

War of the Rebellion, Series L, Vol. 1, Pt. 2, Wash. D.C., 1897

(Visalia)

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Hdqrs. Department of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. March 27, 1863

Special Orders

No. 82

2-As soon after the arrival of the detachment of company E, Second Cavalry California Volunteers at Camp Babbitt as practicable, Company D, (McLaughlin's (p. 367) Second Cavalry California Volunteers, will proceed to and take post at Camp Union, Sacramento, Cal. The transportation sent with the detachment will return with Captain McLaughlin's company to Sacramento and thence proceed to Benicia... By Order of Brig. Gen. Wright.

Richd. C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant General

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Headquarters Department of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. April 1, 1863

Commanding Officer Camp Babbitt, near Visalia, Cal.

Sir: The department commander directs that you will with the greatest possible dispatch send Captain McLaughlin's company to Owen's Lake to operate against the Indians depredating in that quarters. The captain being the senior officer, will assume command of all troops, whether volunteer or militia, in that and the adjacent valleys. Should you have any surplus rifled arms the captain will take not to exceed thirty with a fair proportion of ammunition. Captain Brown's company from Churchill has been directed to repair to Owen's Lake and cooperate with the forces there and to be sent.

R. C. Drum, assistant adjutant general.

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Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. July 5, 1862

Assistant Adjutant General

Headquarters Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.

Sir: I have the honor to report that upon the representations of the superintendent of Indian affairs for Oregon, preferring its necessity and convinced from other sources of its propriety and requirement, I have directed the commanding officer at Fort Dalles to send at once to the Indian reservation at Warm Springs a detachment of twenty men with one subaltern. Fears are expressed by the subordinate agent at the reservation of a foray from the Snake Indians and he represents his inability to control the Indians under his care without the assistance of an armed force. It is presumed that this small force will afford a sufficient guard for the property of the Indians and Indian department there, and restore the influence of the agent in his duties.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

Justus Steinberger

Colonel, First Washington Territory Infantry Comdg. District

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Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. July 7, 1862

Maj. R.C. Drum, Asst. Adt. Gen. Hdqrs. Dept. of the Pacific, S.F., Calif.

Sir: I have the honor to report my arrival at this post and that I have this day assumed command of the District of Oregon, pursuant to Special Orders, No. 108, from the headquarters of the Department of the Pacific. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

Benj. Alvord

Brigadier-General U.S. Volunteers, Commanding District.

Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. July 7, 1862

Special Orders No. 33

Upon his return from the leave of absence granted him in special orders No. 32 of this date, Col. Justus Steinberger, First Regiment Washington Territory Volunteers will proceed to Fort Walla Walla and assume command of said post.

By order of Brigadier-General Alvord,

William B. Hughes

First Lieut, Ninth Infantry Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

P. O

Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. July 8, 1862

Special Orders No. 35

I-Lieut. Col. R.E. Maury, First Regiment Oregon Volunteer Cavalry will proceed with three companies of his regiment upon the emigrant road as far as Salmon River Falls for the protection of the expected emigration. The expedition will leave Fort Walla Walla on the 25th of July or as soon thereafter as is practicable. ✓

II-Maj. J.S. Rinearson, First Regiment, Oregon Volunteer Cavalry, with one company of his regiment, will proceed on the 1st proximo to the Lapwai, near Lewiston, Wash. Ter., and encamp his command. He will receive special instructions from these headquarters.

III-Lieutenant Colonel Maury will designate the companies of his regiment which will compose these expeditions.

IV-Both expeditions will remain in the field and not return to Fort Walla Walla until the 1st of November.

V-The assistant quartermaster and commissary at Fort Walla Walla will make immediate arrangements for the transportation and subsistence of said commands, hiring transportation if necessary.

Nez Perces. (Snake Indian location. Map reference.)

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Office Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Salem, Oreg. June 1, 1863

Hon. W. P. Doyle, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D. C.

Sir: Soon after entering upon the duties of this office I directed my attention to the Snake or Shoshone tribes of Indians and have collected such facts in relation to them as are obtainable. I submit the following for your consideration:

The word Snake appears to be a general p 469 term applied to several bands or tribes of Indians quite distinct in language and characteristics and inhabiting different tracts of country but so connected by relationship (having intermarried with each other for long periods) and by long continued friendly intercourse that they are usually regarded by whites and neighboring Indian tribes as one people. These bands are the Winnas, Bannocks, Shoshones, M_odocs and Klamaths and probably several others.

They own and inhabit the country lying south and southeast of the lands purchased by the confederated tribes and bands in Middle Oregon--the Walla Wallas, Cayuses and Matillas and the Nez Perces by the treaties of June 25, 1855, June 9, 1855 and June 11, 1855, including the southern portion of Idaho, the ~~east~~ southeastern part of Oregon and perhaps a small portion of California and Nevada.

On the map herewith inclosed I have delineated the tracts purchased by the treaties named and the lands owned by the different bands known as Snake. These boundaries and indeed that part of the map itself are not from actual surveys and therefore make no pretensions to mathematical accuracy, but for general purposes they will be found sufficiently correct. No exact statement of the number of these Indians can be made but the best information I have obtained leads me to estimate them

from 5,000 to 6,000 souls of which probably 1,500 are in Idaho Territory, the remainder in Oregon. They have had but little intercourse with whites, and that little of hostile character. The recent discoveries of gold in various parts of their country on the Snake, Boise, Powder, Burnt and Malheur Rivers have attracted crowds of miners who are pursuing their avocation with constant interruptions from the depredations of the Indians. Many murders and thefts have been committed by the latter which of course have been retaliated by the whites. In fact an actual state of war has existed there for the last twelve months. The number of miners in the country has been much increased since last year and is still rapidly increasing by emigration from the settled portion of Oregon and from California. The number there now probably exceeds 10,000 men. In addition to this a very large emigration is now en route from the States east of the Rocky Mountains which will reach the Snake country in the autumn of the present year. I need not dwell on the importance of protecting this large population from the hostile and treacherous and warlike Snakes. Unless prompt measures are taken by the government to prevent the loss of life and property will be immense.

On the request of Brig. Gen. Benjamin A. Alvord, commanding District of Oregon, I visited Fort Vancouver about the middle of April for the purpose of conferring with him in regard to Indian affairs east of the Cascade Range and particularly in the Snake country and as to the best method of restoring and maintaining peace. The general concurred with me in regarding a war with the Indians inevitable, and regretted the inability to send troops to that region sooner than midsummer, he deeming it advisable to employ the whole available force in the Nez Perce region until the treaty he negotiating with those Indians was concluded.

Much good might be accomplished in my opinion by the Indian Department by holding a council or councils with these tribes,

making them a few presents and negotiating the purchase of their lands. An appropriation of \$20,000 was made by act of Congress approved July 5, 1862 for "defraying expenses of negotiating treaty with Waiilatpu or Snake Indians," and in my opinion the public interests urgently demand that an effort be made to accomplish this object. I regard this appropriation as amply sufficient to enable the commissioners to treat for the purchase of all lands in Oregon east of the Cascade mountains not already alienated by the Indians and I trust after giving this matter your attention you will concur with me as to the necessity and direct such steps to be taken as the circumstances call for.

I have etc.

J.W. Porit Huntington

Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon.

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(Owens River Valley campaign)

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Big Pine Creek

Owens River Valley May 19, 1863

General Orders No. 4

All hostilities against the Indians of this valley are hereby suspended until further orders.

By orders.

M.A. McLaughlin

Captain Second Cavalry California Volunteers, Commanding.

Owen's River Valley.

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Camp Independence, Owen's River valley, July 22, 1866

Col. R.C. Drum, U.S. Army

Assistant Adjutant General, San Francisco, Calif.

Colonel: I have the honor to state that upon the evening of July 10, 1863, I had the Indians assembled upon the camp parade ground where as they passed by file, they were counted and found to number 998. Many more came in afterward, who must have increased the number to considerably over 1,000. I then caused them all to be seated except the chiefs whom I called to the center of the parade ground and there announced through the interpreter, Jose Chico, the orders with regard to their removal. I had taken the precaution to have the troops so stationed that their presence did not excite the suspicions of the Indians and yet at the time I made the announcement they were completely surrounded. Seeing that there was no avenue of escape they quietly submitted, Captain George remarking, "American captain sabe mucho, Indian poco." The acting commissary of subsistence furnished them with rations until the 31st of July. During the night the troops slept upon their arms on the parade ground, ready at a moment's notice to prevent any attempt to escape. The night passed off quietly and on the morning of the 11th the rations and as many of the women and children as could be were placed in wagons and the whole, guarded by about seventy men, composed of detachments of Companies G and E left Camp Independence. The weather being very hot, the Indians making an unwilling march and with so little transportation, the sufferings upon the route were intense.

At Walker's Pass I found that the water was insufficient for the troops Indians and animals and fearing to meet another train at Desert Springs I made a night march through the pass across the summit and followed down the South Fork of the Kern River till its junction with the North Fork, with the intention of passing through Walker's Basin.

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(Visalia)

P. 346

San Francisco, March 11, 1863

Maj. J. M. O'Neill

Visalia, Cal.: Send word to Ropes not to follow the Indians too far into the mountains; to afford all possible protection to settlers. Has a company left for Independence?

R. C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant General

Camp Babbitt, Near Visalia

March 11, 1863

Capt. J. M. Jones

Camp Independence, Owen's River Valley

Sir: Forty-four men of Company E left camp this morning under command of First Lieut. S. R. Davis to reenforce Camp Independence. As per instructions from headquarters Department of the Pacific received by telegraph, copy of which please find enclosed, you will ~~not~~ follow the Indian too far into the mountains but will render all possible assistance to the settlers now residing in and about the neighborhood of Owen's Valley. Hoping you may meet with every success. I have the honor, to be, your obedient servant

John M. McNeill

Camp Babbit, Near Visalia
March 11, 1863

Col. R. C. Drum, U. S. Army, Assistant Adjutant General, San Francisco

Sir: I have the honor to inform the general commanding that in accordance with instructions received forty-four men of Company E Second Cavalry under the command of First Lieut. S. R. Davis left this camp this morning to re-enforce Camp Independence, Owen's

River. Eleven men of said company are still remaining at this camp, not being properly mounted to make the march. Capt. Heman Noble also remains, being on the sick list. Neighborhood quiet.

John M. McNeill

Major, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, Commanding.

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Headquarters Department of the
Pacific, S.F. Cal. March 12, 1863

J.P.H. Wentworth

Superintendent of Indian Affairs

No. 423 Washington St., San Francisco, Cal.

Sir: I am instructed to inform you that Captain Ropes, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers, commanding Camp Independence, states in his official report of Indian difficulties at Owen's Lake that the Indians justify their recent outbreak on the grounds that the Government has not observed and kept the promises made to them in the treaty of last summer. The general thinks the present disturbance, which threatens to be general, would be more easily quelled if you were to visit that part of the State and reassure the chiefs as to the policy and determination of the Government.

Very Respectfully your obedient servant

R.C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant General

(Visalia)

P. 388

Camp Babbitt, near Visalia, Cal. April 8, 1865

Col. R.C. Drum: Asst. Adj. Gen. Dept of the Pacific San Francisco.

Sir: I have the honor herewith to forward a petition from the citizens of Keysville and vicinity asking military protection from Indian depredations. Captain McLaughlin will leave this camp on the arrival of the detachment of Company E which will accompany him to join their company at Owen's Valley. They are expected to arrive this evening and will leave on Saturday or Sunday morning, passing by the way of Keysville through Kern River Valley. The captain will halt a few days in the upper end of the valley, where the difficulties are said to exist and investigate the matter, and if the position of the Indians should be found as favorable as represented, if deemed advisable we will give them battle. The captain will have about forty men, with arms to arm twenty more. This, with the number of citizens that will join him from Keysville will give him a force sufficient to handle any number of Indians that he will be likely to meet at that place. This camp will be left with a small force, which will make it inexpedient to send a detachment a great distance. If it is necessary to keep troops at this camp the number after Captain McLaughlin's departure is quite small enough without further diminution. An infantry company could be used to good advantage at this post. It would give the cavalry an opportunity of scouting through the country, preventing breaking up, or inquiring into the cause and object of the organization of those armed parties that are gathering in the southern part of the county, and, we have reason to believe have committed several robberies in the vicinity of White River and Kern Lake. There is no doubt of an organized movement among the disloyal people for this part of the state for what purpose I am unable to find out. I have information of thirty-seven of them being together

near Kern Lake with quite a number of Government horses with them, which would be sufficient excuse for the military to take the matter in hand. I last heard of these men at or near Fort Tejon and from a letter intercepted here they seem to be moving south toward Fort Yuma. Had I sufficient force I should send out in the direction of these parties and scour that part of the country and ascertain the meaning and intentions of these armed bodies of men and recover, if possible, the Government property. If there is any part of this State that should be patrolled, it is in the southern tier of counties, for there is no county in the State that offers such facilities for the organization of lawless bands of thieves and outlaws and there is no country on earth that can furnish more and better material according to its inhabitants than this tier of counties can for purposes of that kind. This would be a very good field for Company F to operate in and if it could be spared from Camp Union.

I am etc.

Wm. Jones

Lieut. Col. Commanding Camp Babbitt near Visalia, Cal.

Pi-Utes..^Bannocks

Territory of Nevada Executive Department,
Carson City, April 5, 1863 (1864)

Brig. Gen. Wright, commanding, department of the Pacific

Sir: You will pardon me for making a suggestion to you in regard to the disposition of troops in this Territory for the coming summer. I think the safety of immigration and of prospectors for minerals requires a company of cavalry to be stationed at some point north of the Humboldt in the vicinity of City Rocks. I am told food is abundant in that region. The Bannocks or ~~000000~~ ^{Pan oke} which roam in that direction together with ~~000~~ some of the worst Pi-Utes, which renders it dangerous for immigrants and prospectors. Mineral is being discovered in that direction, many persons will go there, and I fear the result will be to bring on an Indian war if there are not troops to protect them. If those who go there should kill an Indian or Indians it would bring upon us trouble that would be disastrous in its effects upon the prosperity of ~~the~~ our Territory. The policy of the Government seems to be to encourage the development of our mineral resources as speedily as possible and believing that the best way to do it is to protect the miners in their explorations I make the suggestions for your consideration. This company could traverse quite a region and furnish protection to both of these classes. I know nothing of the forces at your command or what disposition you intend to make of them. I simply suggest this for the reason that the people look to me for protection, which I am anxious to afford them. ...

James W. Nye

Snakes. Umatilla Currey Walla Walla

p. 1241

Fort Walla Walla, Wash. Ter. May 24, 1865

Acting Assistant Adjutant General

Hqrs. District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter.

Sir: I have the honor to report for the information of the colonel commanding the district that information was received at these headquarters last evening that the Snake Indians attacked a party of Indians from the Umatilla Reservation on the 20th instant on the North Fork of John Day's River, near a place called Camas Prairie.

This is said to be about sixty miles southwest of the Umatilla Reservation. The Snakes captured forty-eight horses from the friendly Indians and drove them back to the reserves. I will go down to the reserve today and see if my information has been exaggerated. In the meanwhile I have given orders for Captain Waters, one commissioned officer and fifty-five enlisted men to hold themselves in readiness to start on detached service. If upon an investigation at the reservation I find there is a probability of doing anything I shall order Captain Waters and his detachment into the field, taking command in person. Hoping my plans will meet with your approval I have the honor, etc.

George B. Currey

Lieutenant Colonel First Oregon Infantry Commanding Post

p. 1243

Headquarters Fort Walla Walla, Wash.

Ter May 26, 1865

Acting Assistant Adjutant General Hqrs. District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter.

Sir: I have the honor to report for the information of the colonel commanding the district that I have just returned from the Umatilla Indian Agency and upon talking with the Indians who were parties in the affair find the following to be facts concerning a raid made by the Snake Indians on the Indians of that agency.

A party of twenty-one Indians belonging to the Umatilla tribe were out on a hunting excursion, and while encamped on the north bank of the North Branch of John Day's River they were surprised and forty-eight head of their horses driven off by the Snake Indians. A report also reached me while at the reservation that the horses belonging to a company of cavalry were stampeded about the same time on Bitter Creek (copy) Concerning this I could get nothing reliable, but suppose the company meant to be Lieutenant Bowen's detachment. I started from the reserve this morning forty Indians who will scout the regions around about where the party was surprised. Captain Waters and fifty-five men of his company will leave this post, with subsistence for twenty days, in the morning. They will establish a camp on Camas Prairie, and await the report of the Indian scouts. I will get fifteen or twenty more Indians from the reserve to act as scouts. I propose to drive the Indians away from the north side of John Day's river. This job will perhaps take about a month. I will employ no citizens and the Indians will subsist themselves. I will take command in person. very respt. etc.

Geo. B. Currey

Lieutenant Colonel First Oregon Infantry, commanding post.

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol. I, pt. 2

Surprise Valley. Fort Bidwell. Names California

General Orders No. 44 Hdqrs. Dept of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. June 10, 1865

I-The new fort to be established in the north end of Surprise Valley on the ground indicated by Major Williamson will be known as Fort Bidwell.

II-The troops in Siskiyou and ~~Siskiyou~~ Shasta counties will constitute the military Sub-District of Siskiyou, under the command of Maj. Henry B. Mellen, Second Cavalry California Volunteers.

III-Instead of two companies at Fort Bidwell, the post will be arranged for a full company and a half of the company now at Fort Crook. The horses except not to exceed ~~half of the company~~ ~~at Fort Crook~~ five, and all the men but a detachment of fifteen or twenty, will be withdrawn at the end of the season to Fort Crook. Forage and subsistence will be placed accordingly.

By command of Major-General McDowell:

R.C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant General