

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

APRIL 10, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

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

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 1853.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1853) for the relief of Ransom L. Harris, having considered the same, report as follows:

This is a bill to pay to Ransom L. Harris, late first lieutenant of Company I, Seventy-ninth Regiment United States Colored Troops, the pay and allowances of a first lieutenant of infantry from the 6th day of April, 1863, to the 1st day of May, 1863, less any sums of money he may have received from the United States during that time, it being alleged that his commission as first lieutenant was dated the 6th of April, 1863.

The records of the War Department show that Ransom L. Harris was appointed first lieutenant, Seventy-ninth regiment United States Colored Troops on the 1st day of May, 1863, by the Hon. J. H. Lane, recruiting commissioner. The date of acceptance of his appointment is not shown by the records. He was mustered into service as first lieutenant, Company I, said regiment, to date May 1, 1863, at camp on Neosho River, en route from Fort Scott to Fort Blunt, Cherokee Nation, a remark on his muster-in roll showing him discharged from Company C, Tenth Kansas Volunteers, to date May 1, 1863, to enable him to accept appointment as first lieutenant to fill an original vacancy. He can not, therefore, be entitled to the pay of a first lieutenant from the 6th day of April, 1863, as proposed in the bill, because it appears from the records that he was not commissioned until the 1st day of May, 1863.

The committee, therefore, recommend that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 21, 1890.

SIR: In reply to your request of the 20th instant for information upon Senate bill 1853, Fifty-first Congress, first session, for the relief of Ransom L. Harris, late first lieutenant of Company I, Seventy-ninth United States Colored Troops, I have the honor to inclose a report from the officer in charge of the record and pension division of this Department.

Very respectfully,

REDFIELD PROCTOR,
Secretary of War.

Hon. WM. M. STEWART,
United States Senate.

CASE OF RANSOM L. HARRIS, LATE OF SEVENTY-NINTH UNITED STATES COLORED TROOPS.

Ransom L. Harris was enrolled and mustered into service as a private in Company A, Third Kansas Volunteers, which by consolidation became Company C, Tenth Kansas Volunteers. On the muster roll of the company for March and April, 1863, he is borne as absent on detached service by order of General Schofield since March 3, 1863. Roll for May and June, 1863, reports him discharged to enable him to accept promotion in the First Kansas Colored Volunteers, May 1, 1863. The First Regiment Kansas Colored Volunteers and the Seventy-ninth United States Colored Troops are identical.

The consolidated morning reports of the Seventy-ninth United States Colored Troops show the first lieutenant of Company I (name not given), to have been present May 2, 1863. There is also a first lieutenant, unassigned, reported as present from April 21 to May 1, 1863. There are no reports of Company I on file prior to May 2, 1863.

Harris was appointed first lieutenant Seventy-ninth United States Colored Troops May 1, 1863, by Hon. J. H. Lane, recruiting commissioner. The date of acceptance of his appointment is not shown by the records. He was mustered into service as first lieutenant, Company I, said regiment, to date May 1, 1863, at camp on Neosho River, en route from Fort Scott to Fort Blunt, Cherokee Nation, a remark on his muster-in roll showing him discharged from Company C, Tenth Kansas Volunteers, to date, May 1, 1863, to enable him to accept appointment as first lieutenant to fill an original vacancy.

He was finally discharged from the service as a first lieutenant on tender of resignation, by Special Orders No. 138, June 18, 1864, from headquarters Department of Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted.

F. C. AINSWORTH,
Captain and Assistant Surgeon, United States Army.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

FEBRUARY 21, 1890.