

(Visalia)

headquarters department of the Pacific

San Francisco, Sept. 29, 1862

Respectfully referred to Colonel Dabbitt and Captain Kellogg who will see that the troops at Owen's River and Visalia are properly supplied forthwith. Such articles used for winter campaign (as gloves etc.) ~~company to the extent of supplying~~ as may be at the Vancouver depot will be sent to Captain Goodman's company to the extent of supplying that company. By order of Major General Wright. R.C. Drum, assistant adjutant general.

second indorsement Sept. 29, 1862

The gloves at Fort Vancouver have all been sold at auction.

E.B. Dabbitt, Deputy quartermaster

third indorsement

Subsistence Office

San Francisco, Cal. Sept. 30, 1862

..... There has been no deficiency in supplies at San Pedro or Camp Latham.

A few days since 20,000 rations were shipped to Visalia. No information has been received at this office giving the number of troops at those points of either command. Such data from official source is essential to me..... Jno. Kellogg, Captain and commissary of subsistence.

--- Visalia, Oct 7, 1862

Colonel: I have the honor to report that I arrived at this place with one company of cavalry (Company D) Captain M.A. McLaughlin, on yesterday having made the trip from Owen's Big Lake over the mountains, a distance of 120 miles in four days and one-half. The route is almost an impracticable one and great credit is due to them for their fortitude and forbearance making the trail without a murmur of complaints for the hills were on very precipitous--and the animals so very weak for want of grain, not having seen any for two months--

and without shoes on them, that they were compelled to walk about two-
 irs of the way, and that too, barefooted and naked, for many of them
 were as destitute of shoes as they were the day they were born, and had
 no pantaloons except such as they had themselves made out of barley and
 flour sacks. The weather was freezing cold, heavy frost every night and
 on the 4th a heavy snow storm; still the men ~~plodded on and~~ plodded
 on and stood guard at night leaving the blood from their feet upon the
 rocks and snow. In this connection allow me to say that I am grateful
 to find that clothing is on the way for these troops, not only for their
 sake but for the credit of the Government that I have the honor to serve.

Company I, Captain Jones, under command of Major O'Neill will
 be here in about one week by way of Keyville. I have the honor to report
 further that before leaving Camp Independence, Owens River, I made
 all necessary orders for the establishment of a one-company military
 post at that place; that adobes were being made and temporary buildings
 put up by the troops; that six months supplies were laid in and everything
 done to make the company left to garrison the post (Company G, Capt.
 T.H. Goodman) comfortable and that all was quiet and harmonious,
 notwithstanding fears to the contrary stated in my last communication
 on the subject.

George S. Evans

Lt. Col. Second Cavalry Calif. Vol. Comdg.

(The Lt. Col. R.C. Drum, U.S. Army, Assistant Adjut. Gen. S.F. Cal.

(Visalia)

p. 139

Headquarters Owen's River Expedition

Camp Independence, Cal. September 30, 1862.

Lieut. Col. R.C. Drum, U.S. Army, assistant adjutant general San Francisco,

Colonel: The order directing me to proceed to Visalia with two companies Second Cavalry California Volunteers did not come to hand until

day before yesterday, the 28th. On yesterday, the 29th, I started the

command and will leave here myself today and overtake them at the

Big Lake. The wagons will have to go by way of Walker's Pass and

Keyville (the only wagon road, and that almost impassable), but I

shall take one company from the foot of the lake without wagons or

packs, the men taking rations in their haversacks, and attempt to

travel straight across the mountains to Visalia. I think that I can

reach Visalia in this way by the 6th or 7th of October, whilst it

would take until the 14th or 15th to go around the road. I adopt this

course for the reason that Doctor George informs me by private letter

that there are wagons on the road from Stockton with stores for the

command, and it may not be safe to have them in the vicinity of

Visalia without troops to guard them. Again, by going across the

mountains and getting into Visalia in the night, I may possibly catch

the notorious traitor Baker, who would be sure to know of my coming

and escape if I should go by the road. Respectfully, your obedient

servant. George S. Evans, Lieut. Col. Second Cavalry California

Volunteers, Comdg.

War of the Rebellion, series 1, Vol L, 2 pts. part II, Wash. D.C. 1897
(Colville. Nez Perce, Donation Act.)
pp. 158-60

Headquarters District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, W.T. Oct. 8, 1862

J.J. McGilvra, Esq. U.S. Attorney for Washington Territory, Walla Walla

Sir: I have to acknowledge the reception of your communication of the 27th ultimo. I have not in any instructions from this office designed to interpret the laws for any other department of the Government but the military. Any interpretation which the civil officers of the Government may place upon them is in their power to carry out. I did not deem it advisable as a practical question that the military should originate or institute proceedings in certain impracticable cases under the act of 13th February, 1862. It is the first duty of the military to defend the frontiers. It should also, as far as it can, aid the civil authority. If you in the discharge of your duty choose to institute any proceedings under the laws and if the marshal in obeying the mandate of the magistrate cannot get a sufficient civil posse, and calls upon the military we are bound to assist him. This is the general rule. Any exceptions would grow out of extraordinary circumstances. It was reported to me by the inhabitants that the commanding officer at Fort Colville had arrested a white man in whose possession liquor was found, who was passing through the country of Spokane. It became a question whether I should authorize a conflict with the Territorial authorities who had organized a county and extended their laws over it. I knew that Judge Old Oliphant had held court at Colville. I said to Major R. Merrill "as we do not undertake to prevent the transit and mining of the whites, it is idle to prevent liquor being sent or sold to them. The laws of the Territory must govern in these matters." I meant by this perfect submission to the laws of the land. If the laws of the Territory are in conflict with the laws of Congress or the Constitution of the United States, they are null and void and are, in point of fact, no laws. I did not dream of putting these laws superior to the laws of Congress.

I have enjoined in the strongest terms the enforcement of the laws against the sale of liquor to Indians and the destroying of liquor in the hands of those who sell to them. The act of 15th February applies in that respect to the whole territory, leaving no ground to raise the question of what is "Indian country." I have notified the commander that they (p 159) had this opinion in stopping the sale of liquor to Indians, to make complaint either under the laws of the Territory or under the laws of Congress. My object in this was only to increase the chances of efficient action. Of course, if any competent judicial authority decides that the laws of the Territory are null and void, or cannot be enforced for want of jurisdiction upon an Indian reservation, nobody would resort for such purposes to the Territorial magistrates. It would seem reasonable that ~~whenever~~ wherever the whites go in the Territory of Washington they must carry with them all the laws of the land for their own safety and protection. And this brings us to the main point at issue in this subject. We must either prevent the whites going in any way, except for mere transit, into that country, or we must suffer them to carry on the ordinary commerce of the country. The first step is the false step. ~~The settling on the reservation is a direct violation of the treaty~~

The government has an undoubted right under the treaty to prevent settling on the Nez Perce Reservation. On the 7th of July last I was placed in command of this district and what was then the state of things? There were 10,000 or 15,000 people either on that reservation or beyond it, compelled to look to Lewiston for supplies. I am not informed whether any branch of the Government attempted to prevent the whites going on it. The miners commenced going on it two years ago. I know of no call from the military being made to remove them. I have been notified by C.H. Hale, esq. superintendent of Indian affairs for Washington Territory, that Lewiston and the mining towns have been "excepted from the strict provisions of the

the treaty by the Indians themselves." I have not been informed what was the exact date of said arrangement, but think it was made more than a year ago. Of course this arrangement encouraged the whites to continue to enter the country. Lewiston seems an absolute necessity as a depot of supplies to the large mining population. Placerville is also on the Nez Perce Reservation. Having admitted the possibility of keeping the miners in search of gold from that country, it seems but natural and expedient to ~~admit~~ let all trade which follows be regulated by the laws ^{of} commerce for all the wants of the people in the nature of things will inevitably exist the remaining practical question is, whether it shall be wholly unregulated, or shall the laws of the Territory be permitted to control and restrain it.

You, as a law officer of the Government, should be ready to construe with tolerance all action of the military having for its purpose to leave the people in the enjoyment of the laws and of civil government. Unless the necessity is irresistible, the military should leave the whites to their own self government. Military rule is always odious. It is for this reason I would not wish to storm the formation of counties where the whites are suffered to go. A more fearful responsibility than an Indian war might follow any other course on the part of the military authorities. As to the Colville country, the donation act was in operation up to the 1st of December, 1855, and whites were invited under it into that region. By an act of Congress of 17th of July, 1854, and by the act of 29th of May, 1858, all the provisions of this donation act were extended to the country east of the Cascade Mountains (see Brightly's Digest pp 574 and 1105.) By an order dated the 31st of October, 1858, issued by General Harney, then commanding the Department of Oregon, it was directed:

As it appears that citizens are prevented from locating near some of the military posts in this department, the general commanding directs that hereafter every encouragement will be given them to do so,

provided no infringement is made upon either the military or Indian reservation. * 160.

When I came to Oregon in 1852 the Indian title had not been extinguished at Salem, the very seat of government, the Senate having refused to ratify the treaties. An attempt was made by Mr. Parrish an Indian agent to prevent the introduction of liquor at Salem for sale to the whites. As chief justice of Oregon Territory, then embracing Washington Territory (I think it was Judge Williams) decided that the Indian intercourse act of 1834 was not applicable there in respect to the introduction of liquor for sale to the whites. The act of the 5th of June, 1850 extended the Indian intercourse act "so far as applicable" over Oregon Territory. But he argued that Congress having by the donation act invited the settlement of the country by the whites, that portion of the intercourse law was not applicable. It is certain that the preemption law does not authorize settlements where the Indian title had not been extinguished. But it is unfortunately too true that the whole early settlement of this country, both before and after the organizing of a Territorial government and the passage of the donation act, was in utter neglect of the Indian title. I lament this state of things, and know that it probably caused the former Indian wars and may cause another. I have instructed the military commanders to protect the Indians in the most efficient manner, to the extent of their power, from all aggression and violence and from all encroachment on their grazing and agricultural lands. Our Indian relations in their present attitude, are not according to my wishes. Far from it. They grew out of the policy of the Government in stimulating the early settlements of this country and are also due to the gold mines and the irresistible spread of the whites in the search for gold.

I might here close, but I shall add a few words as to my personal history. In the spring of 1853 I was captain, Fourth Infantry and brevet major in command at Fort Dalles, I declared the country east of the

Cascades Mountains not open for settlement. I sought repeatedly from the Government, in the most earnest manner, a decision as to whether that was not the Indian country under the act of 1834. The act says that the President shall when he thinks proper, order the execution of said act. I never got any decision from Washington. I was not sustained. The only effect of my movement was the passage of the act of 17th of July, 1854, extending all of the land laws east of the Cascade Mountains. Major Ingenbeel says he repeatedly sought from higher authority and from Washington a decision as to whether the country around Fort Colville, where he then commanded, was the Indian country, but he never received a reply. My instructions to Major Rinearson, commanding at Camp Lapwai, have received the approval of my immediate commander General George Wright at San Francisco, commanding the Department of the Pacific. I shall most cheerfully obey any orders on this subject which I shall receive from higher authority. I desire to add, also that I have felt a strong personal interest in the Nez Perce Indians from their evidences of dawning civilization and their past unwavering attachment to our people and adhesion to our Government amidst every temptation, they have merited not only justice but the kindest and most generous treatment at our hands. It is melancholy to reflect that the march of events should have caused them to have received such rough usage and to have been placed in a position so trying to their loyalty. I hope they will look favorably upon the recent offer of Congress to purchase a portion or the whole of the reservation. I am sir, etc.

B. Alvord

Brigadier General U.S. Volunteers, Commanding District.

Box Elder, Utah Ter. July 30, 1863
(Brigham City)

Officer commanding the Troops of the U.S. at Fort Boise and in the Snake River Country.

A treaty of peace was this day concluded at this place by General Connor and myself with the bands of the Shoshones of which Pocatello, San Pitch and Sagwich are the principal chiefs. This information is given that these Shoshones may not be injured when met by the troops, if they are at the time behaving themselves well.

A treaty of peace has also been entered into at Fort Bridger with other bands of the Shoshones and it is understood that all of that nation are at peace with the U.S. and are under a pledge to remain friendly.

James Duane Doty,
commander and governor of Utah Territory.

Camp No 67 on Wyohee River, Oct 11, 1863.

Sir: ..arrived here yesterday in tolerably fair condition. Since leaving Bruneau the feed for animals has been very scarce in consequence of which our stock is considerably reduced. I found Captain Mason encamped here with his company, in charge of additional supplies received from Fort Boise for my command. I shall remain here only ---- days and again resume the march.

Major Rinearson leaves here today to assume command of Fort Boise. I have kept scouting parties out during the march from Bruneau river but have succeeded in finding no Indians. Very respectfully, etc.

R.F. Maury

Colonel, First Cavalry Oregon Volunteers, commanding
(Acting Assistant Adjutant General headquarters District of Ore,
Fort Vancouver, W.T.)

Along this whole route good water and grass are found, which well compensates for the difference in the length of the road. Fearing that forage from San Pedro would not arrive in time, I had caused forage to be gathered at Walker's Pass, and as the train passed down Kern River Valley sufficient was collected to furnish them through to the reservation. I am satisfied that had I crossed the desert many lives would have been lost from want of water, and that great suffering at least has been avoided by the route through Walker's Pass. On the evening of July 17, while encamped at Hot Springs Valley, three miles from Keysville, on the left bank of Kern River, I had the honor to receive your letter of instructions dated July 9, 1863, relative to the removal of the troops from Camp Independence and also Special Orders No. 162 relative to the abandonment of Camp Independence.

On the morning of July 18 I placed Captain Noble in command of the expedition and accompanied by Captain Ropes and one man started back to Camp Independence where I arrived on the 21st of July; distance, supposed about 150 miles. Captain Noble after having delivered the Indians over to the Indian superintendent will go on to Fort Tejon with the detachment belonging to his company. The train will return via Kern River, escorted by the detachment of Company G, which is ordered to encamp opposite the mouth of the Kelsey Canon, on the South Fork of Kern River. Mr. Banning's teams are en route to this camp with barley which I have ordered to be distributed along the route. I intend to employ these teams on their return trip to carry what loads they can to Fort Tejon, and hope that with these (Banning's) teams and the Government teams to be able to furnish sufficient transportation for all movable property at this camp, and to distribute it at the same time where it maybe needed.

Hoping that my course may meet with your approval, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

M.A. McLaughlin
 Captain Company D, Second Cavalry California Vols. Comdg.

War of Rebellion. Series I, Vol. L, Pt. 2

P. 613

Fort Tejon Camp Babbitt

Headquarters Department of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. Sept. 9, 1863

Lieut. Col. William Jones, Second Cavalry California Volunteers

~~Commanding Camp Babbitt~~ Volunteers

Commanding Camp Babbitt, near Visalia, Cal.

Sir: Representation has been made that the Indians in or near Owen's River Valley have again attacked the various mining and agricultural settlements. Should these statements prove true, the general commanding desires you to make such disposition of the force under your command as will secure protection to the persons and property of the settlers. You will confer with Captain McLaughlin, commanding at Fort Tejon, on this subject and request his cooperation should you deem it necessary

R. C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant-General

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol. L, Pt. 2

p. 603

Fort Tejon

Fort Tejon, Cal. August (September) 3, 1863

Lieut. William Forry, act. asst. adjt. gen. Calif. Volunteers, Southern District of California, Camp Drum

Lieutenant: I beg leave respectfully to state that by telegram received today, dated San Francisco, Cal. August 31, 1863 and signed Col. R.C. Drum, assistant adjutant-general, U.S. Army, I am informed that Fort Tejon is in Lieutenant-Colonel Curtis' district. I have the honor therefore to report for the information of the colonel commanding that in obedience to instructions dated headquarters Department of the Pacific July 9 and extract No. 1 of Special orders No. DVO 167, dated July 10, 1863, Companies D and E and G, Second Cavalry California Volunteers left Camp Independence, Owens River Valley on the morning of the 6th of July 1863, en route for Fort Tejon, Cal. The command arrived at Walker's Pass on the 10th of August, where finding less forage than calculated upon, Companies D, E. and their transportation were obliged to go by way of Kern River, Hot Springs Valley, Walker's Basin, Agua Caliente, the Sink of Tejon, Sebastian Reservation and Canada de las Uvas, arriving at Fort Tejon on the 17th of August. Time occupied, eleven marching days, having remained at Hot Springs Valley one day for repairs; distance traveled about 250 miles. The route from Walker's Basin to Agua Caliente, a distance of about 12 miles, is almost impracticable for wagons, which were lowered down the mountains by means of ropes. Company G, Second Cavalry California Volunteers, Captain Ropes commanding, is according to the instructions above referred to encamped upon the South Fork of Kern River about three days march (without wagons) from p. 604

Fort Tejon. The company has rations until October 1, 1863. On my arrival at Fort Tejon, August 17, 1863, I immediately assumed command

and in obedience to instructions from headquarters Department of the Pacific dated August, 1863, I ordered Company E, Second Cavalry California Volunteers commanded by Captain Noble to report to Lieut. Col. William Jones, Second Cavalry California Volunteers at Camp Babbitt near Visalia; Company E therefore left this post on the 18th on its way to Camp Babbitt accompanied by Lieutenant Haper and party. I would respectfully state that the command stationed here is insufficient to perform the service required; that there are nine general prisoners here (vide return) either in arrest or confinement, against whom charges have been preferred and forwarded to headquarters Department of the Pacific; that a guard is required at the Indian reservation situated about twenty-five miles from the post; also that it is intended to occupy this post during the winter; many very necessary repairs are needed, and fuel and forage should be provided. In conclusion I wish to be permitted to state that your letter of July 20, 1863, directing me to report to your headquarters upon my reoccupation of Fort Tejon, was received by me at Camp Independence and was consequently of no force. Yet, upon my arrival at Fort Tejon had I been certain that I was in the district commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Curtis, I would have reported without any order to that effect. I hope this will be deemed sufficient apology and explanation to the colonel commanding for this tardy and imperfect report.

Respt. etc.

M.A. McLaughlin

Captain Second Cavalry Cal. Vols. Comdg.

Click Relander

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol. L, Pt. 2

Visalia. Owen's Valley.

P. 617

Camp Babbitt

Visalia, Cal. Sept. 13, 1863

Col. R.C. Drum, Asst. Adjut. Gen. Dept. of the Pacific, San Francisco.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 9th in reference to reported attacks of Indians upon the p 618 mining and agricultural settlements in or near Owen's River Valley. I have had no information in regard to the matter, only what was obtained through San Francisco papers. Lieutenant Barker arrived at this camp ~~the~~ 1000 from Fort Tejon last evening. There had no information reached that p st up to the time of his leaving, in regard to Indian hostilities. I was of the opinion that it was injudicious in a military point of view to abandon Camp Independence before the coming spring, when it could be done with safety to the miner and settler. The presence of troops at this post would induce settlers to that valley who will not go on account of military protection being withdrawn, which in a few months I would suggest should the rumor of hostilities prove true, as a precautionary measure, that Camp Independence should be reoccupied by Company G, Second Cavalry California Volunteers. I will give all the information possible and communicate it to you as early as possible.

Wm. Jones

Lieutenant Colonel Second Cavalry California Vols. Comdg. Camp.

Fort Tejon. McLaughlin.

P.658

Fort Tejon, Cal. Oct. 27, 1863

Maj. E. Sparrow Purdy, U.S. Army,

Asst. Adj. Gen. Hdqrs. Dept. of the Pacific, S.F. Cal.

Major: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of instructions dated headquarters Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, Oct. 1, 1863 and beg leave to state for the information of the general commanding the department that no issue of commissary stores have been made to Indians by my order or of my knowledge since they ~~have~~ ^{were} turned over to the Indian authorities at the Sebastian Reserve. I have the honor etc.

M.A. McLaughlin

Captain, Second Cavalry, California Volunteers Commanding

Fort Tejon, Cal. Oct. 27, 1863

Maj. E. Sparrow Purdy, U.S. Army

Asst. Adj. Gen. Hdqrs. Dept. of the Pacific, S.F. Cal.

Major: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the general commanding, copy of Superintendent Wentworth's letter addressed to me and in reply to your letter of instructions of October 18, 1863, I beg leave to state that the Indians have been encamped near this post since about the 3d of the present month. The Indians do not interfere with the command, and are sufficiently near for the proper supervision. I have the honor etc/

M.A. McLaughlin

Captain, Second Cavalry California Volunteers Commanding

-- El Tejon, Sept. 30, 1863

Capt. M.A. McLaughlin, commanding Fort Tejon

Captain: I accept your offer of to-day to receive the Owen's River Indians at Fort Tejon, as I deem their longer stay at this

hazardous in the extreme to both life and property, and will make arrangements to have them rationed at that place through my supervisor with such provision as the limited means placed at my disposal by Government will admit of.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant

Jno.P.H. Wentworth

Superintendent, Indian Affairs, Southern District of California.

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol. I, Pt. 2, Wash. D.C. 1897

Visalia-Tulare county Owen's River

P. 662

Headquarters Department of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. November 5, 1863

G.W. Bailey

Sheriff of Mono County and others

Gentlemen: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a petition signed by citizens of Mono County, the northern portion of Tulare County, Cal. and of Esmeralda County, Nev. Ter. requesting me to establish a military post at some point on Owen's River, near the crossing, and, if practicable, in the neighborhood of the Bishop's Creek Valley. It is my desire to afford every protection within my power to p.663

the loyal citizens of your district, and as soon as the organization of the companies of Nevada cavalry is completed and they are prepared for service, I will post one of them in the Owen's River Valley. You must bear in mind gentlemen that I have a great many urgent calls for troops to protect our hardy pioneers against Indians and a very small number of soldiers to meet all these pressing calls, add besides looking after Indians within our borders, and to be prepared to meet foes from without. Notwithstanding my embarrassments I will do all I can for you. Permit me to suggest to the loyal citizens of your district the propriety of organizing volunteer companies either in California or Nevada. Such companies when composed of loyal and true men and accepted by their Governor can obtain arms from the Government. Such organizations are indispensable for the protection of the people, more especially in these times, when the Government of the United States is straining every nerve and using all its means to crush an unholy rebellion.

With great respect, I am, gentlemen, your obedient servant.

G. Wright

Brigadier General, U.S. Army, Commanding

P.S.--In my suggestions relative to forming volunteer companies I refer to State militia organizations, not for muster into the service of the United States, but always ready to defend their own firesides and uphold the Constitution, the laws, and the Union.

G.W.

Hdqrs. Department of the Pacific

Special Orders

San Francisco, Cal. Nov. 6, 1863

No. 251

Lieut. Col. William Jones, Second Cavalry California Volunteers, will on receipt of this order turn over the ~~command~~ of the troops at Camp Babbitt, Visalia, to the officer next in rank, and proceed to Camp Douglas near Salt Lake City, Utah Ter. and report to Brig. Gen. P. Edward Connor for duty. He will report first at San Francisco to be mustered in as colonel. The quartermaster's department will furnish the necessary transportation.

By order of Brigadier-General Wright

E. Sparrow Purdy

Assistant Adjutant-General.

"War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol. L, Pt. 2, Wash. D.C., 1897

Fort Tejon - Camp Babbitt

P. 696

Hdqs. Department of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. December 12, 1863

Special Orders

No. 277

* * * *

3-Company B (Schmidt's) Second Infantry California Volunteers will proceed to and take post at Fort Tejon. On its arrival the present garrison of Fort Tejon (Companies D and G Second California Volunteers) will proceed to Camp Babbitt near Visalia, Cal.

4-On the arrival at Camp Babbitt of the companies last named in the above paragraph the company of infantry at that camp (G Second Infantry California Volunteers) will proceed to and take post at Fort Miller.

* * * *

By order of Brigadier-General Wright:

Richd. C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant-General

-- San Francisco, December 12, 1863

Capt. W. G. Morris

Assistant Quartermaster

(Via Los Angeles, Cal.)

A company of infantry is ordered to Fort Tejon, and the cavalry withdrawn.

R. C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant-General

P. 699

Fort Tejon, Cal. Dec. 16, 1863

Col. R. C. Drum, U.S. Army, assistant adjutant general, San Francisco, Cal.

Colonel: I beg leave to state that according to your instructions I left this post about the 23rd day of November, 1863, and proceeded as far as Bishop Creek, Owen's River Valley, about fifty miles above

Camp Independence. The valley is fast filling up with settlers and miners, and no fear is entertained of Indians as far up as Bishop's Creek, which is the highest settlement in the valley. There ~~are~~ the people are very uneasy, and fear to travel to and from Aurora, from whence their supplies are obtained. I would therefore respectfully recommend that so soon as the grass is sufficiently good that a force be sent into the valley to be stationed between Bishop Creek and Aurora, where the greater portion of the Indians supposed to be now in the valley are congregated. The weather in the valley is very cold, and the trip was very severe, being obliged to sleep in the open air. The troops stationed on Kern River I ordered to Fort Tejon where they arrived to-day via Walker's Basin. Forage necessary for the horses belonging to both companies I do not believe can be obtained at this post.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant

M.A. McLaughlin

Captain, Second Cavalry California Volunteers, Commanding.

P. 701

Fort Tejon, Cal.

Dec. 17, 1863

General Orders

No. 21

On account of the temporary absence of the undersigned, the command of this post will devolve on Capt. James M. Ropes, Second Cavalry California Volunteers

By order

M.A. McLaughlin

Captain Second Cavalry California Volunteers