

# Los Angeles Star, Volume 5, Number 20, 29 September 1855 — rtic Killing of Buford, O'Brien nnd Wadd by , U. S. Troops from the Rogae River Reservation— Bloody Affair. [ARTICLE]

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**The Killing of Buford, O'Brien and Wadd by U. S. Troops from the Rogae River Reservation—Bloody Affair.**  
 EDITOR OF THE SAN FRANCISCO HERALD:—Sir:

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 L wish, by your aid, to put in a right light before the public the affair which occurred near the mouth of the Rogae river, and which unfortunately ended in death of Buford, O'Brien and Wadd, on the 25th August, between seven and eight o'clock in the evening. The facts are these: The Indian Jim was turned over to the U. S. troops the day before by the Indian Superintendent, for protection, until convenient for trial, as the said Indian's life was threatened by Buford and his party. On the 25th, the Sheriff came with legal authority to take him for trial. Corporal G. W. Newton, with a party of eight men, was ordered by Gen. Palmer, the Superintendent, to escort the Indian to the Court House for trial, as they were determined to kill said Indian in the Sheriff's hands, and we proceeded forthwith from the Indian Reservation to the Court House, a distance of five miles, without any trouble. When the proceedings were ended, the Justice of Peace, delivered him into the Sheriff's hands again. I was ordered by Gen. Palmer to receive all orders from the Sheriff, who then turned the Indian over to me to take him back to the Reservation, there to remain until further orders. We immediately proceeded with the prisoner to a house three quarters of a miles off, to take supper, where we had to wait ten minutes until it was announced. We were obliged to place the Indian under the supper table, the guard sitting round with their arms by their side, to secret him from the party who threatened his life, and who were watching every chance to kill him, which they said they would do before they left the flat, and I then said that if I saw a man shoot at the Indian I would draw a bead line on him. I also heard that a party were lying where I landed the prisoner, and where they expected I should disembark again. So I told the Indians hired by General Palmer, to take their canoes a mile below where I landed him, and there we disembarked, as we supposed, without any one being the wiser. The Sheriff said to me, "I think there will be no danger now, so you will take the Indian on to the Reservation," and he returned. We then pulled up the opposite side of the river, and I said to my party, "As men and soldiers, you will all do your duty, as I am willing to take all the responsibility on myself, and set the example." The said they would do so. I also said that if there was any talking to be done, I would do it myself. I then proceeded about three miles up the river, in perfect silence. When thinking we had escaped all difficulties, I espied three men approaching in a canoe in the direction we had come. They were in their shirt sleeves. They came up to the rear canoe, and satisfied themselves that the prisoner was not there. As soon I saw them approach the rear canoe, I placed the prisoner between my legs, keeping him concealed as much as possible, supposing they intended to kill him; after they had approached within about twenty feet of my boat, I asked, "Who come there?" I received no reply. I then told them to come no closer, and as I thought if they would speak I could frighten them from their intention; I asked them where they were going: they said they were

taking a trip up the river ; when Buford immediately levelled his rifle and shot the Indian Jim, dead. I did not hear the report of the rifle distinctly, before another shot was fired from the bow of the canoe, killing another Indian beside me. As soon as he fell I levelled my rifle and killed the man, that was in disguise, and who proved to be Buford. Immediately after the rest of my party fired on the canoe, when another man in the stern of the canoe fell into the water, killed by the volley. The man in the bow clapped his hands on his hip and jumped into the water, and ran I supposed about fifteen rods, when one of our men spoke, "Here is a dead man," which drew my attention away from him. I told them to keep a sharp look out and pick up all they saw in the water; we then picked up the man who was killed in the stern of the boat, and the rear canoe picked up the Indian that was killed out of my canoe, when the canoe that come up to us floated on the opposite side of us, with Buford laying in the bottom of it. Captain Tichner, who lived near where this affair happened and who heard the report of the guns, came right up to the Reservation, thinking something was not right, when he was informed what was done, he went down the river and sought the canoe that was afloat, and found Buford in the canoe, dead with two revolvers and one rifle in the canoe, with two shots out of one revolver, and one out of another, and one out of the rifle, which made four shots in all fired from them. The next morning, the 26th, the Coroner came to hold an inquest on the bodies of Buford and Wadd. They also found the body of O'Brien on the beach, dead. Buford on the inquest was found to be disguised, as I said before. These are the main facts, and I hope you will lay them in a proper manner before the public, I having done nothing more than my duty as I was sworn to do.

I remain, yours, etc.,  
GEORGE W. NEWTON.

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