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Report of Major General Halleck.

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Indian Hostilities, Etc.

Although some depredations have been committed upon white settlers, during the past year, in nearly every part of the military division, active military operations against Indians have been limited to Arizona and the district of country including southwestern Idaho, southeastern Oregon, and the northern portions of Nevada and California. The latter district includes the posts of Fort Boise, Camp Lyon, Camp Winthrop, or Three-Forks-of-the-Owyhee, Camp McDermitt, Camp Winfield Scott, Camp McGarry, Camp C. F. Smith, Camp Warner, Camp Bidwell, Camp Harney, Camp Watson, and Camp Logan. Most of the troops engaged in hostile operations in this district have been under the command of Brevet Major General George Crook, of the 23d infantry, who has exhibited skill, bravery, and the most untiring energy. For the details of these operations I respectfully refer to the official report of Brevet Major General Steele, commanding the department of the Columbia, which is transmitted herewith, and marked A.

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Desertions

Some of the principal causes alleged for neglect, at certain of the posts, to make frequent scouts, are the want of officers and the reduced condition of the companies by desertion. Returns show that the number of desertions during the past year has been very great. This is attributed, first, to the present inadequate punishment; and second, to the want of officers with the companies. Under General Orders No. 14, of January 14, 1867, desertions cannot be prevented; and, in the opinion of officers on this coast, that order should be revoked. Again, at many of the interior posts there is frequently only one officer to a company; and in quite a number of instances, it has been necessary to detail company commanders from other regiments. As stated in my letter of January 13, there were wanted about one hundred officers to fill the regiments on this coast. Nearly every company of the eighth cavalry is still deficient an officer, although the regiment has been organized nearly a year. As to the second artillery, two