

2-13-1871

## On the Relief of the Fourth and Fifth Indian Regiments

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

FEBRUARY 13, 1871.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THAYER made the following

R E P O R T .

[To accompany joint resolution S. R. No. 214.]

*The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred Senate resolution No. 214, "For the further relief of the officers of the Fourth and Fifth Indian Regiments," beg leave to report :*

That the papers and other evidence presented to them show that the officers of the Fourth and Fifth Indian Regiments were appointed by the President, through the Secretary of War, December 26, 1862, and ordered to report for duty to Brigadier General James G. Blunt, which they did, and by his direction were kept waiting till it was possible for him to send them to the Indian country, where three Indian regiments were already in service. On the 3d of March, 1863, General Blunt ordered these officers to report, via Fort Scott, Kansas, to Colonel Wm. A. Phillips, commanding in the Indian country. At Fort Scott they were detained several weeks by the commanding officer for a train and escort, so that they did not arrive at Fort Gibson and report to Colonel Phillips till the 20th day of April, 1863. Upon their arrival at Fort Gibson they found no such regiments as the Fourth and Fifth Indian, to which they had been appointed. But the forces there being surrounded by the enemy, and many of the officers of the three Indian regiments being Indians, these new officers were put on duty and performed as much as any officers with that army, while there. On the 15th of September, 1863, these men were mustered out of service from the date of the acceptance of their appointments, and left several hundred miles from their homes, without any pay or transportation. In June, 1864, by joint resolution No. 57, they were paid for the time they were on duty at Fort Gibson only, and that without transportation to their homes. All of the time, from their acceptance to their arrival at Fort Gibson, was at their own expense and without pay; and that very unjustly, as they were all that time under military orders, and liable to punishment for any violation thereof. It is but reasonable and just that the relief be granted them. Therefore it is recommended that the resolution do pass.