36TH CONGRESS, 1st Session. } HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. { REPORT No. 297.

EFFISIA C. DE MAY, WIDOW OF CHARLES F. V. DE MAY.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 542.]

MARCH 30, 1860.

Mr. FOSTER, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT.

The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Effisia C. De May, widow of Charles F. Victor De May, late a private in the United States army, praying for a pension, make the following report:

Your committee have had this application under consideration, and have given it careful attention. The evidence discloses this state of facts: The husband of the petitioner enlisted as a private in company C, first regiment of dragoons, United States army. He was, with his company, sent into Washington Territory at a time when the Indians were in a state of quasi warfare; and in a battle with the Spokan Indians on the 17th of May, 1858, he was killed. He left a widow and two young children, the latter of whom were accidentally killed soon after, and the petitioner was not only left a widow, but childless also.

The commanding officer speaks in high terms of the bravery and fidelity of the soldier in a letter announcing the death of De May to his mother.

An application to the Pension office for a pension by the widow was refused, solely on the ground that, there being no recognized war with the Spokan Indians at the time, and there being no law authorizing him to grant pensions without a recognition of an actual war, he was precluded from granting a pension.

The enlistment, service, and manner of death are fully proven by the returns from the War Department.

Your committee, by reason of the want of a law to cover such cases as is the one now before them, feel fully justified in granting a pension to the widow, and therefore recommend the accompanying bill.

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