication to Washington, and at the same time would ask your

co-operation in obtaining from the authorities at that place such powers as may be deemed necessary to effect an object which would be equally desirable to the government of the United States as to the people of this State.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. RUNNELS

Brevet Major General D. E. TWIGGS,  
Commanding department, U. S. A.

No. 8.—*Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
Austin, August 9, 1858.

SIR: Enclosed you will find the copy of a report of Captain John S. Ford, commanding Texas Rangers on the frontier, to which I beg leave respectfully to call your attention.

The enclosed communication fully confirms the propriety of the suggestions of my letter to the commanding general of this military department, a copy of which I forwarded you some time since, as well as those of that officer in his communications to the department, copies of which I have before me, in reply. It would seem a useless task in me to offer any additional suggestions on the subject of these communications under the circumstances. It will, however, be observed that the views of the commanding officer of the government, my own as expressed in my letter to him, and those of Captain Ford, who has been stationed for the last six months on the frontier and near the immediate seat of danger, as well as of the Indian agents themselves, all correspond, and, I must hope, will sufficiently impress the government with the necessity of adopting prompt and efficient measures to prevent a recurrence of the annoyances which have disturbed our frontier, and of averting the accumulation of danger now threatening our people.

It is manifest, from the report of Captain Ford, which, I am informed, has been adopted and forwarded by the Indian agent, that the troubles on our borders are not attributable exclusively to the wild and uncivilized bands occupying Texas soil, but in conjunction with them to some of those under treaty with the federal government, and occupying her territory.

Texas needs a protection against a continuation of the evils which have so long harassed her citizens, who thus far have petitioned for relief in vain; she has asked it through her legislature, and a portion of her delegation in Congress; as yet all efforts have availed nothing. I now demand it as her executive, and must expect that demand to be listened to and considered at Washington; it is not just that, while other sections of the Union are receiving the protection guaranteed to them, Texas should be left with her wants unheeded, her claims unconsidered, to protect herself, and, as it appears, even against those in treaty with the general government, receiving regular annuities therefor, and are thus furnished with the means useful in making



war upon and plundering our people ; this fact cannot be new to the department; it was made known last winter through the Indian agents, and communicated to Washington. The Indians have gone unpunished, except only as Texas has administered it herself. The citizens remain unremunerated for their lost property, and as yet we are unapprised of any effort on the part of the government to prevent the recurrence of similar evils the ensuing fall and winter. If this state of things is to remain unchanged, it is time that Texas should know it, that she may proceed to count the cost of her own protection, however dear that cost may prove to herself, or serious the consequences it may involve. The existing state of affairs cannot be endured and Texas will not much longer acquiesce in silence, little as it may be believed by those from whom she claims a proper consideration.

The situation of affairs has required me to speak plainly on this subject ; I have done so, but I trust in a proper spirit and with due respect.

In conclusion, I have only to ask that you will, without delay, call the attention of the President of the United States to the facts, that such measures may be concerted, if he deems it proper, as are obviously requisite and just to the State of Texas in the premises.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. RUNNELS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

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BRAZOS AGENCY, *July 5, 1858.*

GOVERNOR: A few days since I received a message from Captain Ross requesting me to visit the Brazos agency, in connexion with business of considerable importance. I arrived here on the 1st instant, and remained here until to-day, awaiting the arrival of Jim Little-one, a Caddo, and Jim, an Anadarco, who had been sent to the Indian tribes east of Red river, to learn if possible the parties who committed depredations in Jack and the adjoining counties in May and June. They left here on the 9th of June, and returned on yesterday evening. Below their report is substantially given :

They visited Fort Arbuckle, the Keechi and Kickapoo vilages. At these vilages they found no men. The women said the warriors were out hunting buffalo. They then went to the Caddo village, and when there found an American horse. Upon inquiry they learned he had been brought there by a Keechi. They waited on the Keechi chief, Chic-ah-heh, and inquired how the horse came in possession of his man. He pretended he had been found in the Wichita mountains, but delivered him to them. He is an iron gray, branded with a letter S on the right hip; has a scar on the left side, near the last rib, which left a sunken place. He had been hardly used, had his ears split, and was very poor. The chief asked if that was the only horse they were looking for. They answered "no; there are others." He then informed them that there were three others in the Wichita camp, which had also been "found" in the mountains.



They then returned to Fort Arbuckle and were present at a talk between the commanding officer and the Wichita chief. Jim Little one felt convinced the chief was concealing facts; he took him aside and learned there were three horses in his village which had been left there by Keechis, a black and bay, and color of the other not recollected.

The horse in their possession, being too poor to travel, was left with the commanding officer at Fort Arbuckle; he promised to advise Captain Ross as soon as the remaining three are turned over to him by the Wichita chief; he advised them to remain until the Keechis and Kickapoos returned from hunting, in order to search their caballados for American horses; this they declined for reasons unnecessary to give.

Some weeks before they went on this mission, a hunting party of Caddos saw two Comanches passing about with three American horses, and the next day two Caddo men and a squaw discovered horses approaching them; they charged upon them and found them in charge of four Comanches; of the number, two horses were recognized as American; also a bob-tailed sorrel and a dun American mule. A Comanche had a bundle of clothing on his saddle, among them a black vest and some white garments. It may be necessary to mention that the hostile demonstrations ended in a talk.

These men brought an unsealed letter from Robert Love, a Chickasaw, to Mr. Joseph Walker, of Belknap; it was read by Captain Ross when he discovered it contained information in regard to depredations committed on the frontier. Mr. Walker lost a mare and followed the trail; he discovered a peculiar track on the downward trail, evidently made by a man lame in the left foot. By inquiry it was ascertained that two lame men answering the description were among the Kickapoos. The mare had been deserted and found by the Wichitas from whom Mr. Walker obtained her. The Kickapoos stole her.

Love wrote to Walker concerning the late murders in Jack county; he seems to think the murderers can be identified, if the assistance of some one able to identify the clothing of the murdered people can be had, and dwells upon the propriety of sending such an one to that country.

The continued and unaccounted for absence of the Kickapoos and Keechis, and other circumstances, point to these people as the prime movers of the murders and depredations recently committed in Jack and the contiguous counties.

It is proper here to mention that Mr. James Gurley, of Waco, while en route from Missouri, held a conversation with Mr. Warfield, the trader for the Kickapoos, in which he stated that they had brought in Texas horses this spring instead of furs and peltries, as usual; they stated that they had won them from the Comanche Indians.

There can be no doubt of the existence of an alliance between the renegade Kickapoos and Keechis and the northern Comanches in making war upon Texas.

The two messengers also learned that the different bands of Comanches had recently held a council, and agreed to consolidate the seven bands into one, under the leadership of the nephew of the late

chief Pa-bah-yu-cah. They have made treaties with all or nearly all the tribes residing east of Red river, and the head chief has taken all the women, children, and old men into the Creek country, which he deems a place of safety for them. The other six bands are to continue the war upon the people of Texas and the reserve Indians. In the event of being hard pressed, they contemplate, beyond doubt, falling back upon their head chief as a point inaccessible to their enemies, and thus they will convert the people, affording the refuge and their maintenance, their allies to all intents and purposes.

Should I be continued in the service, I should not hesitate to move upon the point occupied by the head chief of the Comanches, and chastise him and any others interfering or aiding in the matter adversely.

These facts corroborate and substantiate others already reported to you, and indicate the necessity of inaugurating prompt and efficient measures to give protection to the frontier, and to punish the parties who have grown rich by trafficking in the spoils wrested from our unprotected citizens. They cannot, in justice to the frontier, be overlooked; you will pardon me for again insisting upon the necessity of having a large force in the field, and the good results to be anticipated from a fall or winter campaign against our combined enemies. This, in my belief, affords the only sure plan to secure Texas against the inroads and ravages of her savage and relentless foes. I am happy to state that Captain Ross fully endorses these views, and no man in the State is better acquainted with the wants of the frontier and the character of the Indians.

JOHN S. FORD,  
*Captain commanding, Texas frontier.*

Governor H. R. RUNNELS,  
*Austin, Texas.*

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No. 19.—*Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
*Austin, August 12, 1858.*

SIR: I enclose to you a slip from the "Dallas Herald," a newspaper published in this State, containing the letter of a Mr. Love, and the same alluded to in Captain Ford's report, in regard to the intended movements of the Indians.

I have to communicate that there are almost daily accounts reaching here of the thefts of the Indians, who come in, in small parties, and from the vast and uninhabited region which they traverse almost invariably elude pursuit. I have but to reaffirm the opinion which I have heretofore expressed, as to the only effectual mode of stopping these depredations; and that is, by a well organized expedition against them in their strongholds, and a strict police over those under government protection who act in conjunction with them, and *who* are the receivers of the stolen property from citizens of Texas.

Hoping to hear very soon of definite action by the government in regard to the matter, I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. RUNNEL

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

*Threatened invasion of the northern frontier of Texas by the Comanches*

The subjoined communication is from a gentleman of the very highest respectability, whose statements are entitled to the fullest credit. The writer is an old Texan, well known to many of the pioneers of the frontier. He has had good opportunities of observing the movements of the tribes hostile to Texas, having spent the last three months at the Oil Springs in the Chickasaw nation. That the Indians so signally chastised by Captain Ford and his gallant rangers on the Canadian thirst for revenge is not at all strange. All who know the Indian character, know full well that they are not apt to forget a real or imaginary wrong, and will not be slow to seek an opportunity of avenging it. The most unaccountable part of the statement of Mr. Love is the indifference of the United States officials in the vicinity of Fort Arbuckle to the danger to which our frontier is exposed; and their seeming connivance at the hostile demonstrations of the Indians. It seems that the lives of defenceless women and children are of little value in the estimation of persons beyond Red river, if they happen to reside in Texas. We publish the important facts contained in Mr. Love's statement, in order that the frontier north and west of this may be apprised of the danger to which they are exposed, and that they may be prepared for any emergency. We think that a vigilant lookout ought to be kept up, and that the movements of the northern Comanches ought to be watched constantly. The importance of an expedition such as the one projected by General Tarrant is now apparent; and, in our judgment, the frontier will see no safety until such an expedition is organized and set on foot. The Indians are exasperated at their defeat by Captain Ford: They must be "wiped out," as Mr. Love expresses it, or they will have terrible revenge.

OIL SPRINGS, CHICKASAW NATION,

July 20, 1858.

EDITOR DALLAS HERALD: I have but yesterday returned from a trip to the Wichita mountains and village, in company with one of the volunteers called out of this nation by General Cooper (agent for the Choctaws and Chickasaws) to repel a supposed invasion by the Comanches, which turned out to be only a small thieving party, who took from the vicinity of Fort Arbuckle some thirty or forty horses belonging to the Chickasaws, and were recaptured at the Wichita village and the thieves seen; but the Wichitas refused to give them up, saying it would insult the Comanche nation, who were their good

friends. Those who stole the horses were seven in number, six men and a woman. The Wichitas conducted them about forty miles on their journey homeward, when the Comanches observed that they were ashamed to go home without horses, and concluded to make a trip to Texas.

General C. called the Wichitas to council, or rather sent for the ("principal") chief to come to our camp, about four miles. The second chief and one councilman came. They said the head chief had gone north to the Canadian with several of his men and horses; but as he went in the direction of the grand Comanche council, now in session above the great Salt Plains on the Arkansas, we suppose he is with them. Two other companies of Wichitas were out from the village—one in the mountains, the other towards Texas, probably for more horses. They are very much afraid of Texas. Knowing their guilt and deserved punishment, Texas ought to come over and whip them out, and get back their stolen horses. I think Walker, from Belknap, would find his horses, unless he waits too long; the one he did get was found not more than thirty miles from the village, on a direct line between the village and Belknap. They also said that Pa-ha-u-ka was making a powerful effort to combine all the Comanches against Texas; that seven tribes had met about three weeks ago; Osages and Kioways had been invited to take part with them, and share the spoils equally, all of which was to avenge themselves for their defeat with Captain Ford.

They will not bring their families near the frontier. One thing I was about to forget. This Comanche council is held near the Osage Agency, on the Arkansas, at which the Wichitas say the Comanches were to receive a considerable amount of presents, including munitions of war, for their fidelity to the people of the northern frontier. If this be true, and they come, they will come better prepared than before.

I have been here nearly three months watering, and, from signs that would be visible to a blind man, Texas has but few friends north of Red river and west of this, but many enemies; and being a Texan for the last nineteen years, I know some of her trials and difficulties. The wide circulation of your paper will bring this to the eyes of many of my old frontier acquaintances, and better prepare them to meet the Indians should they come in heavy force.

Whether General Cooper will make this known to the people of Texas I cannot say. I believe him to be a kind-hearted, gentlemanly, good man, who is well beliked by the Choctaws and Chickasaws. The Wichitas' village is situated fifty-five or sixty miles north of Red river, a few miles east of the 98th degree of west longitude, which line is now being surveyed from Red river north, and plainly marked by large mounds every mile. We suppose it would be a few miles from the village. It had not reached that far last week. The Wichitas now have an agent, through whom they can be approached for stolen property.

In haste, yours, &c.,

A. C. LOVE.

No. 20.—*Secretary of War to Governor Runnels.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
Washington, August 28, 1858

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 12th instant enclosing a slip from the "Dallas Herald" in relation to Indian depredations in Texas, and in which you express a hope to hear soon of some definite action by the government in regard to the matter.

In answer I have to inform you that orders were issued from the headquarters of Texas the 9th instant for four companies of cavalry and one of infantry to march from Fort Belknap, September 15, to Otter creek, west of the Wichita mountains, and there establish a depot. From that point scouting parties are ordered to scour thoroughly the country between Red river and the north fork of the Canadian and between longitude 100° and 104°.

Orders have also been given to send two companies of cavalry from Kansas to Fort Arbuckle, and for the examination of parts of the country near the Wichita mountains, with a view to placing military posts for the purpose of restraining the Comanches.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. DRINKARD,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*

His Excellency H. R. RUNNELS,  
*Governor of Texas, Austin, Texas.*

No. 21.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
San Antonio, August 24, 1858.

SIR: The enclosed paragraph from the papers of this place is the only information I have of a recent attack on some drovers on their way from this place to El Paso. Fort Davis is one hundred and eighty miles from Fort Lancaster. This extreme distance is without any military post; it is between those points most of the depredations on this road are committed.

The road from this to El Paso is travelled almost daily, and large amounts of property transported on packs and trains. The San Diego mail makes two trips a month to San Diego from this place. It is important that this road be well guarded, *but I have not the force to do it.*

The enclosed letter from Captain Prince, commanding at Fort Arbuckle, shows a state of Indian affairs that requires attending to. Major Van Dorn's command will march in September with four companies of cavalry—say three hundred men and fifty infantry. If I

had more troops I would, on the information of Captain Prince, add at least two companies to Major Van Dorn's command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A., commanding dep't.*

Lieut. Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General,*

*Headquarters of the Army, West Point, N. Y.*

INDIAN DEPREDACTIONS—FOUR MEN KILLED.—We learn from Mr. Rome, captain of the San Diego mail party that came in on Saturday last, that on the 9th instant a party of fifteen Comanches attacked a party of California cattle drivers at the Leon Water-hole, on the El Paso road, 75 miles this side of Fort Davis. Two white men and two Mexicans were killed by them, and some twenty horses taken. The Indians also killed several of the cattle, rifled the wagons of all valuables, as well as the trunks of the slain. We have only been able to learn the name of one of the killed, which is M. W. Huxford, probably from Cincinnati, Ohio, as some of his letters bear that post mark. Mr. Rome tells us that there was a much larger party of Indians a day or two ahead of this party. He thinks they had all been to Mexico, as the "sign" indicated that they were from that direction, and had a large herd of horses.

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HEADQUARTERS FORT ARBUCKLE, C. N.,

*August 9, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to state that the Wichita chiefs report that large bands of Comanches, Apaches, Cheyennes, and other wild tribes of Indians are collected on the Canadian, near Antelope Hills, professedly for hostile purposes, and that the depredations which have recently been made upon the settlements of this nation are for the purpose of procuring horses to make an incursion upon the frontier of Texas.

As these declarations are supported by the concurrent opinion of all the friendly Indians of this region, and generally entertained by others, I deem it important information for the commanding general of the department of Texas.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. E. PRINCE,

*Captain 1st Infantry, commanding.*

The ASSISTANT ADJUTANT GENERAL,

*Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.*

No. 22.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, September 17, 1858.*

SIR: Indications along the frontier, as well in Texas as outside, augur a general war with the Comanches, Kickapoos, and such other hostile tribes of Indians as they can induce to join them, and that they will operate united against the frontier of Texas. It is said a council of the different tribes has been held this summer and such was the determination. From the Rio Grande reports are numerous of depredations and murders in Mexico. The river is, of course, no barrier to their crossing on this side, as the Rio Grande can be forded at this season of the year anywhere. Major Van Dorn's command is smaller than I could wish, but it is all that can be safely spared from the department at this time. The enclosed report from Lieutenant Van Camp, of the 2d cavalry, shows the feelings of the Comanches on the reserve. I have consulted with the supervising agent of Texas Indians, and it is deemed proper, and indeed necessary, that some two or three of those Indians be arrested and punished. I am deeply mortified at the occurrence at the Comanche reserve, and I am at a loss what to do in this case. To parade for a fight, and on the eve of commencing to find the command without ammunition is distressing to think of. This Comanche reserve is the first and only place where that tribe of Indians have been induced to cultivate the soil, send their children to school, &c. If I did not think it was the wish of the government to try and civilize those Indians, I would order a force there and take them all prisoner, or shoot them if they resisted. I have ordered an investigation relative to the want of ammunition of this detachment. There is a most criminal neglect somewhere.

Major Neighbors, the supervising agent, will be up at Fort Belknap about the 1st of October, when an investigation will be made of the part the chiefs took in the matter of opposing the troops, and on his report I will act. I have every confidence in his making a full and fair investigation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,  
*Brevet Major General United States Army,*  
*Commanding Department.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A.,*  
*Headquarters of the Army, West Point, N. Y.*

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COMANCHE AGENCY, TEXAS, *August 31, 1858.*

SIR: Our school has opened with prospects more fair than I anticipated. We have now in constant attendance thirty-nine students, and several more who wish to come, but I advised the teacher not to



struct more than forty, believing as I do that that number is quite as many as any one teacher can do justice by.

To-day we had quite an excitement in the Indian camp. A notoriously bad Indian by the name of Santa Anna, in company with a No-co-nee, came there on yesterday; not having any visible business, they were told by Katemesee to leave immediately; they, however, continued at the camp until this morning. Katemesee again told them that they *must* leave, but they declined doing so, and said they would remain a few days and rest; he reported the facts, and I made a requisition on Lieutenant Van Camp for assistance to arrest them. We proceeded to the camp with nineteen men, and found them quartered in a house originally occupied by a company of soldiers. Lieutenant Van Camp had the house surrounded, and demanded them, but the Indians refused to surrender them; the Indians, who had by this time collected, armed themselves, even to the women and children; the house also contained considerable numbers, all furious and determined to fight to the death. Katemesee and his party only amounted to seven, who were willing to assist in the arrest. It being the relief day of Lieutenant Van Camp, and he not having anticipated the prospects of a regular battle, his store of ammunition was entirely exhausted, with the exception of a single round, which utterly forbid the propriety of making a fight against such fearful odds; to have done so would have been madness, and the loss perhaps of all his men; he therefore ordered the Indians immediately to leave, and to take with them four or five men from the reserve, as far as the Brazos, to see that they left the country; this they agreed to, but the escort returned in a short time leaving the two Indians to go at large, who returned in the evening to Katemesee's gardens and attempted to kill two Mexicans, who escaped by flight; they would also have killed old "Hawk," a friend of Katemesee's, when they first left the camp, if they had not been prevented by the other Indians.

The belligerent party, numbering some sixty or seventy, came to the agency in the evening to explain their extraordinary proceedings, (but with previous threats, as I am informed, that if I did not talk to please them, they would kill myself and family and join the No-co-nees;) they said their object and determination was to do right; that they had no notice of the approach of the troops or their object; they had been repeatedly threatened with extermination, and were apprehensive the troops had surrounded the house for the purpose; that they, in an event of the kind, were determined to defend to the last extremity, and they had not, nor did they intend to countenance or succor the wild tribes, but had assembled at the house for the purpose of telling those men that they *must* leave.

You will perceive from the above facts that thirty men is an inadequate force to control the reserve. It would require at least one company for that purpose and two companies if they were expected to scout, or pursue strolling parties of Indians.

September 1, 1858.

I have just learned that two hundred horses were stolen last night from To-sha-way, Ka-kar-a-way, and Mu-ra-que-top.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. LEEPER,  
*Supt. Indian Agent, Texas.*

R. S. NEIGHBORS, Esq.,  
*Supervising Indian Agent, San Antonio.*

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COMANCHE AGENCY, TEXAS, August 31, 1858.

The facts as above stated by Colonel Leeper are correct in all particulars. My whole disposable force amounted to but nineteen men, I having previously despatched a body to take post in the hills to cut off the fugitives in case they attempted to save themselves by flight, so that, including every man that was disposed to fight on the side of the agent, we were twenty-seven or eight against eighty or a hundred Indians, all incensed and ready to fight to the last. With but one round of ammunition the combat would have been too unequal, and hence the compromise which was made was the only thing which could have been done to retain our *morale* over the Indians. The small force which I had with me would have proved utterly powerless to secure the arrest of these two obnoxious Indians; and if it is the intention of the government to assist the agent in maintaining the integrity of the reserve, I am convinced that a much larger force than is stationed here at present is required for the task. With an entire company yesterday the parties would have been *only* equal, and then not in numbers.

C. VAN CAMP,  
*Lieutenant 2d Cavalry, commanding detachment.*

P. S. I have just learned that the horses stolen last night were taken by Kioways; a large party of them camped within three miles of Captain Given's ranche, on Paint creek, and drove off a number of his cattle. They got from two hundred and fifty to three hundred of the Indian horses. They could easily be overtaken, but there are no troops here to follow; the Indians will do so, but I fear they are too weak.

M. LEEPER,  
*Supt. Indian Agent, Texas.*

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FORT BELKNAP, TEXAS,  
September 2, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor to report that I arrived at the Comanche agency, Clear Fork of the Brazos, on the 15th ultimo, with a detachment of three non-commissioned officers and thirty privates of the

2d cavalry, and relieved Lieutenant C. W. Phifer, who was in camp near the agency with a similar detachment. Nothing of interest transpired during my tour of duty except occasional false alarms of wild Indians being in the neighborhood, until last Tuesday, the 31st ultimo. About ten o'clock on the morning of that day, Colonel Leeper, the agent, came into my camp and told me that he had been informed by Ke-tum-seh, the head chief of the Comanches on the reserve, that two Indians—one a Nokonie, and hostile to us, and the other a notorious thief and vagabond, by name of Santa Anna—had arrived at his camp, and when ordered to leave had expressed their determination to stay there a day or two and rest their horses. Colonel Leeper requested my assistance in arresting these two men: I acquiesced cheerfully, and mustering all my disposable force, twenty-five men, (leaving three men in camp, three men sick, and two being absent fishing,) set out for the Comanche camp, hoping to come upon it suddenly and surprise the two Indians. Just before reaching the camp I sent a non-commissioned officer and five men to take post in the hills in rear of the camp, (old Camp Cooper) and intercept the fugitives if they fled. We were almost at Ke-tum-seh's tent before a soul knew of our approach, and upon his hurriedly rushing out to meet us we inquired where those Indians were, when he told us, "at Tosh-e-weh's house." We hastened to the indicated place, when I ordered the detachment to divide, a part to place themselves in front and a part in rear of the house, formerly occupied as quarters by one of the companies at Camp Cooper, so as to cut off all egress. By this time the whole camp was alarmed; dogs barking, women screaming, and warriors yelling, stringing their bows, and gathering around the door of the house. We explained our mission to Tosh-e-weh, who appeared to be the principal man, when he replied that he, and every man, woman, and child, who could fight, would die rather than see these men killed. Ke-tum-seh exclaimed that "too much talk, no good," and sprang forward as if to enter the house, when he was violently seized and restrained by about thirty squaws, who were extremely excited, and who begged him, in tears, not to proceed to extremities. Ke-tum-seh then told us that a large number of these warriors were his own people, his own party, and would fight to the last for him, Ke-tum-seh. Upon hearing this I proposed to Colonel Leeper to tell the chief to call out those warriors who were willing to fight for us, so that we might see who were our friends. Ke-tum-seh called out in a loud voice for those who were friendly to him to come over to where Colonel Leeper and myself were standing, when Ke-tum-seh, his brother, and nephew, the Indian called Hawk, and two others, whose names I did not know, ranged themselves on our side, while the remainder, numbering some seventy warriors, and thirty women and boys who *could use their arms*, placed themselves opposite us, with bows strung and rifles levelled, (they had about twenty-five or thirty guns.) All told, we were twenty-six or seven against such odds. The fight, however, would have commenced the next instant, by my firing on the opposite party, when my sergeant informed me that the men had but one round of ammunition in their

boxes; that this was the last day of our tour of duty; and that they had expended their ammunition, not anticipating any such emergency. I confess this staggered me, especially as I knew we could not "back out" after such a display; when, fortunately, at this juncture Tosh-e-weh stepped forward from the opposite side and begged us to let these men go, promising faithfully that they never should come back, and that they would escort them to the other side of the Brazos immediately. Seeing the utter folly of a combat against such odds arrayed against us, Colonel Leeper and myself willingly acceded to this proposal, when they demanded that the troops should be withdrawn, and that then the Indians would go. This I refused to do, and accordingly waited in my position until their horses were saddled and they and their escort (about thirty warriors) left. I then returned to my camp. Next day Tosh-e-weh and two or three others came and informed us that all their horses had been stolen the night before, by Kioways, they thought, and requested me to follow their trail and recover their horses. I peremptorily refused to do so, in the first place, because I did not believe a word of the story, inasmuch as these men were particularly venomous and hostile towards me the day before, and none of those who were friendly to us had lost any of their horses, and, secondly, by their conduct towards us on the previous day they had forfeited all claim to the protection of the United States troops, and were not entitled to assistance from them. Besides they had men enough of their own to follow the trail if they desired to do so. Under these circumstances I would have nothing to do with them.

Lieutenant Phifer relieved me on the evening of the same day. I reached this post this morning, and have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. VAN CAMP,

*2d Lieutenant 2d Cavalry.*

Lieut. J. V. MINTER, *2d Cavalry, Acting Post Adjutant.*

No. 23.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

*San Antonio, October 7, 1858.*

SIR: A letter from an officer of the army at Fort Arbuckle, written in August, says, he sent out Lieutenant Powell from that post, and a treaty was made with the Comanches, Wichitas, &c. At that time I was fitting out an expedition against those Indians. There ought to be some concert of action. One of us has made a serious blunder; he in making the treaty, or I in sending out a party after them

This letter was published in the Washington "Star" in September last. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A., commanding department.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A.,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York city, N. Y.*

No. 24.—*Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
Austin, Texas, October 8, 1858.

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose an abstract from the comptroller's office of the different sums appropriated by the State of Texas for protection against the Indians, and now remaining unpaid by the government of the United States, which, if consistent with the views of the *department*, we shall hope will be included in the estimates of expenditure for the present year. The muster rolls and vouchers are all on file in *that office*, and will be forwarded to the proper office at Washington as soon as intelligence shall reach here of an appropriation by Congress to cover the amount.

I have also the honor to enclose therewith copy of a letter of recent date from this office to Colonel James Bourland, with instructions for his guidance in regard to Indian disturbances on the northern frontier of this State.

These *particular* disturbances are believed in a great degree to be attributable to certain predatory bands in treaty with the general government, who have hitherto roamed over that part of our territory at pleasure, and of which I have at former times taken occasion to give the government due notice, and to ask that they should be restrained to their own limits.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
H. R. RUNNELS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.*

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*Copy of memoranda of instruction forwarded to Colonel Bourland.*

1st. To make a disposition of the force, to cover and protect the exposed settlements. Making stations upon or near the trails or passes of the Indians.

2d. Pursuing trails to the camp of the enemy; chastising him and destroying his supplies.

3d. Reclaiming stolen property; no difference in whose hands it may be found. The possession *prima facie* evidence that the possessor was the robber; where the property is not given up peaceably to take it by force; and in the case of Indians to take life, if necessary to accomplish the object.

4th. To break up the trade carried on between the friendly Indians north of Red river and the Comanches and their confederates. To assure the former, if they do not desist, Texas will make war upon them and the United States will in the end have to co-operate and send the government troops to invade their territory.

5th. To co-operate with Major Van Dorn, if practicable.

6th. To issue rations of subsistence and forage in accordance with the laws of the United States. To cover all issues by requisitions and

returns. To issue ordnance and stores in a regular manner. In these matters there must be system and compliance with law and the regulations of the United States army.

7th. To use strict economy, and purchase no article unless absolutely necessary for the good of the service, and within the line of articles used by the like army in the United States service.

8th. The rules and regulations of the United States army, and the articles of war, to be observed and enforced as near as can be.

You will, as soon as practicable after the company has been organized, forward to this office a copy of the muster-rolls, with the names of the officers elected and properly authenticated

H. R. RUNNELS.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
*Austin, October 4, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: I received, by last night's mail, a letter from Major Bisho of Wise county, enclosing the petition of a large number of citizens giving such an account of the condition of that frontier as to require, if true, action by authority of the State, the general government having failed to adopt the necessary measures for its protection. I was also much pleased to see, from a paragraph in the Dallas "Herald," that you had taken the matter in hand, and, with a number of your fellow citizens, had determined to follow up and punish the Indian enemy. I hope before this reaches you you will have done so and been successful.

I enclose you, by the bearer of this, a commission which will enable you to act with authority in the matter, and give direction to the necessary movements against the common enemy, which I hope you will be able, consistently with your feelings, to accept.

You are aware that it is impossible for me to know the requisites of such an emergency, situated so far from the scene as I am. There must be some one in whom I can and should confide in matters of so much moment; for while I am willing to do everything in my power, it will not do to rely on every representation that is made. I know of no one in your station whose past experience will so well justify me in confiding the direction of affairs at this time as yourself. I therefore authorize you to adopt such measures of defence as you may deem desirable to meet the existing emergency.

You are authorized to raise a company of seventy-nine men, rank and file, for three months' service, or for such time as may be hereafter directed, but such company in no event to be kept under pay longer than their services are absolutely required. If you shall have become satisfied of the tribes committing the depredations, and believe that an expedition against them at their own homes is necessary and practicable, you are then authorized to raise such additional number of men as may be required for the purpose, and pursue and punish them, wheresoever they may belong, and wherever they may go.

If satisfied of their guilt, you will pay no regard to treaty stipulations.



tions between them and the government of the United States, in any event, without the unconditional surrender of the offending parties, and the return of the stolen property of our citizens. If the general government cannot or will not protect our citizens from her Indians, and the necessity devolves on them of doing so, the whole civilized world will justify and sustain them in exercising the right.

If you should find it necessary to cross Red river, you can cooperate with Major Van Dorn's command, or not, as you may think best.

You will use all possible exertion to overtake and punish the offenders, find them where you will, within our territory or out of it, without regard to time or place, excepting the Indian reserves only, but regarding the circumstances of your ability to do so alone.

You will perceive the necessity of the greatest celerity of movement, at the same time that due caution should be exercised on attempting an expedition against any of the bands in their own strongholds, lest the force of the blow should be foiled or weakened, by giving them time for preparation or escape.

If you should determine not to act under this commission, you are then authorized to raise the company or designate some proper person to do so, to the efficient and proper officering and manning of which I shall hope you will give some attention, as without good officers and good men there is no efficient service to be expected.

All reasonable expenses for ammunition will be paid to your requisition on the comptroller. The means for the pay and subsistence of the men will have to be provided by the next legislature at its next regular session. You will please let me hear from you by the return of the messenger, and give me as exact an account of the situation of affairs and the requirements of the occasion as may be in your power.

Oblige, very respectfully,

H. R. RUNNELS.

Colonel JAMES BOURLAND,  
*Cooke County, Texas.*

AUSTIN, *October 6, 1858.*

I have been disappointed in getting the messenger off as soon as expected, and have opened the envelope to make an additional suggestion.

I hope you will take no action, unless it is absolutely necessary, without communicating further with me, or until you are satisfied the emergency requires it fully. I know not how far the legislature may be willing to justify the step, as its endorsement will be necessary in getting an appropriation. I have taken this course in giving you authority, because I cannot be present to know the requisites, and because of the absolute necessity of checking the forays of the Kickapoo, and other United States Indians, who are believed to have been interrupting our territory. I have written the President I would punish them, if the government did not restrain them.

H. R. RUNNELS.



Statement of the amounts paid and assumed by the State of Texas for the support of volunteers called into service for the protection of the frontier since the 28th day of February, 1855.

Date of appropriation.	Particulars.	Amount appropriated.	Amount paid.	Balance of appropriation assumed by the State and subject to be drawn.
1856. Jan. 14	By amount appropriated for pay of Captains William R. Henry, Giles S. Boggess, John G. Walker, William Fitzhugh, P. H. Rogers, and Charles E. Travis' companies of volunteers, being six companies called out by General P. F. Smith, United States army.....	\$55,000 00		
	To amount paid to Captain W. R. Henry's company, called into service December 14, 1854, for three months, discharged March 31, 1855, consisting of three commissioned, eight non-commissioned officers, and sixty-two privates.....		\$7,791 58	
	To amount paid to Captain Giles S. Boggess' company, called into service December 23, 1854, for three months, discharged March, 1855, consisting of three commissioned, eight non-commissioned officers, and seventy-seven privates.....		8,489 05	
	To amount paid to Captain John G. Walker's company, called into service November 1, 1854, for three months, consisting of three commissioned, eight non-commissioned officers, and seventy-four privates.....		7,980 55	
	To amount paid to William Fitzhugh's company, called into service November 2, 1854, for three months, consisting of three commissioned, eight non-commissioned officers, and seventy-seven privates.....		8,213 76	
	To amount paid to Captain P. H. Rogers' company, called into service November 9, 1854, for three months, discharged February 9, 1855, consisting of three commissioned, eight non-commissioned officers, and fifty-six privates.....		5,936 16	
	To amount paid to Captain Charles E. Travis' company, called into service October 18, 1854, for three months, consisting of three commissioned, eight non-commissioned officers, and seventy-seven privates.....		7,564 28	
	Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn.....			\$9,024 62
	By amount appropriated for pay of balances due on account of contracts for expenses of the above six companies of volunteers.....	6,000 00		

	To amount paid from February 2, 1856, to September 6, 1858, to sundry parties	4,026 43	
	Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn		1,973 57
1855. Dec. 17	By amount appropriated for pay of Captain J. H. Callahan, Nathaniel Benton, and W. R. Henry's companies of volunteers	16,091 12	
	To amount paid to Captain James H. Callahan's company, called into service July 20, 1855, for three months, discharged October 19, 1855, consisting of three commissioned, eight non-commissioned officers, and seventy-seven privates		10,080 10
	To amount paid to Captain Nathaniel Benton's company, called into service September 15, 1855, for one month, discharged October 15, 1855, consisting of three commissioned, four non-commissioned officers, and nineteen privates		2,509 83
	To amount paid Captain W. R. Henry's company, called into service September 15, 1855, for one month, to October 15, 1855, consisting of three commissioned, four non-commissioned officers, and twenty-nine privates		2,981 00
	Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn		520 11
	By amount appropriated for subsistence of the above and foregoing three companies of volunteers	5,755 22	
	To amount paid for subsistence to sundry parties		5,750 60
	Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn		4 62
1856. Aug. 30	By amount appropriated for pay of Captain William Tom's company of volunteers	1,702 64	
	To amount paid Captain William Tom's company, called into service October 13, 1855, for one month, discharged November 15, 1855, consisting of three commissioned, eight non-commissioned officers, and seventy-seven privates		1,494 72
	Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn		207 92
	By amount appropriated for pay of Captain W. G. Tobin's company of volunteers	943 17	
	To amount paid Captain W. G. Tobin's company, called into service October 12, 1855, for one month, discharged November 15, 1855, consisting of three commissioned, four non-commissioned officers, and twenty-one privates		917 46
	Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn		25 71
	By amount appropriated for pay of Captain Levi English's company of volunteers	1,843 39	
	To amount paid Captain Levi English's company, called into service August, 1855, discharged November, 1856, consisting of four commissioned, six non-commissioned officers, and forty-six privates		1,764 86
	Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn		78 53
	By amount appropriated for pay for supplies furnished Captain William Tom's company, and pay of paymaster of Captains Tom, English, and Tobin's companies	508 97	
	To amount paid for supplies to Captain William Tom's company, and pay of paymaster of Captains Tom, English, and Tobin's companies		508 97

STATEMENT—Continued.

Date of appropriation.	Particulars.	Amount appropriated.	Amount paid.	Balance of appropriation assumed by the State and subject to be drawn.
1858. Jan. 13	By amount appropriated for pay of Captains John W. Sansom, John D. Davenport, and Reading W. Black's companies of volunteer minute men..... By additional amount necessary to fully pay said companies..... To amount paid Neill Robison, paymaster of Captains John W. Sansom, John D. Davenport, and Reading W. Black's companies of minute men..... Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn.....	\$4,000 00 2,600 00 ----- -----	----- ----- \$4,000 00 -----	----- ----- ----- \$2,600 00
1857. Nov. 17	By amount appropriated for pay of Captains T. K. Carmack, J. H. Conner, J. S. Hodges, and J. C. Frost's companies to protect frontier..... To amount paid Captain T. K. Carmack's company, called into service December 14, 1857, for three months, discharged March 14, 1857, consisting of two commissioned, two non-commissioned officers, and seventeen privates..... To amount paid Captain J. H. Conner's company, called into service December 2, 1857, for three months, discharged March 2, 1858, consisting of one commissioned, two non-commissioned officers, and twenty-eight privates..... To amount paid Captain J. C. Frost's company, called into service December 21, 1857, for three months, discharged March 21, 1858, consisting of one commissioned, two non-commissioned officers, and seventeen privates..... To amount paid Neill Robison, paymaster of Captain J. S. Hodges' company of volunteers, and sundry accounts..... Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn.....	20,000 00. ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- -----	----- ----- 2,924 80 ----- 4,273 02 ----- 2,863 25 ----- 3,028 25 -----	----- ----- ----- ----- ----- ----- 6,910 68
1858. Jan. 27	By amount appropriated for pay of Captain J. S. Ford's companies of volunteers to protect frontier... To amount paid Ed. Burleson, paymaster of Captain J. S. Ford's companies of volunteers, and S. M. Swenson for supplies, &c., for said companies.....	70,000 00 -----	----- 55,800 00	-----

1855.  
Dec. 17

Balance assumed by the State and subject to be drawn.....  
By amount appropriated for pay of paymaster of Captains James H. Callahan, Nathaniel Benton,  
and W. R. Henry's companies of volunteers.....  
To amount paid John D. Pitts, paymaster of said companies.....  
Total amount.....

		14,200 00
100 00	100 00	
184,544 51	148,998 75	35,545 76

I, the undersigned, comptroller of public accounts of the State of Texas, do hereby certify that the foregoing statement is a correct exhibit of the amounts paid and assumed by the State of Texas for the pay, subsistence, and forage of volunteer troops called into service for the protection of the frontier since the 28th day of February, 1855.

Given under my hand and seal this the 18th day of September, 1858.

JAMES B. SHAW, *Comptroller.*

No. 25.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, October 18, 1858.*

SIR: Enclosed are the reports of Major Van Dorn and Captain Whiting of the battle with the Comanches on the 1st instant. It will be seen from the reports that every officer and [man?] did their duty in the most gallant manner; it rarely happens that a command so efficient is assembled together.

I fear the wounds of Major Van Dorn will keep him from the head of his command for some time. I intend to keep this command in the field until spring. I understand, from a reliable source, the Comanches are locating themselves in Mexico by way of the "great Comanche trail," crossing the El Paso road between Forts Lancaster and Davis. If I had four more mounted companies to put on this track and penetrate the Indian country by the route crossing the Peots at "Horse Head Crossing," they would render good and efficient service. The victory of Major Van Dorn should be followed up, and the Indians be made to feel the power of the United States. I wish, if possible, to abandon the defensive system. I have to-day ordered companies "B" and "C," 2d cavalry, under command of Captain Oakes, to re-inforce Major Van Dorn.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General, U. S. A., Com'g. Dep't.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Asst. Adj't. General, Headquarters of the Army, New York.*

HEADQUARTERS EXPEDITION TO THE WICHITA MOUNTAINS,  
*Camp on Otter Creek, C. N., September 26, 1858.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report my arrival at this point with my command. I have established the depot on the south side of Otter creek, and about two hundred yards east of Marcy's line, marking the 100° of longitude west. I am at work putting up a picket or stock enclosure for the protection of the supplies and animals during the absence of the cavalry part of the command, and expect to get off in three or four days on my first scout. It is my intention to go to the Antelope Hills on the Canadian, and scout in that vicinity with my whole command.

I found, on the march from Fort Belknap, all the grass burned off the prairies to this creek, with the exception of about twelve miles south of Red river. I had some difficulty to find enough to sustain the animals. Mr. Duff's train of corn wagons will reach here to-day, however, and I shall have the benefit of a few days' forage before leaving for the Canadian river. The grass does not seem to have been set on fire north of this creek. There is a sufficient growth of timber

here to build, should it be deemed advisable to do so, the principal species of trees being walnut of a large healthy growth; the creek is the assemblage of many springs, and the water is clear, limpid, and good; the camp is by a good spring.

I respectfully suggest that this camp be named after the late Lieutenant Radzinski, of the 2d regiment of cavalry—a high-minded, chivalric soldier, and an accomplished gentleman, of whose death we have but recently heard, and which we now regret as a severe loss to our regiment.

I enclose a sketch of our march from Belknap, made by Lieutenant Van Camp.

Very respectfully, sir, I am your obedient servant,

EARL VAN DORN,

*Brevet Major, Captain 2d Cavalry, commanding.*

Captain JOHN WITHERS,

*Assistant Adjutant General, San Antonio, Texas.*

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CAMP NEAR WICHITA VILLAGE,  
October 2, 1858.

SIR: I send you a brief statement of the action of the troops under Major Van Dorn since we left camp on Otter creek. The major being wounded severely but not dangerously, this duty devolves upon me. We left Otter creek on the afternoon of the 29th of September, upon the report of some of our friendly Indians, that a band of Comanches were encamped near this place, and that the distance was forty miles. The major concluded to start at once with his four companies, and expected to reach the Indians by daylight the next morning. The Indians, however, were mistaken in the distance, and we did not arrive here until daylight of the 1st of October. We charged the Comanche camp just at sunrise; took the camp and every thing they had. Our loss was, killed, Lieutenant Van Camp and three men of "H" company; wounded, Major Van Dorn and Captain Ross, jr., (in charge of the friendly Indians,) one private of "A" company, one of "K," four of "H," and four of "F." The loss of the Indians was, forty-four killed, and some women and children taken prisoners by the friendly Indians; I don't know exactly how many; this is not intended as a report.

I have no writing materials and have only been able to find a small piece of paper upon which I have written this, and send to Lieutenant Lowe at Fort Belknap, with a request to him to copy and forward to you. As we only started with two days' provisions, I sent an express last night to Arbuckle for four days' provisions, and an ambulance and wagon to transport our wounded to Arbuckle, which is said to be some twenty-five or thirty miles from this place. Two companies will go with Major Van Dorn and the wounded to Arbuckle, and I shall return with mine and Captain Johnston's to our camp on Otter creek. Ma-

Major Van Dorn will probably not be "for duty" for some months. I expect the ambulance and wagon to-morrow, and shall leave as soon as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES J. WHITING,  
*Captain 2d Cavalry.*

Captain JOHN WITHERS,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

A true copy:

W. W. LOWE,  
*1st Lieutenant and Adjutant 2d Cavalry.*

HEADQUARTERS, FORT ARBUCKLE, C. N., October 3, 1858.

SIR: Fearing Major Van Dorn's despatches to your headquarters may be intercepted, I have the honor to enclose a copy of a note received from Captain Whiting, second cavalry, in relation to the major's fight with the Comanche Indians at the Wichita village, and my reply.

Copies have also been sent to the headquarters, department of the west.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. E. PRINCE,  
*Captain 1st Infantry, commanding.*

Captain JOHN WITHERS, *Assistant Adjutant General,*  
*Department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.*

CAMP NEAR WICHITA VILLAGE, October 1, 1858.

DEAR CAPTAIN: A command of the second cavalry, under Major Van Dorn, has had an engagement with the Comanche Indians this morning, in which, I am sorry to say, that Van Camp was killed, the major severely wounded, and also eight soldiers wounded, so much so as to render them unable to ride on horseback. We left our camp with three days' rations, which will be out to-morrow evening; will you be kind enough to send four days' rations for two hundred and twenty-five men, with one wagon, and an ambulance or carriage for the transportation of the wounded to your post? If the wagon cannot be sent, please send the provision on mules, as we are eighty-five miles from our depot. Forty Indians are known to be killed. If Doctor Gaenslen can come out and bring with him such medicines as are necessary for gun and arrow-shot wounds, please let him come. We will move to your post as soon as possible, on the arrival of provision and transportation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES J. WHITING,  
*Captain 2d Cavalry.*

Captain W. E. PRINCE,  
*First Infantry, commanding Fort Arbuckle.*



HEADQUARTERS, *Fort Arbuckle, C. N., October 2, 1858.*

DEAR CAPTAIN: Your express arrived this afternoon at 3½ o'clock p. m., and I shall despatch immediately Assistant Surgeon John J. Maenslen, and such supplies from his department as you require; also the subsistence stores necessary for your command.

I have also hired an ambulance, which I send for the wounded, whom you had better send at once to this post. I send one non-commissioned officer and 20 men, as escort for that purpose.

Permit me to suggest, from my knowledge of the numbers of Comanches in your vicinity, and their determined hostility against the United States troops stationed in Texas, as well as the citizens of that State, the necessity of immediately reinforcing your camp on Otter Creek. I consider the command there as in a very critical condition, and think that at least two companies of your present command should be sent to their aid at once.

My company is the only force I have at this post. Major Emory, with two companies of the 1st cavalry, is expected daily.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. E. PRINCE,

*Captain 1st Infantry, commanding.*

Captain CHARLES J. WHITING,

*2d Cavalry, Camp near Wichita Village, C. N.*

HEADQUARTERS WICHITA EXPEDITION,  
*Camp near Wichita Village, October 5, 1858.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to make the following report of the operations of my command since the 25th ultimo, the date of my last report: The stockade work in progress of construction at that date was completed on the 29th, and preparations were being made to move towards the Canadian river the following morning, when two of my Indian spies came in and reported a large Comanche camp near the Wichita village, about ninety miles due east of the depot. Upon receipt of this information, I had all the stores, draught mules, and extra horses moved at once into the defensive enclosure, and marched for this point with the four companies of cavalry and Indian allies. After making forced march of ninety odd miles, in thirty-eight hours, during the last part of which we were continuously in the saddle for sixteen and a half hours, including the charge and pursuit, we arrived at this camp on the morning of the 1st instant.

I had been in hopes of reaching a point in close proximity to the enemy before daylight, and had made dispositions for an attack, based on information received from the spies, but as daybreak came upon us some three or four miles off, and I found them very inaccurate in their information, I moved the companies up in column with intervals of a hundred yards, and moved in the direction in which the camp was said to be, sending instructions to the captains to deploy and charge whenever it was seen over the crest of the hills in advance of

us. After marching with this formation about two miles at an increased gait, the sound of the charge came from towards the left, and in a moment the whole command poured down into the enemy's camp in the most gallant style, and we soon found ourselves engaged on a warmly defended battle field.

There being many ravines in and about the camp that obstructed the easy operation of cavalry, and gave good shelter to Indians, it was more than an hour and a half before they were entirely beaten out or destroyed, during which time there were many hand to hand engagements, both on the part of the officers and men. The friendly Indian I ordered in approaching the camp to stampede the animals and get them out of the way. This order they effectually carried out. The Delawares and Caddos also entered into the fight with the troops, and did effective service, especially in the skirmishing in the neighboring hills and ravines. We have gained a complete and decisive victory over the enemy. Fifty-six warriors are left dead on the field, and it is presumed that many more are lying in the vicinity, as many were doubtless mortally wounded but enabled to escape on their horses from the battle field. How many were wounded is not known.

Over three hundred animals were captured; about one hundred and twenty lodges were burned.

Their supply of ammunition, cooking utensils, clothing, dressed skins, corn and subsistence stores, were all destroyed or appropriated for the use of the command. Those who escaped did so with the scanty clothing they had on and their arms, and nothing was left to mark the site of their camp but the ashes and the dead. I regret that I have to report that two Indian women were accidentally killed in the battle; their dresses only concealed, not indicated their sex. Two Wichita Indians were also accidentally killed, being in the Comanche camp.

The number of Indians has been variously estimated from three to five hundred. I think there were over four hundred. This victory has not been achieved without loss on our side. Lieutenant Cornelius Van Camp, one of the most promising and gallant young officers of our regiment, or of the service at large, fell pierced through the heart by an arrow whilst charging the enemy's camp, and died as the brave alone should die. In his loss we feel our victory to be a dear bought one.

The following is a list of the killed and wounded as furnished me by the captains, viz:

"A" company, wounded.—Brevet Major Earl Van Dorn, severely; Corporal Joseph P. Taylor, dangerously.

"K" company, wounded.—Private Smith Hinckley, slightly.

"H" company, killed.—Private Peter Magar and Private Jacob Echard.

"H" company, missing, supposed to be killed.—Private Henry Howard.

"H" company, wounded.—Sergeant C. B. McLellan, slightly; Corporal Bishop Gordon, slightly; Bugler M. Aborgast, slightly; Private C. C. Alexander, severely.

"F" company wounded.—Sergeant J. E. Garrison, mortally, since

dead; Private C. C. Emery, severely; Private A. J. McNamara, severely; Private W. Frank, slightly.

Mr. J. J. Ward, sutler to the command, and Mr. S. Ross, in charge of the friendly Indians, were also wounded; the former slightly, the latter quite severely.

I am so greatly indebted to all the officers of the command collectively, for the energy, the zeal, the ability, and gallantry with which they aided me in achieving this success, that I feel it impossible to name one as being distinguished above the others.

I am equally indebted in the same manner to all the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of my command, who under all the circumstances of the forced march and the battle, proved themselves to be soldiers worthy of the name. Their gallantry, personal bravery, and fearless intrepidity are the admiration of their officers, but they find themselves unable to discriminate where all are brave. The officers present in the engagement, were Captains Whiting, Evans, and Johnson; Lieutenants Phifer, Harrison, Porter, and Major; and Assistant Surgeon Carswell. Captain Evans killed two, Lieutenant Harrison two, Lieutenant Phifer two, and Lieutenant Major three Indians in hand to hand encounters during the battle. Mr. S. Ross and Mr. Ward charged with Captain Evans, and did good and efficient service, and are spoken of highly by all the officers for their bearing during the engagement; in fact I am indebted to all the command.

I regret that my wounds have prevented my writing this report at an earlier date. I have requested Lieutenant Lowe, at Fort Belkap, to copy this, and send it to you in proper form.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EARL VAN DORN,

*Bvt. Major, Capt. 2d Cav., com'g.*

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No. 26.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

*San Antonio, October 22, 1858.*

SIR: I beg leave respectfully to say to the Commanding General that I consider there is now a crisis in the Indian affairs on this frontier, and if I had the means to prosecute a vigorous campaign against them, much good would be the result. I have heard nothing further from Major Van Dorn—rumor says the major is badly wounded, (three or four times,) and possibly he may not be able to take the field for a month or two. A command of from four to five mounted companies, to penetrate the Indian country from the El Paso road between Forts Lancaster and Davis, would be of great service. If mounted men cannot be spared for this service, foot troops, to relieve the 2d cavalry at the posts, would answer.

I respectfully ask that orders may be given to have a concert of action between the troops of this department and those serving in this vicinity. Rumor says that Major Emory, with two companies of

cavalry, are ordered to Fort Arbuckle; this post is about twenty miles north of Major Van Dorn's battle ground, and where, the newspapers say, a treaty was recently held with those Comanches. This state of things should not exist—those Indians should be thoroughly chastised, or there will be no peace or security to Texas.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A., com'g dept.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Asst. Adj't General, Headquarters of the Army, New York.*

No. 27.—*General-in-Chief to General Twiggs.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

*New York, November 9, 1858.*

GENERAL: Your communication of October 22d relative to Indian affairs having been laid before the General-in-Chief, he directs me to express his regret that he cannot send additional troops to your department.

He is fully aware of the importance of strengthening your command, but the state of affairs in other parts of our extended country forbids the withdrawal of troops from these distant regions for duty in Texas. The most that can now be done is to fill up the companies with recruits, which has been provided for in Special Orders No. 143.

You have already been instructed with reference to the troops at Fort Arbuckle; and it is probable that the country in the region of the Wichita mountains, now in the department of the west, may be attached to the department of Texas.

Your communication has been forwarded to the adjutant general.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant

L. THOMAS, *Ass't Adj. Gen'l.*

Brevet Maj. Gen. D. E. TWIGGS,

*Commanding department of Texas, San Antonio, Texas.*

No. 28.—*Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

*Austin, October 27, 1858.*

SIR: A short time since I had the honor to transmit you the copy of a letter and instructions to Colonel James Bourland from this office, authorizing him to take the necessary steps for the protection of a portion of the northern frontier from the incursions of the Indians. I now have the honor to transmit his reply to that communication.

from which it will be seen that he has taken steps to organize the company of men authorized by the instructions to him. It is unnecessary for me to add more than the expression of the hope that the general government will not hesitate to provide for defraying the expenses of protection, when, as in this case, they are unavoidably incurred because of the insufficiency of the means provided by the government for the purpose.

I shall not add to this the recital of scenes of recent bloodshed that have occurred during the past week within one hundred miles of this place, the facts of which have been communicated to the commanding general, that he may adopt measures to prevent their recurrence, if in his power, with the limited means at his command. Should he be found unable to render the necessary assistance, and the duty devolve on the State authorities, it will be expected that the federal government will provide to meet the expense.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. RUNNELS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

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COOK COUNTY, TEXAS, *October 18, 1858.*

SIR: Your letter of the 4th and 6th instant, together with a commission to raise a company of mounted men to serve on the frontier of Texas, were received on yesterday morning, and I make no delay in my answer, except such as is necessary in order to give full and reliable information, so far as could be gathered in such a short time.

From what I know of my own knowledge, and from reliable information, I cannot conceive of a much more pressing case or emergency upon your excellency than now exists immediately upon the frontier for protection by the State. The counties of Cook, Montague, Jack, Young, Wise, Palo Pinto, and other frontier counties, have suffered from the incursions of hostile Indians for some time, and very recently their forays have been alarming in the very extreme, from the fact that they have come into the settlements in Wise county, and attacked a company of persons, mostly women and children; but the men being seven in number, all unarmed, the Indians succeeded in killing two men, wounded two others, and much abused the helpless females, after which the Indians robbed the wagon and houses and took their horses; they then, with all the audacity imaginable, rode and drove their stolen property in the night, and probably in the daytime, through the settlements into Cook county, within twenty miles of my own residence, and within twelve miles north of Gainesville; then took the horses belonging to the neighborhood of J. & E. Prey's stock farm, killed a beef, cooked a part, and then made good their escape. They were pursued, but owing to the delay in getting up a sufficient number of men, they were too far ahead to be overtaken; so, after trailing a distance of nearly two hundred miles, pursuit was abandoned.

The foregoing, together with the threats made by the Comanche "that until the last Comanche was killed, Texas should have no peace," and they are verifying their threats as you will see by the battle fought between them and Major Van Dorn and his command near the Wichita village, northeast of the mountains of the same name, and the particulars of which battle have not come to my knowledge, but what I have is from Captain Strain, of Fort Arbuckle, whom I know to be reliable, and here I give you an extract from his letter, dated the 6th instant: "Major Van Dorn had a fight near the Wichita village with Comanches. He was wounded badly; Lieutenant Van Camp was killed, and several soldiers killed and wounded. The Comanches will attack all parties now; they are collecting from the Big Prairie and will be hard to whip. Major Van Dorn and his few companies are expected here to-day, (6th;)" all of which has caused me to accept the commission you have been pleased to forward me, and as I have stated before, I shall repair to Gainesville to-morrow where the district court for this county will be in session, and I will use all the energy I am master of to raise the number of men authorized for a company to protect those whose families are now mostly exposed, and, as early as practicable, will designate the ground or posts to receive supplies; but at present it would be impossible for any one to say which point, from the fact that many of the entire settlements of from fifteen to thirty families are now abandoned, and are now dependent upon their own exertions and the liberality of the older settlers for a support.

You may rely upon me using all the economy possible, and also the necessary discretion, so far as I am capable of being the judge. This being a hasty answer, as you may discover, you may rely upon receiving frequent communications from me relative to my progress.

I have the honor to be your excellency's obedient servant,

JAMES BOURLAND.

His Excellency H. R. RUNNELS, *Governor*.

P. S. I have furnished the bearer of despatches \$40 as per receipt enclosed, which you will retain out of his pay.

J. B.

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No. 29.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, October 30, 1858.*

SIR: Herewith is transmitted a report and a call for assistance from the governor of the State. I have no troops available for the purpose, but the company of cavalry stationed at Camp Colorado. I think it more than probable that the company is or has been in pur-



suit of those Indians, as the officer in command of that post (Lieut. Hood) is an active, energetic officer.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Bvt. Major General U. S. A., comd'g dept.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A.,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York city, N. Y.*

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,  
*Austin, October 27, 1858.*

SIR: I regret to be under the necessity of communicating to you the enclosed papers,\* furnishing the evidence of recent Indian murders in Brown and Lampasas counties. They were brought to me last night, by express. I have furnished forty rifles for the use of the citizens in their own defence until such aid as can be afforded by the department shall reach them. I have recommended them to call on the commander of Camp Colorado without delay, and shall hope that you will communicate to him orders to give such assistance as he may be able in protecting that particular section of country which, from its exposed situation, seems to be the point of attack. If the commander of that post has at his disposal an adequate active force, I would respectfully suggest the propriety of dividing it and establishing a temporary camp somewhere in that vicinity with a small portion of it, so as to afford more general protection. The citizens, I have every reason to believe, are in great consternation, and unless there can be afforded them some additional security, fear the most disastrous consequences.

I have the honor to be, with the greatest respect, your obedient servant,

H. R. RUNNELS.

Brevet Major General D. E. TWIGGS,  
*Commanding T. M. department.*

No. 30.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, November 1, 1858.*

SIR: Herewith I transmit a communication from Major Van Dorn. He is still confined with his wounds. He was shot through the body with an arrow, and another through the wrist, passing between the bones of the arm.

\* See affidavit of William Windham and Jasper Willis and petition of citizens of Lampasas county, accompanying No. —, War Department.

I have sent to reinforce him, if necessary, with three companies of cavalry. If his situation will justify it, Captain Oakes is to operate with the three last companies and Major Van Dorn's command (if he is able) under Captain Whiting.

Being convinced that action and energetic operations at this time are necessary, I have very unwillingly stripped the frontier of nearly all the mounted force. This, in my opinion, is a very hazardous move, but it is the choice of evils. I intend to keep the command out until spring, at least. As I know (whatever the received opinion to the contrary may be) that dead Indians are not taken from the field, I directed Major Van Dorn not to report any killed that he did not count on the battle ground. His official report only mentioned fifty-six; subsequently a number more were found dead near where they fought, and it is now well ascertained that seventy or eighty are found dead.

It is understood here that many of the Comanches have gone over to New Mexico and located themselves, and will, in all probability, cross over to Mexico. Shall we pursue them into New Mexico? I ask for instructions in relation to this. In the absence of instructions I will order them pursued across the Rio Grande.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Major General U. S. A., commanding department.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York.*

#### HEADQUARTERS WICHITA EXPEDITION,

*Camp on Otter Creek, C. N., October 18, 1858.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report my return with my command to this camp. Before leaving the Wichita village, Captain Whiting, then in command, sent Lieutenants Phifer and Harrison, and forty men, with the wounded to Fort Arbuckle with instructions to return immediately to this point as soon as they got there safely in hospital. I think they will be here in a very few days.

Upon my return I found everything going on smoothly, and nothing had occurred of interest during our absence. The whole command are in good health and in fine spirits.

My horses, very much reduced by the forced marches to the Comanche camps and the hard riding during the engagement, were still more weakened by the want of grass on several occasions when we were compelled to camp in the burnt districts between here and the east end of the mountains. I am in hopes, however, that in fifteen or eighteen days they will be enabled to start out on another expedition to the Canadian river, where it is presumed there is another band of Comanches encamped, to which will be added, prob-

ably, the remnant of the one recently broken up. I regret that my wounds will prevent me going in person, but I feel every confidence that my command will succeed, if it is possible, and that Captain Whiting and the other officers will do everything that can be done to promote the objects of the expedition. I shall probably (the surgeon informs me) be enabled to mount my horse again in three or four weeks, but the season for active operations in the field cannot be lost, and I am compelled to send my command out and remain at the depot.

About eighteen miles east of this and near the foot of the southern slope of the Wichita mountains there is a finely wooded country to which I shall probably remove depot upon the return of the next expedition, if you do not object to it. Here the country is rather bare and bleak, and, of course, but little protection is offered to our camp and the animals, that is, off from the margin of the creek, where there is fine timber. There are indications that the creek overflows its banks and I am afraid to risk my stores near them. The creek upon which I propose to move is the west branch of Cache creek, and is in as good a central position for the depot as this, and it has the advantage of having on it the finest growth of timber I have seen in this country, and would, no doubt, be selected as the best point for a military post, should it be deemed advisable to establish one in this vicinity.

There is nothing further of any interest to report. I regret that I have no sketch of the country passed over, ready to send by this express. The death of Lieutenant Van Camp and my wounds have interrupted the execution of that portion of your instructions, but the omission shall be attended to as soon as possible.

Very respectfully, captain, I am your obedient servant,

EARL VAN DORN,

*Brevet Major, Captain 2d Cavalry, commanding.*

Captain JOHN WITHERS,

*Assistant Adjutant General, San Antonio, Texas.*

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No. 31.—*General-in-Chief to General Twiggs.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

*New York, November 19, 1858.*

SIR: Your communication of November 1st was forwarded to the War Department without being read by the General-in-Chief, who has been absent three or four days. Having returned, he directs me to reply to your request that the pursuit of hostile Indians within the limits of another department by troops from your own may be sanctioned. He supposed that, from the tenor of previous instructions to you, especially the letter addressed to you from the Adjutant General's office July 24, 1858, you would have no doubts on this subject.

He not only approves of the instructions you have given, but

authorizes you to apply for any aid and co-operations that can be afforded from another department to your expeditions in case of emergency. I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant

I am, sir, very respectfully, your

obedient

GEORGE LAY,

Lieutenant Colonel, Aid-de-camp

Major General D. E. TWIGGS,

Commanding Department of Texas.

No. 32.—Governor Runnels to the Secretary of War.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

Austin, November, 1854

SIR: I deem it proper herewith to enclose copies of evidence forwarded to this office concerning Indian depredations, which is believed to be reliable. I forwarded you, a few days since, the response of Captain Bourland to the letter and instructions sent him, copies of which were forwarded you by due course of mail at the time they were issued. I now enclose you the evidence on which my action was based, authorizing him to raise men for the protection of that particular section; consisting of the letters of Colonel Bishop and Mr. Palmer, with petitions of the citizens of the county of Cook &c. In addition thereto, I beg your attention to enclosed affidavit of citizens of Lampasas county, detailing an account of the murder and captivity of the Jackson family, at a point not distant one hundred miles from the capitol. The affidavit is accompanied by a petition of the citizens, and also the letters of Captain John Williams and Lieutenant Cowan, officers of a company of volunteers organized for the immediate protection of their homes. These letters give full confirmation of the facts set forth in the affidavit and petition. You will please to observe particularly the deplorable condition of the frontier as represented by these letters, and of the panic reigning with the inhabitants. In addition to the written testimony herein contained, information deemed reliable, has been received of the murder of two citizens, by a party of twelve Indians, and the loss of near three hundred head of horses, within twelve or fifteen miles of the town of Belton, a point situated immediately on the main mail stage road from this place to Waco, and distant only sixty miles from this place.

I have on several occasions aforesaid called attention to the imminence of the danger, and the pressing necessity for the adoption of prompt and adequate measures for averting the threatening storm which is now beginning to burst with all its fury on the suffering frontier. Remonstrance having been passed by unheeded, or in a great measure proved unavailing, the executive of this State, as a last resort, has felt himself called upon, under the solemn duty he owes to his fellow-citizens, to interpose such measures for the protection

of life and property as are within his reach. I have, therefore, under the existing emergency, authorized, in addition to the order issued to Captain Bourland, Captain John S. Ford to raise a company of eighty-nine men, with instructions to repair without delay to the point of danger, and give such protection to the inhabitants as he may be able therewith.

In conclusion, I can but express the hope that the government will recognize these companies, and cause an appropriation for their pay and subsistence to be made by Congress at its present session; and if not, that such other effective measures may be adopted at an early day as will render their presence no longer necessary in the field.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. R. RUNNELS.

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

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DECATUR, WISE COUNTY, TEXAS,  
*September 18, 1858.*

We, the undersigned, citizens of Wise and Montague counties, most respectfully represent to your excellency the deplorable condition which our country has been thrown in, in consequence of very recent depredations having been committed by the Indians in Montague county, near the northern line of Wise. Two citizens were murdered and several others seriously wounded by a party of Indians, recognized by one of the party who escaped as Kickapoos. Horse stealing is almost of daily occurrence on our frontier, and, from the most reliable evidence, believed to be carried on by the Kickapoo Indians. We would further represent to your excellency that, in consequence of this state of affairs, the citizens of this section of country have resolved to make the effort to protect themselves and their property, so far as it lies in their power, from the almost continuous depredations of the Indians upon our frontier settlers. Having despaired of receiving protection from the United States, we must alone rely upon our own resources for protection—limited as it is both in men and means, it is our only hope for present relief. The condition of our country is truly deplorable. Montague county is at this time depopulated, and their crops left to the mercy of the Indians. Numerous citizens on the northern frontier of Wise and a part of Cook county, have been compelled to leave their homes and their all, and to retire into the more densely populated portions of the country, feeling themselves too weak to defend against the savages who are known to be marauding in their midst. Our citizens are preparing to organize into companies for the purpose of pursuing the Indians into their own country, believing it to be the only means by which we can obtain even a respite from their depredations. We have information that a company raised in Cook county, of one hundred men, will take the field in a day or two. We

design doing likewise as soon as practicable. We are aware that such a course may appear to be rash on the part of a few citizens without authority, and without the necessary supplies and implements of warfare. Self-protection being one of the first laws of nature, we are only acting in obedience to that law, and most respectfully solicit your excellency's sanction and co-operation in aiding us in the effort which we are about to make to defend the country to the fullest extent that you can under existing laws and your sense of propriety in the premises. And your memorialists will ever pray.

H. L. Woodward,  
 H. H. Gerwins,  
 Napoleon Stone,  
 E. Slabbers,  
 John R. Reen,  
 O. R. Whitton,  
 John Christopher,  
 A. T. Young,  
 J. A. Reed,  
 Henry Jennings,  
 E. M. King,  
 Joseph E. Boydston,  
 J. J. Moore,  
 J. P. King,  
 F. M. Finley,  
 John W. Lane,  
 Ambrose Anderson,  
 H. Connolly,  
 E. Halsell,  
 William W. Brady,  
 William H. Moss,  
 L. D. White,  
 A. B. Fulenganie,  
 Wilson Cooke,  
 John B. Williams,  
 William B. Bordwell,  
 B. C. Barnes,  
 Thomas C. Weatherby,  
 J. Richardson,  
 Moses P. Bell,  
 William Cooke,

William Ray,  
 J. E. Britten,  
 F. M. Johnson,  
 James Scarboro,  
 J. W. Connolly,  
 John O. Lewson,  
 James G. McDonald,  
 G. B. Pennington,  
 John S. Bobb,  
 S. V. Bobb,  
 Bradley H. Oats,  
 M. D. Feelby,  
 John Ramsay,  
 R. M. Marshal,  
 Wm. M. Calhoun,  
 John M. Birdwell,  
 James H. Proctor,  
 Jacob Craig,  
 George W. Stevens,  
 George Bridwell,  
 Edward H. Blythe,  
 Daniel Howell,  
 A. E. Allen,  
 John McDonald,  
 William Wugley,  
 Adam C. Anderson,  
 Henry Moore,  
 Benjamin B. Haney,  
 Joel C. Hancock,  
 J. W. Hale.

His Excellency H. R. RUNNELS.

DECATUR, *September 26, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: By the request of a large number of the citizens of this county I enclose you the petition of a portion of the citizens of our county in relation to the Indian difficulties on our frontier; many more would have signed it had it been deemed necessary. Indeed, every citizen of Wise county and other frontier counties would write



in similar memorials to you had they the opportunity of assembling for that purpose; suffice it to say, that our whole frontier country is in a highly excited state of anxiety and apprehension of immediate impending danger from the Indians residing near our northern frontier. The Comanches, Kickapoos, and other tribes are believed to be leagued together for the purpose of harassing our people, many circumstances, as well as rumor, strengthen this opinion; and for the first time since depredations have been committed upon our citizens I am free to confess that I have strong apprehensions that our country is in serious danger, unless immediate measures are taken to ward off the blow that is evidently in preparation to give our frontier. I delayed sending this memorial by last week's mail, in order to get all the information I could in relation to the many rumors in relation to Indians, said to be in various parts of the country stealing horses, killing cattle, plundering houses, and occasionally murdering our people.

I visited Cook county during the past week, in order to obtain the most reliable information I could on the subject. While there information of a reliable character was received at Gainesville that Indians were seen within eight miles of that place, having a number of loose horses, driving in the direction of Red river. Two or three other similar rumors reached Gainesville during my stay there, not of so reliable a character as the one mentioned, but generally believed to be true. On my return to this place, on Friday last, I was met with similar rumors of Indians in Wise. On last Thursday evening two men were out hunting cattle in the upper part of Wise, and were run in by Indians; the number seen was four. On last (Saturday) evening guns were heard firing a few miles from the upper settlers in this county, who have remained at their homes. The whole country above this being [uninhabited,] leaves no doubt that the firing of the guns was done by Indians. The same thing occurred again this morning, in the same vicinity. My informant is a reliable citizen, who heard the guns, and says that there is not a white family at present in the direction of the firing. He has just left here for home, entertaining serious apprehensions for the safety of himself and neighbors.

I am no alarmist and have used every effort in my power to keep down excitement and alarm amongst our citizens up to this time, but cannot longer resist the conviction that we, and all of the frontier counties, are in imminent danger, unless immediate measures are taken for the defence of our frontiers. The mail carrier from this to Fort Belknap brings intelligence that signs are thick in Jack county, and that a man was murdered in Young county last week near the line of Jack, while on his way home from a neighbor's house.

The regular troops on our frontier give us no protection; the post to be established near Wichita mountains furnishes us no kind of protection whatever. The Indians are known to be thick in their rear at this time, and have nothing to fear from them whatever. Where is an instance that can be cited where the regular troops have ever pursued and overtaken, or captured, or killed any hostile Indians on our frontier? I have yet to learn of the first instance of the kind, nor can I feel any confidence in such (mis-named) protection. The com-

pany referred to in the enclosed memorial, raised in Cook county and endeavoring to be raised in Wise, have fallen far short in numbers to what was anticipated, but have succeeded in raising near one hundred men in this and Cook county together, and have marched in search of Indians, two or three days since, intending to operate as far as Red river, and probably beyond that point in case they find signs indicating the near approach of Indians to our borders. This force can only remain in the field for a very short period, for the want of facilities to carry on a regular campaign. The most of them have families left at home without protection, and whose means are limited. The most of us are barely able to live in the country and not able to defend it. Can you consistently exercise the functions of your office in adopting some speedy remedy for our defenceless situation, by recognizing the company already raised or by authorizing the raising of a company for a few months? I think the circumstances will justify you in such a course.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

H. BISHOP.

Governor RUNNELS.

P. S. I should be pleased to hear from you at your earliest convenience. I will write you again in a few days. The mail closes in a few minutes and I must close for the present.

I endorse all written on this sheet.

H. H. GAINS,

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GAINESVILLE, *October 4, 1858.*

DEAR SIR: We the undersigned citizens of Cook, Montague and Wise counties, do hereby present to your honor the facts concerning the state of Indian depredations in Montague and Wise counties, hoping that you will order forthwith a company of rangers to chastise these Indians and secure safety to our frontier settlers who are now in great danger, not only of their lives, but of their stock, and the depredations are as follows:

Four weeks ago on Sunday there were seven men and about twenty women and children while on the road near the head of Denton creek, when a party of Indians broke out of the bushes upon them, killing two men and wounding two more; the names of those killed were Daniel Wainscott and Cashus McDonald. The Indians rode over several of the women and children, throwing their lariats over them and otherwise abusing them; Mrs. Wainscott was out in the woods with a child three weeks old, from Sunday until Wednesday; when found was nearly exhausted; the distressed families have remained near this place.

About ten days ago a man and his horse were found dead on the overland mail road forty miles west of this place.

Horses and cattle have been stolen and found dead; all the settle-

of the northern part of Montague, Wise, and Jack counties have removed, leaving their crops and some of their stock to the mercy of these savages.

We now petition that you order one hundred men to range in these upper frontier counties, this side of Fort Belknap, for six months, believing this will secure to the settlers a safety to life and property until the emigration will be strong enough to protect themselves.

*Names.*

M. W. Estes,  
 Samuel M. Baird,  
 William Lanning,  
 David Avis,  
 Frederick Hamilton,  
 Willey B. Savage,  
 E. C. Palmer,  
 F. L. Latty,  
 C. McDonald,  
 J. E. Latty,  
 Robert Latty,  
 W. C. Latty,  
 Anderson White,  
 James White,  
 Aaron Hanning,  
 Jerold McDonald,  
 William H. Taylor,  
 John Wellingham,  
 Finesas McFarlan,  
 L. P. Lotty,  
 M. M. Hagler,  
 Daniel S. Hagler,  
 Willis Lavender,  
 John Morris,  
 Austin Morris,  
 James Truelove,  
 James O. Hill,  
 Edwin Leek,  
 Francis Stump,  
 William Stephens,  
 J. C. McGaver,  
 J. Y. Lyday,  
 William Crow,  
 N. Stephens,  
 Westley Mann,  
 Patrick Burns,  
 J. A. Paschal,  
 J. W. Hale,  
 Arnelius Burez,  
 White Biernado,  
 J. H. Hordezra,

W. P. Lowe,  
 J. M. Sindars,  
 J. B. Devenport,  
 James Mann,  
 D. W. Shums,  
 J. Berows,  
 J. G. Small,  
 H. H. Tisdall, M. D.,  
 J. W. Barley,  
 T. S. Ewing,  
 S. B. Retten,  
 J. M. Bailey,  
 S. S. Lindvey,  
 J. B. C. Ewing,  
 Stiles S. Carpenter,  
 Wm. Hendrick,  
 Jno. Benton,  
 John Brumley,  
 M. M. Redmon,  
 Hugh M. Green,  
 Jacob Dalking,  
 Domrick Burns,  
 Jasper Nie,  
 Geo. Y. Bird,  
 J. E. Hughes,  
 T. Richards,  
 N. T. Bonner,  
 Jno. L. Ethredye,  
 Sam'l Hauffman,  
 M. Steinleir,  
 Alfonzo Templeton,  
 S. G. Poarners,  
 Wm. B. McCrun,  
 Lem'l Goodwing,  
 Wm. Bean,  
 J. R. Wonall,  
 T. H. Hamett,  
 A. W. Morris,  
 Jno. W. Johnson,  
 Mansil Baily,  
 M. W. Matthews,

Wm. F. Fitchue,  
 Jesse Byrd,  
 Carpenter Chadwell,  
 Lewis Carpenter,  
 Daniel Montague,  
 S. C. Atkinson,  
 Jno. W. Crisp,  
 James M. Gibson,  
 Joshua Hahn,  
 James Ramsay,

Aaron Hill,  
 Jesse H. C. Jones,  
 Jno. Longaire, jr.,  
 J. M. Redmon,  
 R. Bean,  
 L. L. Brumley,  
 A. D. Huffman.  
 A. J. Mann,  
 B. C. Ticknor.

I do certify that the above named citizens of Montague county to have their names affixed to this instrument.

FRANK M. TATTY,  
*Surveyor of Montague County.*

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GAINESVILLE, October 4, 1858.

DEAR FRIEND: Herewith I send you a petition, signed by the best citizens of this and the adjoining counties who are here. The Indians have driven them in from their homes, and stolen and destroyed property to the amount of several thousand dollars, which is not named in the petition. There is no humbug about it. The Indians have been seen by several persons lurking about, some not more than four miles from this place. It is all the men can do to protect their stock and their families; they cannot go out after the Indians; they are all looking to you for a little help immediately, and you will gain a great credit by assisting.

It is their wish that you send Captain Ford, if he is convenient, with orders to enlist a company in these or the adjoining counties.

This country is settling up very fast; a large emigration is expected from Missouri and the slaveholders from Kansas.

Yours, respectfully,

E. C. PALMER.

H. R. RUNNELS, *Governor of Texas.*

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COLD SPRINGS, POLK COUNTY,  
 October 14, 1858.

DEAR SIR: I have just returned home from the Red river frontier, and will offer you a few observations. The entire county of Montague, which was settling up very rapidly, is now depopulated, except, perhaps, one family, (Buchanan's, just beyond Cook county, on the Belknap road,) and Wise and Jack counties are thinning out rapidly. Last winter I settled a number of emigrants on my lands on the Little

Wichita; they have all returned to the neighborhood of Gainesville, to save their stock and other property. Emigrants just coming in from other States are returning to Kansas and elsewhere, and writing to their friends to stay where they are. The people look to you for protection and on Texas rangers, having no confidence whatever in the United States troops, and you may rest assured the people, not only on the frontier, but of the whole State, and their representatives, will support you in any measures or responsibilities you may take to protect the frontier and punish the Indians. I have been travelling for several months over the State, and have made it my business to inquire into public feeling.

You have, no doubt, been informed of the murders committed in the frontier counties by the Indians.

Trusting that you will, if not already done, call out the rangers,  
I remain, with esteem, your friend,

BEN HUBERT.

Gov. H. R. RUNNELS.

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SAN SABA, *October 25, 1858.*

SIR: On Saturday, the 16th instant, we set out from this place, with ten men, to scout for Indians. We went east of Camp Colorado, on the divide between Pecan bayou and the Colorado. On Thursday, the 21st instant, we struck an Indian trail on Clear creek, about thirty-five miles north from this place. We followed this trail about ten miles; found part of two cows killed by two Indians. About half of each had been taken away. Following on about ten miles, on Friday we reached the residence of Joshua Jackson. It was deserted. Two miles further, we found the bodies of Joshua Jackson, Mrs. Jackson, their daughter, aged about sixteen years, and of a little [child?] aged about seven years. They had been murdered by the Indians on Thursday, about 10 o'clock. The bodies we ourselves buried. Two sons, who escaped, tell us that two of the family are still missing—probably carried off by the Indians—a daughter, aged about eleven, and another about nine years of age.

Since that time my men have been on the outskirts of the settlements, being unable to go in pursuit for want of supplies. The supplies having just come, we will pursue the Indians to-morrow with about sixty men. We will be in active service for some time.

We have reliable information that another company of Indians is in the settlements. The trail was followed down Pecan bayou, from near Camp Colorado, by Custis Mays and sixteen men, a few days ago. These Indians met Adams; captured his horse, which he abandoned for a thicket to save his life.

The settlers are abandoning Pecan bayou, below Chandler's to the Colorado, and down the Colorado to Queen's settlement, about eight miles above the mouth of the San Saba. The people will retreat still further unless immediate protection is afforded.

It would be too tedious to give all the rumors of late, (many of which seem authentic) We will keep you advised of the movement of the company.

Respectfully,

JOHN WILLIAMS,  
By D. C. COWAN.

His Excellency H. R. RUNNELS.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Lampasas.*

Be it remembered, that on this day personally appeared before the undersigned authority, William Windham and Jasper Willis, both citizens of Brown county, Texas, who, after being sworn, deposed and say: that on Thursday last, in said county of Brown, a party of Indians, supposed to be about twenty in number, attacked the family of Joshua Jackson, who were out gathering pecans, consisting of the old man and his wife and two sons and two daughters, all missing; the old lady and one of the boys we saw killed near the wagon; we have been informed, and believe it to be true, that the old man was afterwards found dead about one hundred and fifty yards from the wagon. The trail was followed about one half mile to the river, and found on said trail a stocking belonging to one of the little girls with spots of blood on it; we have every reason to believe that the whole family has been murdered, save the little girls, who have been carried into captivity a thousand times worse than death itself.

STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Lampasas.*

On the 25th day of October personally appeared before me, B. S. Whitaker, notary public, Lampasas county, William Windham and Jasper Willis, who, before me, made oath that the facts stated in the foregoing statement were true.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, at office, this 25th day of October, 1858.

B. S. WHITAKER,  
*Notary Public, Lampasas County, Texas.*

SIR: Enclosed I send you the statement of two respectable citizens of Brown county, stating that the peaceable and quiet citizens of the county, while pursuing their peaceable avocations, have been attacked and foully murdered by a band of Indians. These Indians have been upon the frontier for several days, watching an opportunity to pounce upon some unguarded settler, and have most gloriously succeeded, and they are still lingering in the mountains to wreak further vengeance upon the unguarded frontiersman. In addition to the facts stated already, another party of Indians were seen on the Lampasas river on yesterday, fourteen in number, that had collected a small lot of horses and were guarding them very quietly—had about thirty head; a party

of men left this place this morning for the scene of conflict, but are poorly mounted and worse armed.

These are actions and scenes I think your excellency can hardly pass unnoticed. This is not the first time our citizens have been murdered by the Indians; the country is in such a condition that it is bound to be abandoned unless something is done, and that very soon. Protection will do us no good after our citizens have been killed or driven into the interior.

Hoping to hear that your excellency will do something immediately, I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. S. WHITAKER.

His Excellency H. R. RUNNELS,  
*Governor of the State of Texas.*

SAN SABA, *October 28, 1858.*

This morning, about 9 o'clock, reports reached this place that a company of five Indians were within three miles of this place. District court being in session, Judge Vontress adjourned, and the court and juries, and many citizens, went forthwith in pursuit. Captain Williams' company has not been altogether yet, but are in the service in detachments in various places.

I am here with a very few men, and will march in two or three hours.

Respectfully,

D. C. COWAN,

*First Lieut. Captain J. Williams' Company.*

Hon. H. R. RUNNELS.

P. S. I never have seen such excitement on this frontier in my life; that there are Indians in the country there is no doubt.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant.

D. C. COWAN,

*First Lieut. Captain J. Williams' Company.*

LAMPASAS, *October 30, 1858.*

MY DEAR SIR: To-day I arrived at home and found our people much more alarmed than when I left. Large numbers have moved on into the counties below this. A number of families have been persuaded to stop here, and every house in town is full—all free of rent. We understand that what families are above this are fortified, none daring to attend to their business.

One of the young ladies that was supposed to have been taken into captivity has been found murdered; one of her breasts was cut off, and her person otherwise badly butchered.



The company that left on Monday in pursuit of those Indians followed their trail from within twelve miles of this place, along the dividing ridge or range of mountains below the Cow-house and Lee on the one side, and the Lampasas and Pecan bayou on the other; near the Pecan the trail divided, one keeping on out of the settlements, the other turning down the Pecan; the party that pursued the one leading from the settlements pursued it until they met the company that had went out from Cora on the information given them by the mail rider, of a party of Indians leaving the settlements with a drove of horses; they had went out armed with pistols only, and overtook four Indians; they killed one, wounding two others badly, and captured about thirty-five horses. Also found upon and with the Indians some clothing recognized as having belonged to Mr. Jackson and family.

Those that pursued the trail down the Pecan were unable to find them; they think that they divided, and are yet in the county hunting more horses.

This is the best information I can get in the alarm and confusion at this place at present; I hope some one that has been out will inform you more fully.

I shall start on Tuesday morning for Camp Colorado, and will be out some days in the country.

Your letter was read to the citizens; they seemed disappointed that I did not get a company.

Your friend and obedient servant,

HILLARY RYAN.

His Excellency H. R. RUNNELS.

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No. 2.

THE STATE OF TEXAS, *County of Lampasas.*

Whereas information has just reached us of a horrid massacre by some hostile Indians upon Pecan bayou, near the Colorado river, of Joshua Jackson, his wife, and two sons and two daughters, supposed to be killed or carried off into captivity, and various other persons of respectability report other hostile bands of Indians in the vicinity of Lampasas river and tributaries, and that this whole frontier country is now in a very greatly exposed condition and alarm; and thus we again, as the last resort, petition your excellency to grant us a company and commission officers for six months' service on our immediate frontier, or such other term of service as your excellency may think expedient; and lastly, we here again say, unless some immediate relief is granted, this whole frontier will be immediately broken up. We, the undersigned, can certify to the credibility of William Windham and Jasper Willis, who swear to the truth of the facts herein

set forth, and that, if it were necessary, a score of others would make oath to the same.

W. C. Wiseman,  
 B. S. Whitaker,  
 J. S. Stump,  
 John N. Grady,  
 Hiram L. Jones,  
 Josiah Rains,  
 W. Windham,  
 G. W. Scott,  
 Lewis Knight,  
 M. L. James,  
 William Wilson,  
 R. G. Willis,  
 R. Williams,  
 G. Willis,  
 Isham Tipton,  
 Thomas Townsend,  
 A. Williams,  
 Stephen Boyce,  
 C. Mullins,  
 W. J. Gallaspy,  
 John Curry,  
 J. Z. Bean,  
 Joseph Martin,  
 R. J. Moore,  
 A. W. Anderson,  
 Mark Bean,  
 A. Bradley,  
 L. D. Nichols.

T. P. Hutcheson,  
 W. C. Pogue,  
 R. Y. Cross,  
 John Burleson,  
 A. Spencer,  
 John H. Greenwood,  
 M. Alexander,  
 Jacob Smith,  
 Thomas S. Hardey,  
 J. Y. Martin,  
 H. Moore,  
 W. A. Moton,  
 G. W. Moody,  
 S. Collinsworth,  
 John A. Wenner,  
 B. F. Means,  
 J. M. Hill,  
 James Gibson,  
 Ben. Gooch,  
 M. D. Harris,  
 Thomas S. Evans,  
 Thomas I. Pitt,  
 David Evans,  
 Lewis W. Knight,  
 Thomas H. Espy,  
 D. D. Weekins,  
 W. B. Covington.

His Excellency H. R. RUNNELS,  
*Governor of the State of Texas.*

STATE OF TEXAS,  
*County of Lampasas, October 25, 1858.*

I hereby certify that the subscribers to the foregoing petition are personally known to me, and entitled to full credit.

WILLIAM JONES,  
*Chief Justice L. C.*

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
*Austin, Texas, November 2, 1858.*

CAPTAIN: You are hereby authorized and empowered to raise a company of rangers, to serve for six months, unless sooner discharged. The said company will be organized in accordance with the laws of the United States, and will consist of one captain, one first lieutenant, one second lieutenant, four sergeants, four corporals, two farriers and blacksmiths, and seventy-four privates. You will rendezvous at this

place, and proceed to organize by the election of officers at the earliest practicable period, and you will report the result of said election to the proper department immediately.

After the completion of the organization, and the procurement of the necessary supplies, the said company will move without delay to a suitable point to protect the exposed settlements which have recently suffered from Indian depredations.

H. R. RUNNELS

Captain JOHN S. FORD,  
*Austin, Texas.*

No. 33.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, November 15, 1858.*

SIR: Major Van Dorn, notwithstanding his severe wounds, writes he will, on the 28th October, be in the saddle at the head of his command, and will march on that day for the Antelope Hills, near the Canadian river, where, it is rumored, the Indians are in large numbers. The major's command is small—three hundred and ninety (319) total enlisted, aggregate three hundred and thirty-two (332)—not all for duty, but I do not fear the result.

Captain Oakes, with three companies of cavalry, are on the way to reinforce him, Captain Oakes to command if the major is not able to take the field. When it is recollected those Indians stood the charge of cavalry, and fought one hour and a half in the open prairie, they are not to be despised as enemies.

I regret to hear that Captain Oakes is suffering from his former wounds, and recently has had a hemorrhage of the lungs, his fifth since June. I intended him to replace the major, but his health will not permit it. I have only to hope the major's health will allow him to continue in command.

I misunderstood your telegraph, and supposing that Fort Arbuckle was to be added to this department, gave some orders to Major Emory; fortunately, nothing that could interfere with his duties to the other department. I cannot unite Major Emory's command with Major Van Dorn's, as there is not an officer in the army that I would willingly see supersede Major Van Dorn in command.

If I had one-half the troops other commanders who preceded me here had, I do not hazard much in saying this Comanche war would soon be ended.

Up to this time it has not cost the United States *one dollar more*, this expedition of Major Van Dorn, than it would have done at the usual stations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Commanding Department*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York.*

No. 34.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, November 18, 1858.*

SIR: It is known that the buffalo migrate every fall from the north to the south; the season for their coming south has commenced; the Comanches follow the buffalo. It is of great importance, in the present state of Indian affairs, that this, if possible, should be prevented. I have now, or soon shall have, seven companies of cavalry in their country. Major Van Dorn reports the horses as much worn down and low in flesh. If the company of the 1st infantry, now at Arjuckle, could return to Texas, I could send another company of cavalry to reinforce Major Van Dorn's command.

The experiment of following the Comanches into their country so far is attended with good results. None have been on the frontier since Major Van Dorn went into that country, with one exception, and that was the party that murdered the family in Brown county, and it is believed they were in the vicinity of the settlements before Major Van Dorn left Fort Belknap.

I regret it will be out of my power to furnish a topographical sketch of the country the troops are now operating in; the only available officer for that duty was killed in the action of the 1st of October.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Bvt. Maj. General, Commanding Department.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

*Asst. Adjutant General, Headquarters of the Army, N. Y.*

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 No. 35.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, November 26, 1858.*

SIR: Yours of the 9th instant was received. I regret to learn that a few more mounted companies cannot be spared for Texas. From two Comanches, just from among that tribe, it is understood they have gone north of Bent's Fort, on the Pawnee fork of the Canadian river, and will probably remain there until the cavalry leaves their country, when the same scenes will be enacted over again that have been on the Texas frontier for the last ten years. According to Major Van Dorn's last report, his horses were much reduced, the Indians being burnt the grass. I fear I shall have to order them in to recruit their horses. The major is now on a scout to the Antelope Hills, on the Canadian.

A weekly mail goes into operation from El Paso on the 15th of December to this place. Fort Bliss being in Texas, I presume it will be added to this department.

Filling up the companies does not add much to reinforcing the command in this department. I consider the infantry as totally useless to pursue Indians, and the cavalry companies not being more than fifty mounted to each company.

I beg leave respectfully to say, *as it is my duty to do*, the inhabitants of Texas cannot be protected by the present force in the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Com'g Dep't.*

Lieut. Col. L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General U. S. A.,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York City, N. Y.*

No. 36.—*Major Van Dorn to Texas Headquarters.*

CAMP RADZIMINSKI, C. N.,

*November 28, 1858.*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to enclose a copy of my order No. 11, for the information of the commanding general. It is my intention to send one squadron up the north fork of Red river to the foot of the Staked Plains, the second up the south fork and its branches the same distance, and I will conduct the third myself to the headwaters of the Brazos, and, if possible, as far as the headwaters of the Colorado river. I can learn nothing whatever of the whereabouts of the Comanche Indians, except that now and then a rumor comes that they are on the Brazos, Colorado, and Arkansas rivers. No signs of them whatever have been found in this section of the country since the battle at the Wichita Camp. We can do nothing now but hunt them, which we shall do as long as our horses can carry us.

I regret exceedingly that I shall lose the valuable services of Captain Oakes, but he has discovered the seeds of an unfortunate disease upon his lungs since he left San Antonio, and has been advised and urged by several medical officers to withdraw from the exposures of this expedition, and I have also advised him to do so with great regret. He reluctantly consents to do so, and I hope the commanding general will consider favorably his application for leave of absence and believe that nothing would have caused him to withdraw from this service but imperative necessity.

Very respectfully, captain, I am your obedient servant,

EARL VAN DORN.

*Brevet Major Captain 2d Cavalry, Commanding.*

Captain JNO. WITHERS,

*Assistant Adjutant General, San Antonio, Texas.*

Captain Oakes will leave camp, for San Antonio, the first December.

ORDERS No. 11.]

HEADQUARTERS WICHITA EXPEDITION,  
*Camp Radziminski, C. N., November 26, 1858.*

1st. Cavalry companies B and G forming one, and C and F a second column, will hold themselves in readiness to saddle for service, for twenty days, on the 1st proximo. The senior officer of each command will receive written instructions before marching.

As these details are made without entire regard to the rank of the company officers, justice to the seniors requires that it should be stated that the companies are selected according to the condition of the horses for the field; the horses of the other companies being weakened by causes not in the control of the company commanders, the interest of the service demands the departure from the rule.

Should company G not have arrived at this depot on the 1st, company H will take its place on the detail.

2d. Companies A, H, and K will mount as many horses on the 12th proximo as may then be found fit for service in the field, and will form a third column, under the commanding officer; they will hold themselves in readiness accordingly.

3d. The acting assistant quartermaster, Lieutenant Porter, will proceed without delay to Fort Arbuckle, C. N., with all the available wagons in his charge, and buy in that vicinity all the corn he may be able to transport, and return with the greatest possible despatch to the depot. Upon his return he will send twenty-five wagons to Fort Belknap for subsistence stores and other necessary supplies.

By order of Major Van Dorn:

JAMES P. MAJOR,  
*2d Lieut. 2d Cavalry, Adjutant.*

No. 37.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, December 8, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to report, for the information of the lieutenant general commanding, that Brevet Major Van Dorn, commanding the Wichita expedition, left Camp Radziminski on the 28th October, with companies A, F, H, and K, 2d cavalry, and made an extensive scout to and beyond the Antelope Hills, on the Canadian river, returning to his camp on the 16th of November, without having seen any Indians or signs of them. He travelled a distance of about two hundred and eighty miles, and found the weather wet and so cold that six of his mules and twenty-one of his horses died before his return.

It has been ascertained that the Comanches have gone far to the northward, and will, therefore, in all probability, not trouble the frontier of Texas a great deal this winter. I have, in consequence, given Major Van Dorn permission to come, with a portion of his com-

mand, to winter at Fort Belknap or Camp Colorado to recruit his animals. On the 18th ultimo the snow was ten or twelve inches deep at Camp Radziminski, and the supply of forage very meagre, indeed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Bvt. Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Comd'g Dep't.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Assist. Adj't General, Headquarters of the Army,*

*New York City, N. Y.*

No. 38.—*General Twiggs to Army Headquarters.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,  
*San Antonio, December 13, 1858.*

SIR: For the last ten years the troops for the protection of this frontier have been acting on the defensive, and only pursued Indians when they committed depredations, often successful, but frequently without overtaking them. The policy of establishing posts to protect the country I always doubted; experience has proved satisfactory to my mind that it will not answer the purpose intended. You will see, from my communications to the headquarters of the army of June 16, 1857, October 20, 1857, July 6, July 27, and August 4, 1858, and to the Adjutant General's office of August 9, 1858, that I recommended following them into their country, and it was only in September last I felt I could assume the responsibility of detaching the cavalry from the frontier post for that purpose. The present season proves so inclement that a winter campaign cannot well be made with our animals so reduced as they are.

We are now paying about twenty thousand dollars a year for rents of depots and military posts. I propose to change early next spring, with the approbation of the general-in-chief, the plan of operations here. Early next spring have all the mounted force concentrated at or near the Wichita, and open a vigorous campaign against the Indians as soon as the mounted force is in the field; concentrate the infantry at some point near the Indian country, breaking up all the posts except those on El Paso mail route, and those only a company of infantry at each. If some five or six mounted companies could be spared to scour the country on the headwaters of the Pecos river, where it is said there are dense forests of timber the Indians retreat to when pursued, it would be of great service.

The expenses of this department are necessarily enormous, but I think if the plan I propose was adopted, the expenses would not be so great, and the country be better protected. A part of the Comanches it is said, have crossed the Rio Grande and located themselves in Mexico, and they will doubtless, from there, rob and murder in Texas; if I had the force I would feel no hesitation in following them, unless



otherwise directed. The posts on the Rio Grande I think perfectly useless. They have now no government in Mexico, and the troops from that frontier could be withdrawn. I see some indications in the public prints that it is proposed to treat with all the Indian tribes now hostile to the United States. I trust none will be made with the Comanches, as they never have observed any treaty stipulations. They must be made to feel the power of the United States. Three or four such drubbings as Major Van Dorn gave them might bring them to submit to the United States.

I would most respectfully suggest that more arms, ammunition, and "scalping knives" be given to them, for the present at least.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. E. TWIGGS,

*Brevet Maj. Gen. U. S. A., Commanding Dep't.*

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,

*Assistant Adjutant General United States Army,*

*Headquarters of the Army, New York City.*