

See pg 2 + 3 etc.

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54-58

HDC

Head Quarters 1st Regt. O.V. Vols.

Camp Yakima, April 2nd, 1856

Sir:

On the morning of the 9th ulto. I dispatched Lieut. Chas. B. Pillow Co. A of the 1st battalion, in charge of a detachment of fifty men to join an encampment at or near Fort Walla Walla. I gave him orders to hold that post, to scout the adjoining country and preserve open the line of communications from the mouth of Snake river to our military post in the Umatilla. Having completed my preparations on the same date I took up the line of march for Snake river with companies A, S, E H and K of that battalion and A, B and C and D of the battalion of recruits the movement including about five hundred persons. We were supplied with full rations of sugar and coffee and one half rations of flour and beef for the period of nine days. ^{Beyond this} ~~represents that~~ we were destitute of supplies of any kind--the commissary department being wholly barren. The first night we camped on the Touchet. In the evening Lieut Wright of Co E whom I had previously dispatched to reconiter the mouth of Snake river returned and reported he had discovered stock in the forks of the river herded by Indians. The command did not move on the 10th, as I judged it advisable to wait for one day the return of an express detachment I had ~~pxxx~~ caused to send to the Dalles to obtain a needful supply of ammunition. Lieut. Miller of C H with a detachment of that company I sent beyond Mill Creek to obtain cattle. He returned on the evening of the 11th with twenty one head of beef which unfortunately effected their escape from us at Snake River. On the 11th we proceeded down the valley of the Touchet. The afternoon of the 12th after a march of forty two miles from Camp Cornelius we arrived on Snake river, twenty-five miles above its mouth and before ~~midnight~~ ~~nightfall~~ the command had accomplished the

passage of the river with the exception of Co. A. Capt. Harding of the recruiting battalion. The transit over the river was made without loss or accident beyond the loss of two or three animals. On approaching the river a very feeble encampment of Indians was perceptible on the opposite shore. Immediately after a portion of our advance guard had crossed the river I went in pursuit of the enemy who had fled in the direction of the Columbia on observing our boats. A quantity of their packs, provisions, a small amount of ammunition and some horses were captured and brought into camp. Capt. Hembree, Wilber, Rivers, Burch and Ankeny and Lt. Miller with portions of their respective companies were engaged in this movement. We succeeded in killing four of our enemy and captured an Indian boy of some four or five years. This lad I have entrusted for the present to Capts. Hembree and Ankeny. In the pursuit two Indian women were overtaken. They were suffered to pass on unmolested. The succeeding day Capt. Rivers with a detachment of his men, Company K and Lieut Taggart of Co. A of 2nd Battalion with a detachment under command of Maj. Conoyer struck across the country to the mouth of the Yakima while Capts. Miller, Hembree, Lt. Harding and Lt. Haley of the 1st and Capt. Burch, Ankeny and Settle of the 2nd Battalion with their companies under my immediate command proceeded down the river to its mouth and then up the Columbia for ten miles to opposite the mouth of the Yakima, where we were met by the detachment in charge of Maj. Conoyer. We failed to find any considerable force of Indians. A small number were discovered, pursued and three or four were killed. The remainder, with a small band of stock, had succeeded in crossing the river before they could be overtaken. These fled... towards the north. We returned to camp by different routes, having traveled this day some seventy-five miles over a country presenting no indications of having been occupied by a force of the war party of our

enemy. While Lt. Small of Co. K and one of his men were together making their course to camp they were fired upon by eight or ten Indians. The lieutenant returned their fire, succeeded in killing one of the Indians and himself and companion escaped uninjured.

The same evening Private Harvey Robbins of Co. D was slightly wounded in the thigh with an arrow.

The wagon train I had employed for the transportation of our boats on the 14th inst. .. to proceed to Walla Walla with five of the boats. One of the boats was cached on Snake river. On the afternoon of this day I took up the line of march for the Palouse river following the rough trail of the Snake, ~~2222~~ On the 16th after a march of some forty miles from our crossing of Snake River we encamped two miles below the Palouse. On this march we discovered no manifestation that the country had been occupied during the past winter by any large body of Indians. At long intervals were ~~noticed~~ to be noticed evidence of temporary camps of a few families. Signs of numerous having ~~though~~ passed (sic) along ~~that~~ the trail were preceptible. On arriving in the vicinity of the Palouse I ordered Capt. Hembree ~~to~~ forward to ascertain if there was an encampment of the enemy at the mouth of that river. The same evening he reported no Indians there, and no appearances of an encampment at or near that locality since late in the past autumn. On the 17th I sent an express to the post at Walla Walla for supplies. We went up the Palouse a distance of eight miles and encamped until the morning of the 23rd. Prior to reaching the Palouse our entire stock of provisions were exhausted and were reduced to the necessity of subsisting on horsemeat. Many symptoms of to proceed farther had... for several days manifested by a portion of the command. I called ~~xxxxxx~~ a council of officers on the evening of the 17th when it was determined to await there the arrival of provisions and in the mean while send out

detachments to scout the country . On the 18th Capt. Hembree, Revais [appears to be Revais instead of Rivers as previously written] Burch and Ankeny and Lts. Hutchinson, Myers, Wright and Haley with detachments from companies D, E, H and K of the 1st and B, C of the 2nd Battalions under company of Lt. Col. Kelley (sic) proceeded up the Palouse and across the Colville trail to Clear Creek. At the crossing of the creek the Col. divided his force, sending one part under Capt. Hembree down the creek to the Palouse then up the Pelouse, a distance of thirty miles . Col. Kelley with his party followed up Clear Creek a further distance of twelve miles, then over the country to Sinking Spring on the trail leading from the Falls of the Palouse to Priest Rapids and from that section proceeded on an easterly course to camp. The command of Lt. Col. Kelley was absent two days. He saw no Indians or cattle and but one horse which was appropriated by the men for their evening meal. The Colonel reported that his command discovered a recent encampment that it was evident the ~~xxx~~ whole body had crossed the country toward the Columbia, that no other ~~camping~~ camping ground of the Indians was found ??? that there was but one trail leading from the ~~Salmon~~ ~~Salmon~~ Salmon river over the Palouse country to Priest Rapids. The day of the return of Col. Kelley to camp I dispatched a second express to Walla Walla for provisions. Fortunately on this day we found on the south side of Snake River a band of forty Indian horses . With the assistance of a few men I succeeded in bringing them to camp . Most of the number were used for the ~~xxx~~ subsistence of the regiment.

On the morning of the 20th I was induced by a series of circumstances to order a parade of the regiment at which I informed the command of ~~xxx~~ that it was my intention to follow the trail across the Palouse country to the Columbia and to penetrate the country of the Yakima before I marched the command to the Dalles

your
and that such were orders to me.

I regret to be under the painful necessity to ..the fact that one of the field officers exhibited his disrelish of my plan in a manner into which he ought not to have suffered himself to be betrayed. ?? Lt. Col. Kelley and Major. Cornoyer in un.... terms expressed their decidedly approbation of the line of march I had proposed to ~~to~~ pursue.

On the 21st Capt. Wilson having in charge Watson's pack train with provisions reached Snake river. Capt. Mason of E company recruiting battalion reported his command at Walla Walla ready for duty. I ordered him to form an encampment at the mouth of the Snake river, to scout the country ~~in~~ on both sides of the river and after the 24th to have our boats at that point prepared to cross any express I might forward or the whole command. Wilson's pack train brought of flour and sugar for twelve and coffee for nine days. ... some mismanagement by the Asst. Qr. Master in that field but two hundred pounds of coffee were forwarded to me. I had ordered four hundred and fifty pounds to be sent. At the time there was some two or three thousand pounds of coffee at Walla Walla. Several instances of mismanagement have occurred in the Qr. master Department in the field that have severely embarrassed my plans and movements.

On Sunday the 23rd we resumed our march taking along one of our boats, following the trail that had been discovered by Lt. Col. Kelley on the 18th and 19th en route to Priest Rapids, and late on the night encamped on the bank of the Columbia. We were four days in traversing the country between the Palouse and Columbia Rivers. Throughout the march the men and animals suffered severely for want of water and subsistence. Numbers of horses became exhausted they were unable to travel. The route was exceedingly difficult, no man in the regiment had before penetrated the country. Not an Indian was seen.

Every few miserably poor horses were secured which were consumed as provisions.

Capt. Hembree and Harding and Lt. Col. Kelley with five men on the 27th followed up the Columbia for several miles above Priest Rapids. Capt. Hembree reported the party discovered three Indians on the west bank of the Columbia, that they conversed together, that the Indians stated they had no fire arms and did not wish to fight, and that they to cross the river to our men. He further reported no more or different indications of the locality of the Indians than were presented in our report of the Palouse country.

I was extremely solicitous to cross the Columbia at the point we had attained, and pass directly into the heart of the country of the Yakimas. At a council of my officers I submitted for consideration several propositions, one as to the expediency of at once passing over the Columbia. The exhaustion of both men and animals, the absence of supplies and the necessity of obtaining provisions from the train supposed to be on the route to Walla Walla in conjunction with other causes led to the determination that the command be marched on the east side of the river to the mouth of the Yakima. On the 28th we moved down the Columbia over a wretched trail and on the 30th camped opposite the mouth of the Yakima.

Capt. Cason ~~xx~~ arrived at my camp ~~thxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ this evening and relieved our immediate wants by distribution of eight head of beef captured on the Walla Walla. It ~~was~~ now became ~~important~~ important to decide whether the country of Kamiakin should be entered and thoroughly scouted. The troops of the United States were however expected to arrive in the valley of Walla Walla and thus relieve the volunteers of the duty they had for months performed and enable them to return to their homes.

Governed by considerations that im..... me as the best and most

prudent I adopt under existing circumstances I ordered Major Curl to take command of companies H and K of the 1st Battalion and proceed to Walla Walla river ; from there an encampment, scout that valley to the base of the Blue Mountains, occupy the country until ~~it~~ ^I was satisfied that a sufficient body of U.S. troops had come into the valley to hold the same and ~~xxxxxxx~~ ^{march the command} directly to the ~~next~~ of the Dalles . That command is now in the Walla Walla. To Capt. Cason I gave an order to proceed with Company E to head waters of Wild Horse creek , the Umatilla and John Days rivers into the Ureka (sic) valley and to the Dalles by way of the Warm Springs, to collect and drive in all horses and cattle on the route and arrest and hold in custody any and all white persons he might find in charge of stock. Capt. Cason has departed to fulfill this mission. The same date I sent an order to the Rgt. Quartermaster and the company and then I proceeded to withdraw all supplies, stores and property whatsoever remained in their charge., from the to the Dalles whenever the left column of the regiment might vacate the country. The commanding officer of company B of 1st battalion I had ordered to abandon Fort Henrietta totally destroying that post and march to the Dalles on the approach of the left column to the Umatilla. Lt. Tilton has been ordered to cross the Columbia with his force and rejoin my command in the Yakima. On the 1st day of March I crossed the Columbia with Companies A, D and E of the 1st battalion and B and C of ~~the~~ the 2nd battalion . Lt. Col. Kelley, Major Conoyer and Capt. Reavis accompanied me.

On the 1st of the month with Major Conoyer, Capts. Burch and Ankeny, Lts. Hull and nine men I followed up the Yakima River a distance of thirty miles. We found neither Indians or evidence of any encampment since last autumn. Capt. Hembree, Lieut. Wright and a handful of men in an opposite direction, penetrated the country about

the same distance. They report no recent traces of the enemy. Lt. Col. Kelley re-crossed the Columbia in search of cattle but returned without success.

I had dispatched Lt. Caldwell to "alla Walla for one thousand pounds of flour and twenty five rations of coffee. With the quantity I proposed immediately to take up the line of march through the Yakima ~~country~~ and depend upon the capture of wild horses for all deficiencies of provisions. That Lt. Caldwell has returned and reports that Major Vurl and Lieut. Miller, despite his remonstrations, took possession of four hundred pounds of the flour and that he succeeded in obtaining but fourteen rations of coffee. With him came your ~~express~~ express... Mr. Robinson with your advise and communications from Capt. & Townall the right quarter master and from Hubbards' Wagon train. A wagon and pack train with provisions are on route from the Dalles. If ~~they~~ they be not delayed or ~~drawn back~~ discharged at Fort ~~Henrietta~~ Henrietta, which I am fearful of, also though I ~~have~~ have given an order for the train to push through direct to "alla Walla. I am hopeful of obtaining such supplies as will enable me to perform a campaign in the Yakima withough the danger of suffering for want of subsistence.

Quarter Master Fournell communicates that the Cascades have been attacked by Indians and the United States troops at that time en route to "alla Walla had been recalled to the Dalles. I am apprehensive the failure of the regular forces of the United States to occupy this portion of the Indian country until the return of the Left Column of the Regiment to the Dalles. Under the present order of facts I may find it indispensable for the public good to place ~~either~~ either Col. Kelly (sic) or Major Conoyer in command of the troops on the south of the Columbia river. I shall remain in this section until the arrival of the expected ~~sub~~ subsistence

subsistence trains. I contemplate a forward movement into the Yakima Valley. I shall go through the Clickitat Valley. From that point my course must depend upon contingencies that may arise. I propose to ~~assist~~ send a force down ~~either~~ White Salmon river and if you deem adviseable proceed by the mountains and valleys to the north on to Vancouver

In relation to the loss of Dowell's pack train no supplies were obtained by the Indians, their animals were stolen about 4 o'clock on the morning of the 25th of February on Wild Horse Creek. Pursuit but with no avail. I attributed the loss to carelessness on the part of persons having the animals in charge. At the time the train left the Umatilla Co. A of the Battalion of Recruits was encamped about one mile from the train. I was then at the Umatilla and supposed it would not be hazardous to ~~leave~~ leave the train as it was to proceed to Camp Cornelius with Co. A. In addition to this ...Hubbards Wagon train was proceeding with the pack train and under the escort of Capt. Harding.

Yours Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

T.R. Cornelius.

Col. 1st regt. O.M. Vols.

His excellency Gov. G. Curry

Governor-commander-in-chief,

Salem, O.T.

War Dep't. Letters Rec'd. 54-58

H.D.G.

42-0. Territory of Oregon. Portland, Apl. 12/56. Gov. L. Curry
governor, acknowledges receipts of letter of the 26th Dec. 1855--transmits
copies of latest dispatches from the comdy. officer of
Volunteers on the Northern Frontier and in Southern Oregon. (3 enclosures)
Orl. May 19.56. Adt. Gen. Copy Sent Mil Com. H.R. June 56.

Territory of Oregon

Head Quarters

Portland, 12th April, 1856

Hon Jefferson Davis

Secretary of War

Sir:

I have to acknowledge the reception of your favor of 24th December last. This acknowledgement has been some time deferred in the hope of accompanying it with advices of the arrival of Hardy's *Cliharder's* Tactics. They have not yet been received.

Herewith I have the honor to transmit copies of the latest dispatches received from the commanding officers of the volunteers on the northern frontier and in Southern Oregon. From these you will perceive that the operations in both sections are being pushed with commendable energy and perservance in the face of severe trials and privations and with gratifying results. By the recent disastrous and fatal affair at the Cascades, the forward movement of the U.S. troops under Col. Wright has been suspended, and the relief of the volunteers on the northern frontier consequently postponed. The country of the Walla Walla, Cayuse and Umatilla cannot be evacuated by the territorial force with safety to our settlements before it shall be occupied by the regular troops. In view of the rapid approach of the summer season when offensive operations against the

are of doubtful issue, I have directed the main body of the First. Rgt. and Battalion of recruits to withdraw from the enemy's country after the termination of the expedition into the valley of the Yakima , leaving a column sufficiently ~~many~~ strong on the south side of the Columbia river for the vigilant and efficient occupation of the Walla Walla country until relieved from that duty by U.S. troops.

I am, very respectfully

Your obd't servt.

George (signed Geo) L. Curry

Governor of Oregon.

49-0 Portland, Oregon Territory. May 13, 1856. Gov. Geo. L. Curry
Reports operations of the Oregon Volunteers. Anticipates speedy
conclusion of hostilities in Rogue River Valley. O. 104 June 16, 1856
Adjutant general.

Rec. June 24, 56. Copy sent to Mil con. H of R

Territory of Oregon

Head Quarters, Portland

Hon Jefferson Davis,

13th May, 1856

Secretary of War

Sir: The operations of the Oregon Volunteers on the northern frontier have been attended with additional and satisfactory success since the date of my last communication. Having made the entire circuit of the hostile Indian country the First Regiment was ~~renewed~~ concentrated by my order at the Dalles and the main body of it moved in detachments to rendezvous in the Willamette valley where they have been mustered out of service. The delay in the forward movement of the regular troops under Col. Wright occasioned by the disastrous affair at the Cascades compelled the detention in service of the volunteers at the north much beyond the time I had contemplated. Awakened at length to the true character and extent of the Indian outbreak and the imminence of danger to our settlements on the east side of the Cascade mountains the efforts of the U.S. troops are so directed as lead me to anticipate that my fellow citizens of the northern army may consistently with our security be released from service. I have made arrangements to maintain a small force for the purpose of scouting the country lying along the eastern base of the Cascades, as there are many passes available during the approaching season by means of which the populous settlements of the Willamette valley may be readily penetrated. Until the country on the south side of the Columbia river is occupied by the regular troops prudence dictates that my attention should not be wholly withdrawn from that section of the

territory. The indisposition manifested by those who direct the movements of the regular troops sent here for the protection of our settlements to appreciate the motives by which I have been governed in the organization of the volunteer service, and the want of a cordial cooperation on their part in the prosecution of the war campaign against the common enemy are deeply to be regretted. I cannot however relave (six?) my efforts in the faithful discharge of the responsible duties devolved upon me by the existing emergency.

Important and highly satisfactory results have been achieved by the southern regiment. On the 27th ulto an engagement occurred between the volunteers under command of Genl. Lamerick and the main body of the hostile tribes in that section. A speedy conclusion of hostilities in the Rogue River valley is confidently anticipated.

I am very respectfully

Your obt. servant

George L. Curry

Governor of Oregon.

Col. Cornelius, June 13, 1856

12 252 Aug. 1856

Col. Thos. R. Cornelius reply to Gen. Wool

June 13th 1856

12/68 O. Aug 29/56

Head Quarters 1st Regt. O.M. Vols.

Portland, O.T. June 13th, 1856

Sir:

In a communication under date at Benicia, Cal. April 2nd, 1856 published in the National Intelligencer over his own signature Gen. Wool indulges in several direct and weighty charges against the volunteers who were under ~~me~~ my command on the Walla Walla country, indirectly reflecting upon myself. It is due the volunteers and the people of Oregon that these malicious inventions, unsupported by a single circumstance and having no foundation in truth, should be noticed and refuted.

Gen. Wool asserts--"As the volunteers, having no boats could not cross Snake river, the retrea¹ of the Indians closed the volunteers campaign except to plunder the friendly Cayuses of their horses and cattle." This charge is unqualifiedly false. It has no relationship with truth. And as Gen. Wool has never placed his foot within the distance of nearly two hundred miles of the "friendly Cayuse" camp^{xx} he cannot he cannot consistently make claim to any personal knowledge of the correctness of his grave accusation. Not an officer or soldier under him has visited the Walla Walla country since the inception of the present Indian war. Who imparted to him the information he so boldly declares and vouches to be trues he does not disclose, but whoever his informant is that man has imposed upon the aged and credulous genl. and deceived him by statements the reverse of truth. On the approach of our troops in December last to the occupancy of the Walla Walla country the friendly Cayuse and Walla Walla Indians implored our protection from

from the threatened vengeance of their own brethren. These friendly Indians numbered men, women and children, about one hundred and thirty.

The remainder of the Cayuse and Walla Walla, the Umatilla and Des Shutes Indians were in open hostility to us, and this rupture had long been planned and determined. It was the result of no sudden impulse. It was not produced by the forward movement of our troops to their country. The legitimate certainty of these facts will be apparent from the testimony adduced on the trial of certain Indians in February last, a report of which will be submitted to you by Judge Advocate W.H. Farrar.

The protection claimed by the friendly Indians was readily promised and afforded, although to the serious inconvenience and detriment of the service and the companies employed therein.

Throughout the winter and until the removal of those Indians to the Nez Perces, they were encamped at a distance of ten miles from the encampment of our troops, except that, at their urgent solicitation, the French and the half-breed Company (K) encamped at their village. Several times in the winter I was at the Indian village, and held council with the chiefs and principal men. Never a word of complaint was bespoken to me against Company K. Twice and twice only, did the Indians complain of any ~~xxx~~ wrong having been done them by the volunteers and both acts consisted in taking of a horse. In each instance the horses were restored and the Indians were satisfied. On one occasion some three hundred head of horses were driven into our camp. Nearly all were wild, unbroken animals. They were believed to belong to members of the war party. They were, however, claimed by some of the friendly Indians as their individual property and although the brand upon the animals did not correspond with the brands given to us by the Indians as their own

, in order to prevent any ill feeling and difficulty all but one horse were turned over to the Indians on their mere claim of ownership. The retention of the single horse I justify. It bore the brand of the notorious Five Crow, one of the principal hostile chiefs. It was identified by a large number of Volunteers as having been used by him in the battle of Walla Walla and it bore the evidence of a gunshot wound received in that battle. It is ~~xxxxxx~~ true we obtained and used for subsistence, some of the cattle claimed by the friendly Indians. This was never done, however, when we had or could procure beef from any other quarter. But in every instance the cattle were purchased from the Indians and the price agreed on therefore was the same as allowed to our own citizens with whom we contracted for cattle. The Indians reportedly expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with the business transaction between us. The imputation that the volunteers and officers "plundered the friendly Cayuses" is a malignant fabrication. I hesitate to believe that Genl. Wool has so grossly debased himself as to originate this shameless defamation. In his distempered spleen he has suffered to be palmed upon his eager willingness to believe all things detrimental to the citizens of Oregon then shameless libels which had their origin in the vicious brain of one or two persons whose reputation for truth and veracity is not of a very high ~~grade~~ order in the community of their residence.

Genl. Wool should have made some little inquiry as to the character of his informants before lending the prestige of his name and official station to the endorsement of so grave a charge.

It would have been for better for his own reputation for prudence and a willingness to accord to the volunteers ~~the~~ their just deserts had he resorted to this ~~press~~ precautionary measure. It would have saved him from the painful exposure of a portion of his vindictive sentiments to our citizens which he has frequently and

weakly suffered to become manifest.

Another statement made by Genl. Wool I had to notice. He says---
 "In February thirteen wagons loaded with supplies, including ammunition for the volunteers guarded by only four men, were captured by the Indians between the Umatilla and Fort Walla Walla" This charge is as basely false as the one to which I have above replied. Until I read this in the ~~report~~ letter of Gen. Wool to the National Intelligencer the report had not reached my ears, and I was not aware that this unmitigated untruth was employed by Gen. Wool to the disparagement of the volunteers and discredit of our whole people. From the commencement of the war to the month of March last not a single wagon belonging to the volunteer service had been between Umatilla and Fort Walla Walla. At no time were there as many as "thirteen wagons" in any train, loaded or unloaded. From first to last the Indians have not captured a wagon train, loaded with supplies" During the whole period of the war the Indians have not succeeded in capturing a single article of quartermaster or commissary stores or supplies, ammunition or a wagon. In this respect the volunteer service presents a much cleaner record than does that of Genl. Wool. The Indians have captured from the forces of Genl. Wool supplies for the regulars, while from the volunteers they have not such success to boast. In this connection I may allude to the fact that in April last, in the Yakima country, my command ~~recaptured~~ captured from the Indians a portion of the ammunition obtained by them when they ~~attacked~~ attacked and captured the Cascades within rifle-range of the veteran Wools own trained hands.

I have thus noticed the only accusations preferred by Genl. Wool against the volunteers and their officers since the date of my commission as Col. of the Northern Regt. the 21st Dec. I regret the necessity that demanded of me the refutation of the grave

and serious falsehoods promulgated by Genl. Wool and so persistently adhered to by one who might have added to his laurels and enhanced the esteem in which he was once held by the people of Oregon, if he had applied his strength to the defense of our wide spread and unprotected settlements in lieu of having wasted his energies in unmanly dissemination of false detractions and false accusations of those brave and gallant men I had the honor to command.

I have the honor to be

Very Respy. Your Obt. Servt.

Thos. R. Cornelius

Col. 1st Regt. O.M. Vols.

To his excellency, George L. Curry
Gov. and commander in chief

H. Quarters O.M. Rangers

Tiah Vally 16th June, 1856

William H. Ferrar, adjutant 1st regt. OMV.

Sir:

I have before me your letter of the 2d inst. making inquiries as to the manner of and the particulars relating to the capture and death of the Walla Walla chief Pee Pee Mox Mox.

On the morning of the fifty of December, 1855, Lt. Col. Kelly commanding the 1st Regt. O.M. Vols. marched with the larger portion of his command in search of the camp of Pee Pee Mox Mox. We found his camping place on the Touchet River, but he had left. Col. Kelly decided to follow up the stream still further. Had gone but a short distance when we saw Pee Pee Mox Mox in the distance with about sixty armed Indians displaying a flag of truce. The command halted and Pee Pee Mox Mox advanced with seven of his warriors, he stated to Col. Kelly through an interpreter that he wished to settle the difficulties without fighting, at the same time acknowledging that he had pillaged and destroyed the property of the white settlers in that valley and that he had burned and spoiled it (sic) Walla Walla. Col. Kelly told him that he had come there for the purpose of fighting and if he did not surrender himself and arms he could leave our command with his white flag. Then he might expect us to fight him. Whereupon he gave himself up with seven others as prisoners of war. On the morning of the 6th he sent one of his men out to bring in the other Indians that they might settle the difficulties. He returned not. We then moved up the river to his second encampment. On approaching it the Indians withdrew to the adjoining hills. Another messenger was sent out to them, requesting them to come in. They again refused entreaties were in vain. The command then marched down to the mouth of the Touchet River to join

Maj. Chinn. Here one of the prisoners attempted to escape when they were all secured for the night. On the morning of the 7th a party of Indians made their appearance on the hills in front of our camp. Here Col. Kelly sent another messenger asking them to come in and give up their arms. They again refused but demanded of us their chief and ordered us to pass no farther up the river or they would fight us. We then left camp on our way up the Walla Walla River. Had not gone more than 3/4 of a mile when the Indians fired on two of the men who were driving cattle. Orders were then given to charge on them which was done. Here commenced a running fight of ten miles in which some of our men were wounded. Col. Kelly was then inquired of what should be done with the prisoners, he ordered them to be tied -- in attempting this the prisoners tried to make their escape. One drew a knife and stabbed a man in the arm. Pee Pee Mox Mox seized a gun in the hands of a Mr. Warfield whereupon Warfield struck him such a blow as to fell him to the ground. He raised again and a second blow from the gun brought him to the ground again. The guard then fired upon and his existence soon ended.

I regretted exceedingly the death of Pee Pee Mox Mox at that particular time, not but what he justly deserved it, but the necessity for it, and I am well convinced it was unavoidable and that the guard only done their duty

I am sir, respectfully

Your obt. Servt., H.V. Wilson, Capt. Co. A,
1st Regt. O.M.T.

C252 Aug. 1856 Report of Capt. A.V. Wilson relative to the manner and causes of the death of Pee Pee Mox Mox chief of the Walla Walla Indians. 7/68 O Aug. 20/56.