

DAVID B. MCKIBBIN.

APRIL 13, 1888.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany bill H. R. 5283.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 5283, have carefully considered the same, and find that General David McKibbin was a cadet, and served in Mexico during the years 1847 and 1848. He was appointed second lieutenant Ninth Infantry in March, 1855, and served against the hostile Indians in 1856 and 1857. He was engaged during the years 1858, 1859, and 1860 in the service connected with the northwest boundary survey. He served during the entire war of the rebellion, and his services were of such a character that he was successively brevetted major, lieutenant-colonel, colonel, and brigadier-general in the regular Army. He was also twice commissioned colonel of volunteers, and was brevetted brigadier-general of volunteers.

Without going into details as to the character of his long and honorable service, it is sufficient to state that it was arduous, and subjected him to serious impairment of bodily health and strength.

He was wounded twice during the late war and had both ankles broken. In consequence of his disabilities he was retired May 31, 1875, with the rank of major.

In view of the long and faithful service of General McKibbin, because of the honorable wounds from which he is now suffering, and because had he applied to be retired, as he might have done, a short time after the close of the war he might have been retired as a brigadier-general, your committee recommend favorable consideration of the bill. The writer of this report had the honor to serve a short time under command of General McKibbin, and cheerfully testifies to his high qualities as an officer and a gentleman.

Letters herewith bear excellent testimony, as follows:

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE ATLANTIC,
Philadelphia, May 9, 1866.

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

SIR: I desire to call the attention of the Department to the claims for promotion, in case of an increase of the regular Army, of Capt. D. B. McKibbin, Fourteenth United States Infantry, brevet lieutenant-colonel United States Army, and brevet brigadier-general volunteers. Captain McKibbin served with distinction throughout the war in the field—in the early part of the war as a regular officer and during the latter part as an officer of volunteers. In both capacities he was frequently dis-

tinguished for conspicuous gallantry in battles, as the numerous letters from his various commanders abundantly testify. I am satisfied, from a personal knowledge of Lieutenant-Colonel McKibbin's services and the testimony of others, that a fair comparison of his record will show him not only qualified, but eminently entitled to promotion, and I therefore urgently recommend the same.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. G. MEADE,
Major-General, U. S. Army.

A true copy:

R. G. RUTHERFORD,
First Lieutenant, Brevet Captain, U. S. Army.

Capt. D. B. McKibbin, Fourteenth United States Infantry, and brevet lieutenant-colonel United States Army, crossed the Potomac with his regiment in March, 1862, and continued under my command until late in 1862, and was again with me in 1863.

Throughout his entire service with me Captain McKibbin was distinguished for repeated gallantry in action, and for many fine soldierly qualities. There was no more promising young officer in the division of regulars, and no one that I would sooner have selected for any operation in which dash, energy, and enterprise were required. For his prominent bearing on many fields of battle, he was frequently mentioned in my official reports, and for his general services during the war of the rebellion, I think he is fairly entitled to any promotion that the War Department may see fit to confer.

GEO. SYKES,
*Lieutenant-Colonel U. S. Army, and Maj. Gen. commanding
Fifth Corps, Army of the Potomac.*

A true copy:

R. G. RUTHERFORD,
First Lieutenant, Brevet Captain, U. S. Army.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10, 1866.

General DAVID B. MCKIBBIN,
Captain Fourteenth United States Infantry:

GENERAL: To assist merit in obtaining its due reward, I deem it but proper to give you my testimony to your gallantry and noble disregard of personal danger in the battles in which you took part under me, from May 12 to June 2, 1864, at Spottsylvania Court-House, at the North Anna River, and at Bethesda Church.

In the latter, in which you were made prisoner, your conduct elicited the applause of your captors, and the firm stand you made gained time of vital importance to the success of the movements then going on.

While I was in the same division with you under General Sykes, in the battles fought by General McClellan and General Porter, I can also attest the highly honorable reputation you acquired and maintained.

Very respectfully,

G. K. WARREN,
Formerly Major-General Volunteers, commanding Fifth Army Corps.

A true copy:

R. G. RUTHERFORD,
First Lieutenant, Brevet Captain, U. S. Army.