

Snakes Po-li-ni Modocs Klamaths

P. 1071

Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter Nov. 25, 1864

Lieut. Col. R. C. Drum

Asst. Adjt. Gen. Hdqrs. Dept of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.

Colonel: I have the honor to report that I am informed by the commanding officers at Fort Klamath, Oreg. under date of the 8th instant pl072

that Po-li-ni war chief of the Snake Indians has surrendered himself at that post professing that he wishes to make a lasting peace. I hear this news with great gratification, as it is the natural result and sequel of the activity of the troops the past summer, who have thoroughly and efficiently scouted and traversed the whole country in which the Snakes have ranged. The submission is due no doubt in part to their want of food having been so harassed they had little time to lay in ~~onhand~~ their usual supply. Superintendent Huntington is holding a council early in October near Fort Klamath with the Modocs, Klamaths etc. invited the Snakes to attend. Only a few presented themselves.

Mr. Huntington returned to The Dalles from Fort Klamath under the escort of Lieutenant Halloran, First Washington Territory Infantry accompanied by some Warm Springs Indians. They encountered a band of Snakes; 3 or 4 were killed and 3 women with their children captured, who were brought to this post for confinement by Mr. Huntington.

The wife of Polli-ni with her children is among them. If his submission appears to be sincere they will be returned to him in the spring. The Indian Department will endeavor to get the Snakes to submit and come in upon the new Klamath Reservation. They

may live upon terms of amity with the Klamaths but not easily with those on the Warm Springs Reservation. It will remain for us to test the sincerity of this submission but if it shall turn out to be sincere, it is a very auspicious event for the peace of the Indian frontier.

I am sir, etc.

Benj. Alvord

Brigadier-General U.S. Volunteers Commanding District.
 (Warm Springs)

Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter Nov. 25, 1864

J.W.P. Huntington, superintendent Indian Affairs, Salem, Ore.

Sir: The surrender on the 8th instant of Po-li-ni war chief of the Snakes at Fort Klamath as reported by Captain Kelly is an auspicious event. I have sent you, as also Captain Kelly, a copy of my instructions of the 21st instant to the commanding officers at Warm Springs Reservation to notify the Warm Springs Indians to cease progressive attacks on the Snake Indians of Po-li-ni's band. The women and children of that tribe, including the wife and child of Po-li-ni left by you on the 27th ultimo in confinement at this post will be released whenever you request it. I suppose however they cannot be returned before spring. In the meantime you will have means to test the sincerity of Po-li-ni's submission and promises of keeping the peace. It will, I think, be well for you to embrace the opportunity in consideration of the pardon and amnesty (and return of his family) which will be accorded to Po-li-ni, to require that he shall manifest his sincerity by bringing in all his warriors to some locality-say upon the Klamath Reservation. Pray ascertain how many warriors he can control. It is wise in us to make all the use of Po-li-ni in controlling that tribe. Will you be disposed to place them on the Klamath

Reservation? Mr. Logan, agent at the Warm Springs Reservation said that the Indian woen said that Po-li-ni's brother was the principal chief, he being only war chief. No doubt it will be our policy to treat Po-li-ni as the head chief if he is friendly and peaceable, to increase if possible his powers and to make use of him in controlling all the Snake Indians. p 1073

It will be necessary eventually, no doubt to inform Po-li-ni that all ~~his~~ horses and mules his people have stolen, if claimed by their lawful owners, will have to be surrendered. But it will be time enough to insist on that when you come to treat with him. Please write me your views on all these subjects.

I am sir, very respt. etc.

Benj. Alvord

Brigadier General U.S. Volunteers, commanding
district.

Indian abuses- Po-li-ni Snakes

Series I, Doc No L, Pt II pps 1071-72

Headquarters District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Wash Ter,
November 25, 1864

Lieut. Col R. C. Drum, Assist. Adj. Hdqrs Dept of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.

Colonel: I have the honor to report that I am informed by the commanding officer at Fort Klamath, Oreg. under date of the 8th instant, p 1072 that Po-li-ni, war chief of the Snake Indians, has surrendered himself at that post, professing that he wishes to make a lasting peace. I hear this news with great gratification, as it is the natural result and sequel of the activity of the troops the past summer, who have thoroughly and efficiently scouted and traversed the whole country in which the Snakes have ranged.

The submission is due, not doubt in part to their want of food, having been so harassed they had little time to lay in their usual supply.

Superintendent Huntington is holding a council early in October near Fort Klamath with the Moxocs, Klamaths et al and invited the Snakes to attend. Only a very few presented themselves.

Mr. Huntington returned to the Dalles from Fort Klamath, under the escort of Lieut Haloran, First Washington Territory Infantry accompanied by some Warm Springs Indians. They encountered a band of Snakes; 3 or 4 were killed and three women with their children captured who were brought to this post for confinement by Mr. Huntington. The wife of Po-li-ni with her children is among them.

If his submission appears to be sincere they will be returned to him in the spring. The Indian dept. will endeavor to get Snakes to submit and come in upon the new Klamath reservation. They may live upon terms of amity with the Klamaths but not easily with those

on the Warm Springs Reservation. It will remain for us to test the sincerity of this ~~submission~~ submission, but if it shall turn out to be sincere, it is a very auspicious event for the peace of the Indian frontier.

Genj Alvord.

p 1072 Alvord to Huntington

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p 1073

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fortifications naming Fort ~~Geard~~ Baker

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol L, pt II p 1076

Headquarters District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Wash Ter.,
November 26, 1864

Lieut Col R.C. Drum, assistant adjt. Gen Hdqrs Dept of the Pacific,
San Francisco, Cal.

Colonel: I have the honor to recommend that the defenses of Cape
Disappointment, at the mouth of the Columbia, be named Fort Baker
in honor of the late lamented General E.D. Baker, who fell at
Ball's Bluff on the 21st of October, 1861, and as Senator from Oregon
was so distinguished in the senate of the United States as the opponent
of secession and the eloquent champion of the Union cause. I respectfully
request that this communication may, if it meet the approbation of the
major-general commanding the department, be forwarded to Washington
for the decision of the War Department.

Genj. Alvord, brigadier general
U.S. Volunteers commanding district

Names. Camps. Oregon. Camp Russell

War of Rebellion, Series 1, Vol. L, Pg. 2 Wash, D.C., 1890.

p 1086

Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. Dec. 7, 1864

Special Orders No. 168

1-As the companies of the First Infantry Oregon Volunteers are
are mustered into service they will go into camp at the rendezvous
near Salem, which is named Camp Russell in honor of the late
distinguished Brig. Gen. David A. Russell, who fell in the glorious
victory near Winchester, Va. and who was so highly esteemed by
the citizens of Oregon. Capt. J.M. Drake, First Oregon Cavalry
will have command of the camp.

Benj. Alvord

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

Fortifications

Series I, Vol. I, pt II pp 1116

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, Jan. 6, 1865

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Alvord, U.S. Volunteers, Commanding District of Oregon
General:

The major-general commanding the department instructs me to inform you that as soon as the organization is completed three companies of the Eighth California Infantry will be sent by the last mail.

of this month to the District of Oregon to garrison the works at the mouth of the Columbia River. One company will go direct to Cape Disappointment and the others to Fort Vancouver, there to remain until the works at Fort Stevens are sufficiently advanced to receive its garrison. Captain Jordan, Ninth Infantry, will be tendered the majority of the Eighth, which is raised for sea-coast defenses, and I have obtained for him should he determine to accept the commission.

H.C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant-General

Defenses
"War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol L, Pt II p 1134
Headquarters Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, Feb.

11, 1865

Brig. Gen. R. Delafield, Corps of Engineers, Washington, D.C.

General:

I enclose herewith Major Williamson's report to me of October 7, 1864, with its inclosures--Brigadier Alvord's letter of September 7, 1864, to Captain Tucker and the latter's report of October 17, 1864. These papers relate to sites for fortifications on the waters of Washington Territory opening into the Straits of Juan de Fuca. At present the only reservation for sites for fortifications are such as would protect the entrance to Puget Sound)Coe Coast Survey or British Admiralty survey map* at point Defiance, and the opposite shore of Vig Harbor. Point Defiance, ~~addition~~ is a promontory of clay, jutting out into salt water, without any fresh water on it, and from its formation probably none to be had. The object of my inspections was to see how near the first fresh water was to be found.

I suggest the reserve be extended to include it. Works at Point Defiance which I think should be commenced as soon as possible, will only protect Puget Sound and will leave the large district waters--Admiralty Inlet, Hood's Canal, Possession Sound, and other inland waters joining them--entirely defenseless. I have therefore caused Major Williamson to make a hasty reconnaissance of the heads at Admiralty Inlet and of the passage called Deception Pass, in order that military reservations may be made at these places while the land still belongs to the United States. If you could concur the subject may be further acted upon and these points be surveyed and reservations formally made by the President. In the way of work I would only recommend at present those for Point Defiance,

which are needed that we may have a safe place for our vessels in those swaters to retreat to, and I think immediate measures should be taken with respect to this place.

I hav etc.

Irvin McDowell, major general commanding

victories

p 1141

San Francisco, Feb. 24, 1865

Hon E.M. Stanton, secretary of War, Washington D.C.

Your telegram of the 21st, ordering national salutes for restoration of our flag on Fort Sumpter on the 22d just received. I have ordered 600 salutes for tomorrow. The joy and enthusiasm of the people is intense.

Irvin McDowell, major-general commanding

Alvord

War of "ebellion, Series I, Vol L, Pt II

p 1146

Washington, February 26, ~~186~~ 1865

Maj. Gen. Irvin McDowell

"elieve Br g. Gen Benjamin Alvord from the command of the District
of Oregon and assign some other officer to that command. Direct Brigadier-
General Alvord to report to the Adjutant-General of the Army in this city
in person. By Order of the secretary of war.

Wm. A. Hardie,

Inspector General U.S. Army/

p 1171

General Orders No. 14 Headquarters District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver,
Wash Ter. March 24, 1865

1-Brig. Gen Benjamin Alvord, U.S. Volunteers, hereby relinquishes
command of the District of Oregon, pursuant to General Orders No. 15,
from headquarters Department of the Pacific.

11-Col R.F. Maury, First Oregon Cavalry, will assume command
of the district....

W.I. Sanborn, second lieut, First Washington
Territory Infantry.

troops: Volunteers: Steinberger

p 1153, WofR, Series I, ~~XXX~~ Vol L, Pt II

Special Orders 51

Headquarters ~~Rix~~ District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. March
3, 1855

1. Pursuant to instructions of the 2d instant, from headquarters
Department of the Pacific, Col. Justus Steinberger, First Washington
Territory Infantry will repair without delay to Fort Vancouver to be
mustered out of service, his term of service having expired.

By Order of Brigadier-General Alvord. W. I. Sanborn, second lieutenant,
acting assistant adjutant general

Military Districts

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol I, Pt. II P. 1161

General Orders No. 19

Hdqrs. Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, March ~~11~~ 14, 1865

1-The limits of the District of Oregon are hereby extended so as to include the entire State of Oregon.

11-Camp Wright, Round Valley, is hereby detached from the district of Humboldt and annexed to that of California.

R.C. Drum, assistant
adjutant general

Victories:

p 1179

Headquarters ,epartment of the Pacific, San Francisco, April 5, 1865

Hon E.M. Stanton, Secretary of War, Washington, D.C.

Dispatch announcing the fall of Richmond received. The whole population wild with excitement; rejoicing in every direction

Irvin McDowell

major-general commanding the district

(Petersburg, too)

p 1192

Sacramento, April 10, 1865 2p.m

General McDowell

I have official dispatches giving particulars of the surrender of Lee and his army to General Grant.

F.F. Low, governor.

p 1196

Brigade Headquarters, District of California, Sacramento, April 15, 1865

Col. E. McGarry, second California Cavalry, Commanding Camp Union

Col E. McGarry..The President of the United States and the Secretary of State were assassinated at the national capital last night. The whole nation will mourn for this great national calamity. Let the officers and soldiers of the army wear crape on their left arms and ~~on~~ sword hilts as an outward sign of the deep grief they feel in their hearts. Your colors and guidons will also be draped in mourning.

E.D. Waite, acting assistant adjutant.

Troop deployment

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol I, pt II

pp 1187-88

Headquarters, District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. April 7, 1865

Col R.C. Drum, assistant adjutant-general, San Francisco, Cal.

Sir:

I have delayed writing as regards the necessity of additional cavalry and proposed uses of troops in this district on account of succeeding unexpectedly to the command of the district. Some days after doing so were necessary to inform myself as to the dispositions made..1188

commander, who after turning over his command--short stay, kind in efforts to impart desired information

Recruiting progressing better in the last weeks than at first.

For present purposes the troops of the district, supposing that the twelve companies of cavalry and the tenth of the Oregon infantry will be filled, and leaving out of view San Juan Island and the forts at the mouth of the Columbia, would be disposed of, if approved by the general commanding the department as follows:

For Fort Colville, one company of cavalry and one of infantry. This is a cheap cavalry post, and the necessity for this arm of the service is increasing. There are no treaties or troubles now with the Indians in its vicinity, but on account of the constant increase of mineral discoveries around it, and consequent increase of travel and settlement, it is important that our present friendly relations should be maintained. To do this, sufficient force and watchfulness and care on the part of the military toward both whites and Indians are more necessary than heretofore. Indians, however well disposed,

when not inconvenienced by the proximity of intrusion upon their grounds of our people, may be forced, either or both through real or imaginary wrongs, to rise suddenly and commit such depredations as lead to extermination and much greater cost pecuniarily than the maintenance of such a force in their midst as would deter them, as well as the lawless and evil-disposed of our own people, from aggression and wrong. These considerations are strengthened by the fact that this post is on one of the main traveled routes from ours to the Kootenai (British) mines.

For Fort Lapwai, Idaho, Ter. one company of cavalry is required as a police to prevent any infraction of our treaty stipulations with the Nez Percés, and lawlessness generally on their reserve. With reasonable attention and justice their friendship, so uninterrupted in the past, may be relied upon for the future. On account of fixed boundaries and privileges, with an appreciative officer in command at Fort Lapwai, they are not liable to be forced even into conflict with our citizens. For Fort Boise, Idaho, Ter. two companies of infantry and three of Cavalry

(Fort Boise

Its isolated position--500 miles from this place and about the same from Camp Douglas, in the midst of a population, a large proportion of which is not of doubtful proclivities or antecedents--of itself makes this force necessary. But this necessity, at least for some years, will be more urgent on account of the presence of thieving bands of Indians infesting all the routes leading into the extensive and rich mineral districts of which it is the center, and the protection of which within a large circuit must depend upon it.

A depot in Jordan Creek Valley, twenty-five miles west of the Owyhee mines, supplied by wagons from Fort Boise for a small detachment of infantry

and a company of cavalry, can protect the vicinity of these mines where there has been much trouble, as well as the route leading from Northern California and Southern Oregon, via Harney Lake and Steen's Valley, as far as those points.

There should also be sufficient cavalry to patrol the mail or stage route as well as the emigrant route leading through Camas Prairie from Salt Lake City.

There is no necessity of Fort Boise being an expensive cavalry post. There is ample grass during the summer, in all directions, and so far as the wintering of the horses, the Government hay reserve is very productive and grass which can be harvested cheaply if properly managed, and undoubtedly such amount of grain as might be absolutely necessary could, even for this season, be purchased in its vicinity at reasonable rates.

For Fort Klamath, one company of infantry and one of cavalry. The movements or operations of these would connect to the eastward and north with those from Jordan Creek or Fort Boise, thus giving, I think, thorough protection from Goose Lake to the Wythee mines.

For Camp Watson, one company of cavalry and a detachment of infantry from Fort Dalles during the summer to operate south as far as Harney Lake, as well as to protect the Dalles and Canyon City road. From these three points Fort Boise, Fort Klamath and Camp Watson, the overland travel to the Boise and Canyon City mines from California, Southern and Middle Oregon, will be well protected. In the entire country to be traversed by these parties it has never been my opinion that there is any large number of Indians, even if they were all collected, but that they are in small parties and active and determined rogues, killing whenever necessary to accomplish their purpose.

The nature of the country, , its game and products, ~~something of the kind would add to the~~ compel them to scatter ~~for~~ in order to subsist, and in the meantime lay by something for winter when they collect in larger camps. For his purpose (laying up something for winter) our occupation of and travel through much of their country renders it valueless to them and makes greater necessity for activity in their thieving raids..

For Forts Walla Walla and Dalles, one company of infantry and cavalry at each until the forts could be properly disposed of or sold...

The troops at these posts are only useful in furnishing detachments to the Umatilla and Warm Springs Reservations and escorts of postmasters etc. The ~~added~~ necessity is constantly growing less. In a little while they could be abandoned and sold with benefit to the Government.

For Fort Camhill, the present garrison, Captain Scott's company California volunteers.

For Fort Steilacoom, 60 two companies of infantry. The large number of Indians ~~in~~ in its vicinity makes this force necessary to hold in check lawlessness generally, or to punish any aggression on the part of the Indians.

The three remaining companies of the First Washington Territory Infantry would ~~have~~ be collected here during the summer, preparatory to being discharged, and are not included in these dispositions, but would be left at their present posts, except as favorable opportunities were presented for bringing them in. The tenth company of Oregon infantry and the three ~~of~~ remaining companies of cavalry (dismounted) would remain at this post.

...the twenty company of the infantry will fill some time this summer. The ~~cavalry~~ cavalry number around 500 enlisted men in nine fragments. Company V at Fort Klamath, Company G at Camp Watson, Company F at Fort Lapwai, Applegate's company (new) are all very near the minimum.

R.F. Maury , colonel, First Oregon Cavalry, Commanding District.