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Distribution of Unearned Honors for Apache Campaign.

FACTS FROM OFFICER'S DIARY

Army Circles Stirred by Major Benson's Contribution to the History of Famous Campaign.

The recent award of a medal of honor for gallantry in the campaign against the Apaches in 1886 (the general being an army doctor at the time), and General O. O. Howard's story of the campaign, published in the Army and Navy Journal of April 15, 1906, have provoked a spirited controversy in army circles.

Beginning of the Chase. On April 20, 1886, I was at Fort Bowie, having just mustered out a company of Indian scouts which I had commanded during the expedition under Major Wirt Davis and later commanded by Captain J. H. Dorst, both of the Fourth cavalry.

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Difficulties Encountered. I took up the trail on the morning of the 5th, and as the Indians expected immediate pursuit, they selected the "worst possible country to travel over."

On May 13, when Captain Lawton was much discouraged and had come to the conclusion that the Indians were not in that vicinity, Lieutenant R. A. Brown of the Fourth cavalry arrived in camp, having been following the Indians all day, and had succeeded in capturing from them three horses, three saddles, their entire camping outfit and a complete Winchester reloading outfit.

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upon us. The next morning Lieutenant Brown put Captain Lawton's command on the trail. Later in the day we came up with Captain Hatfield's command.

Spells of a Skirmish. Captain Hatfield had run upon the Indians early on the morning of the 14th, and had captured their entire equipment consisting of twenty ponies loaded with plunder, their riding ponies—in fact, their entire equipment.

May 19 was the only day during the entire campaign when rations did not reach the command. On this date the pack train and I went back to look for them. It developed that the officer in command of infantry had become intoxicated, had taken his command and the pack train and proceeded to Nogales where I found them at 11 o'clock that night.

From May 22 until June 1 Captain Lawton's command, as a command, did not follow the Indians. Lieutenant Walsh, who had joined on May 20—and myself made several scouts from Calabasas. On June 4, as it had been concluded that the expedition could do no more, as the trail had been lost in the Fort Huachuca.

Short of Rations. Captain Lawton went out to join Lieutenant Walsh the evening of the 7th, and on the 11th Dr. Wood and I started to join him with rations and the remainder of the command.

While it is never necessary to tell a lie, it is not always wise to tell all the truth, consequently many facts connected with this campaign will probably never be known, but this much is certain: First, that Lawton and Wood were not the only men who endured the whole campaign; second, water was not scarce nor did the command ever travel where there was no shade nor grass visible; third, that the command was never without supplies; fourth, that no company of soldiers ever became exhausted and were ordered back to barracks for this reason; fifth, that no portion of Captain Lawton's command, except Troop B of the Fourth cavalry, ever had a fight with the Indians during the entire campaign, and at this fight Dr. Wood was not present; sixth, that Dr. Wood never saw a hostile Indian from the time he started until Geronimo came into Captain Lawton's camp to talk surrender, and that he never heard a shot fired at any hostile Indians; seventh, that the nominal command of a few soldiers of infantry—traveling over a country for a few weeks in the wake of a detachment of Indian scouts commanded by an officer who had, while in command of a troop of cavalry not connected with the Lawton command, run into the hostiles, and who with his detachment discovered the camp of the hostiles on the Yaqui river, when he was ten miles in advance of Captain Lawton, Dr. Wood and the infantry, and who captured all the property therein and hour before the arrival of Captain Lawton, Dr. Wood and the infantry detachment (the hostiles had abandoned the camp unseen by even the Indian scouts, so that not a shot was fired even over the camp); eighth, that the only fight which was had during these few weeks by this infantry detachment nor a shot fired by them—secured for the person in nominal command, a reputation (entirely outside the army) for command and for capacity in Indian fighting, and also a medal of honor.

Week at the Omaha Theaters

Moving Pictures at Boyd and Burwood—Comedy-Drama at the Air Dome—The Letovsky Concert.

THE first week of "The Silent Drama" at the Boyd has proved the wisdom of providing this sort of entertainment during the summer months.

The sixth week of the Burwood's most novel and acceptable plan of mid-summer entertainment will open this afternoon with an entirely new program from which has been given during the last half of the week just closed.

men, in which the brave O'Brien and Hatcher (two miners) were killed. It was in this fight that Natchez had his arm shattered.

No Troops Worn Out. The statement "Lawton wore out three companies of soldiers in making the capture, and he ordered it back to the barracks and not another" is not true in any particular.

Troop B of the Fourth cavalry started on this expedition on May 1, and remained with the expedition until its close. The company of infantry that left with Captain Lawton on May 3 and took up the trail on the 4th worked with the command after May 22.

The detachment of Indian scouts under Lieutenant Finley of the Tenth cavalry, who started on May 5, left the command on June 26, as the term of enlistments of the scouts expired on June 30. The Indian scouts under Lieutenant Brown, who left Huachuca on June 18, remained with the command until the close of the expedition. The infantry detachment that left on June 13 and was taken charge of by Dr. Wood July 4 remained with the command until the end of the campaign in August. No troops or scouts became exhausted and none were relieved for this reason.

Troop B of the Fourth cavalry did most of their work on foot, leading their horses behind them, and they remained with the command from start to finish and had very much the hardest work, but they never became exhausted nor were ordered back.

These statements, except so far as they relate to Lieutenant Wilder, are not matters of memory with me, but are taken from a diary which I kept at the time and wrote down the events on the date on which they occurred.

Conclusions.

While it is never necessary to tell a lie, it is not always wise to tell all the truth, consequently many facts connected with this campaign will probably never be known, but this much is certain: First, that Lawton and Wood were not the only men who endured the whole campaign; second, water was not scarce nor did the command ever travel where there was no shade nor grass visible; third, that the command was never without supplies; fourth, that no company of soldiers ever became exhausted and were ordered back to barracks for this reason; fifth, that no portion of Captain Lawton's command, except Troop B of the Fourth cavalry, ever had a fight with the Indians during the entire campaign, and at this fight Dr. Wood was not present; sixth, that Dr. Wood never saw a hostile Indian from the time he started until Geronimo came into Captain Lawton's camp to talk surrender, and that he never heard a shot fired at any hostile Indians; seventh, that the nominal command of a few soldiers of infantry—traveling over a country for a few weeks in the wake of a detachment of Indian scouts commanded by an officer who had, while in command of a troop of cavalry not connected with the Lawton command, run into the hostiles, and who with his detachment discovered the camp of the hostiles on the Yaqui river, when he was ten miles in advance of Captain Lawton, Dr. Wood and the infantry, and who captured all the property therein and hour before the arrival of Captain Lawton, Dr. Wood and the infantry detachment (the hostiles had abandoned the camp unseen by even the Indian scouts, so that not a shot was fired even over the camp); eighth, that the only fight which was had during these few weeks by this infantry detachment nor a shot fired by them—secured for the person in nominal command, a reputation (entirely outside the army) for command and for capacity in Indian fighting, and also a medal of honor.

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