

✓ Secretary of War,
California, ^{25th July 1854.} ~~Wash~~

Encls: for information, copy
of report made by Lieut J.
C. Bonny castle 4th Infantry
com^d Fort Jones California
concerning Indian affairs
near his Post, and announcing
death Tishah Tyre, Rogue River
Chief, and the murder of the
Shasta chief "Bill" by the whites.

Rec^d Aug 3. '54

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Replying up to the Governor
of Indian Affairs with
the request that he cover
any matter the informa-
tion has been transmitted
or therein communicated
to him.

Washington
July 30. 1854.

Geo. W. Brown

See Report of Secretary of
the Interior August 3rd 1854.

Wash Department
Washington, July 25, 1854.

Sir,

I have the honor to transmit, herewith, for your information a copy of a report made by Lieut. J. C. Bonnycastle, 4th Infantry, Commanding Fort Innes, California, concerning Indian affairs in the neighborhood of his Post, and announcing the death of Tipsha-Tyee the Rogue River Chief, and the murder of the Shasta Chief "Bill" by the Whites.

Very respectfully
Your obedient
Leopold Davis
Secretary of War

Hon. S. McClelland,
Secretary of the Interior

Fort Jones, Cal^a May 28. 1854.

Sir,

I have the honor to report that about the 12th inst I was informed by one of the Indians encamp-
-ed at this place, that an outrage had been attempt-
-ed on a white woman living between Greka and
the Klamath River, during the absence of her hus-
-band, by an Indian called "Joe" of the Shasta tribe;
and that the Indian had been prevented from
accomplishing his purpose by the resistance of the
woman and by the arrival of some white men
on whose near approach he fled. I immediately
sent Lieut. Flood to inform the chief of the Shastas,
"Bill," that I required the unconditional surren-
-der of the Indian "Joe" that he might be punished.

Lieut. Flood with the Indian Agent Mr Pat-
-borough saw the chief and made my demand
known to him. Bill made an effort to extract
a promise that Joe should not be hung and at
the same time expressed himself as being angry
that the offence had been committed. I had how-
-ever directed Lieut. Flood to require an uncondition-
-al surrender of the Indian, for two reasons. because
I wished to test the protestations of friendship I
had received from these Indians, and because
intending, as I did, to hand the offender over
to be tried by civil authority I could not answer
for his being only punished strictly according to
law. After some hesitation, Bill promised that
the offender should be delivered to me at the Fort,
within two days, Three days having elapsed and
having heard nothing of Bill, on the 16th inst I start-
-ed from this Post with all of the force at my dis-
-posal for the purpose of compelling the surrender

of Joe - on reaching Upeka my camp was visited by two of the principal Indians of the Scott's valley band, who expressed themselves as very anxious that Joe should be given up, and endeavoured to obtain a promise from me that he should not be hung.

This promise I refused to give for the reasons already stated - but agreed that in case the offender should be surrendered before I reached the Klamath River, I would return to Fort Jones, satisfied, but if I was forced to cross the river to get him, I told them that I should hold the tribe responsible for his misconduct and that I should engage the services of a large band of De Chute (Oregon) Indians to aid me in catching and punishing them.

Early the next day I resumed my march without holding any further communication with the Indians although solicited to do so - but before having marched ten miles, I was overtaken by an old Indian, formerly chief of the Shastat and three other Indians, all mounted - The old chief - was very anxious that I should go with him to see that the woman had not been hurt, and it was with some difficulty that I could make him understand that the intention was almost as culpable, whether successful or not - Indeed the Indian could not see why I spoke of the offence as being of such magnitude, when their squaws are constantly run down, sometimes by men on horses, and raped.

Having ascertained where I intended camping that night, getting me to promise that I would await there his return the next day, the old man with the other Indians pushed on for the camp of the Shastat, in the mountains, promising before he left that Joe should be given up the next day.

I encamped then at the willow spring, within a few miles of the Klamath, on the night of the 17th inst, and purposed remaining at this point until the evening of the next day, in order to give Bill every chance of remaining at peace with us; but just at dark, a messenger from Cottonwood arrived with the information that at noon that day, a pack train had been attacked on the Siskiyou Mountain by Indians, and one of two men with the train killed, the other barely escaping.

The Siskiyou range being the country through which the Rogue River chief known as "Tepsha Tyee" and his band roam. I at once concluded that it was he who had attacked the train - and this being a blow at the interests of almost all of the citizens of this section of the country, I resolved to follow him up as rapidly as possible with the hope of being able to catch and punish the Indians engaged in the murder. My promise to the Shasta Indians to wait their arrival at my camp, with the necessary preparations for quick movement, prevented me from leaving until mid-day, when the Shastas not having arrived we started for the Siskiyou, leaving our pack animals under a guard and every man carrying one blanket with ten days rations of bread and pork; that night we reached nearly the top of the mountain - From Willow Spring I sent Lieut. Flood back to Yreka to inform Sem-tis-tis, the chief of the De Chutes of my being called off in an other direction, and early on the morning of the 18th he overtook me at the point where the murder had been committed, accompanied by some thirty eight of the De Chutes well mounted and anxious to aid in the capture of Tepsha - These Indians had

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ing made a long march, contrary to my wish, I was forced to remain that day on the mountain with them, that their horses might rest and graze.

At daylight on the 19th taking the trail of Sipsha we started across the mountain and marched more than twenty five miles, mostly over a very rough country. The De Chutes being well mounted and riding anywhere, with practiced eye detected signs of the retreating Indians, when but few whites could have detected any indication that they had passed. By the sign, the De Chutes asserted that Indians were engaged in the murder.

Late in the afternoon we reached a point where the signs indicated that the Indians had recently encamped, and halting, spies were sent out, who on their return reported that two Indians had gone off to the northward, up a valley with the mules taken from the train, while the other four, with seven horses, stolen from some drovers two nights before, had gone in the direction of the cave on the Klamath, and that one Indian, a foot, had been traced, going up the valley, quite recently, after the Indians with the mules. This Indian they believed to be one of some adjacent tribe, who having come to visit the camp at which we were halted and finding it deserted was returning to his home. The direction taken by the Indians with the horses, inducing me to believe that the murder had been participated in by the Shasta Indians, I determined to pursue them and to inflict severe punishment. Following their trail then at nightfall we encamped, and at daylight next morning moved on toward the cave. About 10 o'clock the De Chute scouts discovered the Shasta camp and bringing back the information, we pursued forward

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with the expectation of engaging them before they could gain their stronghold.

On reaching the bunk of a tall bluff, opposite to another on the top of which the Shasta camp was, we were hailed by an American, who called out that Capt. Goodall was with the Shastas and wished to see me, supposing that he was there to inform me that the Indian "joc" had been given up and that he knew nothing of my having tracked the murderers of the Packer to this camp, I told Capt. Goodall to come over to me, when I expected, that on learning the facts I had to communicate, he with the three men with him would join me in an attack on the Shastas.

However on reaching me, he informed me that Tiptha had come into the Shasta camp about thirty six hours before, and had proposed, after telling them of the murder he had just committed that they should join him in waging war on the whites - and that instead of agreeing to this, the Shastas had killed Tiptha, his son and his son-in-law - the fourth Indian with him escaping, and being doubtless the Indian whose foot tracks the De Shutes had seen the evening before. Capt. Goodall further stated that these Indians were very anxious to remain at peace, that the Indian "joc" had been brought in, about two hours after I had left my camp at the Willow Spring, where I had promised to wait - and had then gone on to Greka, where he remained two days, when he had returned with him to the Shasta camp. That immediately on killing Tiptha, two Shasta Indians had brought his scalp with that of his son to him in Greka, soliciting his interference to prevent my attacking them when Tiptha -

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-that trail should have led me to their camp, when
by authority of the Indian Agent he had come out=
sending my company and the De Chute Indians
to find a camp- accompanied by Lieut. Hood, Capt.
Goodall, the chief Sem-tis-tis, and one or two others,
I passed over to the Shasta camp, where I was recei-
-red by the Indians with every demonstration of
confidence and friendship- After expressing my
approbation of their course in killing Tiptha, I
demanded that the horses be taken from him and
the boy Joe, should be given up to me, to which they
gave prompt assent, and Capt. Goodall voluntar-
-ed to bring Joe in with him the next day- to which
under the circumstances I agreed. Having talked
with them for some time, assuring them of my
friendship so long as they behaved, and advising
them to come in and learn to work &c, I told them
to catch up the horses taken from Tiptha as I
wished to take them with me, this was done at
once, and after at their request giving them a
paper, requesting that they might not be molested
by the whites, I mounted and rejoined my com-
-pany in camp- from which we moved on that
night to the Klamath- and on the next day
camping beyond Greka- I rode into town for the
purpose of making some arrangement with Mr.
Rostborough as to the disposition of the Indian Joe,
when he should be brought in by Capt. Goodall-
on reaching Mr. Rostborough's room I found Capt.
Goodall had just arrived there and to my aston-
-ishment and regret, he had neglected to bring Joe-

He gave several excuses for his omission but
deeming none of them sufficient, I spoke very plainly
to him of his violation of a voluntary promise and

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told him that having started out to get Joe, I was determined to have him, even though I was compelled to retrace my steps. Capt. Goodall, who had omitted to bring the Indian in with him, notwithstanding of the importance attaching to his voluntary surrender, admitted his error and told me that he would start back that night and get him.

The Indian Agent having given to Capt. Goodall a note authorizing him to bring in Joe, he started the same night with the Chief Bill, who was in Yreka, for the Shasta camp, and I returned with my command to Fort Jones.

Capt. Goodall knowing that both the Indian Agent and myself desired the Shasta Indians to come into Scotts valley, determined without my knowledge to endeavour to induce the whole band to come in at once, and on his way to their camp unguardedly stated such to be his intention, in conversation with several white men. Having reached the Shasta camp, the band readily agreed to accompany him to Fort Jones, and on the morning of the 24th inst, they all started, the Indians numbering, men, women, and children some sixty; reaching the Klamath Ferry in the afternoon of this day, they camped some two hundred yards above the ferry, when the Chief Bill with five of his men wishing to crop the wire for the purpose of bathing, left their arms in camp and went with Capt. Goodall to the ferry; on arriving opposite the ferry they saw four white men with the De Shute chief Sem-tu-tu - the latter of whom had that same day promised me solemnly not to molest the Shastas, advancing to the water's edge on the opposite shore, with rifles. Capt. Goodall at once seeing that the Indians

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were to be attacked, told them to run, and called to the whites not to fire, that he was acting by authority. Five of the Indians with him ran, the Chief Bill being lame was unable to do so, they were all fired into, both by the whites on the opposite side of the river and by others on the same side with the Indians, in fact they were completely surrounded by whites and the De Chutes who had been hired to engage in this villainous affair.

The Chief Bill was severely wounded at the first fire, two other Indians were killed and two others escaped very badly wounded. a white man named Mr Stewart went up to Bill for the purpose of scalping him, while yet alive, but Bill struggling with him, got his knife away, when this man after having beat him about the head with his pistol, shot him several times after which he was scalped, by a man named Trickey I understand, when not yet dead he was thrown into the Klamath River. Most of the Indians having escaped into the adjacent chapparral, where they lay concealed, the whites began a search for them, during which an Indian from behind his bush, fortunately shot and killed a white man named Mr Raney.

The De Chute Indians who had not done much towards killing the Shastas, plundered their camp, stealing four children, six or seven horses and several guns, and one of them, I am informed, at the instigation of the man Trickey indecently mutilated one of the murdered Shastas and afterwards the Band started with their plunder for Rogue River.

Before dark of the same evening, the Shastas who had escaped, came opposite the Ferry

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house and called the Cottonwood men cowards & dared them out to fight, an invitation which these men declined, preferring the shelter of a heavy log house on which the Indians fired repeatedly for more than an hour.

Capt. Goodall came on to Fort Jones at once and informed me of this cowardly and brutal murder on the part of the whites - when mounting six men on mules, with Lieut. Flood I started for Cottonwood for the purpose of obtaining such information as might enable me to bring the whites to punishment, and by sending Lieut. Flood on to Fort Laramie to recover the children & stated by the De Chutes that they might be returned to the Shastas - I ascertained the particulars of this murder to be as already stated, but could obtain no information as to the names of more than three white men engaged in it, these were Buckley, Mr. Stuart, and E. M. Geiger.

Mr. Rosborough accompanied me and made every effort to obtain information, for the purpose of bringing the murderers to trial. He should have obtained writs for the three men named and Judge Peters of the District Court, who took a warm interest in the matter, would have caused a grand jury to be summoned that they might be indicted, had Mr. Rosborough and myself not been perfectly well aware that in this section of the country, action of this nature would only result in the escape of the guilty parties - the greater number of the populace vilely regretting, not that they have among them such murderous scoundrels, but that since the assassination of the Shastas was attempted, it had not been completely successful.

The Shastat vowed vengeance against all the whites, and I feared that innocent persons living on farms within their reach, might be made to suffer for the acts of those who sought immunity from retribution in the town of Cottonwood.

I however sought the Indians whom I have had encamped here during the winter and explaining the whole matter to them and telling them that I had sent to recover the stolen children & and that I would make every effort to have the guilty whites punished.

I directed them to see the Shastat, and to tell them that the soldiers and many white citizens were friendly to them; that if I had known they were coming in I should have been at the Ferry with a party of soldiers to protect them, and that I wished them to retaliate only on those men who participated in the murder of their chief, that if they killed no other whites I should have nothing to say.

From this act of treachery, I feared that any influence I might have with these Indians, any confidence which my treatment of them might have inspired, was all lost - but much to my surprise and gratification, on night before last, just after my return from Cottonwood, two of the Shastat, one a boy, brother to the murdered chief, came into Yuba, and sent word to Mr. Postbrough and myself that they wished to talk with us.

Yesterday morning early they came to Mr. Postbrough's room and we had a long talk with them. They stated that they knew the men who had attacked them, that they were

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satisfied that all the whites were not treacherous and finally promised to endeavour to induce the remainder of the band to come to Fort Jones.

Mr Postbrough fed them, made them some presents and took them under his protection, as even in Yreka there are white men who would murder these two unarmed Indians, if they could do so with safety. The Shastas are to send me word if they will come here and in case they wish to do so, I shall have a party of soldiers to protect them on their way, as I should have done before had I known that they intended coming on.

Capt. Goddall deserves the highest praise for his constant and humane efforts in behalf of these Indians, by which he has lost much time and money and has moreover rendered himself disagreeably unpopular with the rascally mass of the community. It was unfortunate that he attempted to bring the Indians in just when he did, or that intending to do so, he should have avowed his purpose to whites on the road, but he had not arrived at the same just opinion of the character of many of the mining populace as that which had already forced itself on me, some months since, when with the same object in view, I took care to have a party of soldiers at the Ferry.

Mr Geiger proposes leaving for the Atlantic States on one of the Steamers leaving San Francisco on the 15th of June, and I would respectfully suggest that if possible, he be arrested in San Francisco to be tried there before the U.S. court, I shall endeavour to send an affidavit with reference to his participation in the murder by the next express. This is the course proposed to be pursued by

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Mr Postbrough with reference to the other men engaged in the matter, so soon as he can get their names -

I would respectfully call the attention of the commanding General to the fact that these Indians when attacked, held a paper from one intended to guarantee their safety, while Mr Goddall was acting with the written authority of the Indian Agent, and I hope by that the most severe measures may be taken against the murderers.

In conclusion, I feel called on to express my admiration of the firmness and energy of Mr Postbrough, the Indian Agent, with reference to this murder and to express a hope that he may be promptly supported by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs, in his efforts to bring the murderers to justice -

With reference to the first portion of this communication; the pursuit of "Tipsha Eye" over a rough mountainous country making long and fatiguing marches, the energy and zeal of our Sgt - Louis Leuts, Cook and Hood and of the men of Company "C" 4th Infantry is gratefully reported for the information of the commanding General

I am Sir

Your obt Servt

(Signed)

J. C. Bonnycastle

1st Lt. 4th Infantry

Comd. S

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Major Genl John C. Woll,
Comdg. Dep't of the Pacific,
San Francisco Cal.