

*Report of E. Y. Naylor, Quartermaster and Commissary of a Company of Volunteers mustered into the service of the State of California, by order of his Excellency, Gov. Johnson, to suppress Indian hostilities in Klamath County, under the Act of March 12th, 1856.*

CRESCENT CITY; August 26, 1856.

GEN. WM. C. KIBBE ;

SIR :

Agreeable to the requirements of the Act passed March 12th, 1856, for the suppression of Indian Hostilities, in Klamath county, I herewith beg leave to submit the following as my report. Mr. J. B. Rosborough having been appointed Enrolling officer, proceeded on the 2nd day of May to enrol a company of volunteers, and the morning of the 3d mustered into service a company of thirty mounted men, that number being deemed sufficient at that time, to keep the Indians in check. For the officers of said Company I beg to refer you to the original muster roll which you have on file in your office. The Company was then ordered to Smith River Valley, and located their headquarters at Lt. Crooks', and were divided into two squads or commands, some fifteen men being ordered to proceed to the mouth of Smith's River, under Bt. Lt. Coyle, with orders to encamp at that point, and the balance of the Company to remain at Lt. Crooks', under the immediate command of Capt. Gordon, those two points being considered the most exposed of any in the valley, being most adjacent to the trails both on the coast and that leading from the headquarters of Chitco River, so as to defend both points and be able to intercept and cut off any straggling parties of Indians that might endeavor to make a descent into the valley. It being

deemed advisable to act on the defensive, from promises made by Gen. Wool to the effect that he had plenty of men to protect the citizens in this portion of the country, and that he would give such orders as would effect the desired object—which he, however, failed to do—the two separate commands remained at their posts some ten days, keeping up an effectual guard of sentinels between the two points, a distance of about five miles, frequently seeing small parties of Indians on the mountains north of the valley, on the lookout for chances of committing some depredation on the inhabitants of said valley, but owing to the strict watch kept on their movements, were unable to effect anything.

On the morning of the 10th, Lt. Coyle started up the river, about daylight, and surprised and killed one Indian who was descending the river in a canoe. He saw other Indians on the north bank, but owing to the distance did not succeed in effecting anything more that day, and returned back to camp during the afternoon.

Nothing further of interest occurred until about the 25th or 26th of May, when Capt. Gordon gave orders for both commands to proceed across Smith's River on a scout to Chitco, and were gone some ten days, but returned without effecting anything. After their return to their respective camps, they still continued to guard all the approaches to the valley until the morning of the 31st, when Lieut. Coyle was ordered to advance up the river, dividing his command into two parties, under command of himself and Sergt. Van Pelt. Before arriving at headquarters, Sergt. Van Pelt surprised a party of six or eight Indians prowling about, and succeeded in killing three of the bucks, wounding one of the others, and capturing one squaw, from whom they obtained the information that there was a large body of Indians on the head waters of Chitco, and that they were waiting the return of the Chief, who had gone to the Big Meadow, on Rogue river, for the purpose of treating for pesce with Col. Buchanan. They kept the squaw prisoner until the 1st June, when she made her escape. Nothing further transpired until the 3d, when the time for which the company was mustered into service having expired, they were marched into Crescent City, and discharged, it being the opinion that it was unnecessary to keep them in service longer. But in conclusion, I must say that I believe the presence of the company in that valley saved the inhabitants from being murdered and their property destroyed.

Further comment is, I think, unnecessary, more than to say I have made mention of all the important items during the time which they were out. All of which is respectfully submitted.