ORIN THORNTON

MAY 8, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

Mr. SPEAKS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2166]

The Committee on Military Affairs of the House, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2166) for the relief or Orin Thornton, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

The report of the Senate is made a part of this report.

[Senate Report No. 436. Sixty-ninth Congress, first session]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (S. 2166) for the relief of Orin Thornton, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass with an amendment as follows:

At the end of line 8 strike out the period and insert a colon and the following:

"Provided, That no back pay, bounty, or other allowances shall be considered to have accrued by reason of the passage of this act."

A report from the War Department on the case of Orin Thornton is appended hereto and made a part of this report, as follows:

CASE OF ORIN THORNTON, ALLEGED FORMER MEMBER OF COMPANY A, THIRD REGIMENT ARKANSAS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY

The name Orin Thornton has not been found on the rolls on file in this office of Company A, or any other company of the Third Regiment Arkansas Infantry, Civil War. That regiment was also known as the Fourth Regiment Arkansas Cavalry.

A record is found, however, showing that one ——— Thornton was enrolled November 17, 1863, at Benton, Ark., and was mustered into service at that place December 8, 1863, with a detachment, as a private of the Third Arkansas Cavalry, to serve one year, which regiment (or battalion) subsequently became the Fourth Arkansas Cavalry (Fishback's). No later record of this ——— Thornton has been found in this office; hence there appears to be no official record showing whether he rendered any actual military service or whether he died in service,
deserted, or was discharged either honorably or dishonorably. The Auditor for
the War Department has informed this office that no record is found of any
payment made to this man.

It has repeatedly been alleged in communications to this office by Aren
Oren, or Arin Thornton, Aren B., Oren B., or Arin B. Thornton, that he served
as a private in Company A, Fourth Arkansas Cavalry (Fishback's), said to have
been previously known as Company A, Third Arkansas Infantry. The latest
allegation is that he (as Orin Thornton) was mustered in about November 17,
1863, and was mustered out about March 28, 1864.

Respectfully submitted.


May 19, 1921.

The records of the War Department, as set forth in a letter from The Adjutant
General, dated June 4, 1921, to Senator Frelinghuysen, show that two persons
named Thornton (one bearing the name of "William R." and the Christian name
of the other being omitted) were enrolled November 17, 1863, at Benton, Ark.,
and were mustered into the service at that place December 8, 1863, as members
of Company A, Third Arkansas Infantry, which was later known as the Fourth
Arkansas Cavalry (Fishback's). Concerning this command, The Adjutant
General in his letter of June 4, 1921, says:

"The above-mentioned Company A was one of the four incomplete
companies of said regiment or battalion which were mustered into the service in the latter
part of 1863. Apparently, they were never formally mustered out of service, but it
has been ascertained by this department that the duly mustered recruits of the
organization were disbanded March 28, 1864, at Little Rock, Ark. It is held by
this department that this disbandment constituted a muster out of service and
that the men were mustered out for the reason that their services were no longer
required."

It seems conclusive, therefore, that said command was in the service from the
date of enrollment, November 17, 1863, until March 28, 1864, when disbandment
took place.

Concerning the identity of the Thornton whose Christian name does not appear
in said records, this is made clear from affidavits of two of Thornton's former
comrades, still surviving, Montgomery O. Campbell, now of Hot Springs, Ark.,
and Richard A. Wright, of Point Cedar, Ark., both of whom served with Orin
Thornton in the command mentioned, Company A, Third Arkansas Infantry,
afterwards known as Fourth Arkansas Cavalry (Fishback's).