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Report from the Secretary of War, in compliance with a resolution of the Senate of the 29th December, 1837, with statements of the number of troops employed in the war with the Seminole Indians.

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REPORT

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

IN COMPLIANCE

*With a resolution of the Senate of the 29th December, 1837, with statements of the number of troops employed in the war with the Seminole Indians.*

FEBRUARY 21, 1838.

Read, and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,  
February 20, 1838.

SIR: By a resolution of the Senate of the 29th of December last, this department is required to state:

1st. The number of troops, including allies, which have been employed in the war with the Seminole Indians, since its commencement to this time,

2d. The number now in the service.

3d. The authority under and by which allies have been employed, and the terms and conditions upon which they do or have served.

4th. The amount of naval force which has been employed upon this service, and whether, and to what extent, it has been employed on land.

5th. If steam vessels have been employed, how many, and for what kind of service.

6th. The number of persons employed by the United States that have been killed, or have perished from wounds or other causes in the several campaigns.

7th. The entire disbursement made by the United States to carry on this war up to this time.

8th. The probable arrearages now due.

9th. The whole number of Seminole population at the commencement of hostilities.

10th. The number of warriors then.

11th. The number of warriors killed, and the number taken prisoners by the troops of the United States.

12th. The number that has come in and voluntarily surrendered.

13th. The number of warriors who have emigrated.

14th. The number still remaining.

15th. The number of other classes who have emigrated.

16th. The number still remaining.

17th. The probable number of arms possessed by the Seminoles at the commencement of the war.

18th. The sources from which they have obtained supplies of ammunition.

Of these points of inquiry, the 1st, 2d, 6th, 11th and 12th are answered by the accompanying report of the Adjutant General to the Commanding General of the army, marked A, with as much accuracy as the information possessed by the department will allow.

The enclosed letter of the Secretary of the Navy, marked B, together with the report of the Adjutant General, already mentioned, furnish the best information in the possession of the department on the subject embraced in the 4th inquiry.

The 5th inquiry is answered by the accompanying statement marked C, prepared by the Third Auditor.

Such of the information specified in the 9th, 10th, 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th points, as could be gathered from all the sources accessible to the department, will be found in the report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, herewith transmitted, and marked D.

In answer to the 7th inquiry, I have the honor to state, that the entire disbursement for the purpose therein specified, amounted, at the date of the resolution, to \$8,358,955 70, and at this time amounts to \$1,000,000 more.

In respect to the 8th inquiry, I remark, that all the arrearages due at the date of the resolution have since been paid.

In reply to the 3d inquiry, I have the honor to state, that no *allies* have been employed by the Government, during the hostilities with the Seminole Indians.

This department has no means of obtaining the information required by the 17th and 18th inquiries.

An answer to this resolution would have been given before this time, had the great press of business, and the requisite laborious examinations, in the office of the Third Auditor, permitted that officer to complete at an earlier period the statement respecting the steamboats employed.

Very respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. R. M. JOHNSON,  
*President of the Senate.*

A.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, January 27, 1838.

SIR: In compliance with so much of the Senate's resolution of the 29th of December, 1837, as calls for "the number of troops, including allies, which have been employed in the war with the Seminole Indians, from its commencement to this time," I have to state that the *regular* force assigned to that service, at first inconsiderable, has from time to time been increased to nearly 5,000, and now amounts to about 4,500 officers and men; but it should not be inferred that the efficient force of the regular army is represented by the last mentioned number, as all the invalids, &c., are included,

The militia and volunteer force mustered into the service at various periods from the commencement of Indian hostilities in Florida, is computed to be 15,290, including 900 Indian warriors.

"The number of troops now in service" may be computed as follows:

1. Regulars and marines, about	-	-	-	-	4,500
2. Militia and volunteers, about	-	-	-	-	2,855
3. Sailors, about	-	-	-	-	100
4. Indians, about	-	-	-	-	178
<b>Total</b>	-	-	-	-	<b>7,633</b>

The Georgia mounted volunteers, under General Nelson, supposed to be 1,200 strong, are not included in the foregoing statement, returns and muster rolls of the same not having been received at this office; nor should this force, it is thought, be regarded as so much in addition to the above, (7,633;) for, taking into consideration the chances of discharges in other volunteer corps, and the casualties incident to the general service in Florida, yet unknown at the War Department, it is possible that the force, as represented by the returns now on file, may not be entirely correct.

2. In answer to so much of the same resolution as calls for "the number of persons employed by the United States that have been killed, or have perished from wounds or other causes in the several campaigns," I have to state, that according to the several reports received at the Adjutant General's office, it would appear that 18 officers and 157 men have been *killed* in action; of which number, 14 commissioned officers and 139 non-commissioned officers and men were of the regular army, 3 officers and 12 men of the volunteers and militia, and 1 Indian officer and 6 warriors, as "allies" in the service of the United States. The number reported to have "perished from wounds" is 10. The number that have perished from "other causes," (which may include the effects of climate,) is about 14 commissioned officers of the regular army; and of the rank file, it is presumed, a like proportion, which cannot, at this time, be accurately stated.

The information called for by the same resolution, at the tenth paragraph, expressed in the following language: "The number of warriors killed, and the number taken prisoners, by the troops of the United States, the number that has come in and voluntarily surrendered," cannot be correctly furnished in such manner as will correspond with the precise and varied classification of subjects, concerning which particular information is required. The answer to this part of the resolution, therefore, can only be given in the language found in official communications, which do not, for the most part, separate and specify the several classes of Indians which have, from time to time, voluntarily surrendered, been taken prisoners, or otherwise fallen into our hands.

Thus, from the various statements and reports received at the Adjutant General's office, from the commencement of Indian hostilities in Florida, in December, 1835, inclusive of November, 1836, it is seen that the number of Indians reported to have been killed is 131; the number of Indians, women, children, and negroes, taken prisoners within the same period, 15. The number of warriors cannot be separated from the mass, and, of course, cannot, with any accuracy, be specified.

It may be proper to remark, there is reason to believe that the number of Indians reported to have been "killed," between the dates above specified, much exceeds the actual number, which, it is supposed, could not have amounted to more than 70 or 80.

In his letter of the 21st of October, 1837, Major General Jesup states that, "my prisoners, since I commenced operations in December last, (1836,) amount to 500 black and red, and about 30 Indians and negroes have been killed; by which more than 200 rifles have been silenced."

By the reports received from the Commanding General in Florida, subsequent to his communication of the 21st of October, above quoted, it appears that 127 Indians, negroes, women, and children, have been taken by the army, 58 voluntarily surrendered, and 14 warriors killed.

Respectfully submitted,

R. JONES,

*Adjutant General of the Army.*

Maj. Gen. A. MACOMB,  
*Commanding-in-Chief.*

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B.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,  
*February 6, 1838.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, and to state, in reply to it, that nearly all the naval force on the West India station has been occasionally employed in co-operation with the military forces in Florida since the commencement of hostilities with the Seminole Indians, cruising on the coasts of Florida and Cuba, for the purposes of preventing supplies to the Indians, and the removal of property captured by them, and of rendering such aid and succor to the inhabitants in that quarter as might be required. The steamers America, Izard, and Major Dade, and the revenue cutters Dallas, Washington, Jefferson, and Dexter, were placed under the orders of the commander of the West India squadron, (the former being officered and manned from the vessels of the squadron,) and have been actively employed in co-operation with the army. These vessels have been since the last summer withdrawn from the service; the steamers being turned over to the War Department, and the revenue cutters restored to the revenue service, at the instance of the heads of the Treasury and War Departments. Recently, the cutters Jackson and Madison have been placed, by order of the President, temporarily, under the control of the Secretary of the Navy, and have been ordered to Florida for the purpose of co-operating with the army under the direction of Commodore Dallas.

Several expeditions on land, composed of seamen and marines belonging to the squadron and commanded by officers of the navy, have been undertaken; and Lieutenant Powell, of the navy, with about one hundred seamen and ordinary seamen, is at this time, as you are aware, in command of a similar expedition, in co-operation with the army. The strength of that portion of the marine corps under the command of Colonel Henderson, em-

ployed in Florida, it is presumed, will be shown by the returns on file in the War Department. The services rendered by it are too well known to you to require a statement of them from me.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

M. DICKERSON.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,  
Secretary of War.

*A STATEMENT exhibiting the number of steam-vessels employed in the service of the United States, in the war with the Seminole Indians, ascertained from accounts settled and rendered at the office of the Third Auditor; prepared in pursuance of the resolution of the Senate of the United States of the 29th December, 1837.*

Name of steamboat.	When chartered, &c.
Metamora - -	Chartered 7th June, 1836, at \$160 per day; employed in transporting troops and stores until 9th August, 1836.
Do. - -	Chartered in December, 1836, for the trip; employed in transporting troops and stores from Fort Mitchell, Alabama, to the Withlacooche, for \$3,000.
Reindeer - -	Chartered 10th June, 1836, at \$175 per day; employed in transportation until 22d July, 1836.
Do. - -	Chartered 14th September, 1836, at \$150 per day; employed as above until 25th September, 1836.
Forrester - -	Chartered 31st December, 1836, for a month, or longer period, at \$3,500 per month; employed in the service of the United States until 30th July, 1837.
Georgian - -	Chartered 17th June, 1836, at \$200 per day; employed in transporting troops and stores up and down the Chattahoochee river, until 18th July, 1836.
Do. - -	Chartered 8th October, 1836, at \$250 per day; employed in procuring wood for steamboats until 15th October, 1836.
Polander - -	Chartered 20th June, 1836, at \$150 per day; employed in transporting troops and stores up and down the Chattahoochee river, until 23d July, 1836.
Charleston - -	Chartered 7th October, 1836, at \$3,750 per month; employed in transporting troops and stores until 6th November, 1836.
Do. - -	Chartered 6th November, 1836, at \$4,400 per month; employed in transporting troops and stores until 7th September, 1837.
Mobile - -	Chartered 11th October, 1836, at \$450 per day; employed in transporting troops and stores until 22d October, 1836.
Do. - -	Chartered 17th December, 1836, at \$465 per day; employed on a voyage from Mobile, Alabama, to places in Florida, in transporting troops and supplies, until 11th January, 1837.
James Boatwright	Chartered 18th February, 1836, at \$300 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from St. Augustine, Florida, to Charleston, S. C.
Do. - -	Chartered 8th October, 1836, at \$1,500 for the trip; employed in transporting horses, mules, wagons, forage, &c. from Charleston, S. C., to Jacksonville, and Garey's ferry, Florida.

## C.—Continued.

Name of steamboat.	When chartered, &c.
Santee	Chartered 25th January, 1836, at \$100 per day; employed in transporting troops, &c. until February 3d, 1836.
Do.	Chartered 3d February, 1836, at \$2,200 per month; employed in transporting troops, &c. until 3d August, 1836.
Do.	Chartered 28th September, 1836, at \$1,000 for the trip; employed in transporting horses, forage, &c. from Charleston, S. C., to Garey's ferry, Florida.
Do.	Chartered 25th October, 1836, at \$1,500 for the trip; employed in transporting supplies from Savannah, Georgia, to Garey's ferry, Florida.
Do.	Chartered 7th November, 1836, at \$2,100 for the trip; employed in transporting horses, forage, &c. from Charleston, S. C., to Garey's ferry, Florida.
Do.	Chartered 13th November, 1836, at \$3,900 per month; employed in transporting troops and supplies, &c. until 13th September, 1837.
Henry Crowell	Chartered 18th October, 1836, at \$300 per day; employed in the Seminole campaign until 28th February, 1837.
Hyperion	Chartered 16th September, 1836, at \$300 per day; employed in transporting troops and supplies until 18th October, 1836.
Do.	Chartered in May, 1837, at \$1,100 for the trip; employed in transporting troops from Appalachicola, Florida, to Columbus, Georgia.
Do.	Chartered 8th July, 1837, at \$1,200 for the trip; employed in transporting public stores from St. Mark's to the depot on the Santa Fee river.
Do.	Chartered 3d August, 1837, at \$200 per day; employed for similar services until 23d August, 1837.
Le Flore	Chartered 21st September, 1836, at \$200 per day; employed in the public service until 26th December, 1836.
Florida	Chartered 30th April, 1836, at \$1,200 for the trip; employed in transporting troops and supplies.
Do.	Chartered 11th December, 1836, at \$100 per day; employed in transporting troops, &c. until 14th December, 1836.
Do.	Chartered 16th March, 1837, at \$3,000 per month; employed in transporting troops, &c. until 21st August, 1837.
Anna Calhoun	Chartered 13th September, 1836, at \$300 per day, and \$50 per day for her three barges; employed in the service of the United States until 14th October, 1836.



## C.—Continued.

Name of steamboat.	When chartered, &c.
Anna Calhoun	Chartered 26th January, 1837, at \$400 per day; employed in transporting ordnance and ordnance stores until 12th February, 1837.
Richmond	Chartered 8th March, 1837, at \$2,400 for the trip; employed in transporting horses, &c. from Augusta, Georgia, to Garey's ferry, Florida.
Free Trade	Chartered 24th March, 1837, at \$2,300 for the trip; employed in transporting horses, &c. from Augusta, Georgia, to Garey's ferry, Florida.
Duncan McRae	Chartered 8th March, 1837, at \$2,500 for the trip; employed in transporting horses, &c. from Augusta, Georgia, to Garey's ferry, Florida.
Congaree	Chartered 21st January, 1837, at \$100 per day; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Post's ferry, to Charleston, South Carolina, until 28th January, 1837.
Do.	Chartered in February, 1837, at \$1,500 for the trip; employed in transporting troops to Garey's ferry.
Cincinnati	Chartered 9th January, 1837, at \$2,000 per month; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Charleston to Garey's ferry, and thence to Volusia, until 21st February, 1837.
Do.	Chartered 15th June, 1837, at \$4,000 per month; employed in transporting troops, &c. until 15th August, 1837.
John McLean	Chartered 1st August, 1837, at \$4,000 per month; employed in the service of the United States until 1st September, 1837.
Merchant	Chartered 2d February, 1836, at \$450 per day; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Port Pontchartrain to Fort Brooke, Florida, until 21st February, 1836.
Do.	Chartered 1st March, 1836, at \$450 per day; employed in transporting troops from Mobile to Tampa Bay, until 17th March, 1836.
Do.	Chartered 27th April, 1836, at \$8,500 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Fort Brooke to New Orleans.
Merchant	Chartered 24th September, 1836, at \$450 per day; employed in transporting troops, &c. until 11th December, 1836.
Do.	Chartered 24th March, 1837, at \$10,000 for the trip; employed in transporting Indians from Fort Brooke to New Orleans.
Do.	Chartered 21st May, 1837, \$150 per day; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Fort Brooke to Tampa Bay, until 2d June, 1837.

## C.—Continued.

Name of steamboat.	When chartered, &c.
John D. Morgan	Chartered 25th January, 1837, at \$1,500 per month; employed in the service of the United States until 3d March, 1837.
Minerva	Chartered 11th May, 1836, at \$150 per day; employed in the service of the United States until 31st May, 1836.
Do.	Chartered 16th September, 1836, at \$300 per day; employed in the service of the United States until 29th November, 1836.
Tomochicki	Chartered 18th April, 1837, at \$275 per day for the first "thirty" days; and \$225 per day for every day thereafter employed; employed in the service of the United States until 31st August, 1837.
Watchman	Chartered 3d February, 1836, at \$450 per day; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Port Pontchartrain to Fort Brooke, until 20th February, 1836.
Do.	Chartered, together with one brig and four schooners, 23d February, 1836, at \$22,000 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Mobile to Tampa Bay.
Do.	Chartered 13th December, 1836, at \$450 per day; employed for the transportation of troops, &c.
Bonnet's Blue	Chartered in November, 1836, at \$500 for the trip; employed in transporting stores from Mobile to Cedar creek, and back to Mobile.
Comet	Chartered in December, 1836, at \$800 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Claiborne, and arms from Fort Stoddard.
Commerce	Chartered 9th June, 1836, at \$400 per day for the first "twenty days," and \$350 for each day thereafter employed; used as a transport until 6th July, 1836.
Eclipse	Chartered 29th December, 1836, at \$1,400 for the "first month," and \$1,000 per month for each month thereafter; employed until 28th February, 1837, to proceed against Seminole Indians.
Etiwan	Chartered 27th January, 1836, at \$130 per day; employed in transporting troops from Savannah, Ga. to St. Augustine, Florida, until 3d February, 1836.
Do.	Chartered 19th February, 1836, at \$1,500 for the trip; employed in transporting troops and supplies from Savannah, Georgia, to Picolata.
Do.	Chartered 4th May, 1836, at \$1,200 for the trip; employed in transporting troops from St. Augustine, Florida, to Charleston, South Carolina.
Do.	Chartered in January, 1837, at \$100 per day; em-

## C.—Continued.

Name of steamboat.	When chartered, &c.
	ployed eight days in transporting troops from Post's ferry to Charleston, South Carolina.
Convoy - -	Chartered 20th September, 1836, at \$280 per day; employed in transporting troops from Appalachicola to Tampa Bay, until 30th September, 1836.
Leon - - -	Chartered 27th April, 1836, at \$6,000 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Fort Brooke to Mobile.
John Stoney -	Chartered 11th January, 1836, at \$60 per day, finding fuel, &c.; employed until 26th January, 1836.
Do. - - -	Chartered 28th January, 1836, at \$3,000 per trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Charleston, South Carolina, to St. Augustine, Florida.
Do. - - -	Chartered 11th February, 1836, at \$1,000 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Charleston, South Carolina, to St. Augustine, Florida.
Do. - - -	Chartered 5th May, 1836, at \$1,400 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Charleston, South Carolina, to St. Augustine, Florida.
Do. - - -	Chartered 8th August, 1836, at \$2,300 per month; employed one month for similar purposes.
Do. - - -	Chartered 8th September, 1836, at \$3,000 per month; employed for similar purposes, until 8th September, 1837.
Cherokee - -	Chartered 18th March, 1836, at \$1,800 for the trip; employed in transporting supplies, &c. from Savannah, Georgia, to Picolata, Florida.
Do. - - -	Chartered 3d May, 1836, at \$192 per day; employed in transporting supplies, &c. from Savannah, Georgia, to Picolata, Florida, until the 18th May, 1836.
Do. - - -	Chartered 19th May, 1836, at \$1,000 for the trip; employed in transporting troops from Savannah to Augusta, Georgia.
Do. - - -	Chartered 22d August, 1837, at \$1,215 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Jacksonville to Garey's ferry, Florida.
Tugalo - - -	Chartered 12th February, 1836, at \$1,800 for the trip; employed in transporting supplies from Georgia to Jacksonville, Florida.
David Brown -	Chartered 3d February, 1836, at \$3,250 for the trip; employed in transporting troops and supplies from New Orleans to Tampa Bay.
Irwinton - -	Chartered 4th May, 1836, at \$1,250 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Appalachicola to Fort Mitchell.

## C.—Continued.

Name of steamboat.	When chartered, &c.
Dolphin - -	Chartered 25th January, 1836, at \$1,200 for the trip; employed in transporting troops, &c. from Charleston, South Carolina, to St. Augustine, Florida.
Do. - -	Chartered 8th February, 1836, at \$2,750 per month; employed in the service of the United States until 8th April, 1836.
Do. - -	Chartered 8th April, 1836, at \$2,500 per month; employed in the service of the United States for one month.
Do. - -	Chartered 12th May, 1836, at \$1,150 for the trip; employed in the service of the United States.
Do. - -	Chartered 20th October, 1836, at \$100 per day; employed in the service of the United States until 5th November, 1836.
Do. - -	Chartered 6th November, 1836, at \$4,000 per month; employed in the service of the United States for one month.
Do. - -	Chartered 6th December, 1836, at \$4,000 per month; employed in the service of the United States until 17th December, 1836.
Geo. Washington	Chartered 15th February, 1836, at \$1,300 for the trip; employed in transporting stores from Savannah, Georgia, to Picolata, Florida.
Do. - -	Chartered 26th February, 1836, at \$1,500 for the trip; employed in the service of the United States.
Meridian - -	Chartered 26th September, 1836, at \$450 per day; employed in transporting troops, &c. from New Orleans to the waters in Florida, and continued in the service of the United States 104 days.
American - -	Purchased 10th June, 1836, for \$13,000.
Southron, afterwards called the	
Major Dade - -	Purchased 28th June, 1836, for \$13,500.
Yallo Busha, afterwards called the	
Lieut. Izard - -	Purchased 4th July, 1836, for \$11,000.
General Marion - -	Purchased 1st November, 1836, for \$15,000.
New Brighton, afterwards called	
the Poinsett - -	Purchased in August, 1837, for \$27,000.

## RECAPITULATION.

Forty steam vessels, as per list above, found to be "chartered" since the commencement of hostilities by the Seminole Indians, were generally employed in the transportation of troops, military stores, provisions, horses, mules, Indians, &c.

In addition to the services rendered by the foregoing steam vessels, employed under charter, the same, and many other steam vessels, were used and paid freight for purposes similar to the above.

PETER HAGNER,  
*Auditor.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Third Auditor's Office, February 16, 1838.*

D.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Office Indian Affairs, January 6, 1838.*

Sir: In obedience to your direction, I have the honor to submit a report on those parts of the resolution of the Senate, of December 29, 1837, which have been referred to this office.

The whole number of the Seminole population was estimated, at the commencement of hostilities, at 3,000; no return of the number of warriors was made at that time, but assuming in this as in other cases every fifth one to be a warrior, it may be stated at 600. Of the 3,000, 407 have been removed; males of 10 years and under 25, 41; of 25 and under 50, 71; over 50, 19; of other classes, 276.

In a letter from Lieutenant Casey, dated October 16, 1837, the whole number of the population is represented to be 5,000; of the warriors, 1,485.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

C. A. HARRIS,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,  
*Secretary of War.*