

2-18-1861

Report : Memorial of Lieut. Langdon

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 18, 1861.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HEMPHILL made the following

REPORT.

(To accompany bill S. 566.)

The Committee on Claims, to whom was referred the memorial of Lieutenant Loomis L. Langdon, of the United States Army, report:

The memorialist states that in compliance with orders from the War Department, he was proceeding, in October, 1859, from Fort Duncan to Brownsville, Texas. He was accompanied by his family. On arriving at Ringgold Barracks, orders were received which compelled him to send back the wagons in which his baggage was being transported for the use of a movement about to be made against the Indians. Being thus deprived of his means of transportation, he was obliged to leave his baggage at the said barracks and press forward to Brownsville. He placed his baggage, for safekeeping, in charge of Mr. Wm. Robertson, to await the arrival of a steamboat. In consequence of the state of the country, no opportunity occurred to get forward his baggage until the 25th of December, when Cortinas and his band seized the Ringgold Barracks, killed Mr. Robertson and the other persons found there, and carried off or destroyed the memorialist's baggage and the other property found there.

Lieutenant Loomis states that the baggage alluded to included the wardrobe of three ladies, the books, uniform, and other clothes of the memorialist, and a complete outfit for a long residence at a frontier post; and that its value, by careful inventory and estimate, was \$1,720.

James B. McClusky, who says that he was the owner of the store in which this baggage was stored, deposes to the truth of the material facts stated by Lieutenant Loomis, and to the amount of his loss.

The committee are satisfied from the statements and evidence in the case, that the property of Lieutenant Loomis, to the amount alleged, was destroyed or lost in the manner set forth, and that there was no fault or negligence on his part.

In the case of the destruction of Fort Delaware, in 1831, Congress authorized the proper accounting officer of the Treasury to ascertain the amount of property lost by each officer and soldier concerned, and indemnity to be made.

The committee regard this as an equally meritorious case, and report a bill directing that the losses of Lieutenant Langdon be ascertained and compensation made, limited to \$1,720.