

Haller, Granville Owen, 1819-1897

Journal and dispatches re campaign against Snake Indians, 1854

Journal
of

The Campaign against the Snake Indians About Boise' River O.T. In the fall of the year 1854

1854. August 28th 1854 I learned that the Winnas Indians, a tribe of the Gosh-o-nee nation, or Snakes, had murdered eight men and captured three women and several children, emigrants, en route to Oregon Territory. This fact was reported to Maj. Rains, 4th Infy. comdy. Fort Dalles by a Mr.) Nobel of the Hudson's Bay employe, a chief factor at Fort Boise near which about fifteen miles above, on Boise river at the crossing, the massacre took place.

On learning this news Maj. Rains detailed myself, Dr. Sukley, Lt. Macfeely without assigning how many men, for the service as per order in appendix marked A.

Whereupon I wrote a letter to Lt. Macfeely directing him to act as ~~asst~~ asst. gr. mr. and act asst. comdy of subs. during the campaign and gave directions tofor transportation etc. see appendix B

August 29. The provisions were packed up, the men drew their horses, saddles etc. in the afternoon, the mules were ...and packed, the men at retreat paraded in marching order, and the camp if necessary could have marched off. I reported to Maj Rains and stated that if I marched off I could only go the next day a very short march to a spring 8 miles beyond the Deschutes river or else march thirty miles further. I ~~found~~ ^(feared) the animals would run off to their old feeding

places and we be delayed all the next day to catch them, while in fort they could be well fed and could not scatter. He consented to our remaining. I exercised the command on horse back, took the animals to water and gave the necessary instructions for the night and next morning,

August 30. Rose at 4 o'clock. Visited the command. Saw that the men were busy, and found many under the influence of liquor. Learned that Cply. Keenam did not confine the men as directed but staid down town himself. He was very drunk and twice threw his horse, the latter time striking his head against his musket and stunning himself seriously. I ordered him on arrest and directed him to lead his horse.

Lt. Macfeely breakfasted with me, while at breakfast Sergt. Euker reported that the mules were not packed. I sent him to Sergt. VanNormie to give him my order to pack immediately for a start. He returned afterwards and reported that Sergt. Van Normie had said he would not pack up until he got an order from Lt. Macfeely who had ordered him to wait for his order to pack. Lt. Macfeely had ordered him the night before to pack at the earliest moment, but he came up to me to know if he should pack up. I asked him if my sergeant had not already given him the order. He said positively he had not. I then directed ~~exped~~ the packing with all dispatch. His delay on his part detained us several hours. Just before starting I bade my wife and children, the officers, including Col. Mansfield, Insp. Genl. and Lt. Mandell Top Eng. the ladies etc. a farewell. At ten o'clock marched off but before getting out of the village on the river found the packs had not been put on in a proper manner, several had come off and if the animals had not been accustomed to packing we could not have started. While waiting to get the packs put on I found Pvt. Houlahan of K Company at Henderson's grog

shop contrary to positive orders, and riding up drew my sword, using the broad side, beat him and used the thrust until he turned and ran. I found afterwards he had no canteen and says he lost it there. I believe he had sent it to the store to get it filled and I had not given him time to get it back. At eleven o'clock marched off again, when I happened to think that Mrs. Thompson would have a letter to send and dispatched Pvt. Uhland for it. We reached the Des Chutes Ferry about 4 o'clock ~~and~~ p.m. and found a hurricane of sand blowing which continued all night. I found the wind had blown the water back and caused a rise of the Des Chutes, it was not fordable, and that covered a sand bar out from the shore which out (ought?) to have been the shore to us. Finding the mules coming down the hill I determined to cross over; we unpacked six or eight of the mules, but found that the ferry boat not only stuck on the bar but with difficulty could be gotten over. We lost nearly an hour in ~~the~~ crossing the first boat. The ~~next~~ trip the boat was not so deeply laden but still caught on the bar, and it was late before the whole was crossed over. The men were all busily engaged at the ferry and with the animals so we had no wood gathered and went to bed without fire or coffee. Lt. Macfeely and myself supped on some hard boiled eggs and biscuits. which Mrs. Haller had put up in a Haversack for us.

I had selected a camp where the men would be sheltered from the wind and sand but they were fatigued and preferred laying down in the blow to carrying their things a quarter of a mile to camp. We had a capital place to rest, the rapids being within a few feet of us and the sound was a lullaby which soon put us asleep, notwithstanding the alarm of a rattlesnake which Lance Cpl. Coolidge said was disturbed by him within six feet of our bed. It was a ~~good~~ moon night, the stars (glorious)... shone most brilliantly, and many meteors played in the heavens. About 2 o'clock a.m. I rose to visit the guard and walking about a quarter of a mile gave it up as I could not see the animals and the high grass prevented me from picking my road, so I stumbled up and down in the hollows and ridges. Turning I visited my company a quarter of a mile in the opposite direction, but from my camp there was a trail where the men were scattered.

I

Owing to the delay in crossing and finding good grass a half mile up the Des Chutes river on the right bank for the animals I selected a spot for the men a quarter of a mile above the ferry, and determined to camp there. The distance travelled today is variously estimated at from 15 to 18 miles but the going to and fro by the men after the pack animals made the travelling of the horses very little short of 25 miles.

I saw, very soon, the necessity of having one or two good packers so looked around for them. I met Geo. Hodges and another, whom I sent to Lt. Macfeely with a note authorizing him to employ two packers. Subsequently I learnt from Lieut Macfeely that they had asked \$5 per day and he thought it exorbitant, so did not employ them.

At the ferry met a Mr. John Smith with two packers. He told me that my animals were not properly packed and offered to let his packers, in the morning, assist my men. I availed myself of his offer and arranged for them to come over in the morning. This is Camp No. 1

August 31st - Rose at 4 o'clock a.m. had reveille. Sent for the horses and learnt that Herman of K Company, when posted had the horses together and when relieved said they were lying down, but daylight coming on it was found they were not there at all. We sent out parties in pursuit and by 8 o'clock found a number of them which were packed and with ten men I started off, leaving Lt. Macfeely with most of the command to look for the others and come on if possible to our camp. I made Herman walk most of

road. We travelled until nearly dark and encamped on Rock Creek, an eastern branch of John Day's River about 3 miles above the crossing of the Emigrants. The distance is variously estimated from 25 to 36 miles--it was a long march--say 36 miles.

About midnight Lieut Macfeely came into camp with his party, having previously sent a note by an Indian asking me to send a man to guide him into my camp. Prv. Walsh of K Company was dispatched. I paid the Indian an old ~~xxx~~ ^{ice} one dollar for their trouble (sic)

I met Mr. Marshall of the Dalles and his wife encamped on John Day's river. It was blowing hard and they were very uncomfortable. They were glad to see me and he presented me a bottle of first rate brandy.

This was camp No. 2. Old Ice told me he was going next day to the Dalles. He told him to come up here before going I would send a letter by him.

Pvt. Donoghue was taken with cramps today and had to lie down awhile on the road. Pvt. Herman did not come into camp at all.

Sept. 1st. Had a late reveille to rest the animals and let them pick food. Started about 9 o'clock a.m. and travelled slowly. Reached the Willow Creek by the lower road, by the advice of an emigrant who really intended, I think, to say the upper road, as all the information was correct. We found ourselves a mile further from the camping place than was necessary. Marched up stream which was dry until coming to Daniel's of the Dalles, trading camp, who taking us up higher by a mile showed us good water and the best of grass. The doctor accompanied me. We built a fine fire of Bois de vache. We were in camp by 5 o'clock. The train came in good order about two hours later.

One mule, very wild, would not wait to have its pack taken off but ran into the high grass to feed, so had to keep the pack on for 36 hours but was then as wild as ever.

This was Camp. No. 3 and the distance is variously estimated. We called it 26 miles.

September 2d Rose early, had reveille at 4 o'clock. The animals were brought in and packed at an early hour. We marched to Willow Creek, a branch of the Uilla River, encamped at clear running water but the creek generally is dry. On our march we passed the Well springs. My party, the lower one, or nearest the Columbia River, distant 14 miles.

This was Camp no. 4 and distance 32 miles.

The mules came up before sundown in good order.

We had thus far no emigrants near us and good grass. The grass here was represented as good, a mile or two above, where we sent the animals. We pitched a tent here and slept out of the rain during the night. The next morning it rained for some time. I caused the men to pitch their tents and they moved into them before the heavy showers came on.

This day the packs were overhauled, provisions drawn from them for five days, the torn places were sewed up and the ropes and saddles arranged for the start. In the afternoon the men drilled as skirmishers, fired at target, cleaned up their arms for inspection, greased them etc.

This evening Cap. N. Olney with his Independent Compy of Volunteers joined and reported for duty. He supped with our mess. The first party

emigrants. Mr. Boyakan (Rev. Dr) ?? encamped with us. This gentleman was intelligent and gave us some of the particulars of the massacre. I purchased a coffee mill of him as the company's had been broken on the march. He sat and conversed for several hours so that I could do but little writing.

I wrote a letter with pencil to Mrs. Haller by light of a willow fire which every few minutes went out when I had to continue by the light of the moon until a blaze was rekindled. I gave her the news up to that time.

(microfilm turned reverse on continuous strip, reads however into previously written as follows:

as soon as can to proceed.

Also to contract with Narcis Raymond to act as guide.

Owing to illness of Raymond to employ Naholy and Oceau, employees of Hudson Bay Company as guides.

Also to muster John, the Cayuse and ... (indichiverable) the Nez Perce as guides and the other two Indians as home guards, they having proven themselves invaluable in following up the enemy's tracks and in recovering the strayed animals.

G.O. Haller
Capt. 4th Infy and Bvt. Maj.
comdy battalion

No. 2 of the Snake River Battalion
Near Fort Dalles, Oct. 18, 1854
Special orders No. 2

The following purchases and the employment of persons in the quartermaster department having been made on verbal orders when found undisputably necessary to the public necessity during the march to the country of the Win-nass Tribe of Indians in Oregon Territory pursuant to post order No. 82 dated at Fort Dalles O.T. 28 August 1854, Lieut Robert Macfeely 4th Inf. AAQM is hereby authorized to make the necessary payments to close said account.

1st At Grande Ronde, Sept. 8 to purchase a horse (as fresh as ~~practicable~~) for express riding to Fort Dalles O.T. Sergt. Jacob Euker of I Co, 4th infantry bearer of dispatches is authorized in the event of any casualty likely to detain him to ~~enable him~~ make the necessary arrangements to transmit the dispatches to Maj. G.I. Rains 4th Infy. Comdy at Fort Dalles O.T. without delay.

Also to purchase twenty pounds of rope for the security of the government horses in charge of Capt. Nathan Olney

Also to pay for seven pack saddle pads for the protection of the backs of animals transporting provisions.

And: To employ two citizens as packers

Fort Dalles, O.T. Aug. 28, 1854
Sir:

Having seen ~~an~~ an order assigning me to a command intended

to march to the seat of a recent massacre on Boise River, distant 400 miles of which you are named a member therein and we are expected to march immediately, I have to direct that you will consider yourself as the acting asst. gr mr. and acting asst. com of Sub for the campaign. You will please ascertain definitely the number of enlisted men to accompany us make out a list of such transportation as--- -- to render the command efficient on the march and in case of receiving any parts considered necessary make out requisitions therefore also for funds for the ferrier and such things as may be required en route.

Estimate also for funds to procure fresh beef and such transportation as will best carry the provisions. You will please submit your requisitions for approval.

Respectfully

G.O.Haller, Capt. 4th Infy Vt. Maj.
Comdy

Lieut.Robt. Macfeely C.A."M & AACS, Fort Dalles, O.T.

No. 2 of the Battalion
Camp at the Mouth of Boise River
Sept. 14, 1854

Order No. 3

Fort Boise will for the present be a depot for the columns in the field. Capt. Cply. Sonath. S. Colidgs (SP) of K Company 4th Infy. is selected to take charge of all public property that may be left in the ---- without inconvenience to service. Such property as can be stored will be placed in the Fort. The officer in charge having consented to receive it. The animals unfit for service will with the Hudson's Bay Animals be herded together and guarded for which purpose from Privates of Capt. Olney's company will be selected. to remain with Cpl / Coolidge (cq) and ~~xxxxxx~~ be subject to the necessary orders for the safety of the party and animals .

Haller.etc.

Hdgrs of the Battalion Camp at the Mouth of
Boise River Sept. 14.

Special Orders No. 1

A board of survey to consist of Asst.Surg. George Suckley U.S.A. and Lieut Robert Macfeely 4th Infy will convene without delay and examine into and report upon the cause or causes of a deficiency in the ration of flour and hard bread, of pork and any other rations which may be short in either of the companies.

Infy Comdy Battalion.

By order of G.O.Hxxx Capt ,4rh

Capt. Olney's com and after having afforded their animals a little rest from the long marches will

to overtake the command
By Order G.O.Haller
Capt and Vt.Maj. 4th
commanding

Camp No. 5 on the Horotorney (?) Creek
At McKay's Ranch Sept. 5, 1854

Orders No. 2

Late news from the neighborhood of Fort Voise represents that fresh murders were committed recently and it now becomes our duty to repair in all haste to the spot. The commanding officer, expressing confidence in the patriotism of his command trusts that the men will continue their arduous duties and marches as heretofore without complaint. At the earliest moment a respite will be granted.

The A.A.C.S. will procure from W. McKay such beef and vegetables as he may be able to transport, this being the last point on the march to obtain anti scorboctics.

By order etc.

Fort Dalles O.T.

31st August 1854

Special Order:

Captain

You will repair without delay with your command of volunteers to the place of the late massacre of emigrants on Boise River and join Bvt. Maj. G.O. Haller, being subject to his orders to act on circumstances may require to liberate captive women and children, punish murderers and protect the emigrants en route to the west.

Very Respectfully

Signed G. H. Rains
Major, 4th Infantry

To Capt. Nathan Olney
Com. Independent Company of Oregon Volunteers
True copy of the original in my possession. Signed Nathan Olney
Capt. Independent Compy V olunteers

Camp 4 Butter Creek 10
miles west from Uvilla Agency, Sept. 3, 1854

Orders No. 1

Capt. Nathan Olney with an independent company of volunteers having joined and reported for duties agreeably to special orders of Maj. G.I. Rains 4th Inf. Comdy Fort Dalles is attached to this command and will be provided for by the AAQM and AACS in the same manner as the regulars.

Capt. Olney's command after having afforded their animals a little rest from the long march will endeavor to overtake this command in their front. By order Haller etc.

Paper B referred to in Dispatch 8 sent to Maj. Rains

Fort Boise, Sept. 26, 1854

Maj. Haller:

Dear Sir:

I write you in regard to the condition of Mr.

John Sawyer. He is an emigrant which I found at Fort Hall en route for Oregon. Imupquau Valley. He was almost in a destitute condition having having been very unfortunate in the loss of nearly all his train in so much that it was impossible for him to get through without assistance. I therefore assisted him to this place (Fort Boise) where I find my horses so much reduced that it doesn't seem practical to take himself and family further with my broken down animals. I am therefore compelled to leave him to your protection. Mr. Sawyer is a citizen of the U.S. and I believe from what acquaintance I have formed and course of conduct while travelling with him that he deserves attention and the sympathy of all good persons.

He is entirely without means.

I leave this matter to your kind consideration, assuming that any assistance he may need will be secured by or through the orders of Major Haller

~~Respectfully~~ Subscribing myself with respect

Signed John T. Jeffreys.

Wm. Craigs in the Nez Perce country and reports that the murderers are in the Nez Perce country in the Salmon River mountains. There is a beautiful valley in it which they intend to stop (sic) the winter in it. The Nez Perce Indians have taken some of the horses from them and reported that they have a larger number of horses, mules and cattle with them. Probably some that they have been collecting for years. Would it not be a good idea to attack them this winter. There are only thirty men of them and get the property etc. I presume there will be many that will be anxious to join such an expedition. Craig is also very anxious that something should be done to them. It is only three days march from his house (directly south) Would it not be advisable to let Major Rains know of it. It is no mistake but is correct. Chase is here now and confirms the former reports that we have heard. Your packs I had put out ready to pack a horse with and take ~~on the river~~ over the river to the Governor's wagon but I had started across before the boys. They had forgotten it. I shall send it down with my wagon.

I remain

W.C. McKay

Rec. at the 5 mile Creek from Lieut E.H. Day 3rd artillery on his way into Fort Dalles, O.T. on the afternoon of the 17th Oct. 1854 with Dispatch of 7th October.

Fort Dalles O.T. 5th Oct. 1854

Special Orders

Sir:

I am directed by the major commanding to acknowledge the receipt of your communication by Mr. Thompson, Indian Agent and to say that we forward pressing by all our means available for transportation and that you need not speed more from this post and ~~XXXX~~ must make your arrangements accordingly. In compliance with Special Orders of 13th ultimo. Very respect.

Signed M. Maloney(?) bvt. capt.

4th infy. Post adjutant

P.S. I also forward 1000 rounds rifle cartridges to Bvt. Maj. G.O. Haller, 4th infantry Comman detach.

Received about 12 miles W of John Day's River late in the morning on ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ moving and camping with Sgt. Thompson's train of wagons Oct. 8, 1854

Fort Dalles, Oregon Tr.
7th October, 1854

Sir:

I am directed by the commanding officer to say that it has been ascertained where the Win nass have fled (Corborated by the enclosed) who committed the massacre of emigrants and so it is all important that these be punished.

He sends you this by an express to reach Fort Boise in 7 days from this date.

Secrecy and expedition are enjoined in a move upon these culprits without delay to destroy or capture them and capture their families with them.

Rumors say that their squaws, ti-reh, were instrumental in the death and torture of the wives and children of the emigrants. These if guilty are to be held equally accountable as murderers and brought into this post for trial and punishment. Better destroy captives and bring in without reserve their whole party, men, women, children and stock of every description, the women and children of course to be treated with all leniency except where positively guilty.

Very Respct. M. Maloney etc.

Fort Dalles O.T.
28th August, 1864

Special Orders No. 83

Sir :

You will repair without delay with your command to Boise River where the late massacre of emigrants occurred and there take such action in the case as circumstances demand.

The following are the objects to be attained:

viz: 1st To obtain and release from captivity the four white women and five children, or as many as there can be carried away prisoners and for the purpose leave no means untried according as policy may suggest. After which a restoration of their property captured and summary punishment.

2d Nothing short of the unconditional surrender of the murders to the military power to be dealt with as justice demands and a promise of peace toward the emigrants hereafter are to be accepted in mitigation of their offence; and they are to be ~~pursued~~ pursued to destruction of the men of their tribe until these ends be obtained or justice satisfied (in strict retribution; after the best way to attain these ends is to get possession of their squaws and children

should it be found on moving in the Snake River country; or should you have positive and reliable evidence en route to that region that more Indians than the Win-ass tribe are engaged in this war upon the emigrants send an express immediately back to this post to communicate that fact or any other which may be necessary.

Mr. Noble at Fort. Boise of the Hudson Bay Co. is my informant of the particulars embraced in order No. 82 of yesterday.

It is believed that a military post is required somewhere on Snake River or on some one of its branches should an eligible situation be found ~~on xxxxxxxxxx~~ report the fact with its advantages.

Very Respectfully
Signed G.I. Rains
Maj. 4th Infy. ccomdy.

Bvt. Maj. G.O. Haller
Commanding Detachment

Rec. Fort Dalles O.T. August 29, 4 o'clock p.m.

Dispatch No. 8
Fort Dalles O.T. Oct. 11, 1854

Sir :

I have the honor to report my proceedings and the operation of battalion since the 21st ultimo up to which time the dispatches for number 6 have advised you of what has been accomplished.

On the 22nd of September last Mr. Thompson the Indian agent with an escort consisting of his interpreter and nine of the allies, principally Nez Perces Indians returned to the agency and Governor Gains started with the party.

After seeing this party fairly en route I proceeded with my ~~escort and Mr. McTurk~~ escort and Mr. McTurk of the Volunteers to the Massacre ground and encamped. The accompanying sketches marked A will give some idea of the locality. It is distant from Fort Boise by the emigrant route about ~~18 miles~~ 19 miles. The place literally has become a Golgotha. The wolves had disinterred the remains of the massacred and their skulls lay scattered around. Most of the other bones had been eaten or carried off by them. The scene was melancholy in the extreme and rendered painful by the recollection of the sad fate of those to whom these remains once belonged.

We collected all the human bones that could be found and placing them on the large grave at the spot where the wagon stood when the attack commenced, placed a pyramid of earth over them.

Having previously arranged wagon harness out of the pack saddle gearing (after the general made of break straps) were enabled to bring off the wagon that had been left unharmed by the Indians together with log chains, wagon tongues etc. (hard wood) all of which would have been very useful in the event of erecting a building for a depot. We returned to Camp Mansfield in the evening of the 23d.

Lieut. Macfeely, pursuant to directions, had on the 21st proceeded

up the Boise River to look for a suitable spot for a permanent camp but found the country unsuited to the purpose. On the march he met a small party with a pack train Mr. John T. Jeffreys, the principle owner and conductor who was surrounded or followed by several mounted Winass Indians. The latter on seeing the troops gave the war whoop and ran off at full speed supposing themselves hard pressed, they abandoned one of their horses and threw aside their saddles and blankets and thus relieved from extra weight effected their escape. These articles were captured and brought back by the party. Mr. Jeffreys visited the camp and having mentioned the chase to Capt. Olney he dispatched a small party of volunteers under Lieut. Neal to support Lieut Macfeely. The latter captured in their march a young squaw.

The Jeffreys brought up the rear of the emigration. He brought with him and a family of emigrants who had the misfortune to lose their cattle on the way and had become entirely independent on his charity. These he was obliged to leave at Fort Boise as his ~~xxxxxx~~ animals were not in a condition to carry them and he was short of provisions.

Before leaving he addressed a letter to me of which the paper marked B is a copy. Every attention consistend with a campaign life has been ~~extended~~ extended to the family and they are now on the way to the Dalles.

It gives me pleasure to state that Mr. Charles Ogden of the Hon Hudson's Bay Camp, although nearly destitute of provisions at the fort, supplied the wants of this family and for the march as far as possible and although I tendered him pay he declined it and would accept no compensation other than the limited services which they had provided him.

Mr. Jeffreys had ~~xxxxxx~~ not heard of the massacre at or near the Cammash Prairie he met with a party of Indians who had left Boise River two days previous to meeting him. They evinced a hostile disposition until he in reply to their questions said he was a "Tab-ah-boo" (ie Fr nchman) when they became more friendly and were disposed to trade. On making a visit to their lodges he observed that the women took pains to conceal something under Buffalo robes and finding an excuse, raised one of the robes and was astonished to find knives and forks, china ware, fine shawls and women's apparel. He thinks this party beyond all doubt had just come from those lodges that we had attempted to surprise on the morning of the 19th ultimo. He observed unusual signs and activities among the Indians. He reports that he saw a fresh trail of at least an hundred animals leading through the sage dese t from the Snake River Northward to the Big Canon of Boise River. The scarcity of grass would make the old route much more desirable and he informed, from this fact, that there was something unusual taking place.

It was conjectured by Capt. Olney from these indications that the Indians were concentrating at the Big Canon for hostile purposes. One occasion, during my absence, an Indian is reported to have approached and snapped a gun at one of the sentinels--adeegree of ???quite unusual with our enemy.

As stated in my dispatch numbered 5 the nine days provisions, all that we have, were this day exhausted and the battalion had commenced subsisting on the flesh of the captured horses. Our movements in consequence were paralyzed, we had to wait in hopes of receiving fresh supplies. On the 24th, Sunday, the troops and animals continued to rest.

The absence of flour, sugar, coffee etc. caused considerable apprehension. There was an increase of the sick report and a retreat soon became inevitable. Before retiring, however, I had ~~examined~~ resolved to present all my available force at the Big Canon to reconnoiter the position and on the 24th leaving Lieut Neal and a guard to protect the camp and animals I proceeded with Dr. Suckley, Lt. Macfeely and sixteen of the regulars troops, Capt. Olney and twenty four of the Volunteers and the four allies to the Canon. The mouth as it is entered, commences about fifty miles from Fort Boise (fifteen from Camp Mansfield) and proved to be a circuitous gorge in the mountains through which the river passes and offers few inducements to the Indians to halt there and less to make a stand against an enemy. From this point the emigrant route back for Salmon Falls and Jeffery's Cutoff (being for fifteen miles the same route) turn away from the river, bending to the south and east. I dispatched Lt. Macfeely with seven men to advance along the road and reconnoiter for a given length of time and then return, and, in the meantime with six others John, the Cayuse and a guide, I examined and ascertained the character and course of the canyon. The condition of our horses and the absence of provisions put it out of our power to advance farther toward the Cammash prairie and (bring in here) and camp. The following day Camp Mansfield was broken up and the troops marched to the rear. On the 27th the command encamped at the spring six miles from Fort Boise where it lay over the 28th to jerk the beeves that had been bought at the fort Boise and prepare it for transportation. While here we were enabled to obtain from Fort Boise about 2 lbs of peas per man as a substitute for flour, also sugar and coffee.

This point is the only eligible sight with which I have met on Boise River for a military station. It was not in full the requisites that would be desired but possesses more than any other spot close to the spring there is a bluff projecting towards it in the form of a bastion which would elevate the buildings above the high water of the spring freshets. The spring water is cool abundant and perhaps more free from alkali than the river water. Within fifty yards is a slough (X and there being nothing here to detain the current it returned to camp) of the river by means of ~~xxxxx~~ a small---- would become a channel of the river. The grass for several miles on either side of the spring along the river bottom is of the best quality. The only woods on the Boise are cotton and willow; though pine timber is about forty miles off and on the summits of the mountains. Adobe buildings, such as at the fort, could be erected readily which would afford great protection against the intense heat of the sun by day and the cold atmosphere at night of the summer, and there being no necessity for troops here in the winter they might withdraw to Grande Ronde to which point I have already called your attention. In a strategic point of view it is a good location both for a depot and to dispatch troops up the S. side of Snake River or down that river, up Boise river or over to Payette's, in short in all directions.

On the 29th the troops marched to Fort Boise and encamped on the west side of Snake river. This evening Lt. Day 3d artil. arrived in safety with his party and provisions. He delivered the dispatch dated Fort Dalles O.T. 13th Sept. '54 which having expressively stated that there is no intention of the troops wintering where they are staying longer than the close of emigration this year" which is about to happen and you will therefore return with your whole command to this post after "complying ~~xxxxx~~ as far as practicable with your instructions."

There was no alternative but to return with the whole company as the emigration had closed and the enemy had retired at least a hundred and fifty miles from us. Accordingly after monthly inspection on

on the 30th the whole command marched for the Malheur river and encamped.

~~Dxx~~ It having proved inconvenient to encamp in large bodies in one place I caused an escort of a non com officer and ~~sixteen~~ men both of the regulars and volunteers to be selected to accompany me to the Dalles and authorized Capt. Olney's company to proceed in advance of the regular force, the latter under the command of Lt. Day will ~~proceed slowly~~ advance slowly on account of the reduced condition of the horses that had just arrived with the provisions together with the necessity of bringing with them the prisoner and the emigrants

Having made these dispositions I hastened to this post where I could command the conveniences for making the necessary reports and returns and arrived here about noon on the 9th instant having marched in forty days one thousand miles.

battalion.

F.O. Haller, Capt. and Bvt.Mj.4th inf Com of

Bvt Capt. ~~Max~~ M. Maloney 4th Infy.
Post Adjutant, Fort Dalles.

Dispatch 7

Fort Boise, Oregon Territory, September 21, 1854

Sir :

In my dispatch numbered 6 you will learn the result of the expedition which left this place on the 15th instant to show ourselves to the murderers and to feel their disposition toward us. I am persuaded that the several bands of Indians in this country are not disposed to take sides with the Win Nes tes who were engaged in the massacre of the 20th of August last. These are few in number and cowardly in disposition that they will not offer any resistance to a determined party, even if small in number. They have, I imagine, been encouraged to attack emigrants from the extraordinary result of their assault on the party at the Cammash prairie after having killed and wounded three white men it is reported that the emigrants gave them five horses to get rid of them and these animals, unwilling to leave the train, ran around it for some time, until caught by the Indians who might have been severely handled at the time. It is probably they hastened over to the band on the Boise and boasted of their feat which urged these to similar efforts. They did not, for a moment, entertain the idea that a day of retribution was near at hand.

It was stated that many of the Indians of this country are more like wolves than human beings, often skillfully concealing themselves by day and prowling by night, robbing the emigrants of horses or cattle when opportunity offers. We have repeatedly found fresh horse tracks not very far from our camp, of a morning and when moving have observed signal smoke. We are constantly dogged at a distance and our movements telegraphed. The country, excepting on the banks of the streams, is open and the soil very dry. The movement of a single person may be tracked for several miles either by his being in sight or by the dust rising from under the horse. It is impossible to surprise them, since they are aware of our presence. The country is extensive and well watered. We have met with a great number of sage hens, grouse and hares, and saw five large salmon in the stream. While the troops are on one stream they concealed in the bushes, supply themselves and families with food on the others.

From these facts the most efficient plan that at present suggests itself is that small commands of 30 or 35 men be posted at convenient points on the several rivers. There should be at least twelve of these patrolling the river constantly. Let them make long marches of two days going and returning and immediately on their return others start out in the other direction. These parties should endeavor to destroy the bushes along the streams by fire and expose lurking places of the Indian. These steps would send the enemy into the mountains and soon the deep snows would drive the deer and game into the river bottoms and they have nothing to subsist upon. They would finally be driven from this country. The lesson on the other hand would be most effectual and the emigrant hereafter pass without molestation.

From the very active service in which we are engaged, our animals will of necessity be in a poor condition for the winter. It is doubtful if they can live a winter here in this condition. If it should be decided to keep troops here all winter it would be advisable to arrange quarter subsistence and forage for the men and animals. I learn that the Fort Hall animals usually cross the Blue Mountains about Christmas, long before which time the troops, if about 168 men (two companies) will no doubt have run off the Indians if they do not sue for peace.

Could it be recommended to supply the command with provisions for the winter it might return about the 1st Dec.

I have reason therefore, to be very much pleased with Capt. Olney and his company of Independent Volunteers. While I should be pleased to have them remain I doubt if any of them anticipated a winter campaign and will therefore expect to return. The captain left his private matters in a very unsettled state and is expected to represent Wasco County this winter in the Territorial Legislature. Under these circumstances I do not know how far to calculate upon them. Since leaving Fort Dalles I have not received any communications or information from the rear, and am ignorant of any arrangements that may be contemplated. I had expected the provisions here about this time. Those brought out by us are nearly consumed for the reasons stated in a former dispatch.

In the several marches alluded to here it should be remembered that some of the troops have been employed in moving about so as to make the marches on several occasions thirty-five and even forty miles. The animals not being shod their feet have become exceedingly tender and I have found it absolutely necessary to allow them a few days to recover.

Camp Mansfield possesses all the advantages for an encampment that I could desire, with the exception that it would be too low in wet weather, and not quite far enough from Fort Boise, being only about thirty-five miles.

Having given the necessary instructions for this camp I left directions for Lieut. Macfeely with Dr. Suckley and a small party to proceed today up the Boise for ten miles to examine the river banks with the view to establish a permanent camp. Yesterday with an escort of a corporal and three men, Mr. Thompson and Gov. Gaines, I returned to this place to prepare my dispatches and arrange for a protracted campaign. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Gaines will leave tomorrow morning on their return. As Mr. Thompson will travel rapidly to the agency I have requested him to carry the dispatches and forward them by the first opportunity.

Nine of the Indian allies came in today to return to their nation with Mr. Thompson. Their horses have suffered very much from tender feet and they say, will not be fit for service for some time. ~~xxxxxx~~ Three of the most valuable men remained in camp.

Enclosed herewith I have the honor to transmit a rough sketch of the route traversed in going from and returning to Fort Boise.

Very Respectfully

Haller etc.

Bvt. Cap. Maloney 4th Inf post adjutant Fort Dalles.

(no sketch at this stage of microfilm)

(Location Map found ahead)

Shows massacre site, Boise(Fort) camps, Camp Mansfield, Olney's River; Owyhee or Kanockoi River, Snake River, Boise river, Indian village(deserted) etc)

Dispatch No. 6-

Fort Boise, Oregon Territory, September 21, 1854

Sir :

I have the honor to report the operations of the battalion since the 14th instant up to which time dispatch No. 5 forwarded ~~sinxxxxxxx~~ by Mr. MacArthur will apprise you of what has been done.

On the 15th September the column composed of 12 allies, 25 officers and men of Capt. Olney's Independent company of Volunteers and 12 of the Regulars, Dr. Suckley and myself with R.R. Thompson esq. Indian agent and Gov. Barnes in company marched about 20 miles east, north, east from camp to Payette river and encamped. Late in the evening the mule train in charge of A.A.Q.M. Lieut Macfeely 4th Infy. joined. At 7 o'clock a.m. on the 16th the column advanced up Payette River and at 8 o'clock came upon five lodges of the murderers who on discovering our movement of the day previous had fled in haste taking great pains to conceal their trail. The allies, with great sagacity followed them up, crossing and recrossing the stream, moving up and then down stream and at one time supposed them to be concealed in a thicket which on examination by a party under Capt. Olney proved to be otherwise, and the allies were baffled. They however in this search discovered several of their caches and have captured a considerable quantity of clothing and articles which had belonged to the unfortunate victims of the massacre, also one or two Indian ponies. The column was necessarily delayed in the search, part having advanced several miles beyond the ground then turned back, supposing the Indians to be concealed near their lodges. Finally the thickets were fired and the column advanced up the stream, then crossed over the mountains toward the east and through several formidable passes and encamped again on the river about fourteen miles from its former camp. Gov. Gaines and some of the soldiers in scouting beyond this point discovered two Indians when they hastened back to report Capt. Olney immediately volunteered to pursue them and on receiving the mission started off with such as volunteered. He soon returned with an Indian of very respectable appearance, his wife and their children who are under charge of the guard. Also several ponies and a rifle which Gov. Gaines had captured from the man.

The Indians I have now ascertained is one of the principal men of the Winestes, was absent at the time of the massacre and on his return expressed his regret at the occurrence and took to Fort Boise some of the stolen cattle with a view to avoid difficulty with the whites.

The next day, Sunday, I deemed an appropriate day to give several sick soldiers the pack animals and many horses the opportunity to rest. Leaving a sufficient guard I proceeded at six o'clock a.m. on this day, the 17th, with sixteen of the regulars and a few of the allies up Payette's River. Gov. Gaines accompanied me. About 8 miles above camp Capt. Olney's company overtook me, when I directed him to scout through the country for several hours on the left bank of the river above and to the east while I would do the same on the right bank. My company moved on the trail of a ~~nonOxxxx~~ mare and colt and shortly captured two women, an horseback, from whom we learnt there was a camp higher up. Proceeding

the advance guard was discovered by the lodge which was located on the opposite side. When two male Indians attempted to retreat, the guard with one or two of the allies gave them chase, the Indians throwing arrows as they retreated. Both were killed. We captured at the lodge another woman, a horse, a large quantity of salmon, some dried elk meat, seed and roots an emigrant camp kettle etc. While these were being transported across the river and packed I proceeded with a corporal and six men up the river to recognize and found about two miles above the river passes through a gorge in the mountains, is covered on the bank with pine trees, and there were no signs of habitation in that region. Having set fire to the brush usually occupied by the Indians for lodges I returned to the camp, on the way had the pleasure of meeting Capt. Olney and his command, who seeing on smoke concluded that we had met with the enemy and hastened to assist. There were five explosions of gun powder in the lodge showing during the fire showing that it had reached caches that had escaped the keen search of our allies. One of the Indians had concealed himself in a place which would ninety-nine times out of a hundred times escape detection. Pvt. Donohue of I company discovered him, and on shooting, the man's blood mingled with the water, hence we have called it the ~~bloody~~ Bloody River.

On the 18th the column proceeded under the guidance of the Win-nass Indian, by a very good trail southward to the Boise River, about 9 miles from camp we halted and encamped. In the evening Capt. Olney with the two guides, the Win-nass Indians and a small escort accompanied me on the trail to rejoin the lodges on Boise River about six miles from Camp. On a height we were able to observe the valley of the Boise but the thick timber and its height completely concealed the lodges from view. The place was pointed out to us and we returned at midnight. Those troops selected for the march were aroused and by the dawn of day the Win-nass was conducting us through an intricate mass of bushes on the island, but in such manner as to conceal us from the camp. The order of attack having been arranged we advanced quickly on the lodges and had the mortification to discover that they had been abandoned for nearly forty-eight hours. While breakfasting the sun rose. Afterwards we found the trail led to the Snake River. We marched up the Boise about four miles and encamped,

Lieut. Macfeely, 4th etc. who was left in charge of the camp joined with the remainder and ~~the tracks~~ of the command and the tracks in the afternoon.

Haller etc.

to Maloney

Disptch No. 5

Head qr. of Battalion. Camp at the mouth of the Boise River,
Sept. 14, 1854

Sir :

I have the honor to report that I arrived here on the 11th instant, with a guide and an escort consisting of Lieut Neal and 13 men of Capt. Olney's company of Volunteers. Ex Governor Gaines of Oregon Territory did me the honor of accompanying me from the Grand Ronde.

The column, left in charge of Capt. Olney arrived here last evening having made five marches from Grand Ronde. Mr. Thompson, Indian agent, accompanied it. The troops enjoy good health and are as well equipped as the circumstances will admit. Capt. Olney's company now numbers 39, including the commissioned officers. In order to arm them efficiently Capt. Olney has made great exertions and pledged his private means to get all the arms within his reach. Before reaching the Grande Ronde, Jesse, a Nez Perce Indian and John, a Cayuse made application to be permitted to accompany us on the same terms as the volunteers to which I gave my consent. After ~~leaving~~ leaving that place they joined the column with the other, who seem to be anxious to engage with their ~~enemies~~ ~~of the Snake~~ enemies, the Snakes. I have this day explained to them the civilized mode of warfare and insisted that they must conform to it and they have promised obedience. I am satisfied from the character of the people we are about to chastize they will scatter, and I will have to depend mainly on the sagacity of the allies to follow them up so as to render our presence dangerous to them.

I have, for the present, made Fort Boise a depot at which will be left all the animals unfit for service and such baggage as can be dispensed with under charge of a guard of five men. I will ~~leave~~ ~~about~~ have about ~~two~~ sixty-five including the mule guard, to engage the enemy. I have secured two good guides well acquainted with the country of the Win-ass and tomorrow will march with nine days provisions (all that we have) and with fifty rank and file will make a dash at several of the lodges of those engaged in the murders, now located on Payette river, leaving Lieut Macfeely and the mule train with its guard to follow.

It was my desire to have a council with the friendly Indians on Snake river previous to the arrival of the column and of placing sentinels around those near the ferry to prevent their giving the alarm to the Winness-tes. I gave the order in case that any attempted to break away from the troops to shoot them down, accordingly on the morning of the 12th as Lieut Neal and a party of six of the volunteers was conducting four Indians into camp they ran off attempting to escape, whereupon the party fired and three men were left on the ground for dead and the fourth, evidently wounded, escaped into the brush. It happened that these were Californians heading for Mary's river and said to be bad men. The firing alarmed the lodges in the vicinity and they fled. It burst on them like a thunder bolt as they did not know until then of our presence. Soon after I had an interview with twelve of the principal men. I offered them peace on condition of restoring all stolen property, a promise not to molest but assist emigrants, and to listen to the Indian agent. To which they assented. I then retained six as hostages and sent off the others. In the afternoon one of them returned with an American mare. Another tried for a long time to catch a wild horse belonging to Capt. Olney's command which refusing to swim the river had returned to the shore and ran off. They appear to have acted in good faith.

Mr. Thompson today held a council with them and expressed approbation of the principal men, appointed O-ete

the chief after having explained the nature of his responsibilities. The hostages were then discharged.

G.O. Haller etc.

Dispatch No. 4, Head qts. of Battalion, Camp at the Mouth of Boise River
Sept. 14, 1854

Sir :

After many efforts to ascertain the natural divisions among the Indians in this region I have the honor to submit the following report, which I fear is not only imperfect but perhaps not altogether reliable as the statements are contradictory and sometimes at variance with my conclusions.

After leaving the "Grande Ronde" en route for Fort Boise we enter the country claimed by the ~~Snake~~ Indians called "Snakes." The name of Snake was given to them on account of the very great facility they possess of crawling in the grass like their namesakes. The term is general and very indefinite as it includes Indians having distinct languages yet all of them acquire a knowledge of the Snake tongue. There seems to be little or no organization among them. They have no chiefs they reside usually in small bands on the margins of streams during the fishing season and very cold weather and on the mountains when the berries and roots move them thither. They are known by distinct names as the Win_nass, or Win_ness_tees, Was-nat-e_kaw and Bannax.

The Win_ness_tees occupy a portion of country running from the north west to the south east, bounded on the north by the Salmon River mountains, on the south by Mary's River in California, a stream which after running 200 miles nearly west, included slightly to the south, empties into a lake and sinks its waters into the sand. The eastern boundary is an imaginary and irregular line running nearly north and south including a part of the Cam-mash prairie of Malade We (??) the western is nearly parallel crossing the Boise River about 25 miles from its mouth. They have a distinct language but can speak the Snake

The Was_nat_a_kaw get their name from a peculiar seed of which they are ~~very~~ very fond, in the same manner as the Memomonies secured their name. Their country lies along the Malheur River and the lakes beyond, and head waters of Burnt river. They have the reputation of being consummate thieves and hence are usually called Wal-la-lik-ahs by the Snakes.

The Bannax are a distinct people. They have a language of their own and esteem themselves a superior people to those around them. They are more intelligent and useful to the whites than the others and more friendly ~~people~~ they seldom steal, but lay up provisions for winter use. They occupy the country east of the Win_ness-tees as far as Fort Hall.

The Los-o-nees are scattered bands who speak the native tongue, are generally friendly to the whites, but disposed to steal their horses. They are located by accident and some are habitually on the banks of Snake River for many miles below Fort Boise. Haller etc.

(Note, dispatch No 4 was compiled from notes and may not be verbatim.)

Dispatch No. 3

Camp No. 8, Grande Ronde, foot of
the Mountains,, South End, Sept. 8, 1854

Sir:

Since moving camp this morning and after having transmitted by Sergt. Jacob Euker of I. Comp. 4th Infantry ~~the~~ dispatches No. 1 and 2 I have met a party of emigrants, twelve in number, who with a party of thirty-five passed Fort Boise on the 2nd instant. They report that at the time they saw but few Indians on Snake River and those were friendly. From these facts I do not any longer entertain the apprehension of a premeditated hostility to Americans and of a general combination. Should these occur it would be spontaneous and for the purpose of avenging the death we may inflict on their relatives.

It would be presumptive to relax in the preparation for a winter campaign, and, in the event of effecting sympathy the object specified in the commanding officers special orders of August 29th, ~~would~~ it would be advisable before retiring to call the several tribes to account for the frequent robberies perpetuated on the emigrants and demand a restoration of the stolen property and assurance of them of good conduct in future.

The party mentioned above have left about three days marching from here, 19 wagons and these about thirty wagons in their rear which comprise all of the emigrants remaining on the road. The party with the 19 wagons are bringing with them the wounded young man who was supposed to be killed, with twenty-nine head of cattle and five head of the horses carried off at the time of the massacre. These animals I have been informed have been obtained through the agency of Mr. Isaac, an American trader at Fort Boise, who has hired Indians about Fort Boise to bring them to him. It is stated that one of the Indians thus employed had on a pair of moccasins which the wounded young man recognized ~~as the~~ as the pair that had been worn by the late Mr. Ward.

I will proceed to move with a small party of the volunteers by forced marches to Fort Boise, leaving the Battalion under Capt. Olney to follow with a view to obtain further information and determine definitely upon the plan of operations by the time the troops arrive there.

Haller (etc.)

~~From~~ to Capt Maloney
at Fort Dalles, Post Adjutant

Dispatch No. 21

Camp No. 7 Grande Ronde, West Side of Mountains, Sept. 7, 1854

Sir :

Owing to a severe pain in Sergt. Euker's right arm which in the opinion of the assistant surgeon will disable him for the winter, I have deemed it proper to send him to the Dalles from this point. I have to request that Corp. James C. Roper and any available men of I company also be forwarded to me as early as practicable. Sergt. Euker will reach the Dalles about the 13th or 14th instant.

I have to request that 12 wipers, 12 screw drivers together with an arm chest full of muskets be forwarded at the earliest moment. I have to report that the Spannia (sp) screws of the muskets appear to be unnecessarily loose as seven have already been jolted out. I would also request 1000 rounds of buck and ball cartridges. Capt. Olney has now 38 men including himself, some of these have private rifles but no ammunition and none can be procured here. I therefore have to request 1000 rounds rifle cartridges 100 lbs lead, 12 rifle moulds, 1 keg rifle powder and an ample supply of caps.

I have just learnt that in issuing the hard bread to this battalion the commissary department allowed only 3/4 of a pound to the ration. This deficiency together with the recent enlistment, the guides and packers and the loss by packing it on mules will reduce us to a very short allowance.

I am decidedly of the opinion that transportation by wagons is the more economical and safer mode of travelling through the enemy's country. My command has been employed in moving and packing until I found there would be none to engage with the enemy.

I have employed here two packers for my command. Two teams and two teamsters would have transported much more than all our mules. I estimated for several horses and mules extra which were not furnished but are much needed. It required several hours hard riding to get the animals together in the mornings and then to use that animal on a long march is calculated to break him down, besides, we have to provide for the employes. I have ordered Lieut. Macfeely to purchase a horse at this place to send off Sergt. Euker on express.

Many of Capt. Olney's men are almost naked and it is too cold in these mountains for them to ~~remain~~ maintain their health in this condition. I would respectfully request a ~~remedy~~ remedy, either to get Mr. Simmons as field sutler to furnish them, if he will, or if it is possible send the uniform clothing. I would respectfully request a good supply of shoes for my men and an assortment of other clothing.

The doctor deems vinegar, pickles and dried apples as indispensable for the health of the troops owing to the alkaline character of the water throughout the country. He also requests one quarter pound of cream of tartar.

Please send a supply of stationery and cartridge paper.

Haller etc.

to Capt. Maloney at the Dalles