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Head Quarters Dept. of the Pacific
San Francisco, September 16, 1854

Sir:

I have the honor to report that a military post is now being built at the Canada de las Uvas [grapevine canyon] fifteen miles southwest of the Tejon Indian Reservation [30 miles south of present Bakersfield, Calif. on Ridge Route] which is to be called Fort Tejon, to indicate its location. I have assigned Brvt. Lieut Colonel B.L. Beall (sic) major 1st dragoons to the command and Company 1st Dragoons is now there as a garrison. The recent reduction of the limits of the reserve prevented the post from being placed within the limits. Santa Barbara, Cal. is now the nearest post office.

Having on June last heard reports of Indian hostilities near Whidby's Island, W.T. I sent instructions to Lieut. Col. Bonneville at Fort Vancouver to render any assistance in his power in that section. I have just received in reply a report from Lieut. Rufell commanding Fort Steilacoom in which he states that the difficulties

are for the present settled. The disturbance had its origin in the supposed murder of two or three white men by the Indians. "The chief ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ones engaged in these outrages have been apprehended and are now in confinement in the guardhouse at this post awaiting trial by the civil authority authority of the territory." "The most recent difficulty was occasioned by a descent of a party of Northern Indians residing in the Russian Territory, upon the settlements in Bellingham Bay. This is the most northern portion of Washington Territory being within a few miles of the 49th Parallel." "The settlers there are more liable to the incursions of the tribes beyond the jurisdiction of the U.S. who are able to make a descent in their canoes and retreat before any force can be brought against them. The only sure method of effectively checking these Indians, at the same time giving additional security to the settlements between this post and that point would be in my opinion to establish a post of one company at Bellingham Bay or in that vicinity."

Lieut. Col. Bonneville remarks, in addition to this, that Acting Governor Mason thinks "the only effective method to check the incursions of the Russian Indians is to have on Puget Sound a steam revenue cutter" to pursue them in their canoes. I have not now an available company for the new post suggested by Lieut. ^(Russell) Rufell [old style double s, written like l], but shall take this measure into consideration by the time Lt. Col. Steptoe arrives with his battalion. He might soon be here.

In reply to a communication to Captain A.J. Smith, 1st dragoons, comdg. Fort Lane in which I called his attention to apprehended difficulties with the immigrants and the Indians near Goose Lake he informs me that all necessary measures have been taken in that quarter and he is on the alert to prevent disturbances. It seems a company of volunteers has been mustered into service by authority

of the governor of Oregon, but Capt. Smith is of the opinion that they were not needed and that it was done upon the representations of speculators who expect to be benefited by furnishing supplies.

Reports from Major G.J. Rains, 4th Infantry commanding Fort Dalles O.T. informs me that on the 20th August the emigrants en route for the west "were attacked on Boise River, a branch of the Snake River and 8 men killed and 4 ~~xxxxxx~~ women & 5 children carried away captives with all their property.

"Assistance was asked for by the Indian agent (Mr. R.R. Thompson) and others and I (Major Rains) dispatched Bvt. Major Haller, Lt. Macfeely and Asst. Surgeon Suckley with 26 soldiers to the scene of difficulty. Major Haller left August 30 and since a company of Volunteers 30 strong, having offered their services, were accepted and they were furnished with arms, horses ammunition & rations and left here (Fort Dalles) yesterday (August 31) "

The scene of this outrage was 15 miles from Fort Boise and about 300 miles from Fort Dalles, the nearest military post. The Win-nass Indians who were those concerned, are said to number 600 warriors & are believed to be all hostile.

Lieut. Col. Bonneville has sent company L 3rd Artillery from Fort Vancouver to the Dalles with 6,000 rounds of cartridges. A. Mr. John F. Noble, living on Malheur River, 20 miles west of Fort Boise who appears to have influence with the Indians, has also gone out with a half breed Snake Indian to endeavor to recover the captives and their property.

Colonel Mansfield, inspector general, happened to be at Fort Dalles when the information arrived there. He writes from Fort Vancouver the 4th instant that Major Rains has ~~xxxxxx~~ acted "promptly and efficiently. He was able to mount all the infantry and volunteers and Colonel Bonneville has sent the Artillery company

from this post to Fort Dailes. No further steps need now be taken as to movement of troops at this season of the year till further developments."

I enclose herewith a copy of instructions sent to Lieut. Col. Bonneville to use all diligence which the means at his disposal will permit.

A part of the office furniture attached to the Department Head Quarters was sent up to Benecia some ten days ago. I am only waiting for the transport to move the remainder. An accident which happened to the vessel has detained her.

As will be seen by Special Orders No. 86 I have sent a Detachment from the company at the Presidio to Fort Orford to relieve the Detachment from the company at Benicia Barracks, this arrangement appearing to be more in accordance with the views of the Hon. Secretary of War.

I am sir, very respectfully

Y'r Odt. Servt.

John G. Wool

Major General

Lieut. Col. L. Thomas
Assistant Adt. General
Head Quarters, Army
New York.