

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54/58

HDG

183 Chambers St. New York

May 25, 1855

Sir:

Your letter of the 2rd inst has been received. The instructions contained in it will be complied with as soon as the superintendent of the general recruiting service can name an officer to receive the public property of this rendezvous now under my charge. I ~~think~~ trust that this will be done before the ... inst.

It is proper under the circumstances to inform you that nearly two months ago an estimate for six months supply of clothing for my company of Cavalry was made out and forwarded to Col. ? It was by him transmitted to the Qr. Mr. ^Generals office with the request that the clothing might be sent to me at Governors Island as soon as practicable. Under date of the 11th inst. I received a letter from the Qr M ^General informing me that the Qr Master of Philadelphia had been instructed to fill my requisition. This clothing has not yet arrived though I have been daily expecting it here the last ten days. I have not received any instructions of its shipment from Philadelphia.

My men are all without any ... clothing proper to their corps and have only the suit ... by them.

I beg to be informed whether I shall have the clothing behind or wait for it.

I am sir

Very Respectfully

Your odt. servt.

R.S. Garnett,

Capt. 1 Cav and B. maj.

Col. S. Cooper

, Adt. Generals office, Wash D.C.

[E pluribus Unum seal]

I Robert S. Garnett appointed a major in the Ninth Regt. of Infy.
in the Army of the United States, do solemnly swear , or affirm that
I will bear true allegiance to the United States of America and that I
will observe and obey the orders of the President of the United States
and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to the
rules and articles for the government of the armies of the United States.

R.S. Garnett

Major 9th Infy.

Sworn to and subscribed before me

at New York

This 29th day of May, 1855

John Bissell

Notary :Public, justice of the peace

(Public printer

Aug. 8, 1854)

War Dept. Letters Rec'd.

HDG

225 HD Qrs Jeffn. Bks. Mo, June 12, 1855
C. E. W. Sumners ? comdy. Reporting Arrival of Major Garnett

Rec'd June 18, 1855

Hd. Qrs.

Jefferson Barracks

June 12, 55

Col:

Major Garnett came from New York to this post in less than five days. He brought 214 men, without the loss of a man ---One man was left behind sick--The success was entirely attributed to the major's great zeal and care

I am col.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

E. V. Sumner

Col 1 (undecipherable)

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54/58

Jefferson Barracks Mo

June 12, 1855

Sir:

Under the instructions contained in your communication of the 29th ult. I have to report that I left New York on the 6 and with Company A I Cavalry--77 men and a detachment of 137 recruits for New Mexico, and reached this post on yesterday afternoon. Pvt. Gesterger of the Infantry Detachment was taken very sick at Buffalo and upon medical advise was left there by me under the charge of Capt. M.L. Pitcher 10th infantry with the request that when convalescent he be returned to Governors Island. Hisshall be herewith enclosed.

With this exception and with but one officer and his newly appointed assistant it ..me a particular gratification to ~~state~~ state that I have conducted the detachment of 213 men--all recruits--from New York to this place without the loss of a single man.

I am sir,

Very Respectfully yours obdt.

servant.

R. Garnett

Major 9 infy.

To the Adt. General of the Army
Washington City , D.C.

A 138 Hillsboro, Montgomery Co. Ill. July 13, 1855
Jesse K. Allen Bvt. 2nd Lieut Accepts appointment.

Hillsboro, Montgomery Co. Ill.

July 13, 55

Sir:

I have the honor to communicate through you to the War Department that I have accepted the appointment as Bvt. Second Lieutenant of Infantry in the U.S. Army, which the President of the United States has seen fit to confer upon me.

And I have followed the instructions sent me by the War Department.

My age is 24 and 9 months.

My residence, when appointed, Hillsboro, Montgomery County, Illinois.

The state in which I was born, Tennessee.

Respectfully submitted

Brevt. Second Lieut. Jesse K. Allen

5th (?) Regt. of Infantry.

To S. Cooper, Adt. General

(Oath enclosed--I Jesse K Allen etc. 5th Infantry...(plain) Company F, U.S. Army. Hillsboro..this 13th day of July , 1855.

Fort Monroe, Va.

10th August, 1855

To:

Colonel Samuel Cooper, Adjutant General, U.S.A.

Sir:

I beg leave to call your attention to the subject of of (sic) my rank as a brevet major from the date of the battle of Chapallpec, given on the 23rd of August, 1848 after the term of service of the Voltigeur Regt in which I held a captaincy had expired.

I have never doubted my right to wear it as a badge of honor until degraded by the sentence of a court martial, or until a voluntary resignation, and am confirmed in this opinion by the concurrence of nearly every officer of the old army with whom I have spoken.

I am the more anxious to assume my brevet because I find myself ranked in my regiment by officers much younger than myself, all of whom, with the exception of one 1st lieutenant who retains his brevet majority, were second lieutenants while I was a captain in the Mexican war.

Please take the occasion (earliest before occasion) to lay this letter before the Secretary of War for his opinion.

Respectfully

Your obdt. servt.

J. J. Archer

Capt. 9th Infantry

Two Buttes Excerpts from military correspondence

Dalles of the Columbia, O.T.

November 19, 1855

War Dept. Letters Rev. '54-58

To His Excellency Gov. George G. Curry

Governor of Oregon Territory

Sir:

In obedience to your order I took up the line of march for the Yakima country on the 3d instant. On the evening of the 7th I arrived with my command in company with the U.S. troops under command of Maj. Rains on the southern edge of the Yakima valley and encamped on the Simcoe River. On the morning of the 8th I detached Capt. Cornelius with twenty-fivemen from his company "C" and ten men from each of the other companies and directed the Capt. with his command consisting of about sixty-nine men to follow up the valley for the purpose of reconnoitering the enemy and to drive in their stock if found in that direction.

The remainder of the command proceeded over the valley in the direction of the main Yakima on which I encamped for the night with U.S. troops in advance. During the day the rear, comprising Capt. Hembree's Co D and Capt. Hayden's Co G found it necessary to encamp some four miles in the rear of the main body by reason of the inability of a sick man, who was carried on a litter, to proceed further.

Note:

(Hembree killed from ambush on small patrol following year about where Alfalfa is located)

My command was thus separated into three detachments. Shortly after I had formed my camp Maj Rains then about two miles in advance dispatched to me an express with information that he had discovered the Indians on the bank of the river opposite his command. I immediately ordered out Capt. Bennett with about forty of his company and about twenty four Co E under Lieut Connor and with them proceeded up the river to where I found the U.S. troops engaged in firing for the purpose

2-¹win Buttes expedition, military correspondence

of dislodging some Indians who occupied the brush bordering the other (sic) on the eastern side of the river. After a slight delay in finding a ford we succeeded in crossing, the Indians in the meantime retreating to a high hill. We pursued them charging up the hill, the Indians firing at us a few shots during the ascent and then deserting their positions. We gave them pursuit over very difficult grounds but were compelled to relinquish our efforts to come up with them as there fresh horses were much superior to our own. Lt. Sheridan of the U.S. Army with some ~~xxxxxx~~ twenty dragoons together with a few other persons promptly followed us over the river and up the hill. The enemy continued their retreat to the summit of a mountain, immediately to the northeast of the hill, while we retraced our course to the crossing of the river but found it too deep and rapid. In the attempt unfortunately two of the U.S. troops were drowned. We retired to our camp after dark where we were presently joined by Capt. Cornelius and his detachment. The capt. reported that he had been engaged by a superior force of the enemy for the last half of the afternoon that two of his party were severely wounded and one slightly and that several of his horses were injured during the engagement. The conduct of Capt. Cornelius and the men under his command was highly creditable to themselves. They doubtless inflicted considerable injury upon the enemy and brought into camp two head of cattle they had captured and retained during the fight.

On the morning of the 9th we moved in direction of the Gap in the range of hills through which the Yakima and are known as the "Two Buttes." Capt. Cornelius, Hembree and Bennett with their respective companies proceeded in advance and rapidly drove the Indians from the plains and brush which skirted the river to the position they had

3-Two Buttes, Expedition, correspondence, Volunteers

previously attempted to fortify on the buttes. A sergeant was sent back for the howitzers to dislodge them, as the main butte was too steep for horses to scale. Lieut Piper and Day of the artillery came promptly upon the ground and fired a few shots but such was the elevated position of the enemy that the shells could not be thrown to reach them. The whole command in due time having arrived an encampment was formed at the base of the buttes. Major Haller and Capt. Anger with their companies and a large detachment from the volunteers nobly charged up the hills. The enemy with their accustomed prudence expended a considerable amount of ammunition at a very respectable distance at this force, and quickly fled down the opposite side. At dark our fires were blazing upon the summit of the butte which the Indians had occupied but an hour before. The position of the enemy had selected was a strong one. They numbered about 300. With but little resolution they might have maintained their stronghold against our whole force, but it was wrested from them without the slightest injury to the assailants. During the night the enemy occupied the butte but with diminished strength. In the morning they were driven off. Capt. Pembree of Co D and two companies of Infantry under Capt. Walling and Russell. (sic) This time however the enemy was less fortunate as two of their number were killed at the base of the hill. I had detailed Maj. Armstrong with the company of Capt. Hayden and a portion of Company C under Lt Hannas (? difficult to decipher) to pass through the gorge and deploy to the left under the butte so as to surround and cut off the retreat of the enemy. Owing to some inexplicable mistake this detachment did not follow the maj. but charged up the river, leaving a gap for the enemy to escape. During this day detached parties scoured the plains in various directions having slight skirmishes with Indians and at night drove into camp on the Atanham, considerable stock. This night our

4-Two Buttes Expedition, correspondence, volunteers

encampment was two miles east of the mission. As the Indians had evidently abandoned that section of the country, Maj. Hains was apprehensive they had congregated in the neighborhood of Natches (crossed out and Nisches inserted) pass to attack Capt. Maloney's command which was believed to be approaching the Yakima country through that pass.

(Additional concerns rest of expedition, burning of mission, burning of Kamiakin's house, references to, deep snow, difficulties of returning to the Dalles and

"...I am satisfied that the resistance offered by their force at the pass of the Two Buttes was merely for the purpose of gaining a little more time to accomplish the remote removal from the Yakima country of small scattered portions of their stock...

"We have routed and dispersed them wherever they could be found. We have taken some of their stock, principally wild mares and colts about one hundred head of which were shown by my orders as they were ~~xxxxxx~~ perfectly useless to our men and could not be guarded at night without mounting guard with the whole company at once for that purpose

The few cattle which have been found were also ~~wild~~ wild and have been killed for the purpose of subsistence of the command.

...We returned from the Yakima by the trail which Maj. Haller effected his retreat. I took some pains to examine the position which he had occupied in his defence and saw ample evidence of his having been surrounded by the enemy in very good force. The only matter of surprise is that he escaped with a single man

J.W. Nesmith, col. commanding O.M.V.

Head Quarters 9th Infantry
Fort Monroe, Dec.(?) 15, 1855

Col:

I shall sail at sunset this evening on the Transport steamer, St. Louis, bound for Aspinwall with the 9th Infy. consisting of 27 officers and 736 rank and file and am citizen surgeon. All in good order, and fully equipped for service.

Very ^{tr}respectfully

Your most obdt. servt.

G. Wright,, Col. 9th Infy.

Col. ^{S. J.} ~~Wright~~ Cooper
Adjut. Genl. U.S.A.
Washington, D.C.

Fort Monroe, Va.,
December 17th, 1855.

Colonel:

I have the honor to report that the 9th Infantry, twenty five commissioned and seven hundred and thirty six rank and file and two officers of the medical staff embarked on Saturday under the command of Col. Wright. The steamer was under way about six o'clock in the afternoon of that day. Ten men of the 9th Infantry were left, two prisoners and eight sick in ~~the~~ hospital; one of the latter died this morning.

I am colonel, very respectfully

Your obedient servant

Francis Taylor

B. L. Colonel, comdy.

Colonel Samuel Cooper,
Adjutant General, U.S.A. Washington D.C.

444 HD Qrs 9th Infy. Steam Ship St. Louis, near Aspinwall..
November 23, 1855 . Officers 9th Infy.

Requesting a hat to be substituted for the cap worn by officers and enlisted men. Jan. 25, 1856 respectfully submitted (undecipherable) This application approved together ?? undecipherable.. Received Jan. 9, 1856.

Steamship St Louis

Near Aspinwall, New Grenada

December 23, 1855

To the

Hon Jefferson Davis

Secretary of War

Sir:

We the undersigned officers of the Ninth Regiment of Infantry beg leave respectfully to memorialize for some changes or modification in the present uniform cap of the infantry.

In the light infantry drill, even with the assistance of the chin strap it has been found impossible to keep the cap properly on the head, and from the nature of the material of which it is made, it soon becomes shapeless and unfitted for parade purposes.

Very few changes can be for the worse.

We therefore respectfully request that we may be furnished with the present cavalry hat with some slight alterations.

The body of the hat to be less conical and more pliant.

The gold cord to be dispensed with and the band now worn by us to be worn on the proposed hat.

The material to be for commissioned officers-fur--for enlisted men-felt.

The same numbers of feathers as now worn by the cavalry but we suggest green as the color as a light blue color is never permanent

G. Wright, Col. 9th Infy.

Silas Casey, Lt. Col. 9th Infy.

E.J. Steptoe, Bvt. col. Maj. of Infy.

P. Lugenbeel

(Two Duttes)

Click Belander

Expedition letters, from this mileage can be deduced, also perhaps "location" of goods referred to by Sheridan as destroyed

Headquarters, Columbia River District Fort Vancouver, W.T. January 4, 1856

Sir:

The Yakima Expedition left Camp No 1 on the 31st Oct and marched only 4 miles that day. We left Camp No. 2 next morning and 4 miles further, arriving at Camp No. 3 at or before 12 o'clock when we remained that day giving ample time for all our wild and stray animals to be found and brought up.

At this last place after night you came and informed me that all the packers had banded together refusing to stand guard and the animals and I authorized you to discharge them and employ soldiers. It was impractical in the dark to collect the stray animals which I had directed to be picketed which was done but imperfectly and I believe fear was the cause of their conduct and thought from your remarks that an attempt to (discipherable) to then there, but about 8 miles from the post of Fort Wallis could cause them to dissent, subsequently after advancing further I notified you that I would then compel them and you informed me that it was unsatisfactory as they had come to terms.

Our camping ground next day according to our guide McCoy (McCay) being 16 miles off and finding from the above night that our whole force would be delayed going as per plan of campaign to the relief of troops and Captain Maloney who might be fighting an enemy overwhelming in numbers, I determined to march with such companies as were ready so as to reach the ground and our camp before night leaving the Dragoons and (2) companies to bring up the rear as the packers found their animals.

2-Twin Buttes Expedition Letters

"We arrived at Camp No. 4 sometime before sunset but without our baggage as the with the pack train and troops in rear to my surprise did not come up until late in the night on account of the neglect of the packers as reported, not getting in time the animals strayed away.

I had a chain of sentinels put around the animals which came with us and at night they were picketed but those which came, contrary to my orders were suffered to loose and the consequence was the Indians captured as per affidavit 24 horses and 5 mules. Your clerk, M. Blanshaw (hard to decipher) from much experience thinks our loss smaller than usual on such marches, that may be so yet in the present case the packers ~~wax~~ were to blame and should not have gone off "scott free;" when I called upon you for an explanation.

"As you have paid these men however and it is too late now to remit I have come to the conclusion to sign the rolls.

Very Respectfully, your Obedt. Servant
G. I. Rains, Major 4th Infantry

1st Lieut A. Macfeely 4th Infy

Late A. Qm to the Yakima Expedition. Present.

Twin Buttes. Expedition letters

(except)

Fort Vancouver W.T. January 6, 1856

General:

In compliance with your verbal request I have the honor to make the following statement respecting the loss of public animals on the late Yackima Expedition.

On the morning of the ~~xxxxx~~ 3rd of November, 1855 at camp on the Ko-insch Creek (Skloom's log house) twenty five horses and five mules were run off by the Indians as appears by the affidavit of Edward Leonquil a packer and herder on duty that morning.

On the night of 9th of November 1855 at Camp on the Yackima River twenty horses and four mules were run off by the Indians as appears by the affidavit of Donald McKay a packer and herder on duty that night and by the affidavit of Samuel D. Smith packmaster of the Expedition, one horse stampeded and run off and two horses and one mule were abandoned broken down and unable to travel...

I am etc.

R. Macfeely 1st lieut

4th Infy a.a.q.m.

to Major General John E. Wool

Commanding Department of the Pacific

Fort Vancouver, W.T.

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54-58

30 R-Headquarters Recty. Service Fort Columbus Feby. 5 1856
 Maj. E. Backus 3d Infantry Supt(?) Genl. Recty. Services
 Reporting departure of a detachment of 299 men & 7 mus.
 for the 3 acty. am 83 men 3 mus. for 4th infy. for Benecia, Calif.
 under Major R.S. Garnett, 9th infy and other officers. Rec'd Feb 6/56

Head Quarters Recty. Services
 Fort Columbus, Feby. 5, 1856

Colonel:

I have the honor to report the departure of a detachment of recruits consisting of 299 men and 7 music boys for the 3d artillery and 83 men and 3 music boys for the 4th Infantry from this post for Benecia, Cal., on the mail steam ship of this date at 3 o'clock p.m. under command of Major R.S. Garnett 9th Infy. accompanied by the following named officers (present) & vvf (?)

Capt. F.E. Patterson, 9th Infy.

Capt. G.E. Pickett	"	
		present

Lieut H.M. Black	"	
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Capt. D. Woodruff	"	_____
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Lieut W. Myers	"	have not reported
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I am colonel, very respectfully
 your obdt. servt.

E. Backus (or Backus)

Major 3rd Infy

Supt. G.E. Services

Colonel S. Cooper

Adjutant General's Office

Washington, D.C.

War Dep't Records, Letters Rec'd 54 -58

H.D.G.

Returns of U.S. Troops dispatched from Benecia Bks. Cal. to Crescent City, Cal. Feb. 29/56 pursuant to GO No. 16, Feb 28/56 Hd.Qr. Dept. of the Pacific. 110 H of r.

Regiment C, 3rd artillery. 1 captain, 1 2nd lieut. 2 sergeants; 4 corporals 1 musician 1 artificer 47 privates. Total 55, Aggregate 57

Commissioned officers: 1-Edward O.C. Ord, capt. 3rd arty. ^D

2-George P. Ilale (?) 2nd lieut, 34d art.

Benecia barracks, Cal. March 3, 1856

Remarks: Compy ^D 3rd Art. under the command of Capt. E.O.C. Ord, 3rd art. left Benecia bks, Cal. en route for Crescent City Cal, pursuant to S.O. No. 16, Hd Qr. Dept of the Pacific Feb. 28, 1856

Jas. A Hardie

1st. lieut adjt. B 3rd Arty.

Commanding post.

San Francisco, Cal. 138 March 3, 1856

Maj. R.S. Garnett, 7th Infy to the commanding officer, Benecia
Forwarding muster roll and descriptive (roll) of recruits for the
Third Regiment of Artillery.

Respectfully forwarded with the muster and descriptive rolls to
the adjutant general.

Major Garnett was the only officer who could properly fill up the
recapitulations and sign the certificates required; why he did not do
so will be seen herein. As the detachment was broken up and sent to
companies by orders from Dept. Head Qrs, before reaching their post
(Benecia) for which they seem to have been destined, the recruits of
course were not inspected here and the commanding officer of this
post cannot therefore sign the inspection certificate.

George Nauman, Bvt. Lt. Col.
Major Comdy 3rd arty.

Benecia Barracks, Cal. May 12, 1856

Received (A.G.O.) June 16, 1856

Rec'd March 5, 1856.

Steamboat John S. Stephens

San Francisco, Cal. March 3, 56

Sir:

In compliance with special orders No. 16 of the 1 inst from the
Hqrs of the Dept. of the Pacific I have this day dispatched detachment
of eighty privates to Benecia for the 3rd Artillery under charge of
Capt. F.E. Patterson, 9th Infy. I send with Capt. Patterson the
original muster roll of this detachment destined for that regiment
as I sailed with it from New York on the 5th inst. From the original
roll I have copies--first a descriptive roll of the 2 musicians
and 105 ~~recruits~~privates which was ~~examined~~ instructed by the
spl orders above quoted to send under Lt. E.H Day (~~to~~ 3rd Arty to
San Francisco--and secondly a descriptive roll of the remainder
of the original ~~dispatched~~ detachment after taking from it the
names forwarded, Capt. Patterson to Benecia. Under the circumstances
it will be impossible for me to comply exactly with the regulations
on the subject. The original roll can only be properly filled when
the assigned of these different detachment are made to different
posts and known at Rgt. Hd. Qrs. It has been sent to Benecia for

for that purpose and I ... thtt the commanding officer of the regiment will make this explanation in forwarding it to the Sup. General's office. I presume that .. have a copy of special orders No. 16 of the 1 inst As Capt. Patterson is under orders to join his regt. and is hoped that other distachments of recruits under his command may be transferred with as little delay as practicable to the custody of some officer stationed at Benecia.

The five musicians sent with Capt. Patterson's detachment are exclusive of the 80 ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ mentioned above. They are sent to regimental headquarters .. distribution.

I am very respectfully

your obd't svt.

R.S. Garnett

Maj. 9 infy.

To commanding officer, Benecia

Donacia Barracks, Cal.

March 3rd, 1856

Sir:

I have ~~the honor~~ to report the departure from this post on the 29th ultimo of ^A company ~~and~~ 3rd artillery with ~~the~~ under the command of Capt. Edward O.C. Ord, 3rd artillery pursuant to special orders No. 16 from Hd. Qrs. Dept. of the Pacific, Feb. 28, 56.

The accompanying return exhibits the strength of the company as it left the post

I have the honor to be, very respectfully

Your obed't svt.

Jas. A. Hardie

1st. Lieut ^{Adt.} 3rd Arty.

Commanding post

Col. S. Cooper,

Adjutant General

Washington City, D.C.