

Judging from the number of the Indians and the manner in which they are armed, and the direction from which they came, I am satisfied that it is the same band that committed the outrage at Daley's Ferry a short time since. I have been informed that the band, after making the attack upon Daley's Ferry, went to the headwaters of Mad River, and I presume that they now are on their way back to the Redwoods. The Indians captured two revolvers—one six-shooter and one seven-shooter. Mr. Olmstead being a very heavy man, I found it necessary to detail three reliefs of four men each to carry him to the settlement. I could not, therefore, attempt to pursue the Indians, even had I the time to do so.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. E. KETCHAM,

*Captain, Third Infantry California Vols., Commanding Post.*

Lieut. JOHN HANNA, Jr.,

*Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen., Humboldt Mil. Dist., Fort Humboldt, Cal.*

*Report of the operations of Company A, Third Infantry California Volunteers, Capt. Thomas E. Ketcham, in the field, &c., during the month of July, 1862.*

FORT BAKER, CAL., August 1, 1862.

July 1, 1862, Captain Ketcham left the post with fifteen enlisted men on a scout against the Indians in the Redwoods, near Reed's ranch. Sergeant Jones with a detachment of nine men left the post the same day under orders to proceed to Kettenshaw and endeavor to call in or capture Las Sic and his band of Indians. July 4, Captain Ketcham having thoroughly scouted in the neighborhood of the South Yager Creek, and down to the junction with the main Yager about two miles, when, finding Indian signs proceeding up the creek, followed up the tracks for nearly two days, when, losing the trail and not being able to recover it, struck for Thousand-Acre Field, from thence to the post. July 5, Sergeant Jones with detachment of nine men returned to the post; did not succeed in finding any Indians. July 10, two citizens (Messrs. Gray and Lyle) came to the post and stated that a party of four citizens who were on their way to Weaverville with a band of cattle had been attacked at their camp on the trail near the Upper Crossing of Mad River by Indians on the previous evening, and that one citizen had been killed (Mr. Lyons) and another badly wounded (Mr. Olmstead), the two others making their escape to the Yager Creek Settlement. I ordered a detail of twenty men to be made, and marched (acompanied by Messrs. Gray and Lyle as guides) for the Upper Crossing of Mad River. Owing to the dense fog upon the mountains we were forced to follow the trail all the way, by which we were detained upward of two hours. A short distance from the camp where the citizens had been attacked we met a number of citizens who had arrived before us, having Mr. Olmstead in charge. Mr. Olmstead had two bullets in his right thigh and was suffering severely. His friends not being able to convey him to a place of safety, twelve men of the detachment were detailed for that purpose. I then proceeded to the camping place of the citizens, and there saw the body of Mr. Lyons lying near to where the fire had been, one bullet through his chest, another through his face, his throat cut, his heart taken out, and his right hand burned off to the wrist. The body had been stripped by the Indians. Two

horses were also lying near, having been killed at the same time. The camp was situated on the west bank of Mad River, about one-quarter of a mile from the river, on an open space nearly surrounded by small bushes. About fifty yards to the south there is a small gulch running down to the river. The Indians, it is said to the number of about forty, crossed from the Fort Lyon District, came up the gulch, and being concealed by the brush growing upon its banks, fired upon the citizens while they were preparing supper, killing and wounding as before stated. Five of the Indians pursued Mr. Olmstead, who succeeded in making his escape after killing one of the Indians with his revolver. The Indians then recrossed the river, taking the Weaverville trail to the top of the mountain, and from thence struck off toward the head of Grouse Creek.

July 11, Corporal McHirron, with the detachment detailed to carry Mr. Olmstead to Yager Creek Settlement, returned to the post. July 15, Sergeant Jones with detachment of fourteen men, the guide and interpreter and two Indian runners, left the post under orders to march to the South Fork of Eel River; from thence to Fort Seward; from thence to Kettenshaw, and from thence back to the post, and to capture and call in as many Indians as possible, and to endeavor to surprise Say-Winne's band and punish them severely. July 24, Sergeant Jones with detachment, &c., returned to the post, having succeeded in capturing and calling in 112 Indians (36 grown males, 50 squaws, and 26 children). Between the 20th and 31st days of July there were 44 Indians (amongst them the chief Las-Sic) brought to the post by citizens. There are now at the post 55 warriors, 68 squaws, and 65 children. Lieut. J. F. Staples, with nineteen enlisted men of my company, has been stationed at the Eel River House (in the district of Capt. D. B. Akey, Second Cavalry California Volunteers) since June 28, 1862. I have had no report from him for the month of July. In connection with the attack upon the citizens at the Upper Crossing of Mad River, I would respectfully state that there are two bands of very hostile Indians within striking distance of Fort Baker. One ranging in the Redwoods, near Reed's ranch, and south to Eel River; another ranging in the mountains and gulches on the east side of Mad River, between Fort Lyon and the Eel River and Weaverville trail. Owing to the nature of the country, and the fact of their being constantly upon the alert, it is almost impossible for one body of soldiers to succeed in getting near enough to attack them. To capture or destroy these Indians it will be found necessary that four detachments (of fifteen or twenty men each) should be put in motion against them at about the same time. Whilst two parties are driving them, the other two parties would be so placed as to intercept their retreat. The points to be occupied will very readily suggest themselves to an officer acquainted with the country. To carry out this plan with success it will be necessary (if the exigencies of the service will permit) that the officer in command at Fort Baker should have control of at least one company, and authority to order the troops at Fort Lyon to co operate with the troops from Fort Baker when necessary, and to provide guides when needed for each detachment.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. E. KETCHAM,

*Captain, Third Infantry California Vols., Comdg. Fort Baker.*

Maj. R. O. DRUM,

*Assistant Adjutant-General, U. S. Army,*

*Hdqrs. Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.*