

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 13, 1890.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. FAULKNER, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 3532.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill granting a pension to Georgiana W. Vogdes, widow of Israel Vogdes, late colonel and brevet brigadier-general, U. S. Army, have examined the same, and report :

The military record of decedent is so fully and accurately set forth in the official announcement of his death by Colonel Langdon of the First Artillery, U. S. Army, formerly commanded by General Vogdes, that your committee reproduces it in full as follows :

ORDERS, }
No. 139. }

HEADQUARTERS FIRST ARTILLERY,
Presidio of San Francisco, Cal., December 16, 1889.

It is with sorrow the colonel commanding the regiment announces the official intelligence received this morning of the death of Bv't Brig. Gen. Israel Vogdes, U. S. Army, who was for nearly eighteen years colonel of the First Artillery, and who died on the 7th instant, in New York City.

General Vogdes was born in Pennsylvania. Appointed a cadet at the U. S. Military Academy July 1, 1833; graduated and promoted in the Army to second lieutenant, First Artillery, July 1, 1837; first lieutenant, First Artillery, July 9, 1838; captain, First Artillery, August 20, 1847; major, First Artillery, May 14, 1861; brigadier general, U. S. Volunteers, November 29, 1862; lieutenant-colonel, Fifth Artillery, June 1, 1863; colonel First Artillery, August 1, 1863; brevet brigadier-general, U. S. Army, April 9, 1865, for gallant and meritorious service in the field during the rebellion.

Served: At the Military Academy, 1837-49, as assistant professor of mathematics, to August 29, 1843, and as principal assistant professor of mathematics, August 29, 1843, to September 15, 1849; in Florida hostilities against the Seminole Indians, 1849-50; in garrison at Key West, Fla., 1850 to 1856; in Florida hostilities against the Seminole Indians, 1856; and in garrison at Fort Moultrie, S. C., 1856-57, and at Fort Monroe, Va. (Artillery School for Practice), 1858 to 1861, being a member of the Board to arrange the programme of instruction for the school, 1859-60.

Served during the rebellion of the seceding States, 1861-'66; in defense of Fort Pickens, Fla., February 7 to October 9, 1861 (in command April 11-16, 1861), being engaged against the rebel night attack on Santa Rosa Island, Fla., October 9, 1861, where he was captured; as prisoner of war, October 9, 1861, to August, 1862 (while a prisoner of war he was one of the ten officers selected to be put to death by the rebels in retaliation for the then expected execution of rebel privateers captured by the United States Government); on the staff of Maj.-Gen. J. F. Reynolds, on the Pennsylvania border, in the Maryland campaign, September, 1862; in command of Folly Island, S. C., April to July 9, 1863; being engaged in constructing the batteries on Light House Island for the attack on Morris Island, in which he participated July 9, 1863, and of Morris Island, S. C., July, 1863, and Folly Island, S. C., August, 1863, to July, 1864, during operations against Fort Sumter and Charleston, S. C.; in Florida, February to July, 1864, and in command of the defense of Norfolk and Portsmouth, Va., May, 1864, to April, 1865; of a district in Florida, April and September,

1865; in waiting orders, September, 1865, to January, 1866, when he was mustered out of the volunteer service; in command of First Artillery, headquarters at Fort Hamilton, N. Y., January 18, 1866, to January 2, 1881; at Charleston, S. C., November 16, 1872, to August 22, 1875, and at Fort Adams, R. I., November 11, 1875, to January 2, 1881.

Retired from active service January 2, 1881."

General Vogdes was in many respects a remarkable man. He was gifted with a most retentive memory and great powers of original thought and analysis. He was a diligent student of history and biography, and his mind was richly stored with all that was of value of the art of war, ancient or modern. While he had not the least ambition as an author, his opinions were eagerly sought for by many of those interested in current operations of war at home and abroad. From the very inception of the great rebellion General (then captain) Vogdes assumed a firm and decided attitude as a Union man, and was always ready and outspoken with convincing reasons for the faith that was in him. While surrounded on every side by enemies of the country he was fearless and uncompromising in his denunciation of treason. No truer patriot ever lived, none more willing to give his life for his country.

In private life he was kind, hospitable, sympathetic, and true in his friendships. Those who knew him best will long remember him with kindness.

The sympathies of the regiment are tendered to the members of his family in their irreparable loss.

By order of Colonel Langdon :

HENRY L. HARRIS,
First Lieutenant and Adjutant, First Artillery.

Colonel Langdon's above quoted announcement fully sets forth the distinguished services of General Vogdes, covering a period of forty-four years, and involving participation in two wars. This official record of the military career of General Vogdes speaks for itself. Comment is unnecessary.

The death of General Vogdes having occurred several years subsequent to his retirement, his widow is not entitled to a pension under existing laws. On this point your committee quotes from a letter filed with this bill, from General William T. Sherman, as follows :

I believe the officers of the Treasury have decided that where an officer accepts the benefit of the retirement act, which was Vogdes's case, he waives all claim to a pension. I do not believe that such ruling is good law, because a pension is for the widow and orphan, whereas the pay of the retired officer is for himself.

Like many regular Army officers, General Vogdes died almost penniless, leaving a widow and widowed daughter. The income from the estate left by him does not exceed \$400 per annum—a sum totally inadequate to properly support the surviving widow and daughter.

In view, therefore, of the long continued and distinguished service of General Vogdes, and of the comparatively destitute condition of his aged widow, your committee recommend the passage of the accompanying bill, after amending the same in line 7 by striking out "one hundred" and inserting "fifty."