

NEZ PERCÉ AND BANNOCK INDIAN WARS.

FEBRUARY 20, 1884.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 1304.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, to whom was referred bill H. R. 1304, having had the same under consideration, respectfully report:

That it is substantially the same bill reported by Mr. Upson, from the Committee on Military Affairs, in this House during the Forty-seventh Congress. It is substantially a copy of the act of Congress approved March 3, 1881, pensioning and paying the volunteers from the Territory of Montana who served in the same wars. This bill is to pay the volunteers who joined or assisted the forces of the United States, in the State of Oregon and in the Territory of Idaho or Washington during the war with the Nez Percé Indians in the year 1877, and the war with the Bannock Indians in the year 1878, for their services, and for horses and arms lost as such volunteers in said wars; also, to give to all said volunteers who were wounded or disabled, or to the heirs of all those volunteers who were killed in such service, the benefit of the pension laws, in the same manner and to the same extent as if they had been duly mustered into the regular or volunteer forces of the United States.

While these volunteers were not mustered into the regular service of the United States Army, they were attached to the command of the United States troops in the Department of the Columbia, and acted with said troops, rendering valuable services in said wars, under the orders and immediate command of officers of the Regular Army of the United States, as will appear from the accompanying orders which are made a part of this report. Inasmuch as Congress has paid the Montana soldiers serving in these wars the sum of one dollar per day, your committee recommend that the bill be amended by striking out the word "three" in line eight, section 1, of the printed bill, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "one," so that it shall provide that the remaining soldiers shall be paid at the rate of one dollar per day.

Your committee further recommend that in said section, line 9, the words following be stricken out, "from the time that he left his home until he returned thereto," and in lieu thereof that these words be substituted, "and for actual time necessarily employed in going from and returning to his home."

With these amendments your committee beg leave to report the bill back with a favorable recommendation that it do pass.

The following are copies of the orders hereinbefore referred to:

HEADQUARTERS ———,
Lewiston, Idaho, June 24, 1877.

[ORDERS No. 4.]

Capt. George Hunter, commanding A Company, Columbia County, Wyoming Territory Volunteers (mounted), will proceed with his company to Fort Lapwai, Idaho, and report to Captain Throckmorton, Fourth Artillery, commanding the troops now at Fort Lapwai, Idaho, preparing for field service against the Indians.

WM. F. SPURGIN,
Captain Twenty-first Infantry, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS BATTALION UNITED STATES TROOPS, IN THE FIELD,
Camp at Fort Lapwai, Idaho, June 24, 1877.

[ORDERS No. 3.]

In compliance with letter from the department commander, dated June 24, 1877, Capt. George Hunter, with a company of forty-five volunteers, is hereby attached to this command, and Second Lieut. C. C. S. Wood, Twenty-first Infantry, is designated as the officer responsible for their subsistence. He will make the necessary requisitions for rations on the acting commissary of subsistence at Fort Lapwai or in the field.

By order of Captain Throckmorton.

C. A. WILLIAMS,
Second Lieutenant Twenty-first Infantry, Adjutant.

Official.

C. A. WILLIAMS,
Second Lieutenant Twenty-first Infantry, Adjutant.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Camp on Salmon River, near mouth of White Bird Creek, June 29, 1877.

[FIELD ORDERS No. 20.]

V. Capt. George Hunter, commanding the "Dayton Volunteers," will report with his company to Capt M. P. Miller, Fourth Artillery, for duty.
By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

Official.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Camp on Salmon River, near mouth of White Bird Creek, July 1, 1877.

[FIELD ORDERS No. 22.]

III. Capt. George Hunter, commanding Dayton Volunteers, will, at 6 a. m., make a reconnaissance in the direction of Pittsburg Landing, examining the country thoroughly as he proceeds, especially in the direction of Joseph's reported encampment.

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

Official.

ROB. H. FLETCHER,
Assistant Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Camp on Trail near Snake River, I. T., July 4, 1877.

[FIELD ORDERS, No. 23.]

II. Capt. George Hunter, commanding company of Dayton Volunteers, will proceed via Rocky Cañon to Cottonwood, I. T., reporting upon his arrival there to the com-

manding officer. As soon as his services can be dispensed with, on reaching Lewiston, I. T., Captain Hunter with his company is hereby relieved from duty with this command. The senior officer will command en route to Cottonwood.

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

Official.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Camp on Salmon Creek, near mouth of White Bird Creek, June 30, 1877.

[FIELD ORDERS No. 21.]

I. Capt. E. McConville, with his company, "A," Lewiston Volunteers, eighteen (18) men, having reported this day for duty at these headquarters, is hereby ordered to report to Capt. J. G. Trimble, at Slate Creek, I. T., without delay.

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

Official.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS, LEWISTON, I. T.,
June 28, 1877.

[ORDER No. 5.]

Extract.

III. Capt. Ed. McConville, with his company, "A," Lewiston Volunteers, fifteen (15) men, will report to Maj. E. C. Mason, Twenty-first Infantry, for duty in the field.

WM. F. SPURGIN,
Captain, Twenty-first Infantry, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Camp on Trail, near Snake River, I. T., July 4, 1877.

[FIELD ORDERS No. 23.]

I. Capt. E. McConville, commanding "A" company of Lewiston Guards, will proceed via Rocky Cañon to Cottonwood, I. T., reporting upon his arrival there to the commanding officers. As soon as his services can be dispensed with, Capt. E. McConville, with his company, will return to Lewiston, I. T., or to general commanding in the field, if they prefer to do so. The senior officer will command en route to Cottonwood.

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

Official.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
*In the field, Camp Ranis, junction of Canoe Encampment
and Rocky Cañon Trails, July 4, 1877.*

[FIELD ORDERS No. 23.]

III. For the soldierly qualities and the singularly faithful conduct of Capt. E. McConville and his company of Lewiston Volunteers, during the past few days of incessant

duty in the face of wily and dangerous foes, the commanding general of the department hereby expresses his appreciation and sincere thanks.

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

Official.

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
Camp Wall, near Jackson's Bridge, I. T., July 10, 1877.

COLONEL: Your message was received this 5 a. m. Captain Jackson is so far from me, and with a heavy train, that I cannot get him word before he gets to Grangeville, though I sent the wagons for Captain Miller, yet owing to the difficulties of crossing the Salmon, and the intense heat, I did not get him forward for yesterday. Please ask the men to be patient so that I may get sufficient force here to make a clean thing of it.

I wish you simply to hold on if you have food and water, standing on the defensive, and then if I push the Indians across the middle fork that you accompany a force, perhaps the whole of mine, to cross at Kamiah. My information is that the Indians purpose to return and attack Mount Idaho, &c.; that they are now 260 strong, and feel bold enough to give us battle. Therefore I cannot and should not go for them with any uncertain numbers. Every day's delay brings Colonel Green nearer to me and gets my strength united. Had I not come this way, Joseph would have taken the back track in this direction, in my judgment, so be encouraged and keep all the brave men you can, barricading your position if necessary. I hope you have provisions for two days.

Yours truly,

O. O. HOWARD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

To Col. E. McCONVILLE,
Commanding volunteer forces.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
*Camp Williams, left bank south fork of
Clearwater, near mouth of Coltonwood, I. T., 8 p. m., July 12, 1877.*

COLONEL: General Howard wishes me to say to you that if you can harass the retreating Indians he will be much pleased. Is sorry you did not wait for him, as he is now across the river, and very near to your old camp. The general will be at Grangeville to-morrow. Report to him there.

Very respectfully,

M. C. WILKINSON,
Aide-de-Camp.

Col. E. McCONVILLE,
Commanding volunteer forces.

P. S.—Indians, after a severe fight yesterday and to-day, left in utter rout; push them hard.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE COLUMBIA,
In the field, Camp M. P. Miller, Kamiah, I. T., July 18, 1877.

[SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS No. 31.]

9. Col. E. McConville, commanding volunteers, will report with his command to Capt. Marcus P. Miller, Fourth Artillery, commanding artillery and infantry battalions, for orders.

By command of Brigadier-General Howard.

M. C. WILKINSON,
First Lieutenant, Third Infantry, Aide-de-Camp.

Official.

J. A. SLADEN,
Aide-de-Camp.