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Letter from the President of the United States, communicating information in relation to the number of troops engaged in the service of the United States in the late war with Great Britain.

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NUMBER OF TROOPS IN THE LAST WAR WITH GREAT  
BRITAIN.

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LETTER

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
COMMUNICATING

*Information in relation to the number of troops engaged in the service of  
the United States in the late war with Great Britain.*

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MARCH 4, 1858.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs.

*To the House of Representatives :*

I herewith transmit to the House of Representatives communications from the Secretary of War and Secretary of the Interior, in answer to the resolution adopted by the House on the 5th ultimo, requesting the President to furnish certain information in relation to the number of troops, whether regulars, volunteers, draughted men, or militia, who were engaged in the service of the United States in the last war with Great Britain, &c., &c.

JAMES BUCHANAN.

WASHINGTON CITY, *March 4, 1858.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, February 23, 1858.*

SIR : I have the honor to transmit herewith reports of the Adjutant General and Third Auditor, giving all the information in the possession of those bureaus, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 5th instant, requesting the President of the United States to furnish certain information in relation to the number of troops, whether regulars, volunteers, draughted men, or militia, who were mustered into the service in the last war with Great Britain ; those engaged in like manner in any of the Indian wars during the same period ; and the number of persons to whom bounty lands have

been awarded for services in said war of 1812, or in the said Indian wars, &c.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. R. DRINKARD,  
*Acting Secretary of War.*

The PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Adjutant General's Office, Washington, Feb. 9, 1858.*

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 5th instant, I have the honor to submit the following statement, which comprises all the information to be gathered from the records of this office:

1. *The war of 1812, (with Great Britain.)*

The whole number of officers and men in the regular service during the war cannot be given. The following statement of the numbers at different periods of the war is the nearest approximation that can be made to it:

|                      | Officers. | Men.   | Aggregate. |
|----------------------|-----------|--------|------------|
| July, 1812.....      | 301       | 6,385  | 6,686      |
| February, 1813.....  | 1,476     | 17,560 | 19,036     |
| September, 1814..... | 2,395     | 35,791 | 38,186     |
| February, 1815.....  | 2,396     | 31,028 | 33,424     |

The militia force mustered into the service of the United States during the war was 31,210 officers, 440,412 men; 471,622 aggregate.

A detailed statement of this force, the period of service, and State or Territory in which raised, will be found in document No. 20, 2d session 24th Congress, 1836-'37, (House Reps.)

2. *Indian war of 1811.*

In November, 1811, the regular force in service was 414 officers, 5,194 men; 5,608 aggregate.

According to the statement of the Third Auditor, none of the militia who served in this war were in service for the period of six months. Those engaged in the battle of Tippecanoe, though mustered into service for three months, under the law of February 28, 1795, were only in service about two months.

3. But little can be ascertained with regard to the force under General Wayne, in 1794 and 1795. It appears, from American State Papers, vol. 1, Military Affairs, pages 67 and 109, that the number of non-commissioned officers and privates of his army, in June, 1794, was 2,843, and in December, 1795, 2,039.

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

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant General.*

Hon. JOHN B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
*Third Auditor's Office, February 22, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to return to you, herewith, the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 5th instant, which you referred to me for a report—

*First.* As to the whole number of officers, non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates, whether regulars, volunteers, draughted men or militia, at any time engaged in or mustered into the service of the United States, in the last war with Great Britain.

*Second.* What was the whole number in like manner engaged in any of the Indian wars which occurred during the same period, distinguishing in both cases the number of those engaged for a greater or less period than one month; also the same information as to those engaged in any of the Indian wars from the close of the revolutionary war to the commencement of the war of 1812.

The third section of the resolution is referrible to the Commissioner of Pensions for the information required in regard to the number of persons to whom bounty lands have been awarded for services in said war.

With regard to the last section, this office has no data by which an estimate, or proximate estimate, of the annual cost of the extension of the systems of revolutionary pensions to the soldiers of the war of 1812, and accompanying Indian wars, could be arrived at.

With regard to the requirements of the first section of the resolution, I have the honor to state, so far as regards the militia force, that under a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 29th April, 1836, a full and minute statement of the whole force of the militia—volunteers, rangers, spies and sea-fencibles—engaged in the war of 1812, was furnished by this office, which included the States in which the said troops served; the years in which they served, with the length of their service, which was accompanied by a summary statement of the whole, showing an aggregate of officers and men of 471,622. This statement will be found in document 20, volume 2, Executive Documents, 2d session 24th Congress, and furnishes all the information that this office possesses in regard to that description of troops.

With regard to the regular forces, I have to state that, in order to give the whole number of troops engaged in the war of 1812, and to do justice to the troops who enlisted prior to the war, and who necessarily had to serve therein, either for a portion or the whole of their time, I have commenced my computation from the year 1807, for the reason that the enlistments then authorized were for five years.

As there were no regular troops authorized to be enlisted for a period less than twelve months, none (except in cases where improper recruits were made) served for a less period than one month. But with regard to the militia—of which there were an aggregate of 471,622—I find that out of that number 145,590 officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, served for a less period than one month; and of the number engaged in Indian wars during the same period, say 70,919, the number of officers and men who served less than one month was 1,734.

4 NUMBER OF TROOPS IN LAST WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

The result of the investigation is set forth in the following table, viz :

| Regular army.  | Commissioned officers. | Non commissioned officers. | Men.     | Total.   |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| There were no enlistments authorized for the regular army for a less period than twelve months.....  | 2, 902                 | 6, 786                     | 46, 964  | 56, 652  |
| <i>Militia, &amp;c.</i>  |                        |                            |          |          |
| To the above number, add the militia force furnished in a statement from this office, dated 12th December, 1836, and found in Executive Documents, second session, twenty-fourth Congress, volume 2, document 20 ..... | 31, 210                | 57, 646                    | 382, 766 | 471, 622 |
| Grand total.....   | 34, 112                | 64, 432                    | 429, 730 | 528, 274 |
| Of the whole number of militia force, as above stated, it appears this number served less than one month.....  | 9, 679                 | 18, 420                    | 117, 491 | 145, 590 |
| Out of the whole force of the militia engaged in the war of 1812, it appeared that this number were engaged in Indian wars, as near as can be arrived at   | 4, 945                 | 8, 306                     | 57, 671  | 70, 919  |
| Of this force, it appears that this number served less than one month.....   | 143                    | 202                        | 1, 379   | 1, 734   |

*Recapitulation.*

|  | Commissioned officers. | Non-commissioned officers. | Men.     | Total.   |
|--|------------------------|----------------------------|----------|----------|
| Whole number in service for more than one month.                   | 24, 633                | 46, 012                    | 312, 230 | 382, 684 |
| Whole number in service less than one month .....                  | 9, 679                 | 18, 420                    | 117, 491 | 145, 590 |
|  |                        |                            |          | 528, 274 |
| Whole number in service in Indian war for more than one month..... | 4, 802                 | 8, 091                     | 56, 292  | 69, 185  |
| Whole number in service in Indian war less than one month .....    | 143                    | 212                        | 1, 379   | 1, 734   |
|  |                        |                            |          | 70, 919  |

The men engaged in the Indian wars during the war of 1812, there can be no doubt, served more tours of duty than one; hence the large aggregate.

The only certain means I have to arrive at the number of troops engaged in Indian wars, from the close of the revolutionary war till the war of 1812, is derived from the report of the Secretary of War, the Hon. H. Knox. See American State Papers, volume 1, Military Affairs, from page 5 to 69, viz :

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Troops in service, including officers, 1789.....          | 840   |
| General Harmar's command, 1790.....                       | 1,453 |
| General St. Clair's command, 1791.....                    | 2,300 |
| Troops to December, 1792.....                             | 5,120 |
| Troops to June, 1794.....                                 | 3,578 |
| Troops to November, 1794.....                             | 3,629 |
| Troops to December, 1794.....                             | 3,228 |
| Add Indian war, ascertained from Third Auditor's records: |       |
| General Harmar, November, 1811.....                       | 1,890 |

With great respect, your obedient servant,

ROBERT J. ATKINSON,  
*Auditor.*

Hon. J. B. FLOYD,  
*Secretary of War.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*March 3, 1858.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the report of the Commissioner of Pensions as to the "number of persons to whom bounty lands have been awarded for services in 1812 and in the Indian wars since the revolution," made in pursuance of the resolution of Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
J. THOMPSON,  
*Secretary.*

To the PRESIDENT.

PENSION OFFICE,  
*March 2, 1858.*

SIR: In pursuance of the resolution of Congress, calling for the "number of persons to whom bounty lands have been awarded for services in 1812 and in the Indian wars since the revolution," I have the honor to submit the following statement:

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Bounty land granted for military service in the war of 1812..  | 224,000        |
| Bounty land granted for military service in the Indian wars... | 57,000         |
| Number of persons who have received bounty land.....           | <u>281,000</u> |

The statement is given in round numbers, but, it is believed, approximates very nearly to the number of persons to whom bounty land has been granted for services in the wars mentioned.

I am, sir, with great respect, your obedient servant,

GEO. C. WHITING,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. J. THOMPSON,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*