

Papers of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts



Document Metadata

Document Type	Letter
Date	21 May 1870
Brief Description	AAG Clay Wood for General Reynolds, Commanding Dept of Texas, to Captain Perry, Commanding, Fort Duncan <i>General Reynolds authorizes rations, requests Seminole Negro aid against the Kickapoo.</i>
Keywords	24 th Infantry, 1870, Austin, Detachment, Fort Duncan, Guides, Indian Negroes, Kickapoo(s), Lepans, (Lipans), Louisiana, May 21, Military, Perry, Rations, Reynolds, Scout, Seminole(s), Seminole Negro Indians, Texas, Wood

<<SOURCE TEXT BEGIN>>

Headquarters Department of Texas
Texas and Louisiana
Office of the Assistant Adjutant General
Austin, Texas May 21st 1870

Captain F. W. Perry
24th U.S. Infantry
Commanding Fort Duncan Texas

Sir

Referring to your letter of the 15th instant: You will encourage the "Seminole Negro Indians" and "Seminoles" proper, to remain at your Post until further orders with reference to them. The rations issued to them will consist of,

18 oz Fresh Beef (Whole Beef) or 12 oz Salt Meat

18 oz Corn Meal, Hard Bread or Flour, each

10 lbs Sugar, 5 lbs Coffee and 3 lbs Coffee to 100 rations - (See paragraph 1203 Reg Army Reg 1863. 1/2 this ration to children under 12 years of Age)

While awaiting definite instructions, ascertain all you can with reference to the localities most frequented by the "Kickapoos" and "Lepans", also whether the "Indian Negroes" will enlist in our Service, against the "Kickapoo" and "Lepans":

Report as early as practicable the number of "Indian Negroes" and "Seminole" proper that have already, or will probably, come into Fort Duncan, Texas.

By Command of
Brevet Major General Reynolds:
(Signed) H. Clay Wood
Assistant Adjutant General



Papers of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts

I am Sir,
Very Respectfully,
Your Obt. Servant,

//SIGNED// J. C. D. Gress
Captain 9th Cavalry
Brevet Lieutenant Colonel, U. S. A.
Commanding Post

<<SOURCE TEXT END>>

This is the first approval from the War Dept of efforts to find out if the Seminole Negroes will “enlist in our service” against the Kickapoo and Lipan. At this time there were no Indian Scout detachments available for the Seminole Negroes to enlist in, so the more likely role would be as guides, who were hired briefly, for specific purposes, such as identifying crossings of raiding Indians. Each state did have an assigned military budget for a certain number of Indian Scouts, but Perry had not been given authority to hire anyone – merely to find out if they might have interest.



National Archives Microfilm Publications Reference

Collection	Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General (Main Series), 1861-1870
Microcopy Number(s)	M-619
Roll(s)	799 (Papers Relating to the Return of the Kickapoo and the Seminole (Negro) Indians from Mexico to the United States, 1870 – 1914)
Digital Image File(s)	1040.jpg



© 2020 Seminole Negro Indian Scouts Historical Society
All Rights Reserved

Papers of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts

180
1870

Copy "A"

Headquarters Department of Texas
(Texas & Louisiana)

Office of the Assistant Adjutant General
Austin Texas May 21st 1870

Captain J. W. Perry
24th U. S. Infantry
Commanding Fort Duncan Texas

Sir

Referring to your letter of the 15th instant:
You will encourage the Seminole Negro Indians, and
Seminoles proper, to remain at your Post, until further
orders with reference to them. The rations issued to
them will consist of,

18 oz. Fresh Beef (whole Beef) or 12 oz. Salt Meat.
18 oz. Corn Meal, Hard Bread or Flour, each
10 lbs Sugar, 5 lbs Coffee & 3 lbs Coffee to 100 rations.
(See paragraph 1203. Reg. Army, Reg. 1863, 1/2. this ration
to children under 12 years of age).

While awaiting definite instructions,
ascertain all you can with reference to the locations
most frequented by the "Kickapoo" and "Lepans", also
whether the Indian Negroes, will enlist in our Service,
against the Kickapoo and Lepans:

Report as early as practicable the number of
Indian Negroes & Seminole proper, that have already,
or will probably, come into Fort Duncan, Texas.

By Command of
Brevet Major General Reynolds
(Signed) H. Clay Wood
Assistant Adjutant General

A True Copy
(Signed) Henry L. Merriam
Major 24th Infantry
Commanding Post.

