

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 18, 1885.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. VAN WYCK, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany bill S. 2400.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2400) granting a pension to Eliza W. Thornburg, have examined the same, and report as follows:

The applicant is the widow of Maj. Thomas Tipton Thornburg, who was killed in action against the Ute Indians, near Milk Creek, Colorado, September 29, 1879. The military record and sterling qualities of Major Thornburg are fully stated in the following:

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 32. }HEADQUARTERS FOURTH U. S. INFANTRY,
Fort Sanders, Wyo., October 16, 1879.

It has become the sad duty of the colonel commanding to announce to the regiment the death of Maj. Thomas T. Thornburg, Fourth Infantry, who was killed in action against hostile Ute Indians near Milk Creek, Colorado, September 29, 1879.

Major Thornburg's first military service was rendered during the late rebellion. He was a native of Tennessee, and in September, 1861, enlisted in the Sixth Regiment of Tennessee Volunteers. In that regiment he served five months as a private, two months as sergeant-major, and for the remainder of his time in the volunteer service as lieutenant and adjutant. He took part in the battle of Mill Springs, Ky., January 17, 1862; was with General George W. Morgan's division when, being compelled to evacuate Cumberland Gap, in September, 1862, it made its celebrated retreat of nearly 300 miles, through an enemy's country to the Ohio River; and participated in the battle of Stone River, December 31, 1862, where his horse was shot under him.

He was entered as cadet at the United States Military Academy July 1, 1863, and was graduated therefrom and appointed second lieutenant Second Artillery, June 17, 1867. After the expiration of his graduating leave he served with his regiment on the Pacific coast until February 25, 1868; and from April 13, 1868, to May, 1869, was at the artillery school at Fort Monroe, Va. He returned to the Pacific coast June 14, 1869; was promoted first lieutenant in his regiment April 21, 1870; and was detailed by order of the President, as professor of military science at the East Tennessee University, at Knoxville, Tenn., from November 27, 1871, to June 20, 1873, when he was relieved at his own request. He was stationed at Fort Foote, Md., from June 30, 1873, to April 26, 1875; at which latter date he was appointed major and paymaster United States Army, and served as such in the departments of Texas and the Platte. He was transferred to this regiment vice Maj. Henry G. Thomas, May 23, 1878.

Major Thornburg's first field service after he had joined this regiment was his vigorous pursuit, with a detachment of hastily mounted infantry soldiers, of the band of Cheyenne Indians under Dull Knife, who were making their memorable flight northwards from their reservation in the Indian Territory. Getting upon their trail late in the afternoon, and some hours after the Indians had passed, he began a pursuit which he maintained with the greatest perseverance and energy for several days, until the trail was lost, pressing the Indians so closely that they abandoned much of their property and stock.

On the 21st of September last Major Thornburg left his station, Fort Fred. Steele, Wyo., with a detachment of four companies, constituting a force of 7 officers and

