

WILLIAM H. WAGONER

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MAY 18, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered  
to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 7868]

The records of the War Department show that this man enlisted April 26, 1898, was mustered into service May 12, 1898, as a private in Company L, One hundred and sixtieth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry, and was transferred to the Hospital Corps in November, 1898.

This soldier was serving in Cuba at the time of the commitment of the theft of which he was charged and convicted. Since the critical period of the war had passed many weeks prior thereto, and since the privations which these men suffered were extreme, it would seem that the mere theft of a blanket was not a crime which called for such a drastic penalty as was executed in the order of March 17, 1899. The penalty was forfeiture of all pay and allowances, confinement at hard labor for six months, and dishonorable discharge, which penalty was later somewhat modified, but without removal of the dishonorable discharge.

The committee believes that in view of the previous good record of this man, his voluntary enlistment, the honorable service of two sons in the late World War, and the severeness of the sentence, the bill should be amended as recommended by the War Department by the insertion of the words "The Hospital Corps" instead of "that organization" in the ninth and tenth lines, and approved.

