

L E T T E R

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING.

In compliance with Senate resolution of January 10, 1884, report of the Adjutant-General giving the number of soldiers who served for different terms in the late war, and other information bearing upon the equalization of bounties.

FEBRUARY 11, 1884.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, February 8, 1884.

The Secretary of War has the honor to transmit to the United States Senate, a report dated the 31st ultimo, and accompanying papers, from the Adjutant-General of the Army, containing the information called for by Senate resolution of January 10, 1884, as follows :

Resolved, That the Secretary of War be directed to inform the Senate the number of soldiers in the late war for the Union who served one year, the number who served two years, the number who served three years, and the amount of bounty paid to each class respectively; also that he inform the Senate of the amount or proximate amount of money which would be required to equalize the bounties of those who served in said war.

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

The PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, January 31, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith the Senate resolution of January 10, 1884, calling for the number of soldiers who served in the late war for the Union for the periods of one, two, and three years, and the amount of bounty paid to each class respectively; also for the amount, or proximate amount, of money which would be required to equalize the bounties of those who served in said war.

In reply to that part of the resolution calling for the number of men who served one, two, and three years, I have to report that it appears

from the records of this office that the number of men who enlisted in the Army for the periods indicated were as follows:

For one year	391,752
For two years	44,400
For three years	2,030,804

In addition to the above number of men who enlisted for one, two and three years, men were enlisted for shorter periods, as follows:

For nine months	87,588
For eight months	373
For six months	20,439
For four months	42
For one hundred days	85,507
For three months	108,416
For sixty days	2,045

The data necessary to answer the call for information in regard to the bounties paid or the sum necessary to equalize the bounties of those who served cannot be compiled from the records of this office, but inclosed herewith will be found estimates made by the Paymaster-General of the Army, January 15, 1872, March 15, 1872, April 22, 1884, March 20, 1876, April 22, 1876, April 27, 1878, and February 19, 1880. In addition to the amount of bounties paid as stated in above report of April 22, 1876, the Paymaster-General reports that there has been since paid \$2,292,567.29, making the aggregate amount paid for bounties up to date \$388,210,246.77.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF WAR.

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., January 15, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following estimate of the approximate cost of effecting an equalization of bounties at this time, based upon the provisions of House Bills Nos. 89 and 240, as requested by the Military Committee of the House of Representatives, under date of December 19, 1871.

Under the provisions of the Hon. Mr. Niblack's bill No. 89, the approximate cost of equalization is..... \$137,275,105 94

Determined as follows:

1st. Number of enlisted men of the Regular Army who enlisted at any time between April 12, 1861, and April 19, 1865, and who served faithfully and were honorably discharged was 46,379

Average duration of service will approximate twenty-nine months.

2d. Number of enlisted men of all classes of volunteers, including those recognized for completing defenses of Washington, and "slaves" who enlisted or were drafted between April 12, 1861, and April 19, 1865, who served faithfully and were honorably discharged was. 2,234,421

Deduct substitutes..... 123,190

Deduct enlisted men from captured prisoners of war. 1,592

124,782

2,109,639

Average duration of service in months, 28.7.

3d. Add number enlisted for not less than three years, and discharged on account of wounds or while engaged in line of duty (extra time not included in No. 1 above) was..... 59,500

Average time of actual service to be credited was 36 months—28.7 = 7.3 months.

The above taken severally at their average duration of service in months would give as follows:

1. \$8.33 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 29 mo. × 46,379 men =	\$11,208,258 33
2. \$8.33 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 28.7 mo. × 2,109,639 men =	504,555,327 50
3. \$8.33 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 7.3 mo. × 59,500 men =	3,619,583 33

519,383,169 16

Deduct gross amount of bounties paid and payable under existing laws, by the United States, viz:

Ordinary bounties paid to January 1, 1866.....	\$301,448,600 00
Ordinary bounties paid between January 1, 1866, and November 1, 1866.....	3,750,000 00
Ordinary bounties paid between November 1, 1866, and August 31, 1871.....	14,466,384 18
Extra bounties paid, act July 28, 1866.....	62,278,129 04
Extra bounties still payable.....	164,950 00
	\$382,108,063 22

Total approximate cost..... 137,275,105 94

Under provisions of the Hon. Mr. Holman's bill No. 240, the approximate cost of equalization is \$163,543,634.61, determined as follows:

1st. Number of enlisted men of the Regular Army who enlisted at any time between April 12, 1861, and May 9, 1865, and who served faithfully and were honorably discharged was.....	46, 679
Average duration of service will approximate 29 months.	
2d. Number of enlisted men of all classes of volunteers who enlisted or were drafted between April 12, 1861, and April 19, 1865, and who served faithfully and were honorably discharged was.....	2, 234, 421
Deduct substitutes.....	123, 190
Deduct enlisted captured prisoners of war.....	1, 592
	124, 782
	2, 109, 639

Average duration of service in months, 28.7.

3d. Number of enlisted volunteers who served subsequently to April 19, 1865, and to date of muster out of their organizations was..... 1, 034, 064
Average duration of service in months, 3.46.

The above taken severally at their average duration of service in months would give as follows:

1. \$8.33 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 29 months, × 46,679 men.....	\$11, 280, 758 33
2. \$8.33 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 28.7 months, × 2,109,639 men.....	504, 555, 327 50
3. \$8.33 $\frac{1}{4}$ × 3.46 months, × 1,034,064 men.....	28, 815, 512 00
	545, 651, 697 83
Deduct gross amount of bounties paid as above.....	382, 108, 063 22

Total approximate cost..... 163, 543, 634 61

In determining the several classes of enlisted men above, all unreturned and unpardoned deserters, all men dishonorably discharged, and all discharged for favor and for minority, as provided for in the bill, have been excluded. But in the credits of enlisted men of volunteers in No. 2 are included 99,091 seamen and 2,931 marines; total, 102,022.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. ALVORD,
Acting Paymaster-General, United States Army.

Hon. JOHN COBURN,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., March 15, 1872.

SIR: I have the honor to report in reply to your request of the 7th instant for "an estimate of the amount of money necessary to appropriate to carry out the provisions of House Bill 785 (amendment), in relation to bounties," that it will require about \$2,170,000.

This is based upon the number obtained from the Adjutant-General's Office of men who enlisted between May 3, 1861, and July 22, 1861, for three years, and who were honorably discharged without bounty after a service of less than two years, viz: 21,700 men × \$100 = \$2,170,000.

The bill, it is observed, does not especially provide for payment to the legal heirs or those who died *after discharge from service*. If such heirs are not included it is supposed that the estimated number of men and amount would be diminished, say 20 per cent.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. ALVORD,
Acting Paymaster-General, United States Army.

The CHAIRMAN *Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.*

EQUALIZATION OF BOUNTIES.

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., April 22, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your letter of 20th April making the following inquiries:

"In the consideration of the question of an equalization of bounties at the rate of \$8.33 per month, it is the wish of the committee to obtain, from the best authorities, estimates on the following heads, viz:

"First, amount required to pay three months' men.

"Secondly, amount required to pay nine months' men.

"Thirdly, amount required for payment of equalization of all bounties."

1st. Amount required to pay three months' men (in this I should include the 100 day men):

Three months' men obtained under the call of 15th April, 1861.....	93,326
Three months' men obtained under the call of May and June, 1862.....	15,007
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	108,333
100 day men under call of April 23, 1864.....	83,652
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	191,985
Deduct for desertion one-tenth.....	19,198
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	172,787

$$\$8\frac{1}{3} \times 3 \times 172,787 = \$4,319,675.$$

I have made the comparison as if the length of service was three months, although a large share of the above number are 100 day men.

2d. Amount required to pay nine months' men:

Number of nine months' men obtained during the war.....	87,588
Deduct for desertion one-tenth.....	8,758
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	78,830

$$\$8\frac{1}{3} \times 9 \times 78,830 = \$5,912,250.$$

Number of six months' men obtained during the war.....	20,439
Deduct one-tenth for desertion.....	2,043
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	18,396

$$\$8\frac{1}{3} \times 6 \times 18,396 = \$919,800.$$

We have made the estimates above for 100 day men and six months' men, although not expressly named in your letter, but supposing that you would wish them to be included.

The estimates are founded on the basis proposed in all the bills introduced, viz, that in case of the death of the soldier the bounty should be paid to his heirs.

The statistics are mostly derived from Part 1, Report of Secretary of War for 1865-'66, Provost-Marshal-General's Report, pp. 78, 101, and 160. The item concerning number of six months' men was derived from the Adjutant-General's office.

3d. The amount required for payment for equalization of all bounties, according to my estimate, is \$161,543,634, determined as follows:

Total required for equalization of bounties, as stated in my letter to you of January 15, 1872, on the basis of the bill of the Hon. Mr. Holman (H. R. 240, of 20 March, 1871), embracing service to date of muster out of organizations.....	\$163,543,634
Deduct estimate to execute act of 22d April, 1872, to pay troops called out under proclamation of the President of 3d May, 1861, the only bounty act passed since the above report was made.....	2,000,000
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	161,543,634

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. ALVORD,

Paymaster-General, United States Army.

Hon. JOHN COBURN,

Chairman Committee on Military Affairs. House of Representatives.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, March 20, 1876.

SIR: I have received the request, conveyed to me by the clerk of your committee, to make an estimate of the probable amount called for to execute bill H. R. 58 (copy herewith), reported, to the House on the 11th instant from the Military Committee. It proposes, stated in brief, to equalize bounties by giving eight and one-third dollars per month to each enlisted man who faithfully served between the 12th April, 1861, and the 9th May, 1865, and in computing the same "there shall be deducted therefrom any and all bounties already paid under the provisions of any United States or State laws."

The element difficult to arrive at will be to ascertain the amount each soldier received from State bounties. Such delays and difficulties in obtaining that information will, I predict, be encountered that the law would soon have to be amended, and after that is done it would take ten years to execute.

The lowest estimate yet made for the equalization of bounties is that of the Second Comptroller, dated the 15th February, 1874, calling for \$101,947,825.

From this the amount of State bounties, if they could be arrived at, would have to be deducted. If that clause is omitted, a hundred million dollars is necessary. But as a conjecture, deducting one-fourth for that item, I believe that the bill, if it becomes a law, would at least call for \$75,000,000.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

BENJ. ALVORD,
Paymaster-General, United States Army.

Hon H. B. BANNING,
Chairman Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.

Official copy respectfully furnished for information Adjutant-General.

BENJ. ALVORD,
Paymaster-General, United States Army.

P. M. G. OFFICE, *August 2, 1876.*

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., April 22, 1876.

SIR: In reply to your inquiry of the 15th instant asking (1st) for the amount of money paid to enlisted men, also (2d) amount paid for bounty to enlisted men or their heirs, including bounty or pay settled by Second Auditor, giving, if possible, (3d.) the different acts under which payments were made, I have the honor to state:

1st The records of this office up to July 1st, 1874, do not show the amount paid to enlisted men. The disbursements to officers and men up to that date were kept in one account.

2d. The Second Auditor does not settle (pay) any bounty or pay. The accounts of persons not in service are presented to the Second Auditor, stated and adjusted by him, and then referred by him to this office for payment on Treasury certificates. No separate account has been kept of this class of cases distinct from payments to men in arrears.

Prior to November 1, 1866, no separate account was kept of the amount of bounty paid.

From the best data obtainable this office, under date of January 15, 1872, furnished Hon. Mr. Coburn, chairman Committee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives, with an estimate of the amount

of ordinary bounty paid to November 1, 1866, as.....	\$305, 198, 600 00
Amount of ordinary bounty, paid since to March 31, 1876.....	17, 036, 197 55

Total ordinary bounty paid.....	322, 228, 797 55
Amount of additional bounty paid to March 31, 1876.....	63, 682, 883 93

Total bounty paid.....	385, 917, 681 48
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3d. The different acts under which payments of (bounty) were made are enumerated on the sheet herewith inclosed.

A digest of these acts, and of the instructions of the War and Treasury Departments on the subject of bounty, was published by the Second Auditor at the Government Printing Office in 1872.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. ALVORD,
Paymaster-General, U. S. A.

The CHAIRMAN COMMITTEE MILITARY AFFAIRS,
House of Representatives.

Schedule of the different acts under which payments of bounty were made to enlisted men for services during the late war.

Date of act.	Subject.
Vol. 12.	
July 22, 1861, secs. 5 and 6, page 270.	Bounty for two years' service, and to widow and heirs of such as die or may be killed in service.
July 29, 1861, sec. 5, p. 280	Regulars entitled to same bounties allowed to volunteers.
July 5, 1862, sec. 6, p. 509	\$25 of bounty under act of July 20, 1861, to be advance.
July 11, 1862, secs. 1 and 3, p. 525.	To whom bounty of July 22, 1861, shall be paid.
July 14, 1862, secs. 10 and 11, p. 566.	Bounty to pilots, engineers, sailors, &c., and their heirs, of gunboats and war vessels.
July 17, 1862, secs. 3 and 4, p. 598.	Bounty to nine and twelve months' men (no troops accepted under this call and no bounty paid).
March 3, 1863, sec. 18, p. 743	Bounty for re-enlistments, \$50 for one year, \$100 for two years.
March 3, 1863, sec. 7, p. 743	Bounty of \$50 to nine months' men re-enlisting for one year.
March 3, 1863, p. 758	Men discharged by reason of wounds entitled to same bounty as those discharged after two years' service.
Vol. 13.	
February 24, 1864, sec. 24, p. 11.	Bounty to be paid to loyal masters whose slaves enlist.
June 15, 1864, secs. 23 and 24, p. 128.	Bounty to all enlistments under call of October 17, 1863, and to colored troops who were free 19th April, 1861.
June 20, 1864, sec. 3, p. 144	Bounty to regulars enlisted prior to July 22, 1861, who re-enlist for three years before August 1, 1864.
July 2, 1864, sec. 3, p. 356	Bounty to men sick in hospital and discharged but dying in hospital.
July 4, 1864, sec. 1, p. 379	Bounty of \$100 to \$200, and \$300 to one, two, and three years' men.
March 3, 1865, secs. 3 and 11, p. 457.	Bounty to certain soldiers to whom payable.
Sec. 4	Bounty to men discharged by reason of wounds received in line of duty.
Vol. 14.	
April 12, 1866, J. R., p. 352	Construction of words "in line of duty," act of March 3, 1865.
June 15, 1866, J. R., p. 357	Omission of words "free on or before April 19, 1861," shall not deprive colored soldier of bounty to which he would otherwise be entitled.
July 26, 1866, J. R., p. 367	The words "at the time of his enlistment" in above resolution stricken out.
July 28, 1866, secs. 12 and 13, p. 322.	Additional bounty of \$50 and \$100 to certain soldiers.
Vol. 15.	
February 21, 1868, p. 37	Additional bounty to be paid to certain heirs.
Vol. 17.	
April 22, 1872, p. 55	Bounty of \$100 to person enlisted prior to July 22, 1861, and mustered in before August 6, 1861.
March 3, 1873, p. 601	Bounty to colored men heretofore prohibited from same by reason of being borne on rolls as "slaves."

BENJ. ALVORD,
Paymaster-General, United States Army.

APRIL 21, 1876.

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., April 27, 1878.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday, saying, "Considering the various bounty bills before Congress, I desire to know your opinion as to the cost of the bill allowing bounties of \$84 per month to all soldiers, deducting former bounties received. Please give me your best impression as to the cost."

As you do not name any of the various bills before Congress, I will base my reply on Mr. Thornburgh's bill (H. R. No. 389), introduced October 29, 1877. I inclose herewith a copy of that bill. And the following was my estimate made, after mature consideration, in a letter of March 20, 1876, to the chairman of the Military Committee of the House concerning the same proposition introduced by Mr. Thornburgh at that session, viz: "It proposes (stated in brief) to equalize bounties by giving eight and one-third dollars per month to each enlisted man who faithfully served between the 12th of April, 1861, and the 9th of May, 1865, and in computing the same there shall be deducted therefrom any and all bounties already paid under the provisions of any United States or State laws."

The element difficult to arrive at will be to ascertain the amount each soldier received from State bounties. Such delays and difficulties in obtaining that information will, I predict, be encountered that the law would soon have to be amended, and after that is done, it would take ten years to execute.

The lowest estimate yet made for the equalization of bounties is that of the Second Comptroller, dated the 15th of February, 1874, calling for \$101,947,825.

From this the amount of State bounties, if they could be arrived at, would have to be deducted. If that clause is omitted, a hundred million of dollars is necessary. But, as a conjecture, deducting one-fourth for that item, I believe that the bill, if it becomes a law, would at least call for \$75,000,000.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. ALVORD,
Paymaster-General.

Hon. G. G. DIBRELL,
Of Military Committee, House of Representatives.

PAYMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, D. C., February 19, 1880.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your letter of 16th instant, saying that you are chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Affairs, to whom is referred all bills and petitions for the equalization of bounties, and asking me for an estimate of the cost of such equalization.

As you do not inclose any bill, I have chosen one evidently calling for the least amount—H. R. No. 2410—introduced by the Hon. Mr. White December 20, 1879. It proposes (stated in brief) \$8.33 per month to each enlisted man who has faithfully served between the 12th April, 1861, and the 9th May, 1865 (or to certain of his heirs in case of death), and in computing the same that "there shall be deducted therefrom any and all bounties already paid under the provisions of any United States or State laws."

The element difficult to arrive at will be to ascertain the amount each soldier received from State bounties. Some States gave them aid or stimulus in the shape of what was called extra or additional pay. Should extra pay be considered a bounty? The records at the seat of government of the various States may be very defective, and it may be difficult to get precise information on such points in each individual case from the adjutant generals of States, and no obligation of law would exist to furnish it until each State legislature should pass enactments on the subject. Such delays and difficulties in obtaining that information would, I predict, be encountered that the law would soon have to be amended, and thus it would take at least ten years from date of the act before it could be executed. The contrasts and differences of policy between the States would be made prominent, and in all likelihood the part of the law deducting State bounties would be repealed. If that portion of the bill is omitted, the lowest estimate yet made for the equalization of bounties is that of the Second Comptroller, dated 15th February, 1874, calling for \$101,947,825.

From this amount, under this bill, H. R. 2410, the amount of State bounties, if they could be arrived at, would have to be deducted. Thus if that clause is omitted about one hundred millions of dollars is necessary. But, as a conjecture, deducting one-fourth for State bounties paid, I believe that the bill, if it becomes a law, would at least call for an appropriation of seventy-five million dollars.

This is in substance what I wrote you, as you indicate, on the 27th April, 1878, in reply to a similar inquiry.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

BENJ. ALVORD,
Paymaster-General, United States Army.

Hon. G. G. DIBRELL,
Chairman Subcommittee on Military Affairs, House of Representatives.