

General Services Administration,
National Archives,
Washington 25, D.C.

Oct. 16, 1964

Sirs:

I have on hand, from File No. 2076239, copy from Head Quarters, Fort Dalles, O.T. Oct. 16, 1855 Report of Operations of Troops of the Yakima Expedition, submitted by G.O. Haller, cmd. of Expedition.

This is the account of the military operation, only.

Needed is (6th line of text) "The accompanying paper marked A gives a tabular statement of the force which accompanied me"

Please send me a memo of the cost for a photostat, or legible form of this #tabular statement," and any other statements or reports in the file that would refer to, numbers or horses and mules, names of those killed, names of those wounded, amount of goods lost, etc.

If there is a lengthy report on this file pertaining to the Expedition beginning Oct. 3, 1855, into the Yakima Country, sufficient to warrant microfilm rather than photostat, that would be preferred.

If reference is made to any maps, photostats of them should be included in the memo. But I do not suspect there are.

Sincerely

Click Relander



Oct. 17, 1964

Mr. Ronald Todd,
Northwest Collection,
University of Washington Library,
Seattle, Washington.

Dear Mr. Todd:

I am wondering if microfilms are available of the Maj.
Granville O. Haller Indian campaign diaries.

I am especially anxious to obtain the film of the
Haller campaign into the Yakima country in October, 1855. And it seems
that his diaries for that year or earlier from The Dalles, and 1856
would also be pertinent.

I do not know the condition of these, whether they lend
themselves to microfilming or not, but if so, what is the estimate on
the work so I may send payment.

If this is not possible, is your section open on Saturdays
so they may be scanned at some future date?

And, what is the price for a Haller photo showing him
earlier in life, something in keeping with his pre-Civil War service
if such is available.

Sincerely and regards

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Oct. 22, 1964

Lt. Col. Ed Link, deputy post commander,
Yakima Firing Center,
Yakima, Wash.

Dear Ed:

Enclosed, material for you and need not be returned, includes Maj. Granville O. Haller's report on the "Battle of Toppenish Creek," Oct., 1855 in which five soldiers were killed and 17 were wounded. Two of the wounded, I believe, died at The Dalles or before reaching there.

There were approximately 107 4th Infantry troops, officers and men involved.

Enclosed, too, typescript with a little additional insight from Maj. Haller re: engagement.

Assistance in research, for public purposes, is appreciated. We would "stake" any evidence of "metal," and then ask Yakima Indian Tribe, if on tribal land for exploratory permission. Today I telephoned Tribal Office and chairman, Eagle Seelatsee, notifying the office of plans for Thursday. Eagle was absent until Thursday 9 a.m. and I left word with secretary for him, or some tribal representative, to join us if possible. (Eagle has told me fragments of Indian version of the battle, another family group of non-combatants who remained several miles from encounter, then virtually engaged in conflict with other tribesmen. This would have been Chief Moses.

Combatant chieftain was Kamiakin. The battle was being lost by the Indians until arrival of Qualchan, renegade Yakima and noted Yakima warrior who killed numerous miners. The Catholic Priest, Miles. Cles. (Charles) Pandosy, stationed at the Catholic Mission at Ahtanum, told of passing of Indians southward toward Simcoe in preparation for and during the engagement.

If I recall right, you live in the Naches. Col. George Wright, who arrived on punitive expedition the following year after Haller's defeat encamped on the Naches River near present Eschbach Park. It is possible his temporary "fort" along river was washed away by high water. Sometime, however, this site may be worth exploring with a "mine detector"? Ninth Infantry's headquarters was at this location on the Naches for several weeks. From there Wright moved into the Kittitas, then over to Spokane Plains where the Yakimas, Palouse, Coeur d'Alenes, Spokanes were subdued, Qualchan was hung, etc.

Rest assured that we will use all respect due "Indian cemeteries" on our explorations, which are most are but a part of several needed to fill out complete picture. And if reference to "cached" Howitzer is interesting to you, Wright wrote in his report that he recovered the Howitzer and took it to The Dalles. However story of howitzer persists. It certainly is not true. I think perhaps it is perpetuation of Indian story from having seen remains of howitzer carriage which was "disabled" according to Haller.

When a somewhat general map of the battle area is determined, a visit there by yourself would be most helpful from the standpoint, viz: would this be a proper place as Haller would have seen it for defense, etc.

Remember, the ensuing engagements, southward of Toppenish Creek, "on the trail back" into the timber and this side of the patches of timber, cover an area of some 8 to 10 miles in passing. This is on tribal land, probably best reachable by jeep. I don't think it has ever been explored more than briefly, even by the Indians.

H. Dean Guie, president of the Fort Simcoe at Mool Mool Society who is accompanying me, as I mentioned, is a military authority on Simcoe.

If we have reason to believe that we have found, or happen to stumble onto what may be a military grave, which is highly unlikely, although possible we will let you know, and will also take the matter up, after consultation, with proper tribal authority.

I have some inquiries off to National Archives and elsewhere for some supplementary information. However there has been no indication that Haller left a map or description of the area in which any burial was made.

I hope the Haller report is of interest to you.

Again, Sincerely and thanks

P.S.

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You may be interested, additionally, and so should the Center, because the Indian decision to "stand against the white men" was reached several days before the engagement at the Indian encampment and gathering on Selah Creek. Evidently they had knowledge of Haller's movement before he set out or at least the first day of his expedition from The Dalles.

I have several (one in particular) old Indian accounts of this from combattant Indians, material from old sources based on interviews with actual participants, and not generally known. Even they did not give a clear report as to the number of Indians killed.

In "The National Intelligencer," of May 3d 1856, I found a letter signed by John E. Wool, so full of falsehoods in regard to my three days fight, that I took the liberty of correcting them and had a copy of my letter published in "The Weekly Oregonian," at Portland, in Oregon. I submit a copy ~~of~~ to give an idea of his perversion of the history of that war.

Camp in the Valley Kit-e-tas, W.T.

July 30th, 1856

To the Editor of The National Intelligencer:

Gentlemen: I have just read your paper of May 3d (tri-weekly,) a letter signed John E. Wool, dated April 2d, 1856, addressed to you, and mainly occupied with denunciations of the Governors of Oregon and Washington Territories.

In that letter, however, occurs the passage hereto annexed, marked A, personal to myself, and injurious to my military character. The General therein ~~states~~ asserts that I proceeded against the Yakimas, "but without the precautions necessary against savage warfare." The specification in support of this charge is, that "about sixty miles from the Dalles, on emerging from a deep ravine, he found himself as he reports, confronted by 1,500 Indians," or as he elsewhere expresses it, that I allowed my command "to have been drawn into a sort of ambush." (See letter of Nov. 3d, with Secty of War's report, Ex. Doc.)

The facts of the case are these: I was ordered to detail one Company for this service, and I deemed it necessary to send out two Companies, I further deemed it necessary to suspend the District Order which would have withdrawn Lieut E.H. Day and 44 men of L Comp'y, 3d Artillery, to Fort Vancouver, and I directed that this company and a Howitzer would be held "in readiness to march at any moment after the departure of the infantry, and will be considered as the Reserve to the invading Battalion in case of necessity." These were the preliminary precautions; and en route there were thrown habitually the Advance and Rear Guards, and when in the timber the

flank Guards. What necessary precaution then has been omitted?

Now, on the 6th October last, when descending a very long hill in an open country, yet Genl. Wool says "on emerging from a deep ravine" ---and approaching a stream whose banks were covered with oak trees and thick under growth, the advance guard perceived the Indians in their front. At the moment a Chief showed himself and harangued his warriors who replied with the war whoop. These sounds of course exposed the position generally and the limited number of the Indians--they did not perhaps exceed 200 warriors--yet the General says, I reported that I was confronted by 1,500 Indians. It happens moreover that I never did, in my reports, state the number when at its maximum, to be 1,500 Indians. But I did notice the warwhoop in my report, and expressly stated that my Advanced Guard was drawn in, the troops deployed for action, and after the Rear Guard had drawn in, the action was commenced--yet with these facts before him, Genl. Wool says I allowed my command to fall into a sort of ambushade. The losses here were one killed and several wounded, and the general says: "after losing two men killed and some thirteen or fourteen wounded, one mortally, he(l) escaped from his (my) perilous condition, ec."

The field was open to view like a chess board, we could see war parties in the distance approaching, which swelled the numbers of the enemy considerably; several moves of our adversary were checked, until finding my position guarded at all points, the real attack was developed. Capt. Russell's Company being on the left descended the hill, turned the right flank of the Indians in the brush, opened fire upon them en reverse, and followed it up with a vigorous charge. The Indians fled and left the field in our possession. Darkness closed around us before the wounded were collected. We then advanced a mile and discovered on ascending a height, that the Indians were not far off, as their voices were heard, apparently giving orders for an attack. We examined our ground as well as the darkness would permit, and resolved to hold it; we lay

all night in readiness for their attack. Daylight on Sunday, the 7th October, showed our position to be capable of defence, although destitute of wood, grass and water, and we decided to await there coming events. We were surrounded very early in the morning by 600 or 700 Indians, and they continued to pour in, until evening, when I considered the number doubled. On this morning, I wrote my first report, calling out my Reserve of 44 men, and not "1000 men to relieve me," as Genl. Wool has stated. The report was written to be ready in case of disaster (another precaution of mine) to apprise the command at Fort Dalles of our danger. Repeated charges with the bayonet this day caused the Indian skirmishers to keep off so far as to render their fighting comparatively harmless. Our loss was not 13 wounded and two dead. This evening I considered my command in imminent danger and I resolved to extricate it by a night march. The troops retired in good order, the separation of the Rear Guard was immediately discovered and the Guide sent off to conduct it on our route, while we advanced to the summit of the mountain to halt there and rest the weary soldiers. It was only after this that I ascertained the character of my guide. Early on the 8th, we resumed our march towards the Dalles, and soon after a running fight ensued, I now dispatched my report, written the previous morning, expecting the Express to explain the changes. The timber concealed the number of Indians opposing us, but my second report did not justify the General's statement that "with this small force (40 effective men) he succeeded in making good his retreat, followed two days and nights by 1,500 Indians" because I expressly stated that before sundown on this day, we again charged the Indians, drove them out of the timber, and after that they did not molest us. Our total loss was 5 killed and 17 wounded--much greater than would appear from the General's statement that, "under the circumstances I did not consider such an enemy greatly to be dreaded."

Here are the main facts as briefly stated as a clear understanding.....

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Oct. 30, 1964

Mr. Richard C. Berner,
 Curator of Manuscripts,
 University of Washington Libraries,
 Seattle, Washington, 98105

Dear Mr. Berner:

Thank you for your letter of October 27, regarding my inquiry concerning microfilms of repository material of the Haller diaries.

I am not sure I have determined the estimated price for positive microfilm (I have viewer facilities). But I think it well to put a \$15 maximum. So, if the entire Haller series is not available within that scope, please confine the order to the 1855 material, which should include the Yakima expedition from The Dalles in October, 1855.

Material listed as available included:

1856 diary 65 exposures

Financial record, 1852-60 18 (through 1856)

Winass expedition

correspondence record 48

Winass expedition. Head-

quarters orders 26

Winass expedition diary,

1855 43

1855 (June-August) diary 61

Memo. book, 1849-60 22

Journal of Snake campaign

1854 29

(This may be the one of primary interest)

312 exposures in all

I have filled out the form, enclosed, for the items desired, but if they cannot be obtained on the \$15 limit specified please order the 1855 expedition starting Oct. 3 from The Dalles, filling in with any others.

No mention was made of a Haller photograph (copy) of 1849-59 era.

As noted on form application extent of usage, including photograph, would be newspaper article (s) background, no extensive quoting in full. My own Haller files run to some 300 pages of typescript, 10 notebooks and Haller battlefield photos from field trips. Material desired is for cross-checks. Request for such use is requested.

Again, sincere thanks for your prompt answer and my apologies for not being capable of a proper price estimate although your letter was clear. My other microfilm dealings have been so varied I'm not sure.

Sincerely Yours

Click Relander

Author,
"Strangers on the Land"
 Published by the Yakima Indian Nation
"Drummers and Dreamers"
"Yakima, 1885-1960"

Now Tow Look
 Historian, called "Brother" by
 Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids
 Washington State Historical Society
 Curator

American Name Society
 Tulare County Historical Society, Visalia, Calif.
 Seattle Free Lances
 City Editor, *The Yakima Daily Republic*

Editor and Contributor,
"1855-1955—The Yakimas"
 Published by the Yakima Indian Nation

Yakima Valley Museum, Inc.
 Board Member
 Honorary Life Member

3701 Commonwealth Rd.,

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Oct.30,1960

[1964?]

SP/5 John C.Scott
SP/5 Alan Richwald

62nd Ord. Det(EOD)
Yakima Firing Center, Yakima,Wash.

Dear Scotty and Rich:

Pardon,please the single letter to a couple of guys,
but after all, you are a team. Right?

It took me a few days to get some prints through the downtown photo studio where I have work like this taken care of. Later,as I get into things such as writing Haller material, I hope I can pry some better prints out of our photographers at the office. So at present, and to let you know I haven't forgotten, I'm sending an enlargement to show how they can blow up and some smaller prints, for your personal use.

I have some microfilm of Haller's diaries regarding the campaign (his notes etc. on it) not the material you scanned, coming in before too long from archives. When I get that, do some more looking over my own material in my files I hope to have stuff in shape for a small story and some photos. I'll keep you in mind and send some clips.

Again, many thanks for your company and help. I am sure it is developing into making a public presentation of a little known chapter in our Northwest history, and a fragment of the 4th Infantry's role at The Dalles,Simcoe, the Wenas and the Kittitas valleys.

I've some exploratory lines out for the site on the Naches River where Col.Wright, Haller,Crook and others camped on several occasions during expeditions, especially on one occasion for several weeks while a suspension bridge was being constructed of available timber and "mule halters". And I'm hopeful that this may be productive of something, but not soon. I've also uncovered, from the Simcoe Day book, account or reference to deaths of two soldiers and a hospital steward at Simcoe. They were undoubtedly buried there and the general area of the lost burials is known. So as time goes on perhaps these can be located. This will require ok from the State Park authorities. When I see Col. Link I intend to suggest possibilities.

Again, many thanks to you two, personally. It was a nice experience.

Sincerely

Click Belander

3701 Commonwealth Rd.

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Dec. 1, 1964

Col. Lewis E. Nichols, USAF Ret.,
326 W 26th St.,
The Dalles, Ore.

Dear Col. Nichols:

I am fooling around on some Maj. Granville O. Haller and Yakima Expedition research (as you know, out of The Dalles in 1885, to near the later site of Simcoe, then back in a hurry to The Dalles).

Nothing pretention, some newspaper articles perhaps with new material.

I am in dire need of any photographs, one to three of:

Fort Dalles as it appeared around that period (1855--to few years later).

2-If by chance, any Granville O. Haller, Gabrielle Rains or George W. Wright photographs.

If possible, please have photo copy negative made of one or two pictures (I need the Fort Dalles one first), let me know the cost. Due credit will be given).

If you care, photographs could be sent, insured mail, well packed, they will be copied and shot back, same way, within two or three days.

I don't suppose by any long stretch of the imagination The Dalles museum ever possessed, or has in possession, any Mountain Howitzers or parts, or any rifles of the period or other equipage which have been photographed?

The material I am working on will be of considerable interest to you and I shall see you receive clippings. Haven't been down your way, still hope to, but have been on the go. Hope things have been going well with you, Dr. Tom and others of my friends.

Sincerely Yours

Click Relander

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dec. 2, 1964

Smithsonian Institution, Library
Wash., 25, D.C.

Dear Librarian:

Enclosed is postal note for \$1, for which I hope you can send a photo of a Mountain Howitzer, from your gun collection.

Purpose is for publication in a newspaper story.

The howitzer should be, as near as possible, to one which would have been of the type likely taken on an expedition into the mountains in 1855 on the Pacific Coast. (Maj. Granville Haller expedition against the Yakimas, 1855 and Battle of Toppenish Creek).

Absolute accuracy not necessary but photo should include weight of howitzer. It could be mounted or unmounted, since it was taken with carriage and later packed on pack mule.

Time is somewhat of the essence. If sum is not sufficient, will immediately rebate additional. (Reference, please refer my letter to Mr. John Ewers).

Sincerely

Click Relander

Dec. 13, 1964

Col. Virgil F. Field,
Colonel, USA, retired
Office of the Adjutant General,
Camp Murray, Fort Lewis, Wash.

Dear Col. Field :

While at Tacoma for a quarterly board meeting I learned from Bruce LeRoy that you are going strong again on research. Some time ago I learned of your serious illness. Glad you're on the job again.

Bruce showed me your documentation of the San Juan controversy and I noted it contained considerable correspondence from Maj. Granville O. Haller. I am most hopeful I may obtain a copy of that valuable research not only because of my extensive interest in Haller, but because of the San Juan deal. I would be most grateful if there is a way I may obtain this.

At present I am scanning the Haller diaries, 1854-59, dealing with the "Win-nass campaign" into the Snake River country. H. Dean Guie and I have made several trips to the Haller battlefield of the Yakima campaign. His diaries of that however seem very incomplete and efforts to trace them more completely through National Archives has been unproductive. There are only a few pages of his Yakima campaign, (October, 1855) and about 20 names of his troops, there were about 105; no record of those actually killed, no record of equipment loss etc. and I know these must be somewhere. Perhaps you have some across them in more detail.

His diary of the second Yakima campaign, into the Kittitas and Wenatchee tells of passing through the Toppenish Creek country, finding remains of two of the soldier dead there and the burial.

I am hopeful some other Haller material, complete, re: the Yakima campaign and the battle of Toppenish Creek, Oct. 1855 will show up that will contain maps etc. (He was very detailed on such in his Snake campaigns). A couple of mine detector experts from Yakima Firing Center accompanied Dean Guie and I on one of our field trips. We found considerable reaction, apparently from disintegrated bullets. More detail maps or even journals may result in our locating the soldier graves. Five in all were killed, two died later of their wounds, about 17 were wounded. Then, with cooperation of our military here and the Yakima Indian tribal leaders (the area is on tribal land), the graves may be appropriately marked.

I am also looking for an account of the destruction of some village near Wishram or The Dalles by either volunteers or troops in the Yakima War of 1855. Have you ever encountered any reference to burning of a village, removal of food caches etc?

2--Relander

Hope the shift in the Guards and Reserves doesn't snow you under with work, but it's another stage in history, isn't it?

Under separate cover I'm sending you Strangers on the Land, a 64,000 word paper back I produced for the Yakima tribe. You may care to add it to your personal library of Northwest material. The work is out of publication and will not be re-issued, although demands come in from universities, libraries etc. for it. The tribe isn't in the publication business but wanted something in the way of a history and while inadequate it serves some purpose.

Hope this busy holiday season finds you and Mrs. Fields in good health and that you are continuing to pursue your interesting and very productive work. You are doing a real good job, and believe me, if not properly appreciated at this day, researchers, students, librarians and historians of the future will have much to be grateful for.

Most Sincerely

Click Relander

Dec. 13, 1964

Col. Lewis E. Nichols, USAF ret.,
326 West 21st Street,
The Dalles, Oregon.

Dear Col. Nichols:

Thank you for your letter. Don't suppose this will reach you before your trip to Portland, but I have just returned from a quarterly meeting of the State Historical Society at Tacoma. So when you return from Portland perhaps you will have something to report.

Did a little Haller research there at the state Society. They have two photographs of him, but the oil painting at The Dalles sounds interesting, especially if the origin is known. And it has possibility of being somewhat in the "period." So I'll wait and see.

I have no especial deadline. In fact the Haller material may turn into something more ambitious. That depends on several factors.

Any of the individual buildings of the old fort would be suitable, as long as they were as old as possible.

I am still busy transcribing microfilm re: Haller's campaign into the Snake Country. The Yakima country and Naches follows. Quite a bit of Dalles material showing up as to departure from the fort etc. and in time I think it will be of interest to you when I get it worked out.

Only wish I could make another carbon of it but it is somewhat restricted from the source, and I have to make one carbon as I go along. There will be an opportunity for you to scan it and make some notes in time, however.

Hope our weather stays open so on a later day off schedule I can come down, but should be hearing from you before then and get lined out on a start on a few pictures, not too many to start with.

Hope your trip to Portland was profitable. Incidentally, when I get some communications back, may have an idea or so you'll be interested in that will give you a chance to get some material that will pertain to The Dalles, the fort, and the officers there. I'll keep you posted.

Sincerely

Click Relander