

2-12-1857

Volunteers -- Indian War -- Washington Territory

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Recommended Citation

H.R. Rep. No. 189, 34th Cong., 3rd Sess. (1857)

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VOLUNTEERS—INDIAN WAR—WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

[To accompany bill H. R. No. 802.]

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FEBRUARY 12, 1857.
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Mr. QUITMAN, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

R E P O R T .

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred House bill No. 802, authorizing the Secretary of War to pay certain volunteers therein specified, respectfully report:

While differences of opinion exist in relation to the necessity and propriety of the employment under the territorial authorities of Oregon and Washington of all the volunteers engaged in the late war in those Territories, there can be none as to the companies provided for in this bill. General Wool himself endorses their services, and recommends that provision be made for them by Congress. On page 17 of Ex. Doc. No. 93, 1st session 34th Congress, will be found a letter of General Wool to the Assistant Adjutant General, L. Thomas, bearing date December 13, 1855, in which he says:

“Major Rains received and mustered into the service two companies of volunteers: one, under the command of Captain R. Newell, in the aggregate 33; and the other, under the command of Captain William Strong, 62 in the aggregate. These truly patriotic officers, with their companies, have rendered important services in restraining the Klickitat Indians from joining in the war with the Yakamas. I have ordered these companies to be disbanded. I would, however, recommend that provision be made for them by Congress; also for the companies of Captains Hays, Wallace, Henness, and Hewett, all volunteers, and employed in conjunction with the regulars against the Indians at Puget’s Sound. It would seem they were indispensably necessary to assist in restraining and repelling the Indians from their savage depredations in that region.”

The committee concur in the recommendation of General Wool, and report back the bill of the House without amendment.