

ESTIMATES—FLORIDA VOLUNTEERS.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

Estimates for the pay of Florida volunteers.

JUNE 21, 1856.—Referred to the Committee of Ways and Means.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, May 20, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose, herewith, estimates prepared by the Paymaster General, Commissary General, and Quartermaster General, showing the amounts required for the pay, subsistence, and other expenses of three companies of Florida volunteers, authorized to be received into service as foot or mounted troops for one month; and I have to request that the amount, twenty-six thousand three hundred and sixty-nine $\frac{25}{100}$ dollars, may be added to the estimate for the expenses of Florida volunteers recently sent to your committee, to be inserted in the army appropriation bill.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFFERSON DAVIS,

Secretary of War.

Hon. L. D. CAMPBELL,

Chairman Committee of Ways and Means, H. R.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, May 12, 1856.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, asking, by direction of the Committee of Ways and Means, for "the causes which led to, and the necessity for calling into the service of the United States," the three mounted and three foot companies of Florida volunteers lately called out for six months.

In reply I have to state that, under date of December 23, 1855, the

commanding officer of the troops in Florida reported that, on the 20th of that month, the Seminole Indians had made an attack upon an exploring party commanded by Lieutenant Hartsuff, in which he was severely wounded, and four of his men killed or wounded. On the receipt of this information, and in view of the probable renewal of hostilities by the Indians, it was deemed advisable by this Department to authorize the officer commanding in that quarter to call into service, for the protection of the exposed settlements, and to carry on vigorous operations against the Indians, (it being impracticable to send reinforcements of regular troops to Florida,) three companies of mounted and two of foot volunteers. A third company of foot volunteers was subsequently authorized.

I will also state for your information, that the repeated depredations committed by these Indians within a few months past, leave no doubt of their hostile intentions; and, in order to make a combined movement against them in their stronghold—the Big Cypress swamp—two companies of mounted volunteers, in addition to those above referred to, have been mustered into the service of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

Hon. LEWIS D. CAMPBELL,
Chairman Committee of Ways and Means, H. R.

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
May 19, 1856.

SIR: In reply to the circular from the War Department of this date, I have the honor to state that the sum of \$9,300 will be required for the pay, &c., of three companies of Florida volunteers, for the period of one month.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
BENJ. F. LARNED, *P. M. G.*

Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

QUARTEMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 20, 1856.

SIR: In reply to your note of yesterday, calling upon me to furnish an estimate of the expense to the Quartermaster's Department of three companies of Florida mounted volunteers for one month, I have the honor to state that the sum which will probably be required is about fifteen thousand dollars. This is rather more, *pro rata*, than was estimated on the 13th instant for two companies of the same description of troops to be employed in Florida for six months, and which is caused by the short time they are to be employed, as many

of the articles of supply which would last six months, will probably be rendered unserviceable or unfit for reissue by the end of one month.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 TH. S. JESUP,
Quartermaster General.

Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

OFFICE OF COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, May 19, 1856.

SIR: In compliance with your instructions of this date, I have the honor to transmit herewith an estimate of the probable amount that will be required to subsist for one month three companies of Florida mounted volunteers.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,
 GEO. GIBSON, *C. G. S.*

Hon. JEFFERSON DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

Estimate of the probable amount that will be required to subsist for one month three companies of Florida mounted volunteers.

Total probable amount required..... \$2,069 25

Data upon which this estimate is made.

255 men	255 men.
12 women to companies.....	12 women.
	—
	267 persons.
	—
267 persons 31 days, at 25 cents per day, is.....	\$2,069 25

GEO. GIBSON, *C. G. S.*

OFFICE OF COMMISSARY GENERAL OF SUBSISTENCE,
Washington, May 19, 1856.