

5-1-1854

Expenses of Rogue River War. Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting estimates of the expenses of the claims for supplies furnished to the volunteers engaged in suppressing Indian hostilities in the Rogue River Valley, in the Territory of Oregon

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.law.ou.edu/indianserialset>

 Part of the [Indian and Aboriginal Law Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

H.R. Exec. Doc. No. 99, 33d Cong., 1st Sess. (1854)

This House Executive Document is brought to you for free and open access by University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Indian and Alaskan Native Documents in the Congressional Serial Set: 1817-1899 by an authorized administrator of University of Oklahoma College of Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact darinfox@ou.edu.

EXPENSES OF ROGUE RIVER WAR.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

Estimates of the expenses of the claims for supplies furnished to the volunteers engaged in suppressing Indian hostilities in the Rogue River valley, in the Territory of Oregon.

MAY 1, 1854.—Read, and referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, April 28, 1854.

SIR: In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 5th instant, I have the honor to transmit herewith estimates prepared from muster-rolls and vouchers filed in this department, principally by the delegate in Congress from the Territory of Oregon, showing the amount of claims for services of volunteers, and for supplies furnished for their use, &c., in suppressing Indian hostilities in Rogue River valley, in that Territory.

The pay and allowances of the volunteers are estimated according to the rates prescribed by the act of March 19, 1836—the only general act fixing the pay and allowances of volunteers and militia when called into the service of the United States.

The amount of claims for supplies is stated according to the bills presented, of which an abstract is submitted, showing in brief the quantities furnished and prices charged.

I also submit copies of reports from Captain R. B. Alden, late of the army, who was in command of United States troops engaged on that occasion, stating the circumstances under which the volunteers were organized, and the mode in which supplies were obtained.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFFN. DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

Hon. LINN BOYD,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ABSTRACT OF PAPERS AND MEMORANDA RELATIVE TO THE EXPENSES
OF THE ROGUE RIVER WAR.

General staff and volunteer companies in service.

Staff and companies.	Length of service.	Strength.	Aggregate No. of days in service.
General staff.....	Major 112 days, others 35 to 40 days.	29	1,615
Fowler's company infantry..	About 21 days.....	66	1,442
Miller's mounted.....	Officers 80 days, men 54 days.....	118	6,643
Owen's.....do.....	About 25 days.....	33	825
Goodall's.....do.....	Captain 114 days, men 37 days.....	100	3,277
Williams's.....do.....	About 29 days.....	35	986
Lemerick's.....do.....	About 35 days.....	64	2,186
		441	16,974

The horses of the above mounted men were in service, in the aggregate, 13,822 days.

The estimates for the pay of the volunteers under existing laws, prepared by the Paymaster General, and herewith submitted, amount to—

For pay and allowance to officers and men.....	\$9,016 03
For use and risk of horses.....	6,374 05
Amount.....	<u>15,390 08</u>

NOTE.—The same items, according to the rates which Captain Alden agreed to recommend for payment, would amount to—

For officers and men.....	\$11,962 37
For horses.....	46,560 00
Amount.....	<u>58,522 37</u>

Number of rations furnished in kind, exclusive of meals furnished.—Meat 26,437; flour, 25,089; beans, 22,230; sugar, 21,676; candles, 29,100; soap, 19,600.

Rations of forage furnished in kind, 25,017.

Rounds of ammunition—powder, 14,432; lead, 10,184.

Cost of supplies as per abstracts herewith, numbered 1 and 2, \$106,718 63.

Estimate of the amount required to pay the Rogue River volunteers, under the act of 19th March, 1836.

Staff officers.....	\$2,579 80
Captain Fowler's company, infantry.....	627 37
Captain Miller's company, mounted.....	5,607 07
Captain Goodall's company, mounted.....	2,992 41
Captain Williams's company, mounted.....	871 12
Captain Lemerick's company, mounted.....	1,930 19
Captain Owen's company, mounted.....	782 12
	15,390 08

The roll of the seventh company is not furnished, and therefore not estimated for.

The above is a true copy from the original in this office.

BENJ. F. LARNED, *Paymaster General.* }

PAYMASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, *Nov. 13, 1854.*

. WASHINGTON, D. C., *March 19, 1854.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt yesterday, at 4 p. m., of your communication, dated the 17th instant, requesting me to state what understanding I had with the volunteers organized to repress Indian hostilities in Rogue River valley, Oregon, in August last, or what representations I made with regard to their pay and expenses.

In reply to your inquiries, I have to state that I informed the captains of companies that I had no authority to enrol volunteers, and that a special appropriation of Congress would be required to meet all the expenses of the war. I assured them, however, that as there was ample evidence of the existence of a dangerous Indian outbreak, I would represent to the government, in my official capacity, the state of the case, and should strongly urge the justice of the claims of volunteers for payment.

These are the only representations made to them in regard to the mode and prospect of their payment.

I assured them further, that I should recommend their pay to be that of dragoons, at the highest rate of pay received by such troops in California and Oregon.

I enrolled the troops for *fifteen days, or during the war*, and was compelled to fix upon four dollars a day as the price I would recommend to be paid for the use of each horse for the first fifteen days. For the remaining time, it was understood that the hire of the horses should be settled by commissioners whom the Secretary of War would probably appoint.

After examining the volunteer rolls, I had proposed to file in the Adjutant General's office, on the 15th instant, a statement in full of my remarks upon them, when, unfortunately, I was attacked with a severe

fit of illness, which confined me to my bed until yesterday. If such remarks are now desired by the Secretary of War, I can prepare them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

B. R. ALDEN.

HON. JEFFERSON DAVIS,

Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.

Remarks on certain accounts and bills presented by citizens of Oregon and California for services and supplies furnished during the Rogue River war of 1853; also remarks concerning muster-rolls of volunteers in that war.

Of the muster-rolls of volunteers in the hands of the Secretary of War, to the best of my belief and knowledge, the following are substantially correct—as correct as could be expected under the circumstances—viz: Captain Goodall's, Lemerick's, and Miller's.

Captain Fowler's company was enrolled by the commissioners of military affairs in Rogue River valley, as a guard for the defence of the town of Jacksonville. When they advised with me on the subject, I suggested the enrolment of thirty men. I suppose the muster-roll in the hands of the Secretary to be correct.

Captain Owen's company was enrolled by my authority—twenty-five men—but was soon after disorganized. The men quarrelled with the captain, and drove him off at the risk of his life. I would suggest that an estimate be made for the company, but that special instructions should be given to the board ordered to make payments to this company.

Captain Rhodes's rolls have not yet come into my hands. I enrolled his company of mounted men—about fifty-five men; the average term of service being thirty days.

Of the other companies I have no knowledge. Captain Williams's and Jerry's companies cannot, I suppose, expect as high allowance for the hire of mules and horses as those that I enrolled. The staff-roll appears to be correctly made out. I would recommend it to be adopted as it stands.

About August 20, 1853, I hired a mule pack-train, at \$4 a day for each mule while kept in service, and to be discharged at the pleasure of the commanding officer. At that time mules could not have been hired at a cheaper rate. I did not suppose that it would be necessary to retain the train in service more than thirty days. Before the month expired, however, the pack-train was sent by General Lane to the emigrant trail with a company of volunteers to furnish supplies to the suffering emigrants, and to protect them against the Indians in that quarter. I would suggest consultation with General Lane to determine the rate at which these packers shall be paid while on this service; and also whether the expenses of that movement shall be included in the bill for defraying the expenses of the Rogue River war.

The blacksmith bills for shoeing horses of volunteers should properly be deducted from the pay of the men; but as the captains were unable to present correct lists of the names of the men who had their horses

shod, I would suggest that one-half of the horse-shoeing bill at least should be deducted from the hire of mules and horses.

I consider the forage a little too large, and would recommend a general deduction of one-third on all bills for forage over \$300.

I would suggest that the prices of articles of subsistence be regulated so that different merchants shall not be paid different prices for the same article: this to apply to merchants in northern California (in the vicinity of Yreka) and in Rogue River valley.

B. R. ALDEN,

Late Captain Fourth United States Infantry.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 24, 1854.

Memorandum of amount of claims for supplies, &c., furnished volunteers engaged in suppressing Indian hostilities in Rogue River valley, Oregon, in August and September, 1854.

1. For transportation, including hire of horses, mules, wagons, &c.....	\$18,198 00
2. For forage, consisting of oats, barley, and hay.....	29,675 68
3. For ferriage.....	167 50
4. For quartermaster supplies.....	7,996 20
5. For subsistence in kind and meals.....	32,241 57
6. For ordnance, including guns and ammunition.....	1,862 97
7. For medicines and hospital purposes.....	9,136 90
8. For miscellaneous objects and items not so specified as to be classed.....	8,008 38
	<hr/>
	107,287 20
	<hr/> <hr/>