

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Fort Crook, Cal., August 13, 1864.\**

Lieut. E. D. WAITE,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Sacramento City, Cal. :*

LIEUTENANT: Yours of the 6th instant, inclosing a communication of John R. Richards, is at hand, and in reply I would state relative to the death of Jacob A. Deals, the following report was brought to me about the last of April: That Deals, meeting an Indian on Round Mountain carrying a rifle, had demanded it, and being refused its delivery commenced shooting at the Indian with his revolver, but missed his mark. The native returned the fire and killed Deals. It was also reported that the Indian was killed by other settlers. This I considered as settling the affair, and that I would not be justified in punishing any other of the tribe for it. The general opinion at the time among the citizens was that Deals provoked the quarrel, and was only served right. I have believed until lately that the report of the death of the Indian was correct, nor am I certain that he yet lives. Relative to the plundering of the house, I have used every effort to ascertain by whom it was perpetrated, but cannot satisfy myself as to the justice of punishing any one tribe, though the best evidence in my possession shows that two Indians who had been employed about the place were the culprits, and of whose residence I know nothing. The statement of Richards that I would protect the Indians even when I knew that they had committed depredations against the whites is a lie. The conversation which I had with him and the circumstances which gave rise to it are these: Last October Richards, his partner, Kingston, and several citizens residing at Round Mountain, some forty miles from this post, made a raid into the Hot Creek country, killing two bucks, wounding one, and disabling several squaws for having (as they stated) set fire to some fencing and stolen a few potatoes on their ranch, and the only evidence they had of their guilt was the statement of a gang of Indians on their place, with whom they lived.

As soon as I received the news I left for the Hot Creek country to investigate the affair, and if possible to prevent the tribe from taking vengeance of other settlers, which many of them were fearful would happen. I sent a runner to their camp to inform the chiefs that I wished to see them. After some little delay, and finding that I was alone, they came in. I was astonished at the good sense they showed in speaking of the affair, saying that they blamed the Indians most who had lied about them, and that they would not take vengeance of any of the whites, but would hold the tribe responsible. They claimed that I should protect them when innocent and not allow the settlers to make any more raids into their country. All the evidence shows that they were guiltless of the offense charged. I then sent for the man Richards and informed him that I considered his conduct unauthorized and unjustifiable, and if the offense was repeated I would arrest him and all concerned as persons dangerous to the community, jeopardizing the lives and property of other settlers by their reckless conduct. I also informed him that I considered it my duty not only to protect citizens from Indians, but to see that the natives were justly dealt with. His statement that the lives and property of citizens in this valley are in danger is false. Since the fort was established there has at no time been such general quiet and good feeling as at present, and the only trouble for the past year can be directly traced to the acts of lawless white men, and none have been more troublesome than the complainant.

\* Printed out of proper sequence.