

WILLIAM W. WEBB.

JULY 1, 1886.—Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STEELE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 2992.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 2992) for the relief of William W. Webb, have considered the same, and report:

That the committee find no papers or recommendations giving any reason why he should be restored.

By the report of the Adjutant-General, which is submitted herewith, it is shown that Captain Webb deliberately resigned his commission; that there was nothing extraordinary in his service.

The committee therefore recommend the bill lie upon the table.

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 11, 1886.

Statement of the military service of William W. Webb, late of the United States Army, compiled from the records of this office:

He was appointed second lieutenant, First United States Cavalry (changed to Fourth Cavalry August 3, 1861), May 17, 1861, and was promoted to first lieutenant July 17, 1862, and captain July 28, 1866.

For gallant and meritorious services in the Atlanta campaign he was brevetted major, U. S. Army, to date from March 2, 1866.

He served at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., from May 30, 1861, to October 30, 1861; on recruiting service at New York City to January 17, 1863; with regiment in the Army of the Cumberland to April 1, 1863; on sick leave to May 19, 1863; on duty at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., to June 21, 1863; on mustering duty at Wheeling, W. Va., to some time in May, 1864; with regiment in the Army of the Cumberland to November 15, 1864; inspector of horses at New York City to June 16, 1865; with regiment in Georgia to August 27, 1865; on leave of absence to September 27, 1865; on duty at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., to December 4, 1865; with regiment in Texas to April 19, 1866; acting commissary of subsistence at San Antonio, Tex., to June 3, 1867; with regiment in Louisiana to April 7, 1869; and in Texas to January 7, 1871; on sick leave and surgeon's certificate of disability to July 8, 1871; with regiment in Texas to September 28, 1872; escorting Indian prisoners to Fort Sill, Ind. Ter., to October 25, 1872, and on leave of absence until he resigned, May 1, 1873.

J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, *March 1, 1884.*

he Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR:

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the letter of the 20th ultimo, from Hon. W. J. Sewell, of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, in which he incloses a copy of Senate bill No. 80, authorizing the President to restore William W. Webb to his former rank in the Army as captain of cavalry, and to retire him as of that rank.

William W. Webb, late captain Fourth Cavalry, resigned in 1873. I inclose a statement of his military services and copy of his resignation and of the correspondence relating thereto.

It will be seen from the accompanying statement that Mr. Webb's services in the Army were neither long nor particularly arduous, nor were they marked by any conspicuous acts to make his case an exceptional one. Opening the door for the restoration of those who left the military service under like circumstances, by resignation, and with no more merit than there appears to be in this case, would, in the opinion of this office, result in unnecessarily increasing the burden of the Government and go far to affect injuriously the efficiency of the military service by endangering the retired list of the Army.

Before an officer of the Army can enjoy the privileges of the retired list by reason of disability he must submit to the rigid examination of a retiring board, but this bill proposes to place Mr. Webb on the retired list without examination, as is required by the general law governing retirements.

An officer who voluntarily surrenders his commission in the Army, as Mr. Webb did, whether with more promising expectations in civil life or not, gives up all the rights and privileges pertaining to the position he surrenders, and has no just claim against the Government not already provided for in her generous laws.

Mr. Webb has been out of service for ten years, and if he can trace the alleged disability to some incident of his military service, he probably comes under the class of cases provided for in the pension laws of the country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

FORT RICHARDSON, TEX., *September 1, 1872.*

SIR: I have the honor to apply for a leave of absence for six (6) months to date from November 1, 1872.

This leave is desired solely for the purpose of preparing myself for civil life.

Aside from an absence of a few months on account of sickness, I have had but sixty days leave in seven years. I would also state that both of the lieutenants of my company will be present at the post by the 19th of September.

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

W. W. WEBB,
Captain Fourth Cavalry.

The ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. A.,
(Through intermediate headquarters.)

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS FORT RICHARDSON, TEX.,
September 1, 1872.

Respectfully forwarded approved and earnestly recommended. I am satisfied that the application of Captain Webb is made for the purpose stated.

GEO. P. BUELL,
Lieutenant-Colonel Eleventh Infantry, Commanding Post.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,
San Antonio, September 12, 1872.

Respectfully forwarded—through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri—to the Adjutant-General of the Army approved in view of its object.

C. C. AUGUR,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[Third indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, September 21, 1872.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army approved.
In the absence of the Lieutenant-General Commanding,

JAMES B. FRY,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

[Fourth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, D. C., September 24, 1872.

I doubt the wisdom of holding out such premiums to officers to quit the service. If Captain Webb will absolutely resign, I would unite in a recommendation to give him six months' time, but as an experiment it usually results in confusion.

W. T. SHERMAN,
General.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, September 25, 1872.

SIR: Referring to your letter of the 31st ultimo, requesting six months' leave of absence and explaining the object you have in view, I have been directed by the Secretary of War to inform you that, unless you tender your resignation to take effect at the expiration of the six months, your application for leave, for the purpose stated, cannot be favorably considered.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. D. WHIPPLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

Capt. WILLIAM W. WEBB,
Fourth Cavalry, Fort Richardson, Texas.

(Through headquarters Military Division of the Missouri.)

FORT RICHARDSON, TEX., *October 20, 1872.*

To the ADJUTANT-GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,
Washington, D. C.:

(Through intermediate headquarters.)

SIR: I have the honor to request that I be granted leave of absence for six months and also herewith to tender my resignation as captain Fourth Cavalry, to take effect at the expiration of said leave.

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

W. W. WEBB,
Captain Fourth Cavalry, U. S. A.

[First indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS FORT RICHARDSON, TEX.,
October 20, 1872.

Respectfully forwarded, approved.

GEO. C. BUELL,
Lieut. Col. Eleventh Infantry, Commanding Post.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF TEXAS,

SAN ANTONIO, *October 28, 1872.*

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General, U. S. A., through Headquarters Military Division of the Missouri, approved for five months' leave, Captain Webb having been granted leave for thirty days in Special Order No. 192, current series, from these headquarters, copy inclosed.

C. C. AUGUR,
Brigadier-General Commanding.

[Third indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSOURI,
Chicago, November 5, 1872.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant-General of the Army, approved,
P. H. SHERIDAN,
Lieutenant-General, Commanding.

WILLIAM W. WEBB.

[Fourth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY, *November 8, 1872.*

Approved and recommended.

W. T. SHERMAN, *General.*

[Fifth indorsement.]

NOVEMBER 25, 1872.

Approved by the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

[Special Orders, No. 307.]

WAR DEPARTMENT, ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, November 27, 1872.

[Extract.]

1. The leave of absence granted Capt. William W. Webb, Fourth Cavalry, in Special Orders No. 192, October 28, 1872, from headquarters Department of Texas, is extended to May 1, 1873.

2. The resignation of Capt. William W. Webb, Fourth Cavalry, has been accepted by the President, to take effect May 1, 1873.

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By order of the Secretary of War.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant-General.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, *March 11, 1886.*

The foregoing are true copies.

J. C. KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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