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Documents relating to the claim of Colonel A. G. Morgan, of Missouri, for military services in Florida

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DOCUMENTS

RELATING

To the claim of Colonel A. G. Morgan, of Missouri, for military services in Florida.

JANUARY 2, 1839.

Referred, with motion of Mr. BENTON, to the Committee on Military Affairs.

FEBRUARY 16, 1839.

Ordered to be printed, to accompany Senate bill No. 290.

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES,
January 2, 1839.

On motion by Mr. Benton,

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making payment and compensation to Colonel A. G. Morgan, of Missouri, for military services in Florida, and for raising troops for service in that Territory.

Attest:

ASBURY DICKINS, *Secretary.*

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Mo.,
August 18, 1837.

SIR: I wrote you few days since, offering to raise three hundred volunteer riflemen, since which your order to Major Dougherty has changed my views. The Delawares are under my control, or as much so as any white man can have with them, and I shall use my influence to have them comply with the wishes of Government.

The policy of raising one red man against another with me is questionable, yet I am convinced that no troops can be brought into the field so well calculated to insure success as the Delawares and Shawnees.

Major Dougherty is absent at St. Louis, but will be here in a few days, and I have no doubt will be successful. If not, it shall not be my fault. The selection of Major Dougherty is a good one, either to control or lead the Indians into battle. And permit me to say to you, that I conceive it bad policy to place any one over them, save those they may choose. I know the Indian character too well not to be convinced that this will be a very important consideration with them, so much so as to perhaps jeopardize the expedition or its object.

I beg you will receive this letter in the same spirit it is written.

Your most obedient servant,

A. G. MORGAN.

To the HON. JOEL R. POINSETT,
Secretary of War.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August 31, 1837.*

SIR: I have received your letter of the 18th instant, announcing your readiness to co-operate with Major Dougherty in procuring a force among the Delawares and Shawnees, to proceed to Florida; and am gratified by the good spirit it evinces. The letter you mention having written to offer to raise three hundred volunteer riflemen for that service, has not yet reached the department.

General Atkinson has been advised of the desire of the Commanding General in Florida to raise three or four companies of riflemen, designated by him as spy companies, composed of men accustomed to the border wars, and acquainted with the Indian manner of conducting them. He will be directed to correspond with you on the subject, and your aid in procuring the men will no doubt be efficacious, and be thankfully acknowledged by the department.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

A. G. MORGAN, Esq.,

Post Sutler, Fort Leavenworth, Missouri.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *September 5, 1837.*

SIR: I have received your letter of the 12th ultimo, containing the patriotic offer of your own services, and those of "three hundred backwoods-men, or bee hunters," in the capacity of a spy battalion to operate in Florida. General Atkinson has been instructed to accept your offer, and to communicate with you on the subject.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Mr. A. G. MORGAN,

Farm on Platte, Missouri.

[This was received after I had commenced raising the 150 men, on the order of General Atkinson.]

FLORIDA WAR.

To the young men of the Missouri frontier:

Our Government requires the services of between 150 and 200 young men of the "FAR WEST" to march to Florida to assist in putting down the Seminole Indians. It has offered me the appointment of lieutenant colonel, which I will cheerfully accept provided the men can be raised. The men are to serve for six months or less, and to receive good pay. The officers to be selected by ourselves, and to act together as a separate battalion, and fight "ON OUR OWN HOOK." Now is the time to show the world what kind of stuff we are made of. Let us haste to the field of battle and share the honor of closing a war which has baffled the skill of our ablest generals. There will be one company raised from Clinton and its territory, one from Clay, Ray, and Carrol, and one from Platte. All those who are disposed to join will immediately report to General David R. Atchison, at Liberty, who

will give all information required. Below you will find the letters addressed to me on the subject.

A. G. MORGAN.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August 31, 1837.*

SIR: I have received your letter of the 18th instant, announcing your readiness to co-operate with Major Dougherty in procuring a force among the Shawnees and Delawares to proceed to Florida, and am gratified by the good spirit it evinces. The letter you mentioned having written, to offer to raise three hundred volunteer riflemen for that service, has not yet reached the department.

General Atkinson has been advised of the desire of the commanding general in Florida to raise three or four companies of riflemen, designated by him as spy companies, composed of men accustomed to the border wars, and acquainted with the Indian manner of conducting them. He will be directed to correspond with you on the subject, and your aid in procuring the men will no doubt be efficacious, and be thankfully acknowledged by the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
J. R. POINSETT.

A. G. MORGAN, Esq.

HEAD QUARTERS, 1ST DEPT., WEST. DIVISION,
Jefferson Barracks, September 11, 1837.

SIR: I enclose to you a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Secretary of War, requiring me to cause four companies, of fifty men each, to be engaged for service in Florida during the next campaign. I enclose also a copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to you in answer to your letter of the 18th of August, in reference to your proposition to raise a corps of three hundred riflemen for the Florida war.

You are hereby authorized to engage three active intelligent men as captains, to raise under your directions a company, each of fifty men, to serve for six months after being mustered into the service at Jefferson barracks on their arrival there on their way to Florida, but the men to be paid from the time they are enrolled. The fourth company will be raised here if practicable, and will join you on your arrival. You will command, if the men can be raised, with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

In selecting the captains as well as the men, their character as woodsmen must correspond as nearly as practicable with the requirements of the Secretary of War, as well as to the time for arriving at Tampa Bay.

I will write to you by mail again in a day or two.

Very truly, your obedient servant,
H. ATKINSON,
Brigadier General U. S. Army.

A. G. MORGAN, Esq.

HEAD QUARTERS, 1ST DEPT. WEST. DIVISION,
Jefferson Barracks, September 11, 1837.

SIR: I enclose to you a copy of a letter addressed to me by the Secretary of War, requiring me to cause four companies, of fifty men each, to be engaged for service in Florida during the next campaign. I enclose, also, a copy of a letter from the Secretary of War to you, in answer to your letter of the 18th August, in reference to your proposition to raise a corps of three hundred riflemen for the Florida war. I also enclose a copy of an act of Congress relative to the pay of volunteers when in the service of the United States. Believing that the men required cannot be enrolled under the stipulations proposed by the Secretary of War, you are hereby authorized to engage three active, intelligent men, as captains, to raise, under your directions, a company, each of fifty men, to serve for six months after being mustered into service at Jefferson barracks on their arrival there on their way to Florida, but the men to be paid from the time they are enrolled. The fourth company will be raised here if practicable, and will join you on your arrival. You will command, if the men can be raised, with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In selecting the captains, as well as the men, their character, as woodsmen, must correspond, as nearly as practicable, with the requirements of the Secretary of War, as well as to the time for arriving at Tampa Bay. I will write to you by mail again in a day or two.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. ATKINSON,
Brigadier General U. S. Army.

A. G. MORGAN, Esq.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August 28, 1837.*

SIR: Major General Jesup expressed to this department the opinion that it will be of great importance in carrying out the next campaign in Florida, to have the services of some troops to act as spy companies, and he intimates that they should be composed of individuals well informed of the peculiarities of the Indian character, who have been accustomed to much intercourse with them, and who have been used to great fatigues and privations. Such persons, it is believed, can more readily be found at St. Louis, and on the frontiers of Missouri and Arkansas, than elsewhere, and I have to request that you will endeavor to engage as many of them as will form four companies of fifty each. It is very desirable that they should be at Tampa Bay by the middle of October at latest, and the department relies upon your using your best exertions to engage and send them there by that time. They will be entitled to the pay and allowances, and to the provision as to pensions, granted to volunteers in the service of the United States by the act of which I enclose you a copy. Their organization will be arranged by the commanding general in Florida, and you will, therefore, have all of them mustered into the service as privates. You are at liberty to call to your aid in this matter four of such-subaltern officers in your section as can be spared for the purpose, and who could conduct these troops to Florida.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Gen. H. ATKINSON, *St. Louis, Missouri.*

SPECIAL ORDER, }
No. 21. }

HEAD QUARTERS, WESTERN DIVISION,
St. Louis Arsenal, November 6, 1837.

1. The captains of the Missouri volunteer mounted gun men, raised by Lieutenant Colonel Morgan, will make requisitions for rifles, equipment, and amunition, sufficient to render every man ready for action at the moment of his arrival in Florida. These supplies will be furnished by Captain Symington, ordnance commandant of St. Louis arsenal.

2. The captains will require from the quartermaster's department transports having ample room, and in all other respects adapted to the healthful and speedy conveyance of the troops, with their horses and public stores, from this place to the barracks near New Orleans, and thence to Tampa Bay, where, it is hoped, the gallant Missourians will be ready for action by the 16th of this month.

3. Captain Crosman, assistant quartermaster, and Lieutenant Kingsbury, assistant commissary and store keeper, will furnish the command with every authorized supply appertaining to their respective departments, necessary to the comfort and efficiency of the command in its voyage to the barracks near New Orleans, when the captains will require such other supplies from the officers at that post as may be necessary and proper for the completion of the voyage.

By order of Major General Gaines.

WOODBURNE POTTER,
Acting Assistant Adjutant General.

ORDER }
No. 5. }

HEAD QUARTERS, FORT BROOKE,
November 30, 1837.

1. Order No. 4, of the present date, directing Captain Sconce to report with his company for duty with the Missouri volunteers, is hereby revoked.

2. Lieutenant Colonel Morgan will proceed with Captain Sconce's company and report to Colonel Taylor.

By order of General Armistead :

H. GARNER,
Lieutenant and Aid-de-Camp.

[General Armistead, without knowing under what circumstances I came to Florida, ordered the spies to consolidate with the lamented Gentry's troop, which I positively and peremptorily refused ; and this was his order.

A. G. MORGAN.]

ORDER }
No. 67. }

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY SOUTH OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE,
Fort Brooke, January 12, 1838.

Lieutenant Colonel Morgan, with the spy battalion of the Missouri volunteers, will proceed, on the morning of the 16th instant, to Fort Gardner, and report to Colonel Taylor for duty in the field.

By order of General Armistead :

H. GARNER,
Lieutenant and Aid-de-Camp.

ORDER }
No. 71. }

HEAD QUARTERS, ARMY SOUTH OF THE WITHLACOOCHIEF,
Fort Brooke, January 15, 1838.

The first regiment of Missouri volunteers, and the spy battalion of Missouri volunteers, will leave here to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock for Fort Gardner. The quartermasters of the corps will make their requisition for transportation on the quartermaster at this post, which will be furnished at the rate of four mules for every seventy-five men.

By order of General Armistead :

H. GARNER,
Lieutenant and Aid-de-Camp.

ORDER.

HEAD-QUARTERS, ARMY SOUTH OF THE WITHLACOOCHIEE, *
Camp on the Battle Ground, February, 1838.

It being manifest, from the recent movement in search of the hostiles, that they have broken up into small parties and retired to the swamps and everglades for safety, where they cannot be reached by mounted troops or even by footmen without boats, the Missouri volunteers will forthwith proceed, with as little delay as possible, to Tampa Bay, as it is now out of their power to render further service, during the campaign, against the enemy, and report to Brevet Brigadier General Armistead, who has instructions from the Major General commanding in Florida to discharge them; which it is hoped he will do in the way that is most agreeable to them: that is, to have them mustered out of service at Tampa, or direct it to be done on reaching the several places where they were mustered into service.

The colonel commanding avails himself of the opportunity to tender to Major Hughes, Captain Russel, Jackson Kurd, as well as the officers and men of the companies, also to Colonel Morgan and the few officers and men of the spies that remained with him, his sincere thanks for the zeal and devotion with which they have served in the late movement in pursuit of the enemy, as well for the prompt, cheerful, and soldierly manner they have discharged all the duties required of them in wading swamps, penetrating hammocks, and various other privations connected with the prosecution of the campaign in an unexplored wilderness, particularly in Florida. He can assure them he separates from them with much regret, but will recur with much satisfaction to events that occurred whilst operating with them. In conclusion, he can only say they carry with them his best wishes for their health and prosperity, as well as for their speedy return to their homes and happy meetings with their families, relations, and friends.

By order of Colonel Taylor :

S. M. HILL,
Assistant Adjutant General.