

WILLIS B. CROSS

MAY 24, 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 H. R. 7686]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred the bill (H. R. 7686) for the relief of Willis B. Cross, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with the recommendation that the bill do pass with an amendment.

In line 8 strike out the period and continue the sentence as follows: "therefrom after having served therein for more than ninety days."

It appears from the evidence on file with the Committee on Military Affairs that this man, while not enlisted and enrolled, served for two years with the Seventeenth Indiana Battery, Light Artillery, performing all the duties of a private in that organization, even to being engaged in battle with them. He was taken sick in the Valley of Virginia while with General Siegel's command, and went home for treatment. When he had recovered he returned to Frederick, Md. Finding that the battery with which he had been serving had been disbanded, he enlisted in Battery B, Independent Loudoun (Va.) Rangers, serving from the 7th day of April, 1865, until the 31st day of May, 1865, when he was discharged by reason of the end of the war. This service was not sufficient in itself to entitle him to a pension, and your committee believes that in view of his active service of two years as a soldier, even while not enlisted as such, is sufficient ground for recommending favorable action on this bill.

This bill has been approved by the War Department, and its report is made a part hereof.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 21, 1926.

HON. FRANK L. BOWMAN,
House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. BOWMAN: I have before me your request of the 15th instant for a report on H. R. 7686, for the relief of Willis B. Cross, providing that he shall be held and considered to have been mustered into the military service of the United States as a private of Captain Miner's Seventeenth Battery, Indiana Volunteer Light Artillery, and to have been honorably discharged therefrom as having served therein for more than 90 days.

Since the date of the report made in this case in connection with H. R. 4742, Sixty-first Congress, first session, on April 9, 1910, the original of which, inclosed in your letter, is herewith returned, the status of the case has not been changed either by the introduction of new evidence or by legislation.

Sincerely yours,

DWIGHT F. DAVIS,
Secretary of War.

The original War Department report on H. R. 4742 referred to, prepared by The Adjutant General and forwarded through the Secretary of War to the Committee on Military Affairs, approving the Willis B. Cross relief bill, prepared to read the same as H. R. 7686, follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

The name of William B. Cross has not been found on the rolls, on file in this department, of Captain Miner's Seventeenth Battery Indiana Light Artillery, and no record has been found of the enrollment, muster in, or service of a man of that name and organization.

For reasons substantially the same as those set forth in the indorsement of this office dated February 24, 1910, on House bill 4945, Sixty-first Congress, first session, in the case of Joshua C. Warrick, it is recommended that, if it is desired to enact any legislation in this case, the title of the pending bill (H. R. 4742, 61st Cong., first sess.) be amended to read "A bill for the relief of Willis B. Cross," and that all after the enacting clause be stricken out and the following inserted in lieu thereof:

"That in the administration of the pension laws, Willis B. Cross shall hereafter be held and considered to have been mustered into the military service of the United States as a private of Captain Miner's Seventeenth Battery Indiana Light Artillery, and to have been discharged honorably therefrom after having served therein more than ninety days."

The Adjutant General.

Forwarded to committee and signed by—

ROBERT SHAW OLIVER,
Assistant Secretary of War.