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Correspondence – Secretary of War and commanding officer in Florida. Letter from the Secretary of War, transmitting the correspondence between the War Department and the commanding officer in Florida, since the 1st of January last.

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CORRESPONDENCE—SECRETARY OF WAR AND COMMAND-
ING OFFICER IN FLORIDA.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

*The correspondence between the War Department and the Commanding
Officer in Florida, since the 1st of January last.*

JULY 7, 1842.

Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

WAR DEPARTMENT, July 5, 1842.

SIR: In answer to the resolution of the House of Representatives of 26th May, requiring the Secretary of War "to report to the House all correspondence, since the 1st of January last, between the present commanding officer of the United States army in Florida and the Department of War, and all orders which have been recently issued from said Department in relation to the Indian hostilities in said Territory," I have the honor to transmit, herewith, copies of all correspondence and orders referred to in the resolution.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

J. C. SPENCER.

HON. JOHN WHITE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

*Memorandum relative to the Florida correspondence, called for by the
resolution of the House of Representatives of May 26.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, June 10, 1842.

FIRST SERIES.—Eight letters from the Adjutant General to Colonel Worth, and one "General Order," No. 26.

These letters and the general order contain all the instructions given to Colonel Worth, from the 1st of January, on the subject of Florida affairs. Simple acknowledgments of that officer's reports and letters in relation to individual officers, &c., are not given, as they furnish no useful information, and would only burden the series with useless matter.

The Adjutant General's letter of March 10, 1842, having been furnished in answer to the House resolution of April 6, calling for the correspondence with the Governor of Georgia, is not again given: it may be seen in House document No. 200, present session.

SECOND SERIES.—Twenty-seven reports from Colonel Worth to the Adjutant General, including three letters addressed to him by officers and others, and forwarded by him.

Many of these reports refer to enclosures, which, except in a very few cases, are not furnished, they being reports of scouting parties, &c., addressed to the commander of the Florida army by various officers of his command. It seems unnecessary to furnish such a mass of papers, especially as the colonel embodies in his own letters the important information which any of them may contain. They are transmitted to the Adjutant General's office to show the unceasing operations of the troops. Colonel Worth's letters, acknowledging the receipt of orders and instructions, as well as those on minor points of detail, are not given.

Three of Colonel Worth's letters, dated, respectively, March 13, 29, 30, 1842, having been included with the Georgia correspondence, are now omitted in the series. (See House document No. 200.)

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

For the Hon. J. C. SPENCER,
Secretary of War.

NOTE.—Colonel Worth's communication of February 14, 1842, to Major General Scott, could not be found at the date of this memorandum, but, being an important one in the series, the answer to the call has been delayed until a copy could be procured. The delay has afforded the opportunity of furnishing copies of two additional letters received since the 10th of June, besides the one above mentioned.

R. JONES.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, July 1, 1842.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 4, 1842.

SIR: In consequence of the recent murder of citizens reported to have taken place in the Mandarin settlement, and the representations made at the Department, the Secretary of War desires me to suggest to you, in order to give additional protection to the inhabitants, the propriety of stationing in lines south of the settlements, east and west of the St. John's, such of the companies of the second dragoons as you can possibly spare. He thinks it advisable, also, that a sufficient number of horses be kept at each post garrisoned by foot troops, to mount at a moment's warning from twelve to fifteen men.

It has been represented at the Department that the duty of scouting has been but imperfectly attended to about some of the military stations; and you will please renew your instructions on the subject of constant

scouting and patrolling, it being all important that the troops be kept constantly in motion and actively employed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Colonel W. J. WORTH,
8th Infantry, commanding, &c., Tampa, Florida.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 29, 1842.

SIR: Seeing in some of your communications that you recommend the observance of a more practical economy in the expenditures for the Florida service, I am desired by the Major General to say that, concurring fully in your views, you will please to adopt all the measures which, in your judgment, you may deem necessary and proper to attain so desirable a result, and not incompatible with the primary object—the speedy termination of the war.

The subjects which would seem first to require your attention are, reduction in the cost of transportation, whether by land or water; the employing of civilians in any of the branches of the service, and in the keeping of horses and other animals at the public expense, &c.

I respectfully refer you to the last paragraph of your instructions of the 19th of May, from this office, on the same subject; and, in doing this, it may be perceived that the spirit of those instructions, then expressive of the views of the Department, is not intended to be departed from.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Colonel W. J. WORTH,
Commanding Army of Florida, Tampa Bay, E. F.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 4, 1842.

SIR: The Major General commanding has returned to this office your communication of the 16th of January, (No. 101,) in answer to my letter of the 4th of that month, in relation to the murders committed in the Mandarin settlement, and communicating the suggestions of the Secretary of War as to the better security of the inhabitants of Florida against the incursions of the Indians. Your letter and the accompanying details of the operations of the troops, and also the measures adopted for the protection of the settlements prior to and about the time of the unfortunate occurrence at Mandarin, I am desired to say, are entirely satisfactory to the Major General commanding the army.

I am, sir, &c.,
R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Colonel W. J. WORTH,
Commanding the Army in Florida, Tampa Bay, Florida.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 21, 1842.

SIR: Your communication, (No. 102,) with several reports, and copies of your correspondence from the 17th to the 27th of January, have this day been received.

The Secretary of War supposed that, when you were possessed of all the particulars respecting the attack on the Mandarin settlement, you would address a communication to this office on the subject. Sufficient time having elapsed without the receipt of such communication, he has instructed me to desire you to make a special report, embodying all the facts in the case. At present the Secretary does not see how a band of Indians could penetrate so far north as the Mandarin settlement, commit depredations, and return south, unseen and unmolested by the troops.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
L. THOMAS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Col. W. J. WORTH,
Commanding, &c., Fort Fanning, Florida.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, February 24, 1842.

SIR: Your despatch of the 14th instant has just been presented by Major Cooper, assistant adjutant general, and I am desired by the Major General to direct that the five companies of the 2d dragoons will continue on duty in Florida until further orders, and that they be as actively employed as if it had not been the intention to withdraw them from that service.

Your communications of the 5th and 11th (Nos. 103, 104, and 105) have also been received this day, and laid before the Major General and Secretary of War.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. JONES, Adjutant General.

Col. W. J. WORTH,
8th Infantry, com'dg, &c., Pilatka, East Florida.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 25, 1842.

SIR: Your communication of the 16th instant, (No. 115,) in answer to the letter from this office of February 21, calling for a report in relation to the attack by a party of Indians upon the Mandarin settlement, has been received and laid before the Major General and Secretary of War. The Secretary desires me to inform you that he is satisfied with your operations, and that of the troops under your command, they having been, as it is well known, very actively and judiciously employed. If the enemy do occasionally elude the vigilance of our troops, it may fairly be as-

cribed to the nature and extent of the country over which they roam, and their intimate acquaintance therewith.

You appear to suppose that some of your reports were not seen and perused by the Secretary of War. Your reports, immediately on their receipt, are laid before the Major General commanding, whose practice is either to submit them to the Secretary of War or to communicate the substance of their contents. When the Secretary of War instructed me (Gen. Jones being absent on duty in New York) to call for the report, the receipt of which is now acknowledged, he was fully acquainted with the operations of the troops.

I also acknowledge the receipt of your communications Nos. 106, 107, 109, 110, 111, 112, and 113, (reports of scouts in the western district,) and copies of correspondence from the 4th to the 26th of February.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. THOMAS,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Col. W. J. WORTH.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, April 9, 1842.

SIR: You will please to furnish, for the information of the Secretary of War, a statement in detail of the reform and retrenchments made by you since succeeding to the command of the Florida army, specifying the particular objects of retrenchment, whether of the number of persons, animals, boats, supplies, &c., and the amount of the saving (when practicable) accomplished thereby; and also the causes for such reduction of expenses, &c.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. JONES, *Adjutant General.*

Col. W. J. WORTH,
Commanding Army in Florida.

NOTE.—The measures you have adopted with a view to the reduction of expenditures in Florida, seen by your correspondence, and especially by your letter of the 25th ultimo to Lieut. Col. Whiting, have been noticed, and are fully approved; but it is with the view to a concentrated statement, and ascertaining the result of the more economical arrangements you have directed, which is now desired by the Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, May 11, 1842.

SIR: I enclose herewith, for your government in the command of the Florida army, a copy of instructions which I have received on the subject through the Department of War.

The instructions are so much in detail that but little remains to be added.

The manner of declaring the cessation of hostilities to the Indians, the

troops, and the inhabitants, to take effect on a day to be fixed, is left to your discretion.

An early report from you, after making up a definitive judgment as to the amount of force (not less than the Secretary has designated) deemed necessary for the defensive purpose indicated, as well as the cordon to be occupied by such force, is requested.

It is not expected that the cordon should be a regular line, either curved or straight. It may be in parts zig-zag, with certain isolated or abandoned posts, as Fort Mellon, Tampa Bay, &c., so as the better to cover or protect the inhabitants, and to secure ultimately, by persuasion or negotiations, all the remaining Indians for emigration.

General order No. 26, of yesterday, directs the embarkation of the 2d infantry for New York, and leaves to your discretion the time for sending eight companies of the 7th infantry to relieve detachments of the 3d artillery therein designated. It is now deemed probable that you will soon give orders to that effect.

We have just received unofficial intelligence that you have realized, in great part, the happy results which you had anticipated in your last official report from the late spirited affair with Halleck Tustenuggee, and other energetic operations.

Over and above the two companies of the 7th infantry, and one [two] company of the 3d artillery, to be stationed within the field of recent operations against the Florida Indians, what force will be needed, after the cessation of hostilities with those Indians, in order to carry out the views of the War Department?

The five troops of the 2d dragoons: can they be dispensed with? or other and what part of your remaining forces?

If you are confident (after giving reasonable weight to the opinions of Floridians) that the dragoons may be spared, you will, without waiting for further instructions, designate two troops for the post of Baton Rouge, under the lieutenant colonel of the regiment, and the remaining three for Fort Jesup, and put the five in motion for those respective stations, taking care to advise Brigadier General Taylor, at Fort Smith, of the approach of the three troops of his department, as also of the route given them, so that he may on the route change their destination, if it should be deemed necessary, either there or here.

Should you, in your own judgment, or in deference to the opinions of the inhabitants of Florida, deem it necessary to retain a part of the dragoons, say three troops, and not the whole, you will in either case send off the other two troops to Baton Rouge, with or without the lieutenant colonel, as you may deem his presence most useful, there or in Florida.

I remain, sir, with high respect, your obedient servant,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

Colonel W. J. WORTH,
Commanding Army of Florida.

GENERAL ORDERS, NO. 26.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,

Adjutant General's Office, Washington, May 10, 1842.

1. The commander of the forces in Florida having reported that he can dispense with the services of one or two regiments, he is instructed to send, by water, the 2d infantry to the harbor of New York, where it will find orders to proceed and relieve the 4th artillery, now on the northern frontier, when the 4th will be brought to the sea-board.

2. As soon as he may think the service in Florida will permit, the commander in that quarter will send detachments of the 7th infantry to relieve detachments of the 3d artillery as follows: two companies to Pensacola harbor; two companies to Fort Morgan; two companies to the barracks near New Orleans; one company to Fort Pike, and one to Fort Wood, retaining two companies ultimately to garrison Fort Brooke, or that Fort and Fort King, or Cedar Keys, as may be deemed best.

3. On being relieved by detachments of the 7th infantry, the nine companies of the 3d artillery, at the posts mentioned above, will immediately proceed, by water, in convenient detachments, to occupy the following positions: one company, St. Augustine barracks; two companies, Oglethorpe barracks, Savannah; four companies, Fort Moultrie; one company, Fort Johnston, North Carolina; and one company, Fort Macon.

4. The companies, whose positions are to be changed as above, will be designated for their new posts by the commanders of the 3d artillery and 7th infantry, respectively. The company named for St. Augustine barracks may be first embarked for Savannah, and the two for Forts Johnston and Macon embarked for Charleston, if found most convenient at the respective points of embarkation.

5. The headquarters of the 3d artillery will be established at Fort Moultrie. The lieutenant colonel and major of the regiment will take post, respectively, at Oglethorpe barracks and the barracks at St. Augustine.

6. The headquarters of the 7th infantry will be established in the harbor of Pensacola. The commander of the army in Florida will retain the lieutenant colonel or major with him for the ultimate command of Fort Brooke, and send the other to take post at the barracks near New Orleans.

By command of Major General Scott.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Fort Brooke, January 16, 1842.

SIR: So very numerous are the reports of field operations, that, not unnecessarily to encumber the files of your office, I have for several months omitted to forward other than such, generally, as recited some particular result, not regarding the others of interest to the Department other than as evidencing the activity of the troops, which I had supposed a conceded point. The information communicated to the honorable Secretary of War, as I am advised by your official letter of the 4th instant to the contrary, is entirely erroneous and the reverse of the facts; the entire force has been, is, and will be, continued in constant activity, covering the country in all

directions where it is at all supposable the enemy may be encountered or assail any exposed point. As this state of things has, it appears, been questioned by the Secretary's informant, I transmit, for information of the Major General commanding-in-chief, reports of operations, not heretofore forwarded, in all quarters, received since the 1st of October, 1841, and would beg to refer, in the same connexion, to my circular instructions to commanders of November 15, already sent, and correspondence connected therewith. I invite particular attention to the reports of Majors Childs and Belknap, and Captain Wright; the movements of the two former have been traced on the map furnished by the latter, having been conducted in the same region, about the same time, and with common object. At points from which reports have not come to hand, it is because the troops are actually in motion.

In respect to other points of your letter, I have to say that there is a liberal supply of horses, at every post or station, for the purpose of prompt pursuit. The cavalry companies are widely dispersed, and cannot well now be diverted from the important points occupied, nor is it necessary to place them east of the St. John's, where a large portion of the 2d infantry is in operation, and with the ready means of mounting any necessary number.

I only await the return of several bands of warriors, now out acting with our troops, to send a large body, about 300, including 100 warriors, to their home in the West.

Two companies 3d artillery are under marching orders for their designated stations on the gulf, and others will follow so soon as replacement can conveniently be made. One battalion of the 6th will probably go in the course of February, and the other be detained a while longer.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

P. S. Within a few days we have secured twelve additional warriors, and several women and children—to that extent reduced the small number of the enemy. It is satisfactorily ascertained those of the Creeks heretofore infesting Ocklocknee country have not escaped the general pestilence, by which their numbers are much reduced.

W. J. W.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Tampa, January 31, 1842.

SIR: The Creeks collecting on the Withlacoochee, as heretofore reported, with a view to come in, have been dissuaded from their purpose by the treachery of an Indian of the Tallahassee band, commonly called Tiger-tail, who took advantage of the absence of his chief and brother (Nethlock E. Mathla, with a band of twenty-seven warriors) to make his escape with two other men and two women. Apprehending this defection might extend to a portion of those with the chief, orders were promptly sent to Lieutenant Colonel Loomis, commanding at Fort Clinch, to secure the whole armed party and send them hither. The apprehension was

found not without foundation; the whole are nevertheless secured, and, with the other Indians, proposed to be immediately emigrated on board the Transport, to sail in a few days for New Orleans, while active measures are in operation to ferret out the Creeks. Commands under Lieutenant Colonels Vose, Whistler, Garland, and Loomis are in the field, moving upon the usual haunts of those people from the neighborhood of Tallahassee, in the direction of Fort Frank Brooke, with Lieutenant Colonel Garland in co-operation from Fort Fanning and from Micanopy, co-operating with Lieutenant Colonel Loomis on the Withlacoochee; in addition to which, a command is now proceeding to take post in the Wacassassa hammock, south of Spring Creek.

The Cypress having been cleared of Indians, the forces in that quarter are being withdrawn to be actively employed in other directions—a portion on the St. John's. The naval force is in motion; one part to scour the Mangrove lake, near Key Biscayne; another to pass into Okeechobee and ascend Kissimmee to Tohopkilaga.

Major Plympton, with a detachment of 2d infantry, has encountered and routed Haleck Tustenuggee near Dunn's lake, east of St. John's. I am yet without official accounts, but advised that the major had one killed and two wounded, making two prisoners.

Two companies 3d artillery have reached this point on the route—one to New Orleans; the other to Pensacola; the remaining companies, on being relieved, will pass up the Atlantic coast to Smyrna, land, and extend across to the St. John's; thence, in co-operation with the 2d infantry, moving from Pilatka south, thoroughly examine the intermediate country, thus taking every chance of securing Haleck.

So soon as the emigrating party shall be despatched, the headquarters will be transferred to the Suwanee.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Fort Brooke, February 5, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to report, for information of the Major General commanding, the shipment of 230 Indians, including 68 warriors; 86, including 42 warriors, having been retained in furtherance of future operations. Captain Alexander, 6th infantry, copies of whose instructions are forwarded herewith, goes in charge of the party, assisted by Lieutenant Hoskins, 4th. Companies D and I, 3d artillery, are embarked—the former for New Orleans barracks, the latter for Fort Pickens; copy of instructions, herewith, shows the disposition being made of the remainder of that regiment.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

NOTE.—Since last shipment of Indians, 12 warriors have been killed; 3 warriors died at Tampa; 18 women and children died at Tampa.

W. J. W.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Cedar Keys, February 11, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, this day, of your communications of the 20th, 22d, and 29th ultimo, and special order No. 4. I regret that it was deemed necessary to pursue the unusual course of making special assignment, at headquarters, of a medical officer to his station in Florida, and the more so, as the relief of Assistant Surgeon Moore had taken place several weeks since. I take this occasion to remark that Captain Moore misquotes. Dr. Moore was informed, and in terms of regret, that no other medical officer *could* (instead of *would*) at the moment be designated.

The measures of retrenchment suggested in yours of the 23d have been some time in course of operation, and will be vigorously pursued.

The first battalion of the sixth infantry is under marching orders; the second will follow in a short time.

I proceed this evening to Tallahassee, to ask an interview with his excellency Governor Call, after which I shall be able to write advisedly on several points, looking to a speedy close of the contest. Meantime I ask for the *route* of the remaining companies of the second dragoons; they are now operating in such a manner as to place them convenient to the great route to Tallahassee.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,

Headquarters, Washington City.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Tallahassee, February 14, 1842.

GENERAL: I believe there has been no instance in which, on the removal of Indians, some, more or less, have not been left. This unavoidably arises from their wandering life and habits, to which may be added, in the case of the Seminoles, the peculiar character of the country.

I have the honor to submit a statement of the whole number, Seminoles, Mickasukies, and Creeks, now at large, and their general range or location. This statement has been carefully prepared from the examination of various Indians, chiefs and others, of each and every tribe and band, and at different times. Generally, there has been a remarkable concurrence in the statements; nevertheless, in case of discrepancy, the highest number has been assumed. From this statement, it appears there are but three hundred and one Indians, men, women, and children, remaining, scattered through the vast and almost boundless swamps of this Territory, of whom, including the aged, incapable of enterprise, and the younger, yet unaccustomed to the use of arms, there are but one hundred and twelve men—a number, it is admitted, sufficient, if kept in a state of irritation, by constant and fruitless pursuit, acting upon such and so sparse a population, to do much mischief. Of the number stated, one hundred and forty-three are south, who have never manifested a disposition to approach the settlements, and one hundred and twenty are Creeks, who were not origi-

nal parties to the contest. It may be here reasserted that every diminution of numbers adds to the difficulty of taking the remainder.

The operations since June conclusively demonstrate to my mind the utter impracticability of securing them by main force. The object must be attained by pacific and persuasive measures, or not at all. Every exertion of force, while it tends to make the enemy more wild in his habits and savage in his nature, places the object in view, his total expulsion, more remote; and yet the commander, with so large a force, who fails to give it the highest activity, disappoints an inordinate public expectation, while, by so doing, he defeats the object. The first step, in my judgment, towards closing the contest, if not finishing it, is to reduce the force; this is being done to the extent to which I have authority, and the immediate consequence will be, a diminution of five-sixths of the extraordinary expense. After the field operations, (which are general,) now going on, shall have terminated, it is my purpose, unless otherwise ordered, to place the troops in position to give *protection*, and to limit myself to that object. Authority has been asked to order out the remaining companies of the second dragoons, and, by the first of May, one additional regiment of infantry may be dispensed with. There will then remain three entire regiments and six companies of a fourth regiment. There is a supply of forage and subsistence in the country *now* equal to the wants of the present force of man and horse for five months, which, on the reduced scale proposed, will answer for eight or ten; and I beg that any further shipments may be suspended, until especially called for, and also, if necessary, other than under such orders as I may give, that Lieutenant Colonel Whiting, head of the quartermaster's staff, may be instructed as to the manner of disposing of surplus, such as mules, horses, wagons, &c.

I ask the instructions of the commanding general on these subjects; and, if my suggestions shall be approved, I then invoke authority to say to these people, through friendly Indians, that, so long as inoffensive, they may remain where they are, and plant and reap in quiet—meantime to permit the Arkansas delegates, and one or two of the chiefs now in our possession, whose tribes and families have been sent off, to go among them, and at their pleasure reside with them, availing themselves of the proper time and occasion to reason with and explain to them their true condition, not doubting that in a few moons they will thereby be induced to come in and ask to be sent to their new homes. Quiet is indispensable to their being made fully acquainted with their isolated position, and also of their weakness; for such has been their dispersion, that they are yet to be convinced that many of their proximate and confederate bands have been sent to the West, and also that their strength consists in their power to elude, not to combat their enemies. If this authority be conceded, I propose further to grant them permission to come freely to any of the military posts and trade without restriction. It is proper here to remark, that measures are in train, which give fair assurance that we shall, within the next month, have in possession one-third of the small number stated as remaining out.

While I am fully aware of the delicacy, I nevertheless feel it my duty, respectfully, but seriously, to submit to your consideration, whether it will be deemed public policy to prosecute this contest for results so uncertain, at expense so enormous, and whether the plan proposed would not accomplish the object with equal credit to the country, and more convenience to the Treasury.

I beg that the foregoing views and suggestions may not be considered as arising from any indisposition of the officers or men composing this army to prosecute the contest under any circumstances of duty or hardship; on the contrary, to be allowed to avail myself of this occasion to testify to the zeal and energy with which all have, under every circumstance of difficulty, and with singleness of purpose, devoted themselves to the attainment of the object.

The main purpose of my coming hither was to submit this subject generally to his excellency Governor Call; and I have much hope of his support and concurrence, *generally*, in the foregoing views. As there are many points of detail connected therewith, which would be inconvenient to embody in this report, as also the submission of some explanatory maps, I have deemed it of sufficient importance, and also that I may be more promptly and clearly advised of the views of the Major General commanding-in-chief, to despatch Major Cooper, chief of the staff, to general headquarters. That officer is fully possessed of my views and reflections upon the subject; and I request that entire confidence may be given to any statements he may make in relation thereto, and that, after executing this duty, he may be permitted to join me without delay.

Treating of matters other than of military detail, I have taken the liberty, which I hope will be excused, of addressing this direct to the general commanding-in-chief.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

Major General WINFIELD SCOTT,
Commanding-in-chief, Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Cedar Keys, February 18, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to submit reports of simultaneous operations east of St. John's, on the Withlacooche, Wacassassa, Suwannee, &c. At Port Leon I met with Lt. Col. Vose, then returning from a like thorough examination of Esteenhatchee, &c.; detailed report not received. Each commander bears high testimony to the admirable conduct of officers and soldiers. In the affair with Halleck, Major Plymton had one killed and two wounded, of the 2d infantry; Captain Gwynne had a brush with a handful of the Creeks in the Wahoo, in which he lost one veteran sergeant, a soldier of twenty years service killed, and one private wounded, both of the 8th.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*
The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington City, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Fort Fanning, February 28, 1842.

SIR: On arriving at this post two days since, I found that Lt. Col. Whistler had just received intelligence of an Indian outrage, committed near McClelland's settlement east of the Suwannee, north from Charles's Ferry, by a party of six or seven, supposed to have issued from Cook's hammock, on which about 300 men of the 7th and 3d were then moving, in obedience to orders issued on the 19th inst. A troop of dragoons then just arrived, as also the garrison of Fort White on the Santa Fe, were promptly in motion, and soon reached the scene of murder, thirty miles distant. The retreating trail of the enemy was finally discovered by the resident citizens, some 25 in number, (having as usual been disguised,) and promptly followed; it led to a point on the Suwannee where that river is intersected by the Santa Fe. On the pursuit reaching the bank, the Indians were discovered to have crossed on a hastily constructed raft. Here the pursuit was discontinued; the dragoons, coming up a few hours after, received from the citizens then retiring the intelligence. Having no means of crossing the horses, the commanding officer retraced his steps to Fort Fanning; passed the river, at that point, with orders to ascend the right bank until reaching the trail, and to pursue it unremittingly. It is hoped, in fancied security, the party may go directly to the camp of the hostiles in that quarter; if so, it can hardly fail to be discovered. About the same time the San Pedro and Cook's hammock will be simultaneously entered and scoured: this is the mixed band of Creeks and Mickasukies, including three or four Tallahasseees.

On receiving intelligence of this outrage, I proceeded up the Suwannee without delay, with the hopes of cutting the enemy off; the passage of the river, however, had been effected before the point could be reached, as afterwards appeared. Continued on to Charles's Ferry, established a small camp at that point; thence, on the return, ascended the Santa Fe as high up as Fort White.

The enclosed report of Brevet Major Rains details circumstantially the outrage committed by six or seven Indians upon a house situated in one of the most extensive and flourishing settlements, and remote from any point visited by the enemy for several years. The settlement numbers in a small circumference some fifty able-bodied men, twenty-five of whom were in prompt pursuit of the enemy. The head of the family had gone a distance of 40 miles, without notifying his neighbors, who would otherwise have been on the spot speedily; on hearing the report of a gun, not having been informed of his intended absence, "they supposed he was practising with his rifle."

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

THE ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington City.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Pitalka, March 4, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communications of February 4, 12, 16, 21, and 24, and copy of letter to

Captain Hutter, late of the 6th infantry, (the resolution of the Senate in the case was not enclosed as you supposed;) which letter was placed in the hands of a staff officer to deliver to Captain Hutter, who was immediately relieved from duty. I have also to acknowledge general orders Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, and special orders Nos. 5 and 16. Assistant Surgeons Conrad and Byrne were relieved, and ordered to report to the Adjutant General of the Army, the former on the 10th, the latter on the 16th February. In reference to the instructions of the Major General, directing that the companies of the 2d dragoons "be as actively employed as if it had not been the intention to withdraw them," I beg leave to remark that no design was entertained of doing otherwise up to the last moment of their continuance within the command. In the case of the 6th infantry and 3d artillery, as may be gathered from copies of correspondence and orders, continued field service was exacted and rendered up to the very point of embarkation. It will not be in my power to reply to the honorable Secretary's letter of instructions and censure, communicated through Asst. Adjt. Gen. Thomas by this mail, as copies will have to be made of my orders and instructions to certain commanders, before and after the Mandarin affair, already forwarded to the Adjutant General's office, and reference made to original reports of field operations connected therewith, also forwarded, merely remarking here that the enemy did not escape unpursued or unpunished. After two months of untiring effort, in which the enemy was encountered and routed with loss, and subsequently a principal chief with his family captured, the Mandarin party of 13, or, as others say, 15, has been reduced by death and capture, to the extent of 6 able-bodied warriors; the balance, although perfectly enveloped, managed to get, not south, but across the St. John's, and are now being pursued in the swamps bordering the Ocklawaha. The chief Powis-co-chuckne (Short Grass) is an important capture, and I hope to make good use of him in securing others. By reference to correspondence, orders, &c., you will perceive that Major Belknap was directed to conduct a portion of the force recently on the Carlosahatchee, by the route of *Istokpoga*, to the head-waters of Pease creek, at which point, through his own great exertions and the aid of friendly Indians, he has a prospect of receiving the submission of about one hundred Indians, including 23 warriors, headed by Assinawa, a chief heretofore distinguished for the bitterness of his hostility; a portion had already arrived at Tampa before my departure.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,

Headquarters, Washington City, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Pilatka, March 16, 1842.

SIR: On the 4th instant I had the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a communication from Asst. Adjt. Gen. Thomas, made by order of the honorable Secretary of War. Recurring to that communication, I have to state that, all the facts of the case (Mandarin murders) having already

been submitted to the Adjutant General's office; the special report which I am instructed to make will consist of copies of my reports and reference to those of my subordinates, the originals having been forwarded.

I have now the honor to submit copy of instructions to Lieut. Col. Riley of November 18, 1841, to show the measures taken to guard against such an occurrence; reference to the official reports of Lieut. Col. Riley, marked R. 70; R. 75, of his movement south to Fort Pierce, with a map of the route; R. 76, including the report of Lieut. Alburdis, and R. 85; copy (No. 2) of instructions to Lieut. Col. Riley, December 30, 1841, to show the measures adopted; copy (No. 3) of my report (No. 94) of December 30, 1841, to the Adjutant General: copies of instructions to Lieut. Col. Riley (No. 4) of January 3, 1842; (No. 5) of January 6; (No. 6) of January 10th; (No. 7) of February 1, 1842, to Major Childs; and (No. 8) of February 8, 1842, to Lieut. Col. Riley—all having reference to the capture or destruction of the enemy. I have also the honor to refer to the reports of Major Plymton, one (marked R. 86) of his combat with the enemy, another (marked R. 89) announcing the capture of the Indian chief *Short Grass*; also to the report of Major Childs of his operations from Fort Pierce, northwards, in obedience to instructions, (marked C 157,) and finally to the communication from 51 citizens of Mandarin, asking for succor, (marked C 127 :) from all which it appears that, on the evening of December 20, 1841, a band of 21, as the party assailed suppose, but as subsequent and better information gives 13, Indians made their way from near Haw Creek, one of the tributaries of Lake Dunn, as far north as Mandarin, and there, unobstructed and unresisted by the male population of that settlement, murdered four persons and burned two dwellings, remained about the burning buildings till morning, and then leisurely, for a time, retreated with their plunder. At this period a force of regulars was operating east of the St. John's, in the supposed direction of these same Indians. Current reports of every circumstance in any way connected with this transaction, as also of the remedial measures, were promptly transmitted to the Adjutant General, and I was told in acknowledgment that they "had been duly submitted to the Secretary of War and the General in-chief." After sixty days of uninterrupted pursuit and search, the enemy was tracked, attacked, and routed, with loss on both sides. (See Major Plymton's report.) Still continuing the pursuit, and making use of the prisoners as guides, the enemy was again encountered on the 26th ult., and a noted chief, *Short Grass*, with his own immediate family and connexions, captured. The enemy then, notwithstanding the ample force around and about, on land and on the river, acting by his better knowledge of the country, managed to get across the St. John's. To this crossing he was trailed, the river passed, and the pursuit renewed; and I am this day informed that he has been marked to a crossing high up the *Ocklawaha*. Several days since, detachments were thrown out from Forts King and Russell, in anticipation of his line of retreat towards the Withlacoochee.

The assistant adjutant general says: "At present the Secretary does not see how a band of Indians could penetrate so far north as Mandarin settlement, commit depredations, and return south, unseen and unmolested by the troops;" nor will the honorable Secretary make this discovery, until, which God forbid, he becomes more intimately acquainted with this country, and the Indian habit and character. As to how they could pene-

trate &c., there was in the Adjutant General's office evidence which might, and in justification of the troops, I must add, ought to, have been placed before him, to show that the enemy did not escape unseen, ay, or unpunished too.

I am sir, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,

Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Fort King, March 19, 1842.

SIR: I forward herewith the report of Major Nelson, 7th infantry, and those of his subordinates, of operations, in obedience to my instructions of the 19th ultimo. My report of the 28th, (No. 107,) detailing a recent outrage near Alligator, (McClellan's settlement,) expressed the belief that Thornton's troop, which had passed the Suwannee and taken the trail, would be enabled to trace the camp of the marauders; and so it resulted. (See Captain Thornton's report herewith.) To have opened a fire at the instant of coming upon the camp would have insured the destruction of the women and children: consulting a nobler spirit of humanity, the gallant officer hoped to secure the men without such a result. In the effort to throw his men around the camp, the alarm was taken, and the warriors sprang for the ever-convenient hammock, two of the five being shot in the flight; the women, children, packs, utensils, three rifles, and the bloody plunder from Tilles's house, secured. Possession of these women, &c., will secure the ultimate surrender of the warriors of that party. I have approved of the conduct of Captain Thornton, as it has been my pleasure to do on many previous occasions.

I also forward copy of instructions to Lieutenant Colonel Whistler in reference to the event, and directing other movements of his command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant;

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,

Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

[Received from Colonel Worth April 1, 1842.]

CANTONMENT WINFIELD SCOTT, E. F.,

March 20, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to report that the traffic of whiskey to the soldiers at this post is carried on to a great extent by some of the citizens in this vicinity—particularly, as I am informed, by a Mr. James L. Townsend and a Mr. Waller. I have used every endeavor to put a stop to this traffic, but without success, or any prospect of it. It seems that these citizens consider it greatly to their interest to carry it on; far more so than they consider the presence of troops necessary for the purpose of protection against Indian depredations. During my absence from here on

the scout west of the Suwannee, my first sergeant was killed by Musician Hastings for taking from him two bottles of whiskey, which he had procured at Mr. Townsend's, and was about introducing into the garrison.

Mr. Waller (one of the individuals above mentioned) resides within two hundred yards of this post; he carries on the farming business in partnership with a Mr. Simeon Dill, who, it is believed, is also his partner in the whiskey trade. They have a negro who also sells whiskey; and no doubt for their benefit, as they refuse to correct him.

No Indians or signs of them have been seen by the scouts from this post since my company has been stationed here. About two weeks since (during my absence) it was reported that an Indian had shot an arrow at a Mrs. Osteen, who resides about two miles from this. Lieutenant Hopson informs me that, immediately after he received the report, he repaired to her house with a command, where he found a number of citizens collected, and, as no sign of an Indian could be found, the report was not believed.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. SEAWELL,

Captain 7th Infantry, Commanding Post.

Lieutenant F. N. PAGE,

Act'g Adj't 7th Infantry, Fort Micanopy, E. F.

[From the Tallahassee Floridian, 7th instant.]

LITTLE RIVER, COLUMBIA CO., E. F.,

February 28, 1842.

SIR: Yesterday, about ten in the morning, the Indians made an attack on Mr. Osteen's house, one and a half miles from the Natural bridge on the Santa Fe river, killed Mrs. O., and were still firing on the house when the express left for Alligator. The particulars of this transaction are not to be learned. I start off again to-morrow after them. Signs have been made in a few miles of this, but two days since. Unless we get aid speedily, the country must be abandoned. Not a soldier is on the frontier of this county except at Fort White, leaving Santa Fe and Suwannee free for them to live on. This is protection. I have stated this much, that you may be correctly informed of matters in this vicinity, hoping to hear from you soon.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

GEO. E. McCLELLAND

His Excellency R. K. CALL.

I respectfully invite an examination of the annexed paragraph, cut from a Savannah paper, in connexion with this, the report of Captain Seawell, referring to the same circumstances. The worthy lady whom Governor Call's correspondent, George McClelland, kills off on the 28th February, was alive and doing well (having experienced no other harm than the supposition of being fired at with an arrow) on the 20th March. The headquarters of a strong company, with detachments thrown out in all directions, are situated within one and a half miles of her house: there is a command at Charles's Ferry, on the Suwannee, with outpost; another at

Mineral Springs, also with outposts; besides troops in motion throughout that region.

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The aforesaid George McClelland has been twice or thrice mustered into service as captain of volunteers; the last as captain in General Read's sedentary brigade.

W. J. W.

[Received from Colonel Worth April 1, 1842.]

SETTLEMENT NEAR FORT KING, E. F.

March 23, 1842.

SIR: I have read the recently published account of an attack said to have been made by Indians on the house of Mrs. Osteen, in which it is stated that Mrs. Osteen was killed. I was at Mineral Spring, on the Suwannee, on the 2d of March, where I heard that Mrs. Osteen had been killed by Indians, and that the Indians were still firing on the house. On arriving at Alligator the day after, I learned there that she was not killed, but it was generally supposed that she *might* have been shot by an Indian. I reached Mrs. Osteen's the same day, found her in good health, and learned that she had not been shot. I was told by her neighbors that she had not even been fired on, and there was great doubt expressed whether any Indians had been in the vicinity. Being a contractor for the supply of beef to the troops at Fort King, and having occasion to visit frequently the upper country, I can state from my own knowledge that that portion of the published statement which relates to the abandonment of that section of the country by troops is *untrue*. There has been for six months past, and still is, a camp within two miles of Mrs. Osteen's house, with camps also in several other directions in that section of country. My visits to the upper country are generally made by myself, and I have never felt any apprehension in travelling through the country alone.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. B. BRANCH.

Colonel WORTH,

Commanding Army of Florida.

FORT KING, E. F., March 23, 1842.

Mr. Branch, the author of the foregoing communication, sustains the reputation of an honest man. His word touching any transaction can be relied on.

J. MCKINSTRY,

First Lieutenant 2d Infantry.

No. 120.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Fort King, March 30, 1842.

SIR: It appears that I have misapprehended the purport of instructions from the War Office of November 2d, 1838, in respect to double rations

in Florida. I was led to suppose that simply reporting the fact of the establishment of the posts was sufficient, and, having sent copies of the orders in each case where I have recognised double ration posts, I had supposed the requirement complied with. A copy of the letter of instructions now before me demands a recommendation to that effect, which I accordingly make for the following posts from the time they were first garrisoned, to wit: *Fort Barbour, Fort Chipola, Fort Many, Fort Vose, Fort Hamilton, North's Station, Camp Brown, Camp W. Scott, Fort Preston, Camp Brenan, Camp Ogden, Fort Harvie, Fort Simmons, and Putna Rassa*: the last six of which are not now occupied. The disallowance is owing to my omission, and not to the fault of the officers in drawing the rations.

Fort Harrison and *Cantonment Morgan* were established by General Armistead, and when established there was a regiment at each, and never less than a company: the former was broken up on the 26th of October, 1841. I respectfully recommend that these also be constituted double ration posts from the time they were first occupied.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,

Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Tampa, April 10, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to report, for information of the Major General commanding in chief, the embarkation this day of one hundred Indians—Seminoles, Tallahassees, Mickasukies, and Creeks, mostly of the former band, including forty-four warriors. Twenty-five warriors (and their families) have been retained for use in communicating with the hostiles and for guides, most of whom are now with our detachments in the field.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL, U. S. ARMY,

Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Fort Brooke, April 10, 1842.

SIR: It has been intimated to me that the 2d infantry would be the next regiment withdrawn from this service. I have now to express the opinion that another regiment may be withdrawn, should the necessities of the general service require that force elsewhere, without prejudice to any attainable end here; not doubting that the remaining force will be ample for all that may be accomplished.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,

Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Tampa, April 10, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to submit, for the information of the Major General commanding in chief, a summary of the operations of the troops since my last report.

On the 19th ult. a command was sent, in the direction of the Ocklockonnee, for the purpose of examining the hammocks which border that river, and also what is termed the Okefenokee swamps of that quarter, being a succession of pine islands surrounded by narrow belts of swamps and "bogs." Signs were discovered which gave evidence of a design to cultivate, and also a camp of considerable size, which, from appearances, had not been abandoned more than a week, and had been established for the purpose of drying or jerking beef, judging from the number of fires and implements.

From this discovery it was determined to make a movement in that direction. Accordingly, a force of two hundred and ten infantry, and a company of dragoons, together with the aid of friendly Indians acting as guides, was put in motion, in small detachments, on the 5th instant: the dragoons along the east banks of the Ocklockonnee, from Fort Barbour towards its mouth, to watch the crossing places; one hundred infantry to cross the river in three detachments, to proceed westwardly, with slight departures north and south, while, from Forts Chipola and Barbour, detachments of thirty men each, to move by separate routes on the Ocklockonnee, so as to sweep the entire country between it and the Appalachiecola; and twenty-five men to ascend the Ocklockonnee, examining the numerous islands in the river, proceed up the Tologie as far as practicable, and then, returning to its mouth, continue up the Ocklockonnee to Fort Braden. Favorable results are anticipated from these movements.

During the operations on the Ocklockonnee, the whole of the disposable force under Lieut. Col. Whistler concentrated at Fort Fanning, and thence proceeded, by detachments of forty men each, to make a re-examination of the Esteenhatchee, and its connexion with Cook's hammock—the detachments taking different routes, so as to enter the hammock at opposite points. At the same time the commands from Fort Pleasant, and other posts on that line, were put in motion, by detachments, with a view to co-operation. Thus far results are favorable: trails of parties of from four to six persons, the largest number embodied, have been taken up and followed, and, in an unsuccessful attempt at surprise, one of the number was killed.

On my arrival at Fort King, on the 18th ultimo, I despatched a command from that post, for the purpose of recovering the trail of Halleck Tustenuggee, who had retreated with his party across the Ocklawaha, in the direction of the Withlacoochee. The trail was found crossing the Tampa road, about fourteen miles south of Fort King, and the party was marked into "Long swamp." Subsequently, a command of two companies, moving by small and separate detachments, was sent from Fort King to sweep the country southwest from that post towards the hammocks of the Wacassassa; similar detachments proceeded from the same posts in the direction of Tuscawilla hammock, thence south and west towards the Wacassassa; while detachments from Waccahooota and Wacassassa, taking a more westwardly route, proceeded in the direction of

Clay's landing. Several small trails, of parties not exceeding five or six, have been followed, leading west, and information is just received that one of the detachments is closely pursuing a fresh trail leading in the direction of the Suwannee. A detachment, sent to examine the fields in "Long swamp," discovered there some five acres planted in corn, melons, &c., the growth of about three weeks.

In conjunction with these movements, a detachment was sent in boats up the Ocklawaha to guard the crossings of that river and prevent the retreat of Halleck's party towards his old haunts east of the St. John's. The pass between Haw and Pellicer's creeks, the one emptying into the Atlantic, and the other into the St. John's, by which pass an enemy, if any there be east of the St. John's, could alone escape northwardly, is also occupied by camps posted in detachments.

The several detachments named in the circular instructions of the 28th ultimo, a copy of which has been furnished, will be in position on the 15th instant, when a general movement will take place, and a thorough examination made of the Wahoo, the Cove, and the swamps and hammocks bordering the Withlacoochee. Having embarked the Indians from this place, I shall proceed to join one of the detachments moving in that direction.

The troops in various directions have orders to keep the field so long as a trail is to be found, or there is the least prospect of discovering the enemy; meantime, detached camps of from five to ten and fifteen men are thrown out from every post and station.

There being two field officers on duty with the six companies of the fourth, and deeming the presence of Col. Vose indispensable to service in the western district, he has been *specialy* continued in that command. I yet hope, when his services are less necessary here, that that excellent officer may be gratified in his desire to make his headquarters with the portion of his regiment in the southwest.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Palaklakaha, April 21, 1842.

SIR: In following out the movements, by detachments, upon several points on the Withlacoochee, indicated in a former report to take place on the 15th instant, the enemy was finally brought to action, in a strong position, on the morning of the 19th, situated southeast from this, in the direction of Ahapopka lake, and, after a spirited attack and well-sustained defence, thoroughly routed and dispersed. Our loss is, one private killed, one sergeant and two privates wounded, of Kerr's company second dragoons, and one private of E company, second infantry, wounded. The enemy, one killed, two wounded, and one prisoner: the latter I have used to open a communication with the chief Halleck, who commanded the party encountered, from which favorable results are anticipated.

It is due to the officers and soldiers that, at a moment of leisure, I make a more detailed report.

Very respectfully, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Warm Spring, April 23, 1842.

SIR: Since my hasty report of the 21st, a communication has been opened with *Halleck*, and I have received a message, through his father-in-law, signifying his submission. The Indians, having stripped for the fight, fled without a rag but the breech clout. We captured all their packs, skins, food, (of which there was a large quantity collected,) axes, hoes, and seed. Thoroughly despoiled and numbers somewhat reduced, I entertain no doubt of a sincere desire to make terms. A few days, however, will determine—meantime no plan of operations will be suspended. For the moment, to refresh the troops, I have taken this position, which looks well to the crossing from *Okeehumpka* midway toward *Fort King* and head-waters of *Withlacoochee* toward *Tampa*. This chief is doubtless the master spirit among the Indians remaining; once secured, and the scene will be speedily closed.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Camp Wandell, Warm Spring, April 25, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor, in further detail, to report that, in obedience to instructions of the 28th ultimo, on the morning of the 15th instant each detachment was at its appointed station with admirable precision. All the points on which the movement was directed were most thoroughly examined, without discovering any thing exhibiting the recent presence of Indians. The boat detachment, under Major *Belknap*, composed of I and K companies, (*Montgomery's* and *Gates's*), of the 8th, much reduced in numbers, was ordered, after entering and thoroughly examining *Parrasuffkee* lake, to descend the *Withlacoochee* as low as *Camp Izard*, thence pass the boats into the waters of *Charla-a-popka*; detachments of the 4th, under *Captain Buchanan* and *Lieutenant Alvord*, (companies B and I) to pass around the west side, examining all the swamps, &c., on the border of the lake; detachments of the 2d, (*Casey's*, *Long's*, and *Lovell's*), under *Major Plymton*, to do the same on the south side; the remaining force, *Graham's* and *McCall's* companies of the 4th, under *Lieutenant Colonel Garland*, and *Reeve's* company (B) of the 8th, to move directly

on this point, a rendezvous common to all. At the same time friendly Indians were sent to the southeast to search for signs; they rejoined me in the evening, reporting a *solitary track* in the direction of *Ahapopka*, whereupon the detachments were advanced about fifteen miles on the evening of the 18th, and, as soon as there was sufficient light on the morning of the 19th to detect signs, this track was recovered and pursued through several inferior hammocks, in each of which planted fields were discovered, until it led to the principal hammock, where the enemy was found in force in a well-constructed town. The enemy was as speedily overcome as the difficulties of the ground permitted the troops to close in upon him; every trail made in the flight was taken and pursued until dark, and the whole of the next day, the detachments marching on each day some twenty, some thirty miles. On the next morning it was discovered that the general tendency of the trails, although often doubling, was in the direction of the great Okeehumpka swamp, lying about nine miles northeast of this position. With a view to refresh the troops, but more especially from information received, by a person coming from the enemy, of a disposition to submit, the detachments were directed upon this point, the value of which has been stated.

In respect to the *affair*, I have already made brief but sufficient report. That officers and soldiers evinced the highest spirit and gallantry in the presence of the enemy is a matter of course; but all exhibited, under every circumstance of continued fatigue and of privation of food, the higher excellence of patient and unrepining endurance.

I am much indebted to the zealous support and exertions of Lieutenant Colonel Garland, of the 4th, Major Plymton, of the 2d, Major Belknap, of the 8th, and Captain Ker, of the 2d dragoons: the two first and the last gave a fine example in the presence of the enemy; the third, as before stated, had been detached in a different direction.

On this as on all other occasions I have received the zealous and intelligent support of Major Cooper, assistant adjutant general, and Lieutenant Sprague, aid-de-camp to the command.

I submit herewith a list of killed and wounded, and in connexion would add that Assistant Surgeon Simmons, present with the troops, has evinced high and intelligent activity in the field and given prompt professional attendance to those needing his assistance.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY.

Washington.

[Enclosure in Colonel Worth's letter of April 25, 1842.]

List of killed and wounded in the affair of the 19th inst. with the hostile Indians in the big hammock of Palaklakaha.*

Killed—Private Augustus R. Wandell, company K 2d dragoons.

Wounded—Sergeant Theodore Bingham, company K 2d dragoons, severely in the breast and right arm; private Thomas G. Roberts, com-

*The largest of a succession of dense hammocks.

pany K 2d dragoons, severely in the left arm; private John Hitchcock, company K 2d dragoons, slightly; private ——— Joice, company E 2d infantry, severely in the left side.

S. COOPER,
Assistant Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Camp Palaklakaha, April 26, 1842.

No. 129. HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Camp Wandell, Warm Spring, April 25, 1842.

SIR: In compliance with repeated instructions, I have the honor to submit the following list of officers for the distinction of promotion by brevet.

The peculiar nature of this service, offering constant occasion for the display of zeal, energy, and talent, patient endurance of hardship and privation, but few opportunities for the more brilliant exhibitions of those qualities which attract and fix attention in the presence of an enemy "worthy a soldier's blade," renders this a difficult and delicate duty.

I have numbered the list from 1 to 21, and propose to remark upon each, *seriatim*.

1st. Lieutenant Colonel B. Riley, 2d infantry, has rendered much faithful and energetic service in this Territory; is an old battle officer in the war of 1812, of indisputable gallantry, much and unrequited service in that contest; has risen step by step to his present grade: recommended for the brevet of colonel.

2d. Major J. Plymton, of the same regiment, also a battle officer in the war of 1812, highly intelligent, qualified, and moral, reached his present grade by regular promotion; has rendered zealous and efficient service during the past winter, and twice met the enemy in battle: recommended for brevet of lieutenant colonel.

3d. Major W. G. Belknap, 8th infantry, eminently distinguished in the war of 1812, no man of his grade more so, and envied by many of higher; repeatedly wounded, never rewarded. Confessedly, at the assault upon Fort Erie, by the management of his picket, gave the army time to get under arms, and perhaps saved it. His whole career since has been one of intelligent usefulness and constant exhibition of capacity for *any command*. In this Territory has been very successful in getting in hostiles, and met them in battle: recommended for brevet of lieutenant colonel, to date December 20, 1841.

4th. Brevet Major Thomas Childs, 3d artillery, likewise an officer of last war, received a grade by brevet in this contest in 1836; has been distinguished by zeal and capacity for command, and by success throughout: recommended for brevet of lieutenant colonel.

5th. Captain T. P. Gwynne, 8th infantry, was engaged at the battle Okeechobee (then of the 1st) for habitual excellence of character and conduct, and, since his present regiment came here, for zealous conduct and success; has met the enemy in fight; is senior captain of his regiment, and would do honor to the preferment to which he is recommended—major by brevet.

6th. Captain B. L. Beall, 2d dragoons, has met the enemy in this con-

test ostener, perhaps, than any other officer; is brave and generous: recommended for major by brevet.

7th. Captain George A. McCall, 4th infantry, has formerly served with distinction in this service, highly accomplished, full of zeal, intelligence, and capacity for command, and would do more honor to the rank than it could confer upon him; his regiment will highly appreciate the compliment conferred upon this gallant captain: recommended for major by brevet.

8th. Captain W. Seawell, 7th infantry, distinguished for zeal, energy, and capacity, and conduct in combat with the enemy; is an accomplished officer, and in all respects would do honor to the grade: recommended for major by brevet.

9th. Captain George Wright, 8th infantry—all that has been said of the high qualifications of the two preceding applies to him, except his active efforts have not brought him in contact with the enemy; qualified to command a regiment under any circumstances: recommended for major by brevet.

10th. Captain George Andrews, 6th infantry, distinguished and severely wounded at the battle of Okeechobee; meritorious and capable in all respects: recommended for major by brevet.

11th. Captain R. D. A. Wade, 3d artillery, a worthy officer, distinguished for the zeal and perseverance with which he carried out an enterprise, resulting in the capture of sixty of the enemy, an important service; his preferment is looked for by the service as beyond doubt: recommended for major by brevet.

12th. First Lieutenant W. H. T. Walker, 6th infantry, in the action of Okeechobee received five wounds; of high chivalry and excellent qualities: recommended for captain by brevet.

13th. First Lieutenant George Taylor, 3d artillery, distinguished for high intelligence and capacity for service: served unintermittingly from the time of leaving the military school, (three years;) constantly in the field and often in combat: recommended for captain by brevet.

14th. First Lieutenant P. N. Barbour, 3d infantry—for particulars see Colonel Vose's report herewith, to which I cheerfully accord: recommended for captain by brevet.

15th. First Lieutenant J. V. D. Reeve, 8th infantry, distinguished in battle in this Territory in 1836, and distinguished for zealous and intelligent performance of duty: recommended for captain by brevet.

16th. First Lieutenant E. J. Steptoe, 3d artillery, distinguished for intelligence and capacity for service; has served unintermittingly since leaving the academy, (three years,) and has been constantly in the field, and often in combat: recommended for captain by brevet.

17th. First Lieutenant J. T. Sprague, adjutant of the 8th infantry, and aid-de-camp, has rendered important and valuable service; in all respects worthy and deserving the promotion asked; has been in combat with the enemy: recommended for captain by brevet.

18th. First Lieutenant W. Alburtis, 2d infantry, particularly distinguished in a most gallant action with the band of Cotsa Tustenuggee, on Orange creek—for date of circumstance see report in the Adjutant General's office; if asked for an opinion, I should say the handsomest affair during the war.

19th. First Lieutenant R. A. Arnold, 2d dragoons—in the recent com-

bat with the enemy (April, 1842) this young officer, in the heat of pursuit, became separated from his company with eight men, and found himself in presence of a superior and well-posted force of the enemy, against whom he sustained himself with great gallantry, even when his small force was reduced by one killed and two wounded: recommended for brevet of captain.

20th. Second Lieutenant George H. Thomas, 3d artillery, was the second of Captain Wade in the important service rendered by that officer, and his strenuous coadjutor; this officer has rendered very efficient service, and is highly meritorious and deserving the brevet of first lieutenant, for which he is recommended.

21st. Second Lieutenant Douglass S. Irwin, 3d infantry, for special gallantry and conduct in the face of the enemy—for date and circumstances, see his report on file in the Adjutant General's office.

The foregoing list is submitted with great diffidence, but in firm conviction in the just claims and pretensions of the persons named, and also in the belief that the honorable rewards thus invoked will exert a highly inspiring and beneficial influence upon the general service. Some of the names refer to events before my time, and are probably already on the Department list.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Col. Comm'g.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Camp Wandell, April 29, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to report that an arrangement has been made with the chief Halleck Tustenuggee, now in my camp, whereby his powerful band collecting in this immediate neighborhood are thoroughly neutralized, and are lending their active aid and influence to gather in, first the kindred Indians ranging west, and then such as bear the same relation south. I have deemed it politic to risk something in using this chief and his people, rendered harmless in this way, in preference to seizing him and a portion only of his warriors; any ten of whom would keep a whole frontier in alarm with present predispositions, and some two regiments in activity without probably catching one. This is the fruit of the recent operation.

I write in haste (as the express is to start immediately) to keep the commanding general [informed of] current events here.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Col. Comm'g.*

To ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Camp Wandell, April 29, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the enclosed original paper, being a presentment of the army of Florida as a nuisance by the grand jury of Madison county of this Territory; and *per contra* an extract from a communication from Captain McKavett, 8th regiment, commanding at "North's station," from which point two detached camps are formed in addition to the headquarter station of the company: to which papers I respectfully invite attention.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

W. J. WORTH, Col. Comm'g.

The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington City.

[Enclosure in Colonel Worth's letter of April 29, 1842.]

The jurors in and for the body of the county of Madison, Territory of Florida, would most respectfully ask leave to present, as an evil of great magnitude, "the protracted Indian war."

It is an evil which has had a blighting influence, not only on the prospects and improvements of the Territory generally, corrupting to the morals of our citizens, but it has been most disastrous to our immediate county of Madison—a county once the seat of every thing bright and encouraging, combining with its fertility of soil a salubrity of climate unsurpassed by any part of the Southern country; yet, notwithstanding we are now prostrated from the effects of this war, we could still recover (for our resources are many) if we were relieved from the merciless attacks of our savage enemy. The citizens of our county have suffered greater loss and been attacked more frequently by the Indians within the last month than they ever have been since the commencement of the war.

Without intending any disrespect to the able and indefatigable commander now at the head of the army in Florida, we are unanimously of the opinion that this Indian war can never be terminated by the soldiers of the regular army. The army, as it is now composed, (the common soldiers,) are made up of such material that it is impossible to make them good woodsmen—"Indian hunters." It requires the "veteran hunter," the hardy frontiersman, who has spent most of his life in search of game in our forests, to make a successful "bush fight."

We are aware that militia have been tried in this war and proved unsuccessful; that frauds to large amounts have been committed; that immense sums of money have been expended (squandered) by sycophantic and corrupt agents, for whose acts we hold the Government responsible.

There is a great mistake pervading the minds of many citizens of the United States which is truly unfortunate for the people of Florida. It is this: "that the Florida war is a war of our own; that it was brought on and continued by our own citizens for the purpose of speculation:" which we deny and pronounce false. The history of the times will support us in this assertion. We assert that it is exclusively a war of the United States, instigated and brought upon us by the blundering and careless acts of the heads of Departments at Washington city.

The settlers of this Territory who bought lands of the United States were promised protection and a peaceable possession of said lands; and we would ask, what has been our protection? After many of our citizens have been murdered by the Indians, and the others have suffered all the anxiety and dread of having their families butchered and their farms laid waste, their protection has been abuse from men high in authority—members of Congress, some of whom were actors in bringing this war upon us.

Therefore, believing as we do, that our citizens will be continually harassed as long as there is a single Seminole left in Florida, we would recommend to the President of the United States, as also the Congress now in session, "the propriety of receiving militia into the service of the United States, to serve during the Indian war, to receive at the close of the war a bounty in land." With a proper selection of officers to command said militia, (without respect to party spirit, which is ruining our country,) we confidently believe the war would soon be terminated.

We respectfully ask a cordial co-operation of the jurors of our sister counties on this subject at the approaching courts, and request the publication of this presentment in the newspapers at Tallahassee, and a copy, certified by the clerk of the court, sent to the President of the United States, the Secretary of War, and our Delegate in Congress.

Signed unanimous.

MADISON C. LIVINGSTON, *Fareman.*

APRIL TERM, 1842.

[Enclosure in Colonel Worth's communication of April 29, 1842.]

FORT REPOSE, E. F., *April 15, 1842.*

SIR :

* * * * *

You ask me, where is Jones's creek? It is on the west side of Suwannee, and empties one and a half miles above this post; the stream is wholly in Georgia, the boundary striking the Suwannee a half mile above this. I had a camp of N. C. O., and nine men stationed on Jones's creek, five miles distant, near the redoubtable Captain North, who is using every miserable and contemptible pretext under the sun to force himself into service with his company of seventy-two men; the Governor has not yet acknowledged him; yesterday he sent another express to Governor McD. to *report numerous Indian signs*; he is absent from home most of the time, leaving only two or three women at his house with a black man; the women manage to see an Indian or strange object every two or three days; the first report I credited, and sent the men encamped near the house to scour up Jones's creek five or six miles; they found a naked track going up and down the stream—subsequently the track was measured, and it happened to be exactly the length and breadth of the black man's foot; night before last again the *ghost* came to the fente and shook the gate; the non-commissioned officer happened to be at the house, and immediately, procuring a torch, he followed the foot-prints, and saw that the visitor had come from the field adjoining and returned the same way; he offered to keep a sentinel for the protection of the house, but, oh no, "*they were not afraid;*" the negro man was absent from the

house. Reports are constantly in circulation of Indians killing and being killed about Charles's ferry, and within that district; the express from the cavalry picket at the spring came in to-day, and I inquired particularly, as these occurrences were so recent; he tells me there are no signs of Indians; none have been killed, and none seen any where. These people are so miserably indolent that they will make any sacrifice to get into Government pay and rations; and, indeed, a whole colony could be raised for emigration to the south if furnished with rations alone. Indians will always be reported in this neighborhood as long as a chance remains of some people getting into service. I have scoured around every hammock and in every direction for miles, and not a sign has been seen. I would feel as safe travelling about in this section as in any part of the United States with an equal population; my fear, if any, would be of white Indians only.

* * * * *

Yours, &c,

H. MCKAVETT.

Lieut. SPRAGUE, A. D. C., &c.

MADISON COURT-HOUSE, April 16, 1842.

DEAR SIR: I am requested by the citizens of our county to address you on the subject of our protection. Above I send you a copy of the presentment of the grand jury for Madison county, made a few days ago.

We have suffered much within the last few weeks from the midnight attacks of the Indians, and request, if your time will permit, that you will visit our county; and, having a correct description given you of the situation of our settlements, we are confident the troops can be so arranged as to give a more efficient protection than we have at present.

Should you visit us, or conclude to send some officer to consult with us, you will find a cordial reception, and every facility offered to facilitate the conclusion of this distressing war. You will meet with a friendly welcome at any of the houses of gentlemen living either in the vicinity of this place or the Hickstown settlement.

With sentiments of high esteem, I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

MADISON C. LIVINGSTON,

For the citizens of Madison county, Florida.

To Colonel W. J. WORTH,

Commander-in-chief of the Florida war.

No. 133.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Camp Wandell, May 3, 1842.

SIR: I am mortified to discover that, in preparing the list submitted on the 25th ultimo, the following names were omitted, which I beg may be considered as on the original paper, to wit:

Lieut. Col. J. Garland, 4th infantry, was in commission during the last war, and has risen gradually to his present rank; is highly active,

intelligent, and zealous ; has served a former tour in this Territory in the grade of major ; given cordial and zealous support during this campaign, and conducted himself excellently well in the presence of the enemy : recommended for the brevet of colonel.

Captain S. Casey, 2d infantry, most inadvertantly omitted in the previous list, is an officer of rare merit ; has seen much, and, particularly during the recent operations, rendered very valuable service ; equally intelligent and persevering in pursuit and combat with the enemy : recommended for the brevet of major.

First Lieut. J. W. Anderson, adjutant of the 2d infantry, conducted with great cleverness an expedition, which resulted in the capture of a party of the enemy, in August last, (see his report on file in the Adjutant General's office ;) he is a young officer of high promise and merit : recommended for the brevet of captain.

Second Lieut. F. D. Callender, ordnance corps. I most especially commend this admirable young officer to the distinction of a brevet, which he has earned by zealous and valuable services. In the duties of his own corps he has been every thing I could desire ; but he has been the ready, prompt, and efficient, volunteer in all line duties, and a full participant in all hardships ; he is as intelligent as active : recommended for brevet of first lieutenant.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Fort King, May 6, 1842.

SIR : The entire band of Halleck Tustenuggee, except two ordinary warriors, is now in my possession ; the chief is with me at this place to start in the morning for Wacahoota, where, it is hoped, the runners will have returned with some of the Creeks, &c ; the band is on the march to Tampa, well guarded, there to embark immediately for Sea-horse Key ; they will be on the water in sixty hours. With the exception above mentioned, who will doubtless come in, as their families are secured, I believe it may safely be said that, at this moment, there is not a hostile rifle between *Okeechobee* and the mouth of Suwannee, nor, within those limits, between the Gulf and Atlantic. This result is interesting, as it liberates an extensive range of county from alarm or menace, and relieves me from all anxiety in respect to the new settlements. Alluring the chief from his people to this point, Lieut. Col. Garland was left at the camp, with instructions as to the seizure, which delicate service, under circumstances of much difficulty, he executed admirably. He speaks highly of the great assistance received from Capt. McCall, of the 4th.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Fort King, May 6, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to forward interesting reports from Captains Wright, Screven, and McKavett. The report of the latter exhibits an extraordinary state of things in his quarter, and is recommended to the special consideration of the general in chief. The accuracy of his statements and inferences is fully confirmed by information from various sources.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

[Enclosure in Col. Worth's letter of May 6, 1842.]

FORT MONIAC, EAST FLORIDA, *April 29, 1842.*

SIR: I have had the honor to receive your favor of the 10th instant, and am more than gratified to be informed of the favorable notice which the colonel commanding the army of Florida has been pleased to take of my communication of the 3d instant, touching a correspondence which has been had between his excellency the Governor of Georgia and the Secretary of War.

The order to abandon Fort Henderson, Trader's Hill, Georgia, coming in such proper season, upon the announcement of his excellency, that he had taken the defence of the State of Georgia into his own hands, and formally requesting the withdrawal of the United States troops from her territorial limits, naturally induced the belief (amounting almost to certainty) that the order was a consequence of, and made in compliance with, his excellency's desires. Under these circumstances, delicacy forbade that I should intrude my services upon those to whom they were unwelcome, and, accordingly, I henceforward abandoned the operation in the Okefenokee swamp, which, in my communication of the 3d instant, I had pledged myself to you to perform. By return of the express which conveyed this communication, I received the order to abandon Fort Henderson, Georgia: this was on the 5th instant, and on the 7th I assumed the command of this post.

In order to show to the colonel commanding, &c., that I was not goaded into activity by his excellency's action in this matter, I now herewith forward to you a copy of my post order No. 5, and one of the accompanying letters of instructions to Lieutenant Johnson, dated the 18th March, five days before the publication of his excellency's letter in the Federal Union, at Milledgeville. Lieutenant Johnson had actually marched seventeen miles, in the execution of his orders, when I had to recall him by express, in consequence of the receipt, on the 19th of March, of special order No. 37, dated, Headquarters army of Florida, Pilotka, March 13, 1842, requiring me to detach twenty men to garrison this post.

Thus have I been twice foiled, by conflicting instructions, in my most earnest desires to render such service as it was in my power to afford.

I have the honor to be your most obedient servant,

R. B. SCREVEN,
Capt. 8th Reg. Inf., Comm'g.

To Major S. COOPER,

Ass't Adj't Gen. and Chief of staff,
Army of Florida, Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, E. F.

[Enclosure in Capt. Screven's letter of April 29, 1842.]

ORDER No. 5.

COMPANY D, 8TH REGIMENT OF INFANTRY,
Fort Henderson, Georgia, March 18, 1842.

The effective force of this command will march hence, in two equal detachments, on the 19th and 21st instant, to scout the Okefenokee swamp.

The first detachment, under Second Lieut. T. S. J. Johnson, 8th regiment of infantry, will move, on the 19th instant, along the eastern border of the swamp, via Forts Norton, Dearborn, Mudge, Lamotte, and Floyd, at which latter point it will penetrate the swamp, and rendezvous at Floyd's island.

The second detachment, commanded by the undersigned, will move on the 21st instant, and, penetrating the swamp at Fort Norton on a westerly course, seek also to rendezvous at Floyd's island.

Assistant Surgeon Holden will accompany this detachment.

Each detachment will be provided with one wagon and ten days' forage, (half allowance,) ten days' rations, four common tents, two axes and four hatchets; and, at the points of ingress to the swamp, the men will take six days' rations on their persons. The wagon belonging to Lieut. Johnson will return to Fort Norton, at which point the two wagons, with a guard, will remain until the return of the troops.

First Sergeant Lindsay Stimpson, with a guard of one sergeant, one musician, and ten privates, will remain in charge of the post. Hospital steward and attendant, sick and extra duty men in quartermaster's department, will be exempt from detail for this service.

R. B. SCREVEN,
Capt. 8th Reg't Inf., Comm'g.

FORT MONIAC, EAST FLORIDA, April 29, 1842.

The above is a true copy from the original now in my possession.

R. B. SCREVEN,
Capt. 8th Reg't Inf., Comm'g.

[Enclosure in Capt. Screven's letter of April 29, 1842.]

FORT HENDERSON, GEORGIA, March 18, 1842.

SIR: In executing the order, a copy of which I now herewith have the honor to transmit you, I have three objects in view, viz: 1st. To asce

tain whether there are any hostile Indians, (Seminoles, Creeks, or Cherokees,) or recent signs of any, in this part of the Okefenokee swamp. 2d. To ascertain whether there are any persons (white or black) disguised as Indians, for the purpose of creating false alarms, making spurious signs, or for any other sinister purpose; and 3d. To acquire a knowledge of the swamp.

If you fall in with any of the two classes of persons above mentioned, capture them alive if possible, or destroy them if that be the alternative. In effecting the last-mentioned object, I desire that you will keep written journals of courses and distances, face of the country, &c., to the end of drawing up a report as accurate as may be.

Blaze your way into the swamp, and, at convenient places and distances, mark on the trees "Co. D, 8th Inf'y," (with date,) and, if in a prairie region, put up posts, marked as above.

Early Monday morning I expect you to enter the swamp, from Fort Floyd, in a southwesterly direction, until you strike the stream which (by the most recent map from the Topographical bureau) appears to rise near the site of Fort Floyd; thence, along the banks of this stream, about eight or ten miles, and then due south to Floyd's trail, and follow this westerly to Floyd's island. Arrived here, await my coming, but, in no event, so long as to be in danger of suffering for subsistence. On Tuesday morning early I shall penetrate the swamp from Fort Norton, on a course west by north, and hope thus to form a juncture with you on Floyd's trail, and so enter the island, and examine it together. But this may not be. I have every prospect of procuring you the best guide in the country, (Murry, a white person,) but, in the event of failure, you must rely upon your compass, judgment, and exertions.

When you take the swamp on Monday morning, send your wagon, without escort, to Fort Norton, to wait there, with my wagon and guard, until our return. I think we shall emerge from the swamp on Floyd's trail, and strike the road which you are now about to take at some point between Fort Norton and Dearborn. Do not permit firing, hunting, or straying from your detachment, until you commence your return march.

I entertain the belief that the enemy may be found in the swamp, and hence recommend that you should be wary of him always.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

R. B. SCREVEN,
Capt. 8th Reg't Inf., Comm'g.

FORT MONIAC, EAST FLORIDA, April 29, 1842.

The above is a true copy from the original.

R. B. SCREVEN,
Captain 8th Reg't of Infantry.

[Enclosure in Colonel Worth's letter of May 6, 1842.]

NORTH'S STATION, FA. April 29, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 10th instant, and regret that some mal-arrangement in the transmittal of the mail has prevented an earlier occasion to submit the following:

On my arrival at this post on the 25th March, a panic appeared prevalent among the inhabitants in this section, arising from various reports of the appearance of Indians and Indian signs; and their apprehensions were stimulated by the fresh recollection of the murder committed within a few miles of Fort Gilmer in the early part of March. I immediately established guards sufficient for protection at the exterior and more exposed positions, near the thickest of the population: confidence was restored, and, in the vicinity of one camp, where the people had previously collected at night for mutual defence, their fears subsided, and they returned to their homes with a feeling of security from further alarm. Scouting parties were then daily sent out in every direction, to examine, in the most minute manner, every circumstance connected with the appearance or signs of Indians: with the exception of low narrow hammock, skirting the borders of the small streams, the country is mostly open pine barren, and affords no hidden resting place for Indians. Big bay, one and a half miles to the southeast, is fifteen miles long and three or four miles wide; it is bordered with a light growth of hammock, and islands can be seen in the interior. No Indian can get to these islands without leaving a sign: the print of his foot would remain in the moistened clay at the edge of the water long after it was made, and until a rise in the bay should cover the mark. So far from a rise at this time, the continued draught has a tendency to depress the water below its common level. A high and dry hammock, along the Suwannee river, easily penetrated, can afford no permanent shelter. Through every hammock and in every direction the country was scoured for miles around, and in all the scouting, that continued incessantly for nearly two weeks, not the first appearance of Indian signs could be discovered.

My attention was now attracted to the continued reports of Indians and Indian murders, remote and near, and an apparent increased degree of alarm existing among some of the settlers, and the difficulty of undeceiving them.

A Captain North, with a company of seventy-two men organized, but who had not been called into service by the Governor of Georgia, I learned had despatched expresses to the Governor making reports of Indians, and seeking authority to muster his men into service. He was continually absent from home, leaving a few women and a negro to protect the house—this is the exterior house in that settlement, and one and a half miles from the building burnt with the woman in it near Fort Gilmer. A guard was established within a few yards: they learned that an Indian or Indian negro had been seen, a few days before their arrival, passing along the hammock in front of the building, and following "Torn's creek;" it was examined: the tracks were very distinct; a naked foot, broad and long, such as could not again be mistaken; the tracks returned and left the hammock at the point of entrance; the distance, from the entrance to the spot of turning back, about three hundred yards. When Captain North returned home, he also examined, and declared the print the same as was made at the murder before referred to.

In a few days the object visited the house at night, and slightly alarmed the inmates, without committing further damage; they did not call the guard to their relief, but informed them the next day. The foot-print in the hammock was measured with a string, and corresponded in length and breadth with that of the negro belonging to the house. Again the

object visited the house in the night; the corporal commanding the guard was present; the fence gate was shaken, and a noise made to indicate the presence of some body; the women said an Indian was seen; the corporal instantly procured a torch and followed as rapidly as possible, but the object eluded him; it had come from the adjoining field, and returned the same way; it could be traced no further; the negro was absent from the house at the time. The corporal offered to place a sentinel for protection, but they declined, having no further fear. The alarm on this occasion appeared so much the result of an artifice as to induce suspicion. Captain North, on his return, despatched another express. Having thus forced himself into service, he seems determined to remain in, by imposing on the credulity of the Governor, and he has since exerted himself in circulating reports of Indians, and producing a fictitious excitement.

Many of these people are too idle and indolent to labor for the means of subsistence; many live by hunting and fishing: and hence the distress of these inhabitants, and their desire to get into service for a maintenance. They are but little improved beyond the Indians themselves.

The Governor not having yet recognised Captain North as in service, he has put himself in motion with some of his men, pretending to scout, but in reality disturbing the peaceable and quiet inhabitants, and feeding their minds with false alarms.

A recent report of the burning of Fort Fanning and the murder of forty people called out Captain Johnson to *succor the place*; and the same day, a report of two hundred Indians induces Captain North with twenty men to go in pursuit. This game is so openly played that the people begin to understand the matter too well; but persons at a distance may be deceived.

The quiet of this region would be greatly promoted if authority were granted to disperse this armed mob, disturbers of the public peace.

Some facts have already transpired; and, when further developments shall have taken place, (I am fortified in the belief from personal examination and other circumstances of evidence,) it will be discovered that the *Indians* who committed the murder in the vicinity of Fort Gilmer were not the *native Indians* of the country.

So long as this war depends upon *reported* "signs of Indians," no limit can be fixed to its termination in this region, until the General Government refuses to pay the State of Georgia for calling out these *volunteers*.

Very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

HY. MCKAVETT,
Capt. 8th Reg., Command'g Post.

Major S. COOPER,

A. A. Gen. and Chief of Staff, Tampa Bay, E. F.

MINERAL SPRINGS, E. F., May 15, 1842.

SIR: It becomes my duty to report to you that, on yesterday, private *George Newell*, of "H" company 2d dragoons, was murdered in the most cold blooded and cruel manner by E. Stafford, a citizen who was living at this place. It seems that some high words had passed between *Newell* and *Stafford* in the morning, which led to nothing at the time; in the evening *Newell* was sent to *Ross & Holmes's* store for some fresh beef for the company; when he came to the store he was attacked by three men,

viz: Samuel Russell, Ezekiel Stafford, and Fennel Ottrey; Russell commenced the attack by striking Newell over the head with a stick; he was then stabbed by Stafford, and again beat over the head by Ottrey. At the commencement of the affray, Newell was walking along on his duty in the most peaceable and quiet manner. Notwithstanding that there was a justice of the peace present at the time, whom I repeatedly requested to have Stafford arrested, he was permitted to make his escape, and he has not since been heard of.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. CAMPBELL, *Lieut. 2d Dragoons.*

Capt. N. W. HUNTER,

Second Dragoons, Charles's Ferry.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Cedar Keys, May 19, 1842.

Respectfully forwarded to the adjutant general of the army for the information of the general-in-chief.

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Cedar Keys, May 19, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, on yesterday, of the following communications: the honorable Secretary of War's letter of May 10th to the general-in-chief, (copy;) letter of instructions from the general-in-chief, and general order No. 26 in relation thereto. My order No. 14 will advise the general-in-chief as to the extent to which his instructions have been carried out.

I have designated B and K troop (Fulton's and Ker's) 2d dragoons for Baton Rouge; to which point they will move so soon as *public* transport can be spared. I propose to give them the route by water; pass into Lake Pontchartrain, and to disembark within two or two and a half marches of the point of destination, which will effect a great saving of horses, time, and expense. The movement of the remaining companies of that regiment will be delayed (not long) until some replacements can be effected.

The 2d infantry may be expected to reach New York from the 1st to the 10th proximo.

Several of the positions recently held by the 2d, indicated in the accompanying order, are occupied but for the moment, or until a disposition can be made of public property, and a deliberate judgment formed as to the points entering into the cordon; and this depends very much upon the answers to be received from the Creeks, with whom I am now in communication.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,

Headquarters, Washington.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Cedar Keys, May 24, 1842.

SIR: On the 14th and 15th instant, eight persons, men, women, and children, living in widely detached cabins, on the forks of the Santa Fe, were killed by a party of eight or ten Indians. Detachments of the 7th, stationed in the neighborhood, promptly on the pursuit, twice encountered this band, received its fire from ambush, lost two soldiers killed, and three wounded; although the detachments had the best and truest Indian guides and trailers in the country, under favor of the ground, the enemy escaped south, in direction of the Wacassassa. I have no doubt that this is part of the band heretofore so troublesome west of the Suwannee, whom the runners, now out in all directions, had not seen. The Creek chief Octiorte, now collecting his band in this neighborhood under engagement to surrender on the 4th of next month, assures my messengers that the murderers are not of the band of Creeks with him; but he engages to secure them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

[Enclosed in Colonel Worth's communication of May 24.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Cedar Keys, May 23, 1842.

SIR: Herewith I have the honor to forward copies of instructions from the honorable Secretary for the Department of War, and the Major General commanding-in-chief the army, inviting your attention to that part where the Secretary refers to the honorable Secretary of the Navy.

Recent successes, and results arising therefrom, will enable me in a few weeks to make the announcement authorized by the superior authority, when, I am fully persuaded, not a foe will be left to molest the citizens between the Caulosahatchee and Tallahassee. A very small band, supposed to be Upper Creeks, are doubtless roving west of the latter place; south, there is Jones with his band of ten, and the mixed band in the cypress, or thereabout, under the Prophet, of about twenty. The two latter are, and doubtless will remain, in respect to the settlements, quite innoxious; indeed, it is well known that, since the arrangement of General Macomb, they have acted only on the defensive, except, probably, in the case of wrecked vessels.

The papers herewith are submitted in order that you may, in your judgment, take such preliminary steps as the instructions of the Secretary of the Navy may require or authorize in respect to the disposition of your forces. Perhaps you may find it expedient to discharge hired vessels, if any you have, and otherwise commence a curtailment of expenditure.

I am speedily reducing the military force to the minimum authorized by the foregoing instructions.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*

Capt. J. T. McLAUGHLIN,
Commanding, &c., naval forces, coast of Florida.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Cedar Keys, May 30, 1842.

SIR: I have the honor to forward order No. 16, directing the movement of four companies of the 2d dragoons; the fifth (Ker's) will be retained a while longer, probably until the 10th or 15th proximo, by which time I hope to have in possession the Creeks south and east of Tallahassee. On the 4th they engage to come to me near this place; but some time must be allowed for collecting stragglers; immediately thereafter the 7th will move; and I shall then ask the *route* of the next to be withdrawn, the 8th (in turn) I suppose—forwarding, at the same time, a detailed disposition of the remaining troops.

The first battalion of the 2d embarked on the 25th; the second on the 28th.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. J. WORTH, *Colonel Commanding.*
The ADJUTANT GENERAL U. S. ARMY,
Headquarters, Washington.

[Lt. Col. Whiting's report, enclosed in Col. Worth's letter of June 10, 1842.]

OFFICE OF D. Q. M. G. ARMY OF FLORIDA,
Pilatka, East Florida; May 11, 1842.

SIR: I herewith transmit a report made under instructions from headquarters army of Florida, dated the 22d April last. Having to embrace that month, I have had to await the returns thereof. This cause has necessarily delayed the completion of it until this time.

It has not been in my power to comply with the instructions in all respects. The abstracts which I have kept of the reports of persons and articles, as they passed through my hands to Washington, gave only the aggregate of persons employed, and of the compensation paid to them. Further details were not retained. The results, however, are exhibited, showing what reductions were made at the several periods specified.

It will be seen that the reductions were not large from July, until the last period specified. If there could have been shown an abstract of the kind given in this report for the termination of the previous three months, (I kept none for those months,) a striking contrast in many respects would have been seen. In assuming the command of the army of Florida, Col. Worth called for suggestions from the Quartermaster's department as to "reductions in the hired force" of the department. Under this call, I renewed various suggestions that had been made to his predecessor, such as that all mechanics, laborers, express men, (with a few exceptions,) ostlers, teamsters, &c., should be supplied by detail from the line, excepting at the principal depots, where the hired force was necessarily large, and the garrisons were generally comparatively small. Orders were at once issued, directing that all calls from the Quartermaster's department on the line, for any of those services, should be complied with as far as practicable. This introduced a great change on the score of economy, of which the accompanying report shows no proof.

Also, orders were issued about the same time confining all building to the comfort of the sick and the protection of the stores, and, even for this.

purpose, to be of the most simple kind. No evidence can be presented of the quantity of lumber, tools, &c., which was saved by this salutary order, which at once rendered unnecessary all purchases of such supplies, before large and constant, and relieved the means of transportation of a most burdensome service.

Through his suggestion, likewise, in the course of a few months, the battalion of dragoons left the Territory. This diminution of the number of horses here in that respect, together with large curtailments of the mounted infantry, immediately so reduced the call for forage from the North, that no further estimates, excepting in one limited instance, for this article of supply, have been made from that time. Had the other battalion gone out according to a subsequent suggestion of Colonel Worth, the forage on hand would have carried the Florida army through the coming season.

The train has not been as much reduced as, perhaps, the strict demands of the service upon it might have warranted; but, while operations were going on over so extensive a field, and the dragoons (one battalion) were still in the Territory, and particularly while so many settlers and their families were to be transported to their new settlements within the hostile region—a semi-military colonization—it has been deemed prudent to keep it in considerable strength for the present. If this battalion soon goes out, as these settlements will shortly be completed, very large reductions of the train can be made. Whether the surplus mules can be sold in Florida is questionable. Perhaps it will be determined to transfer them to the southwest.

It has not been practicable, as before stated, to show the precise classification of the persons employed; but it may be stated that a very large majority of them are teamsters. At nearly all the posts, excepting Pilatka, Port Leon, and Tampa, the teams are driven by soldiers, at 15 cents per diem. The main trains, which move independently of posts, still have hired drivers, whose compensation has, however, since March, been reduced one-third. They will mostly be discharged, should the reduction above anticipated be warranted.

The clerks are now confined to the principal depots, with only two or three exceptions, at small salaries, and the salaries of these depot clerks have been reduced.

Most of the overseers, heretofore employed at large salaries, have been discharged or continued, where indispensable, at reduced salaries. As far as practicable, wagon masters or forage masters have been substituted, giving a legitimate and more economical character to this kind of superintendence.

The persons reported at Key Biscayne were there only temporarily. They are, no doubt, withdrawn and discharged by this time. Those at Trader's Hill have been transferred to Garey's Ferry, and will, probably, soon be relieved by soldiers.

The operations before alluded to, and the emigration of Indians, have unavoidably led to the hire of considerable steamboat service. Large reductions in this respect, even under these circumstances, have been made. No boat is now employed on the Atlantic coast. There is no hired boat on the St. John's, though one was necessarily brought in during April, the Newbern being disabled; and only two hired boats are at this date on the gulf side. When the present shipments of Indians are made, particu-

Early if the dragoons go out, probably the two public boats, together with the small schooners there, will suffice.

The report of the animals now on hand may not be precisely correct. Late returns have not yet come in from all the small and remote posts; but the result must be mainly correct. There are some thirty horses, and about half that number of mules, reported on hand, which were not retained under the orders of Colonel Worth. They would have been disposed of at the late sale, had not unavoidable circumstances prevented their arrival at Garey's Ferry in due time.

My consolidated estimate of funds for the second quarter of 1841 amounted to \$186,066. The amount required for July of the ensuing quarter, according to the accompanying report, was \$34,170, which, supposing the other months of the quarter to have demanded the same amount, (which, however, may not have been the case, as the average of the monthly estimate for the third quarter of that year was \$43,909,) shows a large reduction in the expenditures of the Department.

The amount required to meet the demands of April last appears to be only \$18,887, showing a still greater reduction. Another month or two will, no doubt, exhibit a still descending scale.

My regular consolidated estimate for the first quarter of the present year was for \$59,410. In the course of the quarter I called for \$40,000 additional funds, to meet with promptitude demands for services that were about to be discontinued; and \$21,200 were sent without being estimated for. Under these circumstances, only about \$15,000 were estimated for for the last month, and none will be called for for the present month.

All of which is respectfully submitted, for the information of the colonel commanding the army of Florida, by

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY WHITING,
D. Q. M. G. Army of Florida.

To Major S. COOPER,

A. A. G. and Chief of Staff, Headquarters Army of Florida.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF FLORIDA,

Cedar Keys, May 28, 1842.

SIR: By a report from Lieutenant Colonel Whiting, it appears that, at the recent sale of public horses, the highest price obtained was sixty-six dollars, and the average thirty-three. The colonel commanding desires that, upon this data, if in your judgment correct, you determine a rate at which officers so disposed may purchase. Should you make two classes, serviceable and unserviceable, and the quartermaster at the post or station be in doubt as to the class under which to rate, a board of officers, consisting of from one to three, according to the number present, may be assembled; the purchaser in no case being a member to determine the point. You will give notice that, after the 30th of next month, no public horse or other animal will be allowed for the individual use of any officer; that forage officers will be allowed to draw in kind for the number actually kept, in no case exceeding the number to which entitled by law; and

