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Maj. Gen. John C. Robinson.

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MAJ. GEN. JOHN C. ROBINSON.

JANUARY 30, 1893.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. OUTHWAITE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

ADVERSE REPORT:

[To accompany H. R. 10255.]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 10255) for the relief of Maj. Gen. John C. Robinson, having considered the same, respectfully report:

That the committee has examined the evidence presented with this case, and on the showing made does not consider the claimant entitled to the relief asked for under the provisions of this bill. There is no more reason why this applicant should receive full pay than that several other officers on the retired list should.

The precedent would be a bad one at this time, when so many applications, by bills, for placing new names on the retired list, or promoting those already on, are pending. Legislation of this character should be discouraged. The passage of such private bills is often the favoring of the beneficiary above many others equally or more deserving. The statement of Gen. Robinson before the Committee on Military Affairs and his military record is appended.

The committee recommend that the bill do not pass.

[Military record of John C. Robinson, from Maj. Powell's book, "Records of Living Officers U. S. Army," published by L. R. Hamersly & Co., 1890.]

John C. Robinson, major-general, U. S. Army, born in New York. Appointed from New York. Civil life. Retired. Actual rank: Cadet at the U. S. Military Academy July 1, 1835, to March 14, 1838; second-lieutenant Fifth Infantry October 27, 1839; accepted October 29, 1839; first lieutenant June 18, 1846; captain August 12, 1850; colonel First Michigan Infantry September 1, 1861; major Second U. S. Infantry February 20, 1862; brigadier-general U. S. Volunteers April 28, 1862; accepted May 4, 1862; brevet major-general June 27, 1864; honorably mustered out September 1, 1866; colonel Forty-third Infantry July 28, 1866; accepted September 5, 1866; retired with rank of major-general May 6, 1869; loss of left leg from wound in line of duty. Brevet rank: Brevet lieutenant-colonel U. S. Army July 1, 1863, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa.; colonel U. S. Army May 5, 1864, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of the Wilderness, Virginia; brigadier-general U. S. Army March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Spottsylvania, Va.; major-general U. S. Army March 13, 1865, for gallant and meritorious services in the field during the war; major-general U. S. volunteers June 27, 1884, for gallant and meritorious services in the field during the war.

Staff positions occupied: Regimental quartermaster, Fifth Infantry, March 28, 1847, to September 1, 1847, January 27, 1849, to August 12, 1850. Acting assistant quartermaster of Gen. P. F. Smith's brigade at Monterey, Mexico; judge-advocate, Department of the Lakes, Detroit, Mich., from February, 1868, to May, 1868.

Service: At Madison Barracks, Sacketts Harbor, N. Y., to May, 1840; at Green Bay, Wis., to August, 1841; en route to Florida and at Jefferson Barracks, Mo., to November, 1841; Fort Brady, Mich., to July, 1843; Fort Mackinac, Mich., to 1845; joined the Army of Occupation of Mexico at Corpus Christi, Tex., September, 1845; in the Mexican War at Tacubaya, Mexico, and East Pascagoula, Miss.; at Fort Smith, Ark., and Gibson, N. C., 1848-'50; on recruiting duty, Syracuse, N. Y., to fall of 1852; commanding recruits for the Seventh United States Infantry, en route from Fort Columbus, N. Y., via Newport, Ky., to Fort Arbuckle, Cherokee Nation, fall of 1852; joined company at Phantom Hill, Tex., December, 1852; engaged against hostile Indians, 1853 and 1854.

Honorably mentioned: Distinguished at the battle of Monterey, Mexico. While in Mexico Lieut. Robinson applied for the appointment of assistant quartermaster. His application was indorsed by Gen. Worth as follows:

"I take special pleasure in cordially recommending Lieut. Robinson as qualified, in every respect, by habits, services in the field, experience in the department, and gallant conduct in action, for the appointment he desires. Indeed, I know of no young officer with higher claims or better qualifications.

"W. J. WORTH,
"Bvt. Brigadier-General, Commanding Division."

COPY OF A LETTER OF MAJOR-GENERAL WOOL.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,
Fort Monroe, Va., March 28, 1862.

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

SIR: Col. J. C. Robinson, of the First Michigan Regiment, is desirous of the appointment of brigadier-general. As the best evidence of his qualifications I would state that he had one of the finest regiments in service. He is in the regular service a major. I would earnestly commend him to your particular notice and consideration.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN E. WOOL,
Major-General.

This was indorsed by the Maryland delegation in Congress, as follows:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, *March 31, 1862.*

Hon. EDWIN M. STANTON, *Secretary of War:*

SIR: We cheerfully indorse the recommendation of Gen. Wool in favor of Col. Robinson, and in doing so we beg to state it was mainly owing to the determined stand taken by Col. Robinson during the excitement in Baltimore that Fort McHenry was retained by the Government and we beg to call the especial attention of the Secretary to the facts of that case.

CHAS. B. CALVERT.
C. L. L. LEAVY.
EDWIN H. WEBSTER.
REVERDY JOHNSON.

At the battle of Glendale Gen. Robinson's brigade repulsed repeated attacks of a superior force. The following is an extract from Gen. Kearny's report:

"I have reserved Gen. Robinson for the last. To him this day is due above all others in this division the honors of this battle. The attack was on his wing. Everywhere present by personal supervision and noble example, he secured to us the honor of victory. * * * Our loss has been severe, and when it is remembered that this occurs to mere skeletons of regiments, there is but one observation to be made that previous military history presents no such parallel."

[Extract from a letter of Maj. Gen. G. K. Warren to the Adjutant-General U. S. Army, dated April 16, 1866, relating to Spottsylvania Court-House.]

In the flank movement to the left, begun at dark of the 7th of May, the Fifth Corps again had the lead, with Gen. Robinson's division in the advance. Delayed as we were by darkness and bad roads, crowded with troops until it was probable the enemy had anticipated in reaching the desired point, yet urged by the importance of time to our success, Gen. Robinson marched rapidly on, driving the light troops of the enemy before him, till charging directly the desired position, himself animating the advance by leading in person, he fell dangerously wounded and his command was repulsed by the opposing infantry already arrayed in strong force.

History.—Department commander of New York Grand Army of the Republic, 1870; commander-in-chief Grand Army of the Republic, 1877 and 1878; president Society Army of the Potomac, 1887.

Service.—At Ringgold Barracks, Tex., to fall of 1856; en route to and in Florida to summer of 1857; commanding expedition against Indians in the Everglades, Palm Hammock, and Big Cypress Swamp, Florida; enroute to Fort Leavenworth, Kans., and to the Utah expedition, to November, 1857; at Fort Bridger, Utah, to 1858; at Camp Floyd, Utah; at Fort Ephraim, Sanpete Valley, to summer of 1859; at Fort Columbus, N. Y., to February, 1861; at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md., to May, 1861; mustering duty, Detroit, Mich., to September, 1861; with brigade at Newport News and troops in the neighborhood of Portsmouth, Va., to May 1862; in the War of the rebellion, 1861 to 1866; at military districts of Northern and Western New York to January, 1866; military commander and assistant commissioner, Bureau of Freedmen, Refugees, and Abandoned Lands for the State of North Carolina to November, 1866; in Department of the South to May, 1867; in Department of the Lakes to February, 1868; judge-advocate, Department of the Lakes, Detroit, Mich., to May 1868; with regiment at post of Fort Wayne, Detroit, Mich., from May, 1868, until retired with the rank of major-general, May 6, 1869.

Battles, skirmishes, etc.—Engaged at the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma; the battle of Monterey, Mexico; in the march to and occupation of the city of Mexico, via Saltillo, Point Isabel, and Vera Cruz; engaged at the battles of Peach Orchard, Savage Station, Glendale, Malvern Hill, action of Bristoe Station, battles of second Bull Run, Chantilly, and Fredericksburg, at the battles of second Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, operations at Mine Run, action of Mitchell Station, battles of the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Court-House, and Todd's Tavern, and while leading his division was wounded in knee, resulting in loss of his left leg.

Commands held.—Commanding expeditions against Indians in Florida in 1857; Fort Bridger, Utah, to 1858; Fort Ephraim, Sanpete Valley, to summer of 1859; Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Md., February, 1861, to May, 1861; brigade at Newport News and troops in neighborhood of Portsmouth, Va., to May, 1862; military division of Northern and Western New York to January, 1866; Department of the South, November, 1866, to May, 1867; Department of the Lakes to February, 1868; regiment and post of Fort Wayne, Mich., May, 1868, to May, 1869.

Statement of Gen. Robinson.

I appear before you asking that privilege, more that you may see my condition than for any words that I have to address to you.

I have been satisfied with my pension as a soldier, but since I became blind my expenses have been greatly increased. I am obliged to employ a secretary to write for me and to read to me. Whenever I move about I have to have an attendant to lead me on my crutches. There is a bill before you for my relief, which has been offered because full pay has been given to other ex-officers on the retired list; for instance, to Gen. Buell, who was disabled while in my command, and to the officers of the admiralty and retired men of the Navy, and some others, probably.

I never saw the bill introduced by Mr. Ray until this morning. In the preamble it states that I am nearly 70 years old; I am nearer 80 than 70. A month after the end of this session I shall be 76 years old. I have been nearly sixty years connected with the military service—about fifty-eight years. It is important to me that if any relief is afforded it should be done at this session. I know that my time is short; I scarcely expect to survive another session of Congress. In my present condition I have no desire to do so except for the sake of my children. Otherwise I should be willing to go at any time. I have here with me a record of services copied from Maj. Powell's "Record of Living Officers," published a few years ago, which I shall leave with you, and would be glad to have it verified at the War Department, if the committee so desire. I thank you, gentlemen.

MR. OUTHWAITE. I should like to ask you a few questions, general?

THE WITNESS. Certainly.

Q. How long since you were retired?—A. I was retired in 1869.

Q. Will you please state whether you have filled any offices since that time, or if still in office?—A. I have not been in any office, except I was elected, on the ticket with Gen. Dix, lieutenant-governor of New York in 1872. I served as lieutenant-governor of the State in 1873 and 1874, which gave me just employment enough to keep me busy. During the rest of the time I have been doing the very hardest work of my life—doing nothing. I have been in no other position.

Q. Have you engaged in any business, or held any public office since then?—A. No; none at all.

Q. Please tell the committee about the amount you now receive from the Government annually?—A. The pay of a retired major-general is \$5,625.

Q. The question was, what is the amount you receive annually from the Government?—A. That is the amount, \$5,625.

Q. Is that the total amount?—A. Yes, sir; it includes the total amount, \$5,625, with which I was satisfied until I became blind. Now when I travel I have to pay for two instead of one.

Mr. BOWERS. How much of a family have you, general?—A. I have three children; I lost my wife last March, with whom I had lived for fifty years.

Q. The children are with you, or married?—A. They are married.

1731 H STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C., *January 27, 1893.*

Hon. Mr. OUTHWAITE,

Chairman on Military Affairs:

MY DEAR SIR: The young gentleman who attended me this morning reminds me that I did not answer one of your questions fully. You asked if my children were with me or were married; I answered, "They are married." I should have added that the family of one of them lives with me and is dependent upon me.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN C. ROBINSON,
Major-General U. S. Army (retired).

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