

Fort Dodge Kansas  
June 3rd 1874

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Post Adjutant  
Fort Dodge Ks.

Sir:

Pursuant to S.O. No. 67 Hd. Qrs. Ft. Dodge Ks. I proceeded on the 14 ult. along the north Bank of the Arkansas River to the bridge at Dodge City crossing it, and continuing the march along the south bank of same river until I arrived at Granada Col. after a march of nine days. The march as far as Granada was necessarily slow owing to the exceedingly heavy condition of the Arkansas bottom, which renders it impracticable to move loaded wagons at a greater distance than fifteen miles per day.

Nothing worthy of note accrued while on the Arkansas Leaving Granada, I marched in a general southerly direction to the Cimarron River. I found it impracticable to move up Two Butte Creek as ordered, owing to the absence of water, but as a compensation for that omission, and in order that I might obtain an idea of the nature of that part of the Country, for the information of the Post Commander, I proceeded up Bear Creek for about nineteen miles and finding no indication. My route down this river was unmarked by any event worthy of note, except in the case of digging for water. The prevailing impression seems to be that good and sufficient water can be obtained on the Dry Cimarron River (Sufficient for a Cavalry Command) by digging a few feet, although I believe this to be the case generally, yet if always depended upon I think it might lead sometimes to serious results. In two instances and at distances of over one mile apart; I failed to strike water on that river; although I dug in the bed, and in one case about seven feet deep. Fortunately I found water-pools- by marching down a distance of about three miles. From the Cimarron I marched for Ft. Dodge via sand Creek and Crooked Creek and reached this post yesterday. Having travelled three hundred and eighty six miles., I saw no Indians, few Buffalo. My entire trip was pleasant and uneventful; I experienced no inconvenience from want of water or other causes and made no unusual marches.

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Very Respectfully  
Gilbert E. Overton  
1st. Lieut. "G" CAV. Comdg.