

JAMES P. WILLIAMS

MARCH 2 (calendar day MARCH 4), 1927.—Ordered to be printed

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

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. J. Res. 339]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 339) authorizing the Secretary of War to award a Nicaraguan campaign badge to Capt. James P. Williams, in recognition of his services to the United States in the Nicaraguan campaign of 1912 and 1913, having considered the same, reports thereon favorably with the recommendation that it pass.

The merits of this case are fully set forth in the report of the House which is made a part of this report, as follows:

[House Report No. 2130, Sixty-ninth Congress, second session]

In support of said resolution your committee submits the following:

In support of his claim for recognition of his services to the United States and to have the Nicaraguan campaign badge awarded him, Capt. James P. Williams in a letter addressed to Congressman Daniel E. Garrett, of the Committee on Military Affairs of the House of Representatives, states:

"After eight years, I am again taking up for your reconsideration the matter of the recognition of my services to the United States in the Nicaraguan campaign of 1912-13.

"I am still in the United States Army—captain, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, One hundred and fifty-sixth Cavalry Brigade, United States Army, Reserve; active member United States Cavalry Association, Washington, D. C.; and active member Reserve Officers' Association, Houston Chapter.

"I do not want a pension; all that I ask is that the United States Government, in recognition of services voluntarily offered and accepted, grant me the right to wear the Nicaragua campaign badge.

"I am sending you the originals of this documentary evidence, which I prize very highly, by registered mail, that it may not be lost, and earnestly request that after you use them, if you deem necessary, that you will please return them in the same manner, for the same reason."

Also copy of order of Capt. Harry Lee, of United States Marine Corps, authorizing Capt. James P. Williams, then a private citizen, to carry a revolver:

HEADQUARTERS FIRST PROVISIONAL REGIMENT,
UNITED STATES MARINES,
Camp Weitzel, Managua, Nicaragua, October 19, 1912.

Mr. J. P. Williams is hereby authorized to carry a revolver.

HARRY LEE,
Captain, United States Marine Corps, Commanding District.

Appointment of Mr. J. P. Williams as guide and interpreter:

HEADQUARTERS FIRST PROVISIONAL REGIMENT,
UNITED STATES MARINES,
Camp Weitzel, Managua, Nicaragua, October 19, 1912.

Mr. J. P. WILLIAMS, Managua, Nicaragua:

Under our verbal agreement of this date, that you serve without pay, you are hereby appointed guide and interpreter, to accompany the detachment of Dirriamba, this date to clear the railroad of rebels and obtain information at Dirriamba of the rebel forces, interviewing Señor Gonzales, of that place, who has been much disturbed by them.

HARRY LEE,
Captain, United States Marine Corps, Regimental Adjutant.

Letter of Col. Charles G. Long to Capt. James P. Williams:

HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Washington, April 16, 1918.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN: I have at hand your letter of recent date, in which you desire to be given authority to wear the Nicaraguan campaign badge.

While the services rendered by you in Nicaragua, in connection with the various marine expeditions, were most valuable and would have entitled you to this badge had you been a member of the Marine Corps, there is no authority for issuing this insignia to anyone who was not in the naval service during the Nicaraguan campaign.

Regretting that I am unable to comply with your request, I remain,
Very sincerely,

CHAS. G. LONG,
Colonel, United States Marine Corps.

Am sorry this letter has been delayed so long, but your letter was mislaid.
Best wishes to you.

Sincerely,

CHAS. G. LONG.

Capt. JAMES P. WILLIAMS,
Three hundred and third Cavalry, N. A., Camp Stanley, Tex.

Letter of Lieut. Col. L. M. Gulick to Capt. James P. Williams:

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C., March 7, 1918.

From: Lieut. Col. L. M. Gulick, M. C.
To: Capt. James P. Williams, N. G., Three hundred and third Cavalry, Camp Stanley, Tex.
Subject: Nicaraguan campaign ribbon.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN: Your letter received a few days ago. Relative to the campaign ribbon, there is no doubt in my opinion you are entitled to one. Your work with the marines in 1911 and 1912 in Nicaragua was of such military nature and so well done that I hope the War Department can see their way clear to issue you one. This is especially so, as you are now in the service.

Hoping to run across you soon, so we can talk over old times.

Most sincerely yours,

L. M. GULICK.

Letter of Col. H. H. Kipp to Capt. James P. Williams:

HEADQUARTERS, THIRD PROVISIONAL BRIGADE,
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS,
Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, April 4, 1918.

MY DEAR CAPTAIN: Your letter of February 16 reached me only yesterday, hence the delay in answering.

I am not sure under what conditions the Nicaraguan campaign badges are issued, that is, I do not know whether civilians who participated in that campaign and afterwards entered military service, are entitled to the badge; of course, in all fairness, you are much more entitled to it than people who never got within smelling distance of any action, but the rules governing rewards do not always take such conditions into consideration. I would suggest that you write officially to the War Department and get their ruling on the subject. Your participation is, of course, easily susceptible of proof.

I am adjutant for a provisional brigade now stationed here for training purposes, and we are hoping for a move to the other side in the near future. Major Osterman is the only other Nicaraguan "hero" that I know of hereabouts. There has been some rapid promotion in the Marine Corps for the people lower down, but those of us who were already majors have simply moved from the bottom of the list to the top, for Congress, in its wisdom, has not seen fit to carry temporary appointments above the grade of major, otherwise some of us would be wearing eagles, as our contemporaries in the Army are doing.

I have run across our friend from Brown Bros. & Seligman, also Bundy Cole and Colonel Ham (in New York).

With best wishes, I am, sincerely yours,

H. H. KIPP.

Capt. JAMES P. WILLIAMS, N. G.,
Three hundred and third Cavalry, Camp Stanley, Tex.



