

60TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ DOCUMENT
No. 587 }

SPECIAL MESSAGE
OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES

COMMUNICATED TO THE

SENATE

ON

DECEMBER 14, 1908

SECOND SESSION OF THE
SIXTIETH CONGRESS

DECEMBER 14, 1908.—Read; ordered to be printed



WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1908

SPECIAL MESSAGE.

To the Senate:

I inclose herewith a letter from the Secretary of War transmitting a report of the investigation made by Mr. Herbert J. Browne, employed by the department in conjunction with Capt. W. G. Baldwin to investigate as far as possible what happened at Brownsville on the 13th and 14th of August, 1906. The report and documents contain some information of great value and some statements that are obviously worthless, but I submit them in their entirety.

This report enables us to fix with tolerable definiteness at least some of the criminals who took the lead in the murderous shooting of private citizens at Brownsville. It establishes clearly the fact that the colored soldiers did the shooting; but upon this point further record was unnecessary, as the fact that the colored soldiers did the shooting has already been established beyond all possibility of doubt. The investigation has not gone far enough to enable us to determine all the facts, and we will proceed with it; but it has gone far enough to determine with sufficient accuracy certain facts of enough importance to make it advisable that I place the report before you. It appears that almost all the members of Company B must have been actively concerned in the shooting, either to the extent of being participants or to the extent of virtually encouraging those who were participants. As to Companies C and D, there can be no question that practically every man in them must have had knowledge that the shooting was done by some of the soldiers of B Troop, and possibly by one or two others in one of the other troops. This concealment was itself a grave offense, which was greatly aggravated by their testifying before the Senate committee that they were ignorant of what they must have known. Nevertheless, it is to be said in partial extenuation that they were probably cowed by threats, made by the more desperate of the men who had actually been engaged in the shooting, as to what would happen to any man who failed to protect the wrongdoers. Moreover, there are circumstances tending to show that these misguided men were encouraged by outsiders to persist in their course of concealment and denial. I feel, therefore, that the guilt of the

men who, after the event, thus shielded the perpetrators of the wrong by refusing to tell the truth about them, though serious, was in part due to the unwise and improper attitude of others, and that some measure of allowance should be made for the misconduct. In other words, I believe we can afford to reinstate any of these men who now truthfully tell what has happened, give all the aid they can to fix the responsibility upon those who are really guilty, and show that they themselves had no guilty knowledge beforehand and were in no way implicated in the affair, save by having knowledge of it afterwards and failing and refusing to divulge it. Under the circumstances, and in view of the length of time they have been out of the service, and their loss of the benefit that would have accrued to them by continuous long-time service, we can afford to treat the men who meet the requirements given above as having been sufficiently punished by the consequences they brought upon themselves when they rendered necessary the exercise of the disciplinary power. I recommend that a law be passed allowing the Secretary of War, within a fixed period of time, say a year, to reinstate any of these soldiers whom he, after careful examination, finds to have been innocent and whom he finds to have done all in his power to help bring to justice the guilty.

Meanwhile the investigation will be continued. The results have made it obvious that only by carrying on the investigation as the War Department has actually carried it on is there the slightest chance of bringing the offenders to justice or of separating not the innocent, for there were doubtless hardly any innocent, but the less guilty from those whose guilt was heinous.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE,
December 14, 1908.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, December 10, 1908.

MY DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I have the honor to send you herewith a report of investigation made by Mr. Herbert J. Browne, who was employed by this department in conjunction with Capt. W. G. Baldwin to investigate as far as possible the occurrence at Brownsville on the 13th and 14th of August, 1906.

Sincerely, yours,

LUKE E. WRIGHT.

The PRESIDENT.

TABLE OF CONTENTS.

	Page.
General report	9
Confession of Boyd Conyers, late private, Company B, Twenty-fifth Infantry.	10
Affidavit of Herbert J. Browne in connection with same.....	12
Participation of the guard.....	14
The sentinels	17
The bakehouse.....	18
The participants in the raid.....	18
The evidence	20
The cartridge shells	22
The ammunition	23
Revolvers.....	23
The case of John Holloman, late private, Company B, Twenty-fifth Infantry..	24
Correspondence, etc.....	24

GENERAL REPORT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 5, 1908.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report relative to the investigation of the Brownsville raid:

Ex-Private Boyd Conyers, of Company B, Twenty-fifth Infantry, now at Monroe, Ga., told William Lawson, a detective in the employ of Capt. William G. Baldwin, of Roanoke, Va., that he and three [or four] other men of the Twenty-fifth Infantry were the leaders in the Brownsville raid. This information was obtained at different dates during the month of June, 1908. (See Exhibit A.)

I submit the affidavit as presented. There are certain discrepancies of a minor character, due to the fact that Lawson is illiterate and had to depend on his memory for details. But it should be borne in mind that Lawson was unacquainted with the details of the Brownsville raid and was given information which could have come only from one familiar with the secret history of the affair. Lawson's first report included the names of Conyers, John Holloman, John Brown, and "another man." Subsequently he supplied the name of James Powell, but I think the original name given was that of Robert L. Collier, Company C, one of the relief guard. This information was corroborated in the presence of witnesses, but before Lawson could finish his work Conyers became suspicious and would give no further evidence incriminating himself. From then on he furnished to A. H. Baldwin, Capt. W. G. Baldwin, and to myself information piecemeal and reluctantly. The name of Carolina de Saussure, his bunk mate, was the last one obtained.

Conyers tried to commit suicide after he found that he had made his statements to a detective, declaring that the other negroes would kill him when it got out. He finally wrote to Senator Foraker and received a reply, a copy of which is annexed. That reply he construed to mean that he should stick to his original story told before the Senate committee at all hazards, and there he stands. I have every reason to believe that his confession is genuine and gives for the first time the true secret history of the Brownsville raid.

The list of participants given in this report Conyers furnished me personally. I believe it is substantially correct, but with the influences shown to be backing Conyers to adhere to his false testimony given before the Senate committee still being exerted he can not be relied on to support his own confession until it is thoroughly sustained from other sources.

Evidences of similar encouragement to stick to the lies told at Brownsville and before the Senate committee were found in many places, and subsequent to the date of the Foraker letter they became stronger and more obstructive than ever.

The investigation has been conducted with strict recognition of the advisability of preserving secrecy, and with discretion. No promises of

immunity were made. The knowledge on the part of the ex-soldiers that the Government could not punish them after their separation from the service, coupled with the belief that by preserving silence they would aid in the passage of the relief legislation now pending in Congress, has added to the difficulty of securing information.

The issue has evidently become racial. The colored detectives would be confronted frequently in the smaller towns where these men are living with a demand from colored men for information as to their business.

We have located over 130 of these ex-soldiers, and have been in thirty States in quest of information. The appendices give statements as to the results obtained. They indicate a general knowledge on the part of the ex-soldiers that the raid came from inside the fort, and that the soldiers of Company B were the guilty parties.

We earnestly urge that we be permitted to continue the investigation. Several detectives are still in the field, and within the coming week a number of affidavits will be forthcoming.

With some repetition of matter appearing later in the report, Boyd Conyers's story is given here in narrative form:

The rumors of trouble over the assignment of colored troops to Brownsville were circulated before the troops left Fort Niobrara, and preparations were made among the men to "get even with the crackers," so the whites were called. Some cartridges were held out at range practice, but more en route to Brownsville. Pretense was made that they were given away at stations along the road. Some were, but a large number were secreted.

At inspection in Brownsville, Lieutenant Lawrason, Company B, threatened punishment to the men who were short of ammunition, but nothing was done about it, and the deficiency was supplied.

The friction with citizens of Brownsville began at once. In Boyd Conyers's language, "Whisky made all the trouble. If we hadn't been drinking we wouldn't have had the nerve to shoot up the town."

It was agreed, at a gathering of a few men in the saloon of Allison, the colored ex-soldier, on the afternoon of August 13, 1906, that the raid should take place that night at 12 o'clock. It seems to have been delayed a few minutes to let Tamayo, the Mexican scavenger, get away from the B barracks.

John Holloman, the money lender of Company B, was the chief conspirator and leader in the raid and custodian and distributor of the cartridges, but his plans could not have been carried out had not Sergt. George Jackson, of Company B, in charge of the keys to the gun racks in B barracks, and Sergeant Reid, in command of the guards, cooperated both before and after the raid.

The four men who led the raid were John Holloman, John Brown, Boyd Conyers, and Carolina de Saussure, all of Company B (and probably R. L. Collier, of Company C). Holloman was in barracks, Brown in the bake shop, Conyers and De Saussure in the guardhouse. The two latter were in the same detail and had been relieved at about 11 o'clock, De Saussure on the post at the guardhouse, and Conyers on No. 2, around the barracks and facing the town. Holloman got the party together. Conyers and De Saussure slept on the same bunk in the guardhouse, claiming that they wanted to get under the mosquito net, and they had the trick of taking their guns into the bunk instead of placing them in the open rack, on the excuse that they didn't rust so badly under cover, but really so the absence of the guns from the open guardhouse rack would not attract attention, and their own absence would be ascribed to a visit to the closet, which was back of the guardhouse. These two men slipped out the rear door of the guardhouse, passed through the sally port, and joined Holloman and Brown.

The party crossed the wall of the fort down near the end of A barracks, went up the roadway to the entrance to the Cowen alley, where the signal shots were fired. These shots were immediately tallied onto by the alarm shots of Joseph B. Howard, guard on No. 2, and formed the series testified to by Mrs. Katie E. Leahy, of Brownsville. Her testimony is further borne out by the statement that not over thirty seconds elapsed before a number of the men of Company B swarmed out on the upper gallery and opened a fusillade on the town.

It is an absolute certainty that it would have been impossible for Sergeant Jackson to have opened the gun racks, for the men to have assembled, secured their guns,

loaded them, gone out to the gallery, and started firing, all after the first shot was fired; all aroused, as they testified unanimously, from sound slumber, in less than two minutes, in the confusion of a dark barrack room. Beyond the possibility of a doubt, the racks had been opened and the inside conspirators were ready to pour out on the signal shots. The testimony is ample that there were scarcely twenty seconds between the last of the signal shots and the first general volley from B barracks.

The number firing from the barracks is unknown, but perhaps 20 men were involved. A smaller number went to the ground and followed the leaders up the alley. It will be remembered that one of the witnesses testified to hearing some one of the group of soldiers exclaim, "There they go!" Whereupon these men leaped over the wall and ran up the alley.

Boyd Conyers is the man whose gun jammed at the exit of the alley by the Cowen house, testified to by Herbert Elkins, and it was taken from him by De Saussure and fixed in the street where the light from the street lamp at the corner of Elizabeth street shone on them.

Less than five minutes elapsed from the time the first shot was fired until these men were all back inside the fort.

Conyers stated that Reid was told that they were going to shoot up the town, and he had laughed and said, "Don't go out there and let the crackers get the best of you."

When Conyers and De Saussure reached the guardhouse they ran in the back way and got into their bunks. Sergeant Reid came in and swore at them, but Conyers was so excited and out of breath that he could hardly stand, so Reid stationed him at the rear of the guardhouse in the dark where he could not be scrutinized so closely.

Holloman came around with extra cartridges about daybreak and Reid passed them out. The guns were all cleaned before daylight.

This day personally appeared before me William Lawson, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

"On June 5, 1908, I was sent to Monroe, Ga., to interview Boyd Conyers, one of the soldiers who was stationed at Brownsville, Tex., in August, 1906. I was sent by Mr. Baldwin to get in with Conyers and ascertain if he knew who did the shooting at that point. I was not given the names of any of the members of either of the companies stationed at that point, nor was I given any other information, except the fact that a shooting occurred at the time and place above mentioned and that Boyd Conyers was suspected of knowing who did same.

"I arrived at Monroe, Ga., on June 5, and stopped at the home of Esther Crews, colored. I met Boyd Conyers, who is known as 'Buddie' Conyers, on the morning of June 6, but had very little conversation with him, but was introduced to him as an old soldier. On the morning of June 8, between 8 and 9 o'clock, I met Conyers about halfway between the station house and Main street. We talked some twenty or twenty-five minutes. I broached the Brownsville case, and mentioned the fact that the soldiers had shown their good sense by keeping their mouths while at Washington. I then asked him what the motive was for the shooting. He told me that the 'crackers' at Brownsville had made threats that they would have no negro soldiers at Brownsville, and the soldiers had made it up in their minds that if they bothered them that they would go in and clean up the ground. He also said that they mentioned this to Sergeant Reid, who was commander of the guards, and that Reid said, 'All that I have to say is to take care of yourself and the boys when you go down there.' S. H. Parker, whose home is at Charleston, S. C., was present and heard the same conversation.

"About then a gentleman called Conyers to come and clean some clothes, and Conyers left, and nothing further was said about the matter at this time. I was with Conyers nearly every day, and went to Gainesville, Ga., on an excursion with him on the 15th of June. I did not mention the Brownsville matter to Conyers again until on the 29th of

June, when I returned from Atlanta, having gone there on June 27. On this date I met him at Joe Blassingame's, and had a pint bottle of liquor, offered him a drink—he would not drink in the house, but we went up the street and we stopped under a storehouse porch, near Main street. We took a drink or two, and I started the Brownsville case again. He told me that he was doing guard duty at the time of the shooting at Brownsville, and was stationed at the outlet toward the town. He said that when the guard was called the night of the shooting they mentioned to Sergeant Reid what had occurred downtown, and he said 'Boys, if you are not satisfied, you will have to go and get satisfied,' and they remarked that they were going to get satisfaction that night. Reid then laughed and said, 'Boys, don't you go down there and let them get the best of you.' He then assigned the guard and went away.

"In this conversation, Conyers told me that John Brown, J. H. Holloman, and a man named Powell, and several others, came down where he was on guard, and that they went downtown and just gave them hell, and after they shot out all of their cartridges they ran back to the barracks, and when they got back to the barracks they found that the alarm had been sounded and the officers were calling the roll. Holloman, Brown, and himself were late for roll call, but that some one answered for Brown and Holloman, but that he was late, and that Reid told him that they had gotten themselves and himself in a hell of a hole, and told him to go to the guardhouse and pretend to be asleep, which he did.

"He told me that they had slipped a few cartridges when at target practice and that before inspection, after the shooting, Reid gave him some cartridges to replace the ones he had used. He further said that they had all agreed before they went out that they would keep their mouths, and that he would have told them at the investigation at Washington all about the shooting, but that he was afraid. I had no further talk with Conyers, because I saw that I was being suspected by the negroes around Monroe, Ga.

"WILLIAM (his x mark) LAWSON."

Witnesses:

H. J. BROWNE.

GEO. W. MADERT.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss:

Subscribed and sworn to before me, a notary public in and for the District aforesaid, this 16th day of October, A. D. 1908.

[SEAL.]

GEO. W. MADERT,
Notary Public.

This day personally appeared before me Herbert J. Browne, of Washington, D. C., who, being duly sworn, deposes and says:

"I was employed by the War Department in May, 1908, in company with Capt. William G. Baldwin, of Roanoke, Va., chief of the Baldwin Detective Agency, to investigate the conduct of the battalion of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, stationed at Brownsville, Tex., which conduct resulted in the Brownsville raid, so called, on the night of August 13-14, 1906, wherein one Frank Natus was killed, Lieutenant of Police Dominguez badly wounded, and the houses of several citizens were shot into. Captain Baldwin has charge of the secret work for the Norfolk

and Western Railway, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway, the Southern Railway, and the Atlantic Coast Line, and is one of the best known and most responsible detectives in the country.

"In conjunction with him I have been continuously employed upon this work since its inception, in May.

"The facts set forth in my report addressed to Gen. George B. Davis, Judge-Advocate-General, War Department, under date of December 5, 1908, are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

"In particular I visited Monroe, Ga., to corroborate the investigation at that point of William Lawson, a colored detective in the employ of Captain Baldwin, whose affidavit and reports are annexed to and made a part of my report of December 5, 1908, above referred to.

"I had several interviews at Monroe with Boyd Conyers, ex-private of Company B, Twenty-fifth Infantry, one of the guard on the night of the Brownsville raid, and found that William Lawson's statements regarding Conyers were substantially and essentially correct. I personally obtained from Conyers further information detailing how the cartridges used in the raid were surreptitiously and illegally obtained and distributed, how the principal raiders proceeded, when and by whom the gun racks in Company B were unlawfully and secretly opened for the purpose of the raid, how the raiders were protected during and subsequent to the raid and given opportunity to clean their guns, and, in particular, was furnished by Conyers with the names of eight participants in the raid other than the three named by him in his statements to William Lawson, a total of eleven, including himself, the said Conyers, all members of Company B, Twenty-fifth Infantry.

"The leaders of the raid, as named by Boyd Conyers, were John Holloman, John Brown, Carolina de Saussure, and himself. Following them were William Anderson, James Bailey, Charles E. Cooper, William Lemons, Henry Jimerson, James 'Rastus' Johnson, and Henry 'Sonny' Jones. Sergeant Reid, in charge of the guard, was accused by Conyers of knowledge before and after the raid. Sergt. George Jackson, in charge of the keys of the gun racks of Company B, was accused of opening the racks for the raiders, and of again opening them subsequent to the raid in order that the guns might be removed and cleaned.

"I found Boyd Conyers in a disturbed frame of mind. No claim is made that his original declarations to William Lawson were other than those of a criminal boasting to one of his own race of his crime and of his success in escaping discovery. His subsequent declarations to me were given partly during moments of contrition and in a desire to unload his conscience by a confession and partly as the result of careful and persistent questioning.

"I found the effect of the letter from Senator Foraker to Conyers extremely obstructive. He seemed to regard it as a mandate to adhere to the false story told by him before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, and as absolving him from any and all obligations to aid in uncovering the truth. Similar influences were encountered at many points, adding largely to the difficulty of obtaining admissions of even the most obvious facts relative to the raid.

"HERBERT J. BROWNE."

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 9th day of December, 1908.

[SEAL.]

J. B. RANDOLPH, *Notary Public.*

THE GUARD.

Analyzing the admitted facts and recorded testimony concerning the guard on the night of August 13-14, 1906, the following is presented.

The guard consisted of 17 men, to wit:

Sergt. J. R. Reid, Company B, in charge.
 Corpl. Ray Burdett, Company B.
 Corpl. Anthony Franklin, Company B.
 Corpl. Samuel Wheeler, Company D, on post.
 Musician Hoyt Robinson, Company D.
 Pvt. Boyd Conyers, Company B.
 Pvt. Carolina de Saussure, Company B.
 Pvt. Lawrence Daniels, Company B.
 Pvt. Frank Bounsler, Company C.
 Pvt. R. L. Collier, Company C.
 Pvt. Jos. Rogers, Company C.
 Pvt. Andrew Mitchell, Company C.
 Pvt. S. M. Battle, Company D.

On post:

No. 1, Pvt. B. F. Johnson, Company D.
 No. 2, Pvt. Joseph Howard, Company C.
 No. 3, Pvt. Charley Hairston, Company B.
 No. 4, Pvt. Alexander Ash, Company D.

None of the men on post is implicated in the charges as active participants in the raid.

Of the men on relief Pvt. Boyd Conyers's statements directly affect himself and Pvt. Carolina de Saussure as two of the principal participants and ringleaders, and Sergt. J. R. Reid as having guilty knowledge before and after the raid, using his position to aid in covering and protecting the raiders.

There is strong circumstantial evidence pointing to the participation of Pvt. R. L. Collier in the raid and guilty knowledge after the raid on the part of several of the guard relief. Of the relief guard, non-commissioned officers and men alike, none could have escaped some knowledge of the more or less incriminating evidence against the guardsmen now directly charged with participation in the raid.

The guardhouse, situated east of the center of the parade, had a west-front entrance, with rooms for the noncommissioned officers to the right and left of the entrance, a general bunk room for the privates, a rear door leading into a sally port which crossed the building entirely from north to south, open at each end, and separating the front portion from the prison cells in the rear. This rear door of the front portion furnished an easy and safe exit and entrance for the conspirators without passing the sentinel in front. The latrine was at the rear of the building, separate therefrom, and the men customarily went out the rear door and through the sally port to reach it. An absence of ten or fifteen minutes would not attract especial attention.

There was a bright light from a lamp in the guardroom, according to the testimony of Pvt. Joseph Rogers, who claims to have been reading a novel when the firing began. His original statement was that he was asleep on his bunk when the firing began and that he was awakened by Sergeant Reid. His various statements are confused and contradictory—he is evidently lying—but as to there being a light in the guardhouse, there has been no denial. Rogers had been courtmartialed five

times. The existence of the light is also proved by the statement of Private Johnson.

Attention is directed to the singular fact that no statement under oath was taken from Sergt. J. R. Reid, though a vitally important witness. On page 75, Senate Document No. 402, appears a brief summary of his statement (not under oath) to Maj. A. P. Blocksom, to the effect that he did not have the call to arms sounded until the shots came so fast that he thought the post was attacked. He stated also that he formed the guard before having the call sounded.

From this point Reid disappears as a witness. He was serving his fourth enlistment. He was discharged without honor November 16, 1906, with the rest of the battalion. His testimony was not taken at any of the subsequent courts-martial and investigations. He simply disappeared from view. Efforts to locate him have been unsuccessful. He is constantly on the move, and acts like a fugitive from justice. We have followed him into seven States, and spent more time and money in the search than on any other man. For some months shortly after his discharge he was traveling with a negro minstrel troupe through the South in company with John Holloman.

Boyd Conyers declared that Reid was informed that they were going to shoot up the town that night. Reid is reported to have said:

"Boys, if you are not satisfied, you will have to go and get satisfied."

And later, when Reid posted the guard:

"Boys, don't you go down there and let the crackers' get the best of you."

Reid seems to have understood that the raid was to be started by these men while on sentry duty and not while on relief, for Conyers declares that, after he (Conyers) returned and threw himself, out of breath, on his bunk, Reid came in and dragged him out declaring, with an oath, that he would have to stand for it or be court-martialed.

Conyers further declares that when John Holloman brought around the extra cartridges before inspection the next morning, to avoid detection, Reid attended to their distribution.

It is obvious that if Reid intended to protect the raiders he would post them away from the front of the guardhouse, where they could recover breath and clean their guns without being under observation. The printed testimony bears this out:

Senate Document No. 402, page 156: Boyd Conyers testifies that he was posted in the rear of the guardhouse after the guard was formed. Does not remember who or how many were in line when the guard was formed.

Senate investigation, page 706, Conyers says he and Lawrence Daniels were posted at the rear of the guardhouse, and that he lay down on the ground to avoid the bullets, though he doesn't claim to have heard any coming that way; had been off post about half an hour. Daniels testified that he was posted at the guardhouse, but does not say whether front or rear.

Senate Document 402, page 152, Pvt. R. L. Collier, of Company C, testified that he had just come off post, and was in the closet when the firing began. (S. I. 1260-1263.) His statement is confused as to when he came off post or how long he was at the closet, or who was in the guardhouse. He was out of sight for an indefinite period, and was likewise posted at the rear of the guardhouse. He testifies that Sergeant Reid, in calling the roll, called up to No. 13 instead of calling by fours. No one else supports this assertion, and it is highly improbable

that he was in line when the first call was made. He could not tell who was in the guardhouse.

Senate Document 402, page 158, Private Carolina de Saussure was sent after the alarm and guard call with Corporal Wheeler and Privates Mitchell and Battle toward quarters, and he was later stationed over near the officers' quarters where he had ample opportunity to clean his gun. (S. I., p. 676)—De Saussure is very uncertain about whom he saw in the guardhouse. The time that he was sent toward quarters was later than he claimed. He admits that he had his gun and ammunition in bed with him, but says nothing about being in the same bunk with Boyd Conyers. He says there was no rack for guns in the guardhouse.

Conyers declares now that he and De Saussure were in the same bunk and both had their guns in bed and their ammunition belts on, though this important fact was not brought out in his testimony. He said that his gun got "jammed" in Fourteenth street by the Cowen house as he came out of the Cowen alley and that De Saussure fixed it for him. This corroborates the testimony of Herbert Elkins, clerk in the Leahy Hotel. (See Senate Doc. 402, Part II, p. 51, last paragraph; Penrose court-martial, p. 443; S. I., vol. 3, p. 2313.) Conyers was a recruit and not very familiar with his weapon, while De Saussure was serving his third enlistment.

The published testimony of the noncommissioned officers on post bears evidence that they were embarrassed by conflicting purposes—to satisfy the inquiries being made and yet not betray the guilty men. The guardhouse was well lighted, and its inmates easily to be seen and identified. As stated, there is no testimony from Sergeant Reid, in charge of the guard. Corporal Wheeler, on post, testified (Macklin trial, p. 67) that Sergeant Reid was asleep in the noncommissioned officers' room, that he himself was in the guardhouse awake, but that (S. Doc. No. 402, p. 120) he didn't know who was in the guardroom.

Corporal Franklin testified (S. Doc. 402, p. 122) that he thought all his relief was present, but wasn't certain whether they were present or absent. He had dozed off when the firing began. The relief was formed double rank in front and held for fifteen or twenty minutes, he testifies, before being thrown into skirmish line lying down.

Corporal Burdett testifies (S. Doc. 402, p. 121) that he was asleep, but doesn't remember how many privates were in the guardhouse.

Musician Hoyt Robinson is equally uncommunicative. He was asleep in the entrance to the guardhouse. Was awakened (S. Doc. 402, p. 145, S. I., p. 567) by Sergeant Reid and Corporal Wheeler and told to sound the alarm. Went back into the guardroom before doing so to see the time by the clock; found it was 12 o'clock. Saw Privates Johnson and Battle, but doesn't remember any others. (Johnson was sentinel in front of the guardhouse, post No. 1.)

Privates Lawrence Daniels, Bounsler, Mitchell, and Battle gave very brief testimony at Brownsville and were not examined thereafter. They all stated that they were asleep in the guardhouse, but made no statement as to the other members of the relief.

Pvt. Joseph Rogers first testified that he was asleep (S. Doc. No. 402, p. 130), but at the Macklin trial (Macklin, p. 153) and at the Senate investigation (S. I., pp. 984-985) claims that he was awake, reading a novel; doesn't remember what novel or what it was about; was sent to awake Captain Macklin, but told several conflicting stories of what he

did, and is discredited by the officers of the battalion. He didn't know how many men or who were present, but said "they were supposed to be there." He admitted at the Macklin trial that he had been court-martialed at least five times, yet was discharged with "character good" at each of his first two enlistments.

Summarizing the testimony as to the presence of the privates of the relief guard in the guardroom, it is extremely noncommittal and uncertain as to who were there and who were absent when the alarm was sounded. In justice to the commissioned officers of the battalion it should be stated that for weeks they conducted a painstaking, personal, searching investigation and examination of the soldiers in their endeavor to ferret out the guilty parties, but the seal of secrecy had been put on the mouths of the men. The few soldiers who conscientiously tried to aid the officers were called "dog robbers," and made to feel the displeasure of their fellows. Private Elmer Brown, Company B, who slept in the corral the night of the raid, testifies to this.

THE SENTINELS.

Pvt. B. F. Johnson, Company D, on post No. 1, in front of the guardhouse, is personally sufficiently accounted for. He retreated behind a dense cloud of ignorance when interrogated at Brownsville. He didn't know anything; didn't even know who was the corporal of his detail; heard seven shots together, and knew nothing more. Didn't know what corporal posted him; what corporal relieved him, who came in or went out. He was not further examined and was finally discharged under a general court-martial, November 22, 1906.

Pvt. Joseph H. Howard, of Company D, on post No. 2, around the barracks, has been thoroughly examined. Following the first shots of the raiders he fired the alarm signal, retreating between B and C barracks, of three shots aimed generally over the officers' quarters and perhaps thereby explaining the bullets which several witnesses testified to having heard whistling over the post. His several statements differ widely as to the place where the first shots of the raiders were fired from down near the Allison saloon, several hundred yards east of him, to a point near the Cowen alley, and in time from four minutes to two seconds before he called the alarm and fired his rifle. In better position than any other private to see, hear, and know what actually occurred in and near the rear of the barracks he succeeded in demonstrating how much he could say and how little he could tell in four examinations—at Brownsville, at the Macklin and Penrose courts-martial, and before the Senate committee.

Pvt. Charley Hairston, Company B, on post No. 3, around the officers' quarters, throws considerable light on several mooted questions. At the Macklin trial he stated (pp. 79 and 89) that he had carried out Major Penrose's instructions to have the call to arms sounded, had then listened to the roll call of Company B, and had gone back to his post *before* Private De Saussure came up and told him that Sergeant Reid wanted him to call Captain Macklin, the officer of the day. This places De Saussure's mission considerably later than his own testimony would indicate and increases sufficiently the margin of time needed for De Saussure to have participated in the raid and returned to the guardhouse.

Hairston further reports hearing two pistol shots (S. I., p. 741) off to the southeast some twenty minutes before the real fusillade. This

would cover Howard's confused effort to couple these shots with the firing at the entrance to the Cowan alley and to bring them all with his firing the alarm into the limit (extreme time) of four minutes. Hairston also heard bullets whistling overhead, evidently Howard's three shots, and thought he heard horses galloping, presumably the Mexican scavenger's cart hurriedly driven to a place of safety from the rear of the barracks. Hairston located the general fusillade correctly back of B Company barracks.

Pvt. Alexander Ash, Company D, on post No. 4, was remote from the whole affray—in the far southeastern end of the fort, around the corral. He threw no especial light on the situation. He had the confidence of his commanding officers as a reliable soldier.

BAKE SHOP.

John Brown, the last member of the principal conspirators, was disposed of in three lines in the investigation at Brownsville. He claimed he was asleep in the bake shop. He was not subsequently examined. He was serving his third enlistment. On Boyd Conyers's statement, made at Monroe, Ga., Brown was sought in Atlanta. James Powell, who had claimed to have been a discharged soldier of the Ninth Cavalry and to have been in Brownsville the night of the raid, proved an all-around liar and romancer, who, however, had learned much of the inside of the affair from Brown. He also gave Brown the news that detectives were looking for him.

Brown fled to Philadelphia early last August, where his trail was lost for a time. Finally it was learned that he had skipped to Tampa on a phosphate-rock vessel. From Tampa he doubled back to Jacksonville, where he now rests in fancied security. He had been a sailor before he entered the army.

Pvt. Wesley Mapp, Company D, was the only other occupant of the bake shop. He claims (S. Doc. No. 402, p. 141) that he slept through the whole shooting and did not wake till Sergt. Israel Harris, Company D, came, after it was all over. He was serving his second enlistment, was a frequenter of the Allison saloon, and after his discharge disappeared. He has not been located.

THE RAIDERS.

Boyd Conyers furnished the following list of seven men, all of B Company, who took part in the raid, besides John Holloman, John Brown, Carolina De Saussure, and himself:

William Anderson,
James Bailey,
Charles E. Cooper,
William Lemons,
Henry Jimerson,
James ("Rastus") Johnson,
Henry ("Sonny") Jones.

Elmer Brown, Company B, who slept in the corral, furnished the following list of suspects:

James Bailey,
Carolina de Saussure
C. E. Cooper,

**John Holloman,
James ("Rastus") Johnson,
Henry Jimerson,
William Lemons,
J. L. Wilson.**

He also believed, agreeing with Conyers, that Sergt. George Jackson knew all about it and opened the gun racks for the raiders before the shooting, and again after the guns had been returned to the racks at 2 o'clock in the morning, that they might be cleaned. Boyd Conyers made the same statement as a part of the history of the raid.

The two lists of raiders agree with the addition by Brown of the name of J. L. Wilson, though furnished independently. Wilson's gun was one in which shells picked up in the alley were found to fit.

It is noted that Cooper, Holloman, Lemons, Jimerson, Johnson, and Wilson all belonged to Company B baseball team, and ran together.

Other members of the baseball team were:

**Corpl. Wade Harris,
James Allen,
Henry Carmichael,
Edward L. Daniels,
Henry Jones,
George Mitchell,
Isaiah Raynor.**

Cooper was the coach, and Jimerson and Lemons substitute players.

Conyers's list is 4 short of the 15 raiders whom reliable witnesses counted in the alley.

George Mitchell was a bad egg; was given six months at Fort Reno for desertion.

Isaiah Raynor slept in the kitchen on the ground floor, and gave confused testimony as to how he got upstairs. He testified that his own gun was in the fourth section rack, but he got S. R. Hopkins's gun out of the third section rack (S. I., p. 1754). This is in line with the testimony of James H. Ballard, clerk of Company B, that the men got guns indiscriminately from the first rack they could get to. Raynor also said that "Sergeant Allison" told him to take a gun from the third section. Allison was the ex-soldier who ran the Holloman saloon.

Allison's testimony was never taken. If Raynor's reference is not a mistake, it should be inquired into as to what Allison was doing in the barracks.

Raynor says he got his own gun for inspection the next morning and Lieutenant Lawrason stood him back because it was foul. He slept in the northeast corner of the ground floor of the barracks, the corner nearest the fort wall and the gate, yet would only admit that he heard the shooting in "the back part of the town, in the rear of B Company, going down the street." (S. I., p. 1760.) Raynor's testimony was not taken at Brownsville.

The baseball crowd tried to protect the guilty men by deliberate lying. For instance, Corpl. Wade Harris testified (S. Doc. No. 402, p. 121) that the firing had ceased when Sergeant Jackson was trying to unlock the second section rack. This is manifestly false, for those of the second section who were not on the raid were pouring downstairs with their guns while the firing was still going on.

Before proceeding to examine the testimony relative to the raiders, the testimony of First Sergt. Mingo Sanders was taken by Lieutenant-

Colonel Lovering at Brownsville, September 25, 1906, nearly six weeks after the raid, should be considered. Sanders lived in married quarters, east of the guardhouse. He was awakened by the shooting; dressed, and hastened to Company B barracks, arriving there after Lieutenant Lawrason, who testifies that he got there about five or six minutes after the shooting began and that he heard no shots after he joined his company. (Macklin trial, p. 31.) The last shots fired by the raiders were at the Tillman saloon, and it took them, perhaps, at the most a minute to run back to the fort and another minute to fall in.

At least eight minutes elapsed from the first fusillade to the time Mingo Sanders reached the front of B barracks. The distance from the Tillman saloon to the front of B barracks was 300 yards. The married quarters were distant between five and six hundred yards. Sanders is positive that he saw John Holloman before the shooting ceased. (S. Doc. No. 402, p. 118.) But there was desultory firing going on in town from aroused citizens for many minutes after the raid was over. Sanders testifies that the company was practically in line when he got there, which further proves his lateness, as all other testimony shows great confusion and delay in forming the company, men being sent back for guns and ammunition, and at least eight minutes elapsing from the first fusillade till the line was fairly in shape.

Lieutenant Lawrason testifies that it took him about five minutes from the time the shooting began to get to the company and several minutes to form the company; that all the firing took place in about five minutes, and that the farthest firing seemed to be at a distance of not more than 300 or 400 yards. (Macklin trial, p. 32.) He further says (Penrose trial, p. 486) that there was great confusion, that the men straggled in, and that the last man had taken his place five or six minutes after he arrived, about eight minutes after the first call to arms, and about nine minutes after the first shots were fired. The last shots of the raiders might very probably have been fired after B Company began to assemble, but the men were straggling in for at least five minutes.

THE EVIDENCE.

It is circumstantially absolute that if soldiers of B Company fired service rifles from the upper gallery of B barracks, from the ground inside the fort wall, and then crossed the wall to join the raiders, the fact was well known throughout the barracks, and their fellow-soldiers lied to conceal the facts and to protect the raiders. Yet the building up of alibis is extremely slight, and but little testimony was adduced in regard to the presence in the barracks of the members of the raiding party while the shooting was in progress. The witnesses generally deemed it safer to know nothing.

William Anderson, Company B, was one of the three musicians of that company. Henry Jimerson was the second and Henry Odom the third. Anderson and Jimerson are charged with being in the raiding party. Odom sounded the call to arms. (Corpl. Wade Harris, S. Doc. 402, p. 121.) Anderson claims to have been asleep (S. Doc. 402, p. 153), and John B. Anderson, his "bunkie," says that he saw him when he awoke. Very little testimony of identification was brought out, and it would have been of very doubtful value at best, if for no other reason than that the barracks were in total darkness. Sergeant Jackson claims to have unlocked the racks by aid of a tallow candle. Jimerson testified

that he was asleep. (S. Doc. 402, p. 149.) Cooper, Johnson, Jones, and Lemons gave identical testimony that they were asleep. This was all before Lieutenant-Colonel Lovering at Brownsville, September 25, 1906. They do not appear again.

Henry Jimerson had a bad reputation as a trouble maker and tough.

Henry Jones was a bully and notorious from picking quarrels with recruits.

William Lemons was a tough. He deserted at Fort Reno, was captured and given six months in prison.

Carolina de Saussure was notably a hard case and reckless. He assaulted a member of the band at Niobrara and was given six months in the guardhouse.

James Bailey's case needs special examination. He was supposed to be in the hospital. The hospital was under charge of First Sergt. F. L. Oltmans, Hospital Corps (white), and located about 100 yards south of the guardhouse. Oltmans was in his quarters beyond the hospital. (S. Doc. 402, Part II, p. 128.) He was awakened by the firing, dressed, and went to the hospital. He saw his orderlies, Privates Nolan and Sanborn, and four colored patients. The firing, he says, was over when he got to the porch. He does not state how long it took him to dress and get to the hospital, but does not seem to have hurried.

Orderly William C. Nolan (white) was in bed, in the hospital, got up, lighted the lamp, and then went out on the porch, then went to Sergeant Oltmans's house to call him, then went back to the hospital. (S. Doc. 402, Part II, p. 126.) He says there were three or maybe four patients in the hospital, but identifies none of them.

Orderly Sanborn identifies no patient by name, and merely refers to the records as to how many men were there.

Pvt. John Kirkpatrick, Company C, who was in the hospital, testifies that there was only one other patient, William Harden, of Company B, and an orderly. Harden was a patient there, and was also cooking at the hospital. He makes no reference to Bailey.

So, apart from Bailey's own statement, he is not identified definitely as having been at the hospital at the time of the firing. He could have been absent and returned without attracting attention.

In summary, there is no reliable direct evidence precluding a single one of the suspects from having been on the raid. The circumstantial evidence would admit of every one of the list having been out.

In the annexed material, reports of Captain Baldwin's detectives, fair samples of a much larger list, it will be seen that very different opinions are held by several of the ex-soldiers from the ones appearing in their official testimony. The admissions are somewhat remarkable. Private Howard, Corporal Franklin, Corporal Thornton, and Pvt. Joseph L. Wilson express the opinion that it was done by the soldiers.

Many of the men make statements similar to those of Sergt. George Jackson, Corpl. Anthony Franklin, and Temple Thornton that "their Senator," or their attorney, had told them not to talk. Of course, if they had no guilty knowledge they could tell nothing to harm them.

The circumstances of the firing from B barracks, from the ground inside the wall, and the general comment which ensued among the men, makes absurd any theory that the members of the battalion in barracks B, C, and D, could have failed to know that soldiers did the shooting. The general resentment among them at the hostile attitude of the citizens of Brownsville was sufficient to initiate the conspiracy of silence.

Added thereto was the fact that a murder was committed, and that the State of Texas was taking a hand in seeking to punish the criminals. The discharge of the whole battalion, salutary and necessary as it was, made a racial issue. Had the battalion been of white soldiers instead of colored, no maudlin sympathy would have been aroused over its discharge without honor, and the whole affair would have blown over in a month.

THE CARTRIDGE SHELLS.

The expert evidence submitted to the Senate committee identifying certain cartridge shells picked up in the Cowan alley after the raid as having been fired from guns issued to members of Company B is conclusive. The sole flaw seemed to be in the identification of one of the guns issued to Private Blaney and supposed to have been locked up in an arm chest in the storeroom of B barracks. The records of gun issues were kept by the quartermaster-sergeant, and showed numerous changes and irregularities.

There was no actual inspection of the guns in the arm chest by numbers until long after the raid. There was no absolute testimony from an unprejudiced source as to the Blaney gun being in the arm chest, and it was known and acknowledged that guns were being changed more or less among the men without authority. If the Blaney gun was out there was ample opportunity to return it without detection. Pvt. Joseph L. Wilson so declared to Captain Baldwin.

The argument advanced in defense of the soldiers that these shells came from a box of empty shells lying open in the gallery of B barracks, and that they had been taken by townspeople and scattered in the alley to throw suspicion on the soldiers, was buttressed by the further explanation that several of them showed double-firing marks, due to a failure of the first attempt, the firing mechanism being stiffened by the cosmo-line on the weapons when issued. These shells had come from the target range at Fort Niobrara. This argument is destroyed by two facts now given.

First. The box mentioned contained over a thousand shells discharged from nearly fifty rifles, thrown in indiscriminately and roughly shaken in the transportation and numerous handlings from the range at Niobrara to the barracks at Fort Brown, thus being thoroughly mixed. There would be mathematically only one chance in hundreds of millions that out of this box 30 shells selected at random would exhibit the absolute firing marks of only 3 rifles out of nearly 50, therefore a practical impossibility.

Second. There were 6 of the 30 shells showing marks of having been inserted in a rifle twice. No such proportion of misfires—one in five, 20 per cent, was reported from Fort Niobrara—was in evidence on the remainder of the shells, or was claimed by the soldiers to whom the guns identified with the shells were issued.

But the conclusive evidence as to the double markings on these shells and three others referred to in the expert testimony of Lieut. W. J. Hawkins (S. I., p. 1319) can be had from Hon. M. D. Purdy, former Assistant Attorney-General, who gives the information that several of the shells picked up at Brownsville were in his presence inserted in a Springfield rifle and tested by an army officer at Fort Sam Houston to illustrate the working of the guns. This accounts for the double markings. Moreover, in case two attempts were made to fire a cartridge the primer markings of the first and unsuccessful attempt would be com-

pletely obliterated by the greater explosive blow of the second and successful attempt

THE AMMUNITION.

Boyd Conyers furnishes the information that before the battalion left Fort Niobrara rumors were circulated that they would not be welcome at Brownsville; that there would be trouble with the citizens; and the rough element of the battalion determined to prepare for trouble. On the way down boys at the stations would importune the soldiers for cartridges. Some were given, but more were held out, and on inspection at Brownsville the shortage was accredited to their having been given away.

"Lieutenant Lawrason," declares Conyers, "scolded the men and threatened punishment, but he ordered more cartridges issued. Some had been held out at target practice. So there were plenty of cartridges. John Holloman took care of them, and I think he hid them over in the Allison saloon, which he backed. After the raid he brought around a lot to the guardhouse to make up the shortage and Sergeant Reid handed them around."

Lieutenant Lawrason gave an original estimate that from one-fourth to one-third of Company B came down to roll call at the time of the raid without their ammunition. Before the Senate committee he raised his estimate to one-half. This latter estimate coincides closely with the number whom Boyd Conyers states as having come out on the upper gallery of B barracks and blazed away after the signal shots. It is not claimed or charged that the men shot away all their cartridges, but the resulting confusion was evidently a part of the premeditated plan to secure as much delay as possible in calling the roll to let the raiders have time to get back in line. From eight to ten minutes elapsed before the roll call was fairly started, and the raiders were all back.

The entire distance traversed by the raiders from the fort to the Tillman saloon, the farthest point, and return, can be and was covered in less time than six minutes from the firing of the first shot. A fast walk out and a run back will do it in less than three minutes by actual test. The distance is less than one-sixth mile each way. Allow a speed of a mile in twelve minutes out and of a mile in six minutes back and it can be covered in three minutes. Allow a minute for delays in firing and it is all done in four minutes. The raid was carefully planned and well timed.

REVOLVERS.

There is a confusion of testimony as to the use of revolvers by one or more of the raiders. No evidence has been obtained that service revolvers had been surreptitiously taken and used; but it is well known that at Fort Niobrara a search was made and several revolvers collected from members of the battalion. They could have had them, and probably several of them were used. One bullet from a pistol was dug out of a post near the Crixell saloon. Its source was not well established. Testimony as to the sound of pistol shots was, under the circumstances, not conclusive, nor of great importance.

JOHN HOLLOMAN.

John Holloman, the chief conspirator and organizer of the raid, is an interesting character. He was serving his fourth enlistment, and had been previously discharged with "character good," "character excellent," "character very good." His reputation among his fellow-soldiers does not bear out his official character. Said to be the offspring of a small Jewish trader and a mulatto woman in middle Georgia, his position as the battalion Shylock is accounted for. He was not only a money lender, charging 20 per cent usury and upward for fractions of a month between pay days, but he was a successful gambler and card sharp.

Half the battalion owed him money. Even the impeccable first sergeant, Mingo Sanders, was in his debt at the time of the raid. He was moreover the financial backer and half owner of the Allison saloon. What of the battalion money he didn't get in usury and card playing he received over the bar of his "bodega." Boyd Conyers acted as one of his clerks and runners.

Perhaps the most singular omission in the record of the raid is in his case. John Holloman's testimony was never taken at Brownsville or anywhere else by army officers, government officials, not even by the representatives of the Constitution League. He appeared at neither the Macklin or Penrose courts-martial nor before the Senate committee. After his discharge he disappeared in company with Sergeant Reid, one of his chief aides in the conspiracy. They traveled for some months in a negro minstrel troupe and then separated. Holloman is now in Macon, Ga., where he is known to very few, even among his own color. He keeps very much to himself. He lives with a woman who passes as his wife and runs a small grocery in a negro suburb.

It is worthy of note that John Holloman at Macon, Boyd Conyers at Monroe, Carolina de Saussure at Savannah, R. L. Collier at Barnesville, and John Brown at Atlanta brought five of the principals into close touch. They have kept track of each other ever since they were discharged.

It is further noteworthy that it has been comparatively easy to trace up the location of the former members of Companies C and D and extremely difficult to find men of Company B, especially the suspects.

HERBERT J. BROWNE.

Gen. GEORGE B. DAVIS,
Judge-Advocate-General,
War Department, Washington, D. C.

LOUISVILLE, KY., *May 6, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va.:*

Arrived here this morning. Have located James Howard at 1015 Thirteenth street and will try to get board in the neighborhood.

May 8.—Have gotten board two doors from Howard. Have met him and hope to be able to get some information. Have arranged to go out with him either to-night or to-morrow night.

May 10.—Was out with Howard last night. Talked freely over the Brownsville matter, but does not seem to know very much about the shooting. He tells me that he was not a member of Company B, but

that he was in Company D, and knew nothing whatever about the shooting. This man is either telling the truth or he is a great deal smarter than I gave him credit for being when I first saw him. I have an engagement to go out with him to-night and will try to sound him further.

May 11.—I was out with Howard last night and got him full of whisky, and am satisfied now that he knows absolutely nothing about the shooting. He said that the soldiers had been badly treated by the white people in Brownsville, and that he did not blame them for shooting up the town, and that he believed most of the shooting was done by men in Company B, but that he had never been able to get any information from any of the soldiers. He mentioned several little scrapes that he had been in himself, but I am thoroughly convinced that Howard knows, personally, nothing about the shooting.

I will await further orders here.

Respectfully,

GILBERT JONES.

LOUISVILLE, KY., *May 9, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va.:*

Arrived here to-day. Located George Jackson at 1202 Walnut street, where he is employed by the street railway company. Have arranged to get board across the street from where Jackson lives and understand he is fond of baseball and hope to be able to take him out on Saturday next.

May 11.—I met Jackson to-day. Only had a few minutes to talk with him, but will arrange to call at his house to-night.

May 12.—Was with Jackson about twenty minutes last night, and find that he was discharged from Company B and is pretty sore about the way he has been treated by the President. Jackson says that he does not believe that any of the soldiers did the shooting, but that it was done by town people. Have arranged to go out with him day after to-morrow night.

May 15.—I was with Jackson for some time last night and talked very freely over the shooting and the way the soldiers had been treated by the white people at Brownsville. He says he knows absolutely nothing about the matter, but stated that they had been warned by their attorneys and had been expecting some white detectives to call on him at any time to try to pump him. He said he did not intend to talk to anyone about the case, as he knew nothing about it. I feel sure that there is no chance to get anything further out of Jackson.

Respectfully,

C. J. TALLEY.

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., *May 11, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN:

I had some trouble locating J. Reeves, but found him at 225 West Grand avenue, this city. He was employed by the Myle-E Adams Cigar Company. This man is one smart negro.

May 12.—I saw Reeves again to-day and he refuses to talk anything about the case. Said he had told all he knew, and did not know anything in the first place, and could not tell anything if he wanted to. Further stated he was satisfied that I was either working for the Gov-

ernment or for some of the Senators, or connected with some newspaper; that he knew nothing and did not want to be bothered.

Respectfully,

C. MAYFIELD.

EL RENO, OKLA., *May 26, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va.*

Just arrived here and have located Temple Thornton, 718 North Evange street. Had a talk with him and find that he was a member of Company D. He says he was asleep at the time of the shooting, and that he did not believe any of the soldiers in his company knew anything about the shooting; that if it was done by any of the soldiers, it was done by either B or C company. He says he has never been able to tell who really did the shooting; that the majority of the soldiers believe it was done by the town people or the Mexicans.

May 28.—I saw Thornton again last night, but was unable to get anything further out of him. He says that all of the soldiers have been cautioned by friends and their attorneys not to do any talking in regard to the shooting. Am satisfied that this man has nothing to tell.

Very respectfully,

C. J. TALLEY.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL., *May 30, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va.*

I had considerable trouble in locating A. Franklin. Went to Des Moines, Iowa, 318 West Third street, and found that he had moved to Rock Island, where he is now located at 222 Twenty-second street. I lost several days locating him, but finally located him and have had a talk with him. Franklin is a pretty smart negro and will be hard to work. Am now trying to get board in the neighborhood, where I can see him often.

May 23.—I was not able to see Franklin yesterday or the day before. Saw him to-day. Had quite a lot of talk with him and got very chummy. He told me that he was corporal at Brownsville at the time of the trouble, but that he was not on duty when the shooting began; that he was asleep at the guardhouse. Said he knew nothing about most of it, but he thought some of the soldiers fired back from the barracks.

May 25.—I had another talk with Franklin to-day and am thoroughly satisfied that he does not know who did the shooting, although he said enough to me to convince me that in his own mind he believed it was done by some of the soldiers. Franklin said he had been warned not to talk by his lawyers and also by his Senator, but would not say who the Senator was.

Respectfully,

C. J. TALLEY.

JOLIET, ILL., *June 12, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va.:*

Arrived here day before yesterday and have located Joseph L. Wilson, one of the negro soldiers who was at Brownsville. This negro boards at 129 South Bluff street and works in a barber shop. He is a kind of dude negro, and will be pretty hard to get in with.

June 15.—Have been out two or three times with Wilson, but he is not much of a talker and very smart. I think you had better come here and see if you can help me out.

Respectfully,

G. JONES.

STATEMENT OF W. G. BALDWIN JUNE 19, 1908.

Have just returned from Joliet and Chicago, where I met Joseph L. Wilson, who is one of the smartest and brightest negroes I have seen for some time. I told him that I had been employed by a syndicate of magazines of New York to get the facts of the Brownsville case, as they wanted to write a series of magazine articles. I gave him to understand that we simply wanted to get the facts as to where the shooting occurred and what company did the shooting and that we cared very little about the individuals who did same.

Wilson told me that he believed that the shooting was done by some of the soldiers but that he could not tell to save his life who they were. Said that he believed George Gray and William Haskins would likely know more about the case than most anyone else. I then employed Wilson and sent him to Charleston, W. Va., to get in with Gray. I returned to Roanoke and sent one of our best men to Charleston to also get in with Gray and watch Wilson to see if Wilson was loyal.

W. G. BALDWIN.

PORTSMOUTH, VA., *June 21, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va.:*

Have just returned from Atlanta, Ga., where I saw our negro. He states that Conyers told him that some time ago he received a telegram to go to Washington, where he was present at an investigation, and that he did not tell them anything. He stated that he was in the crowd that did the shooting; that the corporal of the guard on duty that night was fully aware as to the situation, and knew every man who went out of the barracks.

Respectfully,

A. H. BALDWIN.

ATLANTA, GA., *July 3, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va.:*

I met our man here to-day and he tells me that Conyers made the following statement to him:

That he was a member of Company B and on night of shooting was on duty as outer guard. He states that Conyers told him that Holloman, a negro named Brown, and another negro whose name he could not remember did the shooting. Stated that he hid in the guardhouse after the shooting; just before roll call Sergeant Reid gave him some cartridges to replace those used, so that he would not be caught if an inspection was ordered. Conyers stated that Holloman lived in Macon and Brown lived in Atlanta. I believe this information is correct, as I never told our negro anything about the shooting, the name of the company or the people who were suspected. Our man claims that a negro named Parker who lived in Charleston, S. C., was present when Conyers made above statement.

A. H. BALDWIN.

UNITED STATES SENATE,
 COMMITTEE ON PACIFIC ISLANDS AND PORTO RICO.
Cincinnati, Ohio, August 26, 1908.

Mr. BOYD CONYERS, *Monroe, Ga.*

DEAR SIR: On my return here I found awaiting me your letter of July 24. I hardly know from what you state just what it is that has transpired, nor do I know just what it is I should do to get the character of information to which you refer. If you will write me again at your convenience, giving me a clearer account, I will be glad to avail myself of it to the extent it may be useful.

I remember you very well as a witness before the committee, and I am sure you did not there testify to anything except only the truth.

Very truly, yours, etc.,

J. B. FORAKER.

ATLANTA, GA., *June 27, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va. :*

I located James Powell at 304 Fourth street and was with him several times to-day. He talks very freely, and knows Buddie Conyers, Holloman and Brown, and several other members of Company B. I have an engagement with him again to-morrow.

June 28.—I was with Powell to-day and he told me that he was at Brownsville at the time of the shooting and that he met Brown, Holloman, and Conyers at a bar room at 7 o'clock, and that there was some talk of shooting up the town that night—that the colored soldiers had been treated badly by the citizens. Powell bragged considerably about what they did in the way of shooting up the town, but I could not get out of him any of the names except Brown, Holloman, and Conyers. He told me that he had been serving in the army at San Francisco and had been discharged, and had only been in Brownsville a few days when the shooting occurred and that he left there soon afterwards and had not seen any of the boys since, except Brown, who was living in Atlanta.

Respectfully,

W. LAWSON.

PORTSMOUTH, VA., *August 29, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN, *Roanoke, Va.*

I had conversation with James Powells to-day in which he stated that he had served in the Tenth United States Cavalry, and in August, 1906, he had received an honorable discharge at San Francisco, and immediately left that point for Brownsville, Tex., arriving there two or three days before the shooting took place. He stated that on the afternoon and evening of the shooting he had been in company with John Brown and a negro named Hallman and Boyd Conyers, all members of the negro regiment then stationed at Brownsville. He stated that they were in a saloon together in the afternoon, and there was some talk of shooting up the town that night.

He claims he left Conyers between 6 and 8 o'clock that evening and did not see him again that night. He claims that he was at a boarding house at the time of the shooting, but immediately after the shooting he rushed over to the barracks, arriving there about the time they finished the roll call. He saw Holloman and Brown, but could not find Conyers,

and while he stayed at the barracks about an hour, he never did see Conyers. This man claims that he had no hand in the shooting and was not with the party that did it.

A. H. BALDWIN.

STATEMENT OF W. G. BALDWIN.

ATLANTA, GA., *September 11, 1908.*

I went to Atlanta and found James Powell, whose home is 305 Fort street, and who works for Dr. William Crenshaw, at a double cottage in Atlanta. I told this negro that I represented a magazine of New York, and that we were anxious to get the facts of the Brownsville shooting. Before calling on Powell; I sent George W. Gray, who was in Company C, and whose parents live in Roanoke, and I believe is one of the most reliable negroes I know in this country, to see Powell and find out what he had told Lawson and others. After a short interview Gray came back to the hotel and stated that Powell was lying; that he had tripped him up in a number of his statements; and that he was satisfied that he had never been in Brownsville or knew anything about the case.

My calling on Powell a few minutes afterwards evidently excited him, and when I began to ask him about the Brownsville case he told me that he knew absolutely nothing about it and that he was not at Brownsville, but had formerly belonged to the Tenth Cavalry and had been discharged at San Francisco about six years ago. I then confronted him with the letter he had written Boyd Conyers on August 14 and asked him what he meant by this. His explanation was very unsatisfactory and he admitted to the authorship of the letter, but said that he had formerly known Conyers was the reason for his reply to Conyers's letter written to him about August 10. He denied knowing James Brown, a member of Company B, although he and James Brown left Atlanta for Philadelphia on the same train about three weeks ago. Brown is still in Philadelphia.

I called on Doctor Crenshaw, who told me that he knew that this negro, James Powell, had not been out of Atlanta for three years, except on this trip to Philadelphia.

W. G. BALDWIN.

P. S.—It subsequently developed that Powell was for a short time in a volunteer regiment. He was never in Brownsville, but had gotten his information from John Brown, one of the raiders.

ATLANTA, GA., 304 FORT STREET,
August 13, 1908.

DEARE FRIEND

I received your letter today and was truly glad to heare from you it found me well and truly hope when these few lines reach you it will find you the same I was jest thanking about you when I got your letter John Brown went to Philadelphia a bought three weeks ago I have heard of eny rest of the boys except John Jone he was throw heare and went to Chicago I will meet the lawer when he come You ask me about the chracker I haven had the opportunity to meet that

Entertainment I have three good guns and if eny' thaing should start I will be with them When are you coming to Atlanta Buddie I will take you for my Edader because I dont no wheare eny rest of the boys

You must excuse bad writing write soon and let me heare from you from your friend

JAMES POWERS

MACON, GA., *September 3, 1908.*

W. G. BALDWIN:

I arrived here to-day and have located Holloman. He is in business here and I will try and get something out of him as early as practicable.

September 4.—I have been unable to get anything out of Holloman and he is evidently on his guard.

September 8.—I have now been here a week and find it is impossible to get anything out of Holloman. I will meet you in Atlanta on the 10th.

Respectfully,

W. LAWSON.

O