

Fort Steilacoom, W.T.

June 9th 1856

To the Honorable Jefferson Davis,
Secretary of War

Your memorialists, officers of the Army, respectfully represent that they are now engaged in an arduous service in the Territory of Washington where the means of subsistence are more expensive than at any other portion of the Pacific Coast. By an order now in force, issued by Mr. Conrad the former secretary of war, the officers serving in the Pacific coast are denied the right to draw their rations in kind. Thus the order was issued under certain circumstances not now existing, appeared to justify it To render it bearable, however, it was ordered that the Commissary Department be authorized to sell subsistence to officers at the original contract prices the cost of transportation not being added. Thus at the time provisions were brought in the large Atlantic cities was not to be complained of, but recently provisions etc. have been purchased by contract in the City of San Francisco whereby in addition to the profit necessarily accruing to contracts etc merchants, is added actually the additional cost of their transportation from the Eastern States, the effect of which has been to increase the price of each ration some eight or ten cents beyond ^{its} former cost..

As the actual cost of the ration ranges now from 24 to 28 cents and the fixed commutation therefor, but 20 cents the denials of the right to draw rations in kind for actual subsistence is a serious hardship to men whose stipend is so small as hardly to enable them to live even under a generous interpretation of the law authorizing their various emoluments.

Therefore we most respectfully request that we may be allowed to at our own option, one ration in kind per diem, for vouchers and one for our servants, respectively and deduct the same from

our monthly pay accounts.

Silas Casey

Lt. Col. 9th Infy

E.S. Keyes, Capt. 9th Infy.

G.E. Pickett, 9th Infy.

R.H. Davis, 1st Lieut. 9th Infy.

H.B. Fleming, 2nd Lieut 9th Infy.

J.S. White, 2nd Lieut. 3rd Arty.

G.H. Mundell, 2nd lt. Top Eng.

? B McKibbin, 2nd lt. 2 Infy.

M. Maloney, Capt. 4th Infy.

P.V. Guthrie, Capt. 9th Infy.

Nick Potts, Asst. Surg. U.S. Army

Geo Suckley, asst. surgeon, U.S.A.

G. McBean, 1st lt. 3rd Arty.

John Hayden 2nd lt. 4th Infy.

A. Shaaff, 2nd lt. 4th Infy.