

IN REPLY REFER TO

THE ARMY WAR COLLEGE

WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 26, 1933.

*J. M. ...*  
Captain W. S. Campbell,  
Department of English,  
The University of Oklahoma,  
Norman, Oklahoma.

My dear Captain Campbell:

Replying to your communication of July 18th, inquiring as to information given in War Department reports concerning the Absentee Utes of 1906, and Captain Carter P. Johnson's connection with the incident, the following is quoted from the Annual Report of Brigadier General Edward S. Godfrey, Commanding the Department of the Missouri, dated August 12, 1907:

\*ABSENTEE UTE INDIANS.

In October, 1906, newspaper reports gave information of the fears of settlers in the State of Wyoming regarding roving Ute Indians near the town of Gillette. About the 17th of the month the statement was made that the Governor of Wyoming had called on the President for troops. Taking action on this information, the Department Commander sent preliminary telegrams to the commanding officers at Forts Robinson and Meade ordering the preparation of one squadron of cavalry at each post for field duty and instituting such preliminary action as would enable these troops to take the field in the shortest possible time if orders should issue. The post commanders were further informed that one or more competent officers familiar with Indian affairs would be sent to suitable points to interview the Indians, quiet apprehensions of citizens and have conferences with Indian parties. On October 19th at 7 p.m. telegraphic instructions were received from Headquarters Northern Division communicating the orders of the President to cause a suitable force of cavalry to proceed to the scene of disturbance to secure the peaceful and lawful return of the Indians to the lands allotted to them at the Uintah reservation in Utah. A full report of the operations ensuing upon these instructions and culminating in the conduct of the Indians to the Fort Meade Military Reservation was submitted under date of December 8, 1906, by the Commanding General, Northern Division, who was at the same time the Department Commander. A brief summary is all that seems to be necessary at this time.

Captains Carter P. Johnson and Robert G. Paxton, 10th Cavalry, were sent from Fort Robinson to Gillette to learn the exact situation and to report the location of the Indians, their numbers, supplies, means of transport, and any information which might be of value in dealing with the situation. Two troops of the 10th Cavalry under command of Major Charles H. Grierson were ordered to go by rail to the same place as soon as transportation could be assembled.

These orders were given late in the evening, October 19th. Owing to a severe blizzard and disarranging of the railway trains, Captains Johnson and Paxton did not reach Gillette until the night of October 21st. Despite the heavy snow and bad weather, they started northward on the morning of October 22nd and a forty mile ride that day brought them to the Indian camp. At the conference

Cardinal  
Mears  
B-17

Utes

Military  
Camp