
REPORT
ON CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES AT BERESOVKA.

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The Filson Historical Society

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-SEVENTH INFANTRY,
Beresovka, Siberia, Dec. 19, 1919.

From: Commanding Officer, 27th Infantry.

To: Commanding General, A.S.F. Siberia

Subject: Civilian Employees at Beresovka.

1. I submit herewith the following report in compliance with telegram No. 581, your headquarters, which reads as follows: "Reference your six one six. Discharge every civilian employed by you except necessary scavengers and interpreters and report in detail what these civilian employees have been doing since troops entered barracks at Beresovka.

Acknowledge receipt. Signed, King.

2. It will be noted that I am called upon to make a detailed report on the entire work performed by civilian labor from the time the troops came to Beresovka. The troops began to arrive here about September 7th., when the work was begun and the date of this telegram is December 9th. As the civilian employees here ranged from 200 to 350 and their work extended over a period of three months and was performed on fifty eight buildings, at the railroad station and in general sanitary work, the enormous task before me will be appreciated. Also, as no record other than a general one, could be kept, the impossibility of full compliance will be understood.

3. The general condition of the barracks and the situation here when the troops moved in will assist in a fuller understanding of the necessity of employing these men and the work they performed. The barracks and buildings here were built several years before the Japanese War. They are of log and had been utilized by German-Austrian prisoners of war for four years. These buildings had never been repaired since construction and were in a terrible condition. More than two thirds of the windows were out and more than half the window frames. There were no stables and no warehouses. There was not a cooking stove in a single barracks or hospital building. A large percentage of stoves were so badly out of repair as to require rebuilding. A large number of the buildings had no rears, and the rears in the buildings defy description. The entire sector was covered with outside rears, snacks, and cesspools. The general sanitary condition of the buildings and the entire sector is beyond description. Speaking in general the condition here was such as to make even the strongest heart afraid and the most sanguine questioned my ability to place this garrison in a liveable condition before the rapidly approaching Siberian winter was upon us. Also I had to move my camp with all its supplies from Verkhne-Udinsk to this post and demolish my old camp. Besides this on the fifteenth of September I had to start letting contracts for a six months supply of hay, wood, and potatoes. The wood alone amounting to 10,000 cubes or approximately 30,000 cords. The hay for 350 animals was simply a mountain and the potatoes filled a warehouse.

Already it was freezing and in the United States would have been considered bitterly cold. The Field Hospital with 90 patients was still in tents at Verkhne-Udinsk, as were the prisoners and a company of Infantry. They could not be moved here until hospitals were prepared and a guard-house constructed. On top of this existed the well known lack of materials in this country and the woeful shortage of tools allowed an Infantry regiment. Furthermore, we were seven versta from the city where our supplies and materials had to be obtained.

4. My mission was to prepare these barracks, put them in a comfortable and sanitary condition and render them habitable before winter, which had already set in. My authority for this follows:

AMEX, Vladivostok, August 31.

"Have authorized Colonel Morrow to take possession of barracks at Beresovka, to make necessary repairs thereto, and to make such expenditures as may be necessary for this purpose".
(Signed) Graves.

To accomplish my mission I had to build and build quickly, and build well and strong, and warm against weather which reaches 50 to 60 degrees below zero. It was absolutely necessary to employ every man I could from my command and every civilian I could secure, else I could not hope to accomplish the gigantic and nearly hopeless task assigned me.

5. Buildings numbers (1), (2a), and (4), were prepared for stabling 350 animals, boxed stalls being built, grain rooms prepared, saddle rooms and small rooms for personnel constructed, as well as repairing and strengthening the floors. All three of these buildings were banked with earth eight feet high to make them warm. All of this labor was performed by civilian labor. The amount of it will be understood when it is known that these buildings are 250 by 40 feet each. Building (3a): Half of this building was made into a barrack to accommodate 65 men, roof put on and two feet of puddled mud placed on top and an interior wall built and six inches of earth put between the new and the old wall. Eight Russian heating stoves and one cooking stove built and a rear dug in the ground 16 feet deep by 16 feet square. The other half of No. 3a was turned into a blacksmiths' and wheelwrights' shop. This also was roofed, and a new wall put in, also windows thruout the building were cut thru the walls and sash and windows put in as well as storm doors thruout. This building was also banked with earth 8 feet high to ensure warmth. When it is taken into consideration that this building as well as No. 1, 2a and 5, were mere weatherboard shells the task accomplished will be better understood. All of this work was accomplished in ground frozen from one to two feet. No. (5): Doors, floors and walls repaired; utilized for forage and grain. No. (6): Now a gymnasium and drill hall, is 300 feet by 42 feet and includes an indoor target range. The roof was removed from 110 feet of this building and the walls raised eight feet and the roof replaced. All interior posts removed and extra bracing put in. This made a full length basket ball court. The entire building was floored. The entire building was double walled and double ceiled, earth and straw being used between the walls and on the ceiling. Windows were put in and doors closed and storm doors constructed, rooms for equipment and dressing rooms constructed.

All of this work was not performed by civilian labor but much of it was. This building was also banked with earth. All buildings were whitewashed inside and out. Buildings numbers (2), (3), and (9), were cleaned out, whitewashed and painted inside and rears repaired. Window frames and windows repaired in all especially number nine which was in exceedingly bad repair in this respect. Numbers (341), (342), (343), (344), (345), (346), (348), (349), and (350), were old stables without floors or windows and in horrible sanitary condition. These buildings are 30 by 85 feet. They were cleaned and rendered sanitary; windows and window sashes put in and then completely floored; shelving and counters placed in many of these buildings and small rooms for personnel constructed; stoves placed in many of them. No. 350, was floored and an interior building placed inside to protect potatoes from freezing; doors and roofs repaired. No. 340, (Power House); Same dimensions and in the same original condition, was cleaned, then floored, squad rooms and workshop and engine base built in; doors repaired and windows put in and a well dug to supply water for the engine; roof repaired and painted and stoves placed in the building. No. 334, (Carpenter shop and Salvage store-room): Same dimension and same original condition, was cleaned, floored, windows built in, doors repaired and stoves placed in building. No. 333, (Saddle shop, Repair shop, and Shoe shop): Same dimensions and same original condition. Cleaned, old floor and underpinning torn out and new floor laid, doors repaired and double windows put in, work benches constructed and heating stoves put in. All twelve of these buildings were whitewashed. No. 91a: Dimensions 20 by 100 feet. Storehouse, meat and flour. Same sanitary conditions and entire front side of building falling in, not floored, no doors and no windows, used formerly as summer stable. Building cleaned, floored, roof repaired, front wall rebuilt, and double windows put in, racks, blocks and counters necessary for handling beef built in, and building whitewashed. Building No. 91, (Commissary and Sales storehouse of perishable articles): Dimensions 260 by 40. Physical and sanitary condition very poor, more than two thirds of the window sashes and window panes missing. Building littered with useless stoves, forges and work benches all useless, floor in bad state of repair, so weak it could not support weight, rear so foul as to cause its being sealed up, as it was beyond repair. Two small huts and two cess-pools in near vicinity had to be destroyed as well as building cleaned and placed in sanitary condition; floors repaired, double window sash placed, glass set in, doors repaired, necessary fixtures and counters built in, and many stoves repaired, small railroad track built thru center of building to facilitate handling incoming and outgoing supplies, whitewashed inside and out, and wood-work painted. No. 76, Dimensions 85 by 15. (Bakery): Building consisted of useless fixtures and worn out machinery of an old soap factory, many useless small stoves, in bad repair generally, almost all windows and sashes missing. Sanitary condition very bad, many cess and garbage pools in vicinity. Repairs: Building cleaned, made sanitary, whitewashed inside and out; holes and apertures in walls, ceilings and floors due to its previous use, repaired; bread room constructed; old and useless oven repaired and made into a splendid oven for baking bread for the entire command, including detachments; window frames repaired and new sash fitted and set with glass; cooking stove built in complete for baking detachments and mess, all heating stoves rebuilt; doors and hall-ways repaired; incinerator built of brick with galvanized iron pan and boiler constructed. Numbers (68) and (81) (Field Hospital No. 4): Dimensions of each 160 by 50 with (L) wings 25 by 20 Original condition: Sanitary condition bad, no rears or accommodation for garbage save open cess-pools, many shacks, stables, etc., in immediate vicinity and two open outside wooden rears whose condition was abominable were being utilized; several small cooking stoves for individual cooking

thruout the barracks, all useless doors and floors so useless as to cause them being torn out, refitted and repaired and practically entirely new flooring put in. All floors had to be torn out as well as its rotten underpinning and joists. Walls and windows in exceedingly bad condition, many double windows missing, many apertures between ligs in wall and between floor and foundation; half of the window glass missing or broken; no cooking stoves in either building that could be utilized; heating stoves burned out and flues in urgent need of repairs; all stoves and woodwork covered by grime; many doors made into building which detracted from its use as hospital; doors in garret missing; many holes in ceiling; many useless partitions, at least twenty in each building, detracting from efficiency of buildings for hospital purposes. Repairs: New underpinning and floors laid; ground base for floors leveled by carrying in sand; foundation repaired by cementing in all rooms and along entire side of building and halls to prevent wind and cold from entering near floor; walls packed, chinked and plastered; window and door frames repaired, old window sashes repaired and fitted, new window sashes set in to replace those missing, all broken and missing glass replaced, at least six hundred panes to each building; a brick range and incinerator built in each hospital, incinerator containing galvanized iron hot water boiler for cleansing and sterilizing cooking and eating utensils; complete brick rears installed in each building, this requiring the excavation of 16,000 cubic feet of earth for each rear, and the bracing up of the excavation to make the construction possible in the sliding sand beneath the frozen surface. The size of the brick vaults, their connection with the stoves and the placing of seats was a task so huge as to necessitate seeing it to understand. Woodwork and stoves scraped with steel to prepare them for painting and cleaning them from filth; all woodwork and stoves painted; useless partitions torn out and all small shacks, rears, etc., destroyed and rendered sanitary; useless doors closed up and made into useful windows; hallways and steps repaired; new door sills put in; handles and hinges for doors and windows and ventilating windows put in; many new doors made; garret doors made and fitted. No. 67, (Regimental Infirmary, 27th Infantry and Delousing Plant): Dimensions: 50 by 40 feet, condition of building, very bad and very old, surrounded by shacks; sanitary conditions exceptionally bad; rears and cess-pools in near vicinity windows, floors, stoves and doors bad; building whitewashed inside and out, and woodwork painted inside and out and all stoves painted. Work performed by civilian labor. Bath-house constructed by digging twelve feet in ground and flooring room over large pool; shower bath installed. Delousing Plant: galvanized iron barrels constructed, capable of delousing 400 men per day; windows, doors and floors repaired stoves cleaned and repaired as well as flues; window sashes and window frames put in and glass set in; building whitewashed inside and out. No. 66, (Dental office and quarters, 27th Infantry, Med. Detachment): Dimensions 90 by 40 feet; conditions of building so bad as to defy description; floors in some rooms entirely missing; holes made thereby utilized for the disposal of filth, no rear of any character; many windows and doors entirely missing; stoves and flues in bad condition. Repairs by civilian labor. Floors, walls, doors and window frames repaired; many doors made and fitted window sashes put in and fitted, glass set in; building whitewashed outside. Carpenters are still working on this building. Brick rears similar to those in hospital put in; stoves and flues repaired. No. 65, (quarters personnel Field hospital No. 4): Dimensions 75 by 40 feet; condition of building: sanitary condition miserable, two open wooded rears

adjoining building and in foul condition; building old and in terrible state of repair; half of floors in rooms and hallways so bad they had to be torn out together with the joists; more than half of the window sashes missing and but little glass left in panes that were in place; no rear of any character in building; stoves and flues in bad condition; rooms littered with filth and individual cooking contraptions. Repairs: Half of the flooring in rooms and hallways together with joists, torn up and new flooring and joists laid; necessary partition for hallway made; all old stoves torn out; heating stoves and flues repaired; rear similar to hospital constructed old rears torn down and made sanitary; all woodwork cleaned, repaired and painted; many new doors made; at least one half new sashes put in for double windows and not less than 400 panes of glass set in; building whitewashed inside and out. No. 65a (Regimental Bath-house, enlisted men) Dimension 32 by 85 feet; condition a mere shell of a building, no floor in building, grass thatched roof and without windows; sanitary condition exceedingly low, evidently previously used for destruction and burial of garbage, no heating arrangements of any character. Repairs: canal 12 by 6 feet dug the entire length of building, set with broken rock filter; sides boarded with timbers; entire building floored so as to permit drainage into canal; entire building double walled and ceiled, earth between walls and ceilings; doors and storm doors built in; double windows built, set and fitted with glass; five large brick Russian heating stoves constructed; one large brick range capable of heating 1500 gallons of water at one time constructed. This range contains four large boilers which required much work to clean and repair before they could be made useful. Fixtures and necessary bathing facilities were built in; building whitewashed inside and out. This building affords us the only practical bathing facilities for this command and in six months will pay for all the expenditures made in labor in this garrison during its construction. No. 84, (Officers' and U.S. Staff Officers' Quarters): Dimension 140 by 40; condition of building, exceedingly poor, formerly used as store-house for perishable food stuffs. Sanitary condition beyond description; many open cess-pools, snacks and open rears in immediate vicinity of building. No cooking facilities; no rears in building; floors, windows and doors in very bad condition and many missing; heating stoves and flues in very bad state of repair; ceilings in bad condition and gables of building entirely open; foundation and underpinning of entire building in such poor condition as to afford no protection against the extreme cold; hallways and rooms cluttered up with refuse and partitions, rendering it useless to us in that condition; no incinerator or other sanitary method for disposal of garbage. Repairs: rears, cess-pools, and other useless and unsanitary snacks torn down; building cleaned and put in sanitary condition; partitions and useless fixtures torn out; foundation and underpinning reinforced and repaired; walls chinked and otherwise repaired; floors torn up and relaid; many doors built and hung; window frames repaired, sashes made and fitted and glass put in; all stoves, many of which were entirely burnt out, were repaired and painted and flues cleaned; walls and ceilings of six rooms lathed and plastered; all woodwork including doors, floors, windows and sashes, painted; two rears were constructed in this building; building was whitewashed inside and out. Earth was banked up to cover foundation exposed by storms of previous winters. Two complete kitchen ranges of brick and two incinerators were built. Ceiling was covered with mud and gable ends were closed. No. 83, (Commanding officers quarters). Dimension 140 by 40. Condition of building exceedingly poor. No rear and no cooking facilities or incinerator. Many old snacks, open cess-pools etc., in immediate vicinity

Floors, walls, ceiling and foundation in very poor condition. One end of building partitioned off and used as bakery and very filthy. Sanitary conditions very poor. Many windows, sashes and doors missing or broken; no bathing facilities; heating stoves and flues in poor condition. Repairs: old bakery arrangements, partitions and sections of floor were torn out; old shacks, rears, etc., torn down, cess-pools demolished and entire building and vicinity made sanitary; floors relaid and repaired; missing window sashes and doors built and put in and fitted with glass; walls and ceilings chinked and plastered; heating stoves and flues repaired and stoves painted; cook range of brick and incinerator built in; cistern and heating range for rear and bathroom built; all woodwork cleaned, repaired and painted; earth banked up around building to cover exposed sections of foundation; entire building whitewashed inside and out, calcined and decorated. No. 82, (Officers' quarters) dimensions 75 by 50. Condition exceedingly poor. Shacks for storage of wood, foodstuffs etc., adjoining building; wall, floors, ceiling and foundation in very poor condition; no cooking arrangements or incinerators; no rear, more than half of windows and doors missing; heating stoves in poor condition; building and vicinity in very unsanitary condition. Repairs: Old shacks torn down; building cleaned and put in sanitary condition walls, floors, ceilings and foundation repaired and made weather proof; doors and window frames repaired and replaced; window sashes made, fitted and set with glass; heating stoves repaired; cooking stove and incinerator built in; rear and bathroom built in with cess-pool and heating stoves; all wood work painted, walls whitewashed and painted; building whitewashed outside. No. 92, Dimension 100 by 40, building apparently at one time used as a bakery. Filled with useless old stoves and ovens in very poor condition; walls, doors, windows, floors, ceilings and heating stoves in poor condition; much garbage and rubbish littered the floors; large rears and cess-pools in immediate vicinity of building. Sanitary condition very poor. Repairs: building cleaned and old useless fixtures torn out; walls, stoves, floors and ceilings repaired; windows and doors fitted and put in; missing and broken glass replaced; building whitewashed inside and out. No. 85, (Regimental headquarters, 27th Infantry); Dimensions 200 by 50. Condition: walls, ceiling and general interior, in very urgent need of repairs; rear full to overflowing; bowls broken and missing; one half of all window frames missing entirely and holes boarded up, many panes of glass broken in windows that were in place; many doors lacked handles and hinges; heating stoves burnt out and in some cases doors and grates missing; interior so dirty as to necessitate thorough cleaning and painting before it could be used for any purpose. Sanitary condition very poor. Repairs: walls and ceilings chinked and repaired; boarded windows torn out and replaced with new sashes, almost all of which were constructed here by civilian employees; heating stoves and flues repaired; four hundred fifty panes of glass used to replace those missing and broken; rear cleaned and made serviceable and sanitary, and broken bowls replaced; necessary shelves and office fixtures were built in; Post Office, Intelligence Office, and Telephone Exchange were installed; necessary fixtures for Summary and General Courts and Officers' Assembly Rooms were constructed; entire building whitewashed inside and out. No. 178, (N.C.O. and Civilian Interpreters' quarters). Condition, more than two third of all doors and window sashes missing; heating stoves without doors or grates; floors in very poor condition; four rooms without any floor at all; walls and ceiling and foundation in terrible condition; no cooking arrangements, rears or incinerator; cess-pools and shacks in immediate vicinity. This building had not been occupied for a long period of time and in its condition could be used for no purpose whatsoever. Repairs: shacks and

cess-pools torn down; floors repaired and laid; walls and ceilings chinked and repaired; doors and window sashes made and fitted; glass put in; stoves repaired and painted; cook stoves and rears built in; all woodwork repaired and painted; building whitewashed inside and out. Waiting Room and Guard Room at Verkhne-Udinsk. This building 20 by 50, was completely constructed. It is of planed boards, double walled and double windowed thruout; seats placed around the walls; brick stoves built in for heating and cooking, and is in every way a complete waiting-room and room for the guard. Window panes and glass were also put in. Cars for Out-guards, Civilian labor was utilized to fit out sixty five box cars for use of the outguards in the sector. These cars put to use as follows: 38 cars for quarters; 10 mess cars 2 recreation; 4 storage; 2 officers' quarters; 1 hospital; 3 guard; 1 ration 2 Courier. Two cars destroyed and replaced. Construction could not be started on these cars until October fifteenth, and the outguard slept in tents until November fifteenth. At this time the thermometer registered zero and below. The necessity of all speed to get men out of tents will be apparent. All of these cars were double floored and earth or felt placed between the old and the new flooring; one door closed and new double side walls put in; eight bunks built to each car; stoves placed in the cars; apertures cut in roof, and base made for stoves; four windows placed in cars, sashes made and fitted and glass placed in; storm door and entrance way made in each car. The work done on these cars was enormous, as many as forty carpenters working at the same time. Water System: Four pumping plants were completely overhauled; stoves repaired; ramps and pumping platforms constructed or repaired; windows repaired and the machinery gone over; buildings were then whitewashed. Skating Rink: Dimension 55 by 155. Made of old canvas completely covering the rink. Canvas supported by pine timbers upright posts; floored area for putting on skates, rack for skates; floored area for band; all heated. The timbers were cut in the forest. Holes dug in the ground and a substantial and warm structure erected; The ground was leveled and the pool banked as were the sides of the building. Window frames were put in and glass fitted in. A trough about 250 feet long was constructed and connected with a pump house to carry the water into the rink and to flood the rink when necessary. Barracks occupied by troops, Numbers, 183, -184, -185, - 86, - 87, - 88, - 89, - 90, - 69, - 70, - 71, - 72, - 73, - 74, - and 75 are all log buildings 250 by 50 feet. Their sanitary condition defied description, used for ever four years as barracks for Austrian and Turkish prisoners of War, no supplies of any character to repair or clean the buildings were ever furnished, nor was the excreta removed from the rears by carts. When these Austrian and Turkish war prisoners were moved from the barracks to make room for the Americans, they took everything in the barracks that was movable including all cooking and messing facilities and every part of the barracks that was movable including sashes, windows and a large amount of glass. In the entire sector there was not a cooking stove, not an incinerator, not a place for the disposal of garbage and liquid refuse save open pits, not a single rear in the barracks could be utilized as the bowls were running over with excreta and the floors covered with the same. The rears used by these prisoners were in the immediate vicinity of all barracks. They were made of wood, with large wooden vats, five or six vats to a rear. All vats were filled and had overflowed polluting the ground for many yards in the vicinity of the rears. Numerous shacks of abomination clustered around or were attached to the barracks. Many of the barracks were in such condition as rendered them uninhabitable and they were used for shops of various kinds. Over half of the sashes were missing from the double windows and half of the remaining panes of glass were either broken or altogether missing.

The posts, floors, and walls of the buildings and all woodwork were grimed with the filth of years. There was not a mess-hall of any character in this sector nor had any provisions ever been made in any way for messing, not a vestige of a mess fixture could be found. A third of the stoves were minus grates and many of them had to be rebuilt. Fire boxes were gone, stove doors were gone. Every door and window sagged and had to be refitted and repaired, many double doors were missing. Cracks were in all buildings prepared to permit the cold; no place or apparatus was provided for washing or toilet purposes. Cubicles for individual and group living were in almost every building. All character of individual living cluttered the barracks. The necessary cleaning, scraping and sanitation required to make these barracks habitable defies description, nor could I without writing reams attempt to describe its half. Much of this work, on account of its nature could not reasonably be expected of soldiers. Civilian labor cleaned the rears of their foulness, cleaned the bowls and chipped them so they could be painted, tore down, destroyed and made sanitary the outside rears, cess-pools etc. A splendid brick range was built for each company containing a large kettle and splendid oven, also a large brick incinerator with galvanized iron pan and large iron pot for boiling water, so mess equipment and mess kits could be properly boiled. These stoves and incinerators are the finest I ever saw. Mess-halls were fitted up with tables, benches, and sinks for dish washing etc. Wash-rooms for the men were prepared with bowls and in most cases iron for heating water installed. The barracks were thoroughly cleaned fumigated and sprayed. Stoves and wood-work scraped with steel and painted. Buildings were then whitewashed inside and outside. Cracks chinked and closed, junction of wall and floor concreted to keep out cold. Ceilings repaired. Attic made into necessary store-room and window frames repaired. Double window sashes fitted and set with glass. Many new doors made, and old doors repaired. Sills repaired or new ones made. Entrance way and steps repaired or built in. New double shelving placed in all barracks for the clothing of the men. Many windows in every barrack had been boarded up on account of lack of sashes and window frames. This boarding was knocked out and the sills repaired, new sashes put in, fitted and set with glass. All stoves fitted with fire boxes. Grates, new doors, and the flues cleaned, and repaired. Many stoves were rebuilt. Wood racks provided for each barrack and mess-hall as well as all Offices, quarters, etc. Most of this work was performed by the companies. The brick and stove work was performed by civilian labor as well as the work on the doors and windows. Walls were chinked by civilian labor. Much of this work could have been performed by the men but the tools were lacking as was time. The dirty work in connection with the rears and out houses was performed by civilian labor. Guard house, 135 by 50: Sanitary condition very bad. General repair of building very bad. Partitions were torn out and kitchen and mess-hall installed, complete incinerator constructed. Building sanitized. Rears cleaned, repaired and new holes put in, urinal put in. Building whitewashed inside and out, all wood-work painted inside and outside. Stoves cleaned and painted. All windows and doors fitted with iron bars crossed, supported and set in heavy wood work. Stoves repaired or rebuilt, chimneys and flues cleaned and repaired. All this work was performed by civilian labor. Electric lighting. This garrison on our arrival here was without electric lights or wiring of any kind. There was not a lamp or a vestige of a lighting system. An electric dynamo and splendid engine was installed. Every building in the post was wired and is splendidly lighted. The amount of interior wiring put in here was enormous. A great amount of this work was performed by civilian labor. This plant will save the government many thousands of dollars during the months to come as it has saved them in the past months. Not a single civilian is employed in operating the plant. From the above it might be inferred that the soldiers did

not do any work or did not perform their part of the work. This is far from being true. Every officer and man was at work. Reveille went at 5:15. Recall at 11:45 A.M. Fatigue Call again went at 1:00 P.M. Recall was at 5:00 P.M. Thus both officers and men worked nine hours a day. It must be borne in mind that our supplies were at Verkhne-Udinsk and had to be hauled and transported by the railroad. Then loaded into wagons and hauled to the garrison to be re-warehoused. Also all our building materials came the same way, lumber, brick, lime, cement, etc. We were breaking camp and warehouses, frequently three trains at a time stood in the yards. Our entire supply of wood, potatoes, oats and hay was coming in. This required large details at the camp, railroad station and in the garrison. We were depleted by the transfer of men to the United States, had to maintain a prevoist guard at Beresovka and a strong one at Verkhne-Udinsk. A company was in camp and we maintained a camp guard. We had maintained the organizations along the railroad at full strength, so we were greatly handicapped for man power. In the very middle of the work we sent from this post to the United States 1000 old men and received in their place 1000 new green recruits. This of necessity caused an enormous amount of work, took our skilled men and for a while broke up our working organization. But despite all of these things the work performed by the soldiers was enormous. They worked from daylight until dark with a splendid spirit of the American who is building and accomplishing. In no other way could the enormous task set before us have been accomplished. I will leave the completed garrison, the product of this labor for the judgement and decision of an Inspector General. The Regiment is intensely proud of its accomplishment and its garrison. The total cost of all labor and materials at this garrison is \$32,000.00. I am confident if left to any practical contractor or builder he will say the work cost \$150,000.00. Especially will the cheapness of construction here be understood by comparison with Habarovsk. Habarovsk was a brick garrison built in 1914 - Beresovka a log garrison built about 1900 or 1901. Habarovsk cost over \$70,000.00 Beresovka cost \$32,000.00. The condition of the barracks at Habarovsk when we entered there was very good. The condition of the prison barracks there was horrible. I make no vain boast when I say that in the length and breadth of Siberia there is not much a complete, sanitary, comfortable and beautiful garrison. Its completion was accomplished by the labor of every man in this garrison. The civilian labor we had to use first for the sake of getting their tools. Second, on account of the driving necessity which we labored under of completing the buildings with all speed before the fast approaching Siberian winter. Third, because the labor was cheap, skillful and efficient. Fifty of these men, Red Prisoners of War, volunteered to work in the garrison for 65 Roubles a day, an average, Roubles fluctuating, of about \$4.00 a day. The necessity for their employment must be beyond question, the expediency certainly was. Most of these men possessed a technical skill not possessed by our men, knew Russian stoves and brick construction and had the tools of their trade, we lacked all of this. The length of this report will be fully understood by the fact that I was called upon to make a detailed report of all the work performed by civilian labor in this post. This I could not comply with without showing the condition of the garrison when taken over by us. I am fully convinced the Commanding General will have nothing but the highest praise for this garrison and the troops that built it when he has the opportunity of seeing it himself or receives the report of his Inspector General.

C. H. MORROW,
Colonel, 27th Infantry.

1st Ind.

Hq., A. E. F., Siberia, Vladivostok, February 9, 1920.- To C.O.,
27th Infantry.

When personally considering the repairs to buildings at Beresovka necessary for winter quarters, for 27th Infantry, the Commanding General authorized an expenditure for \$25,000, which was all Colonel Morrow requested. The expenditures exceeds that amount and was made without authority. It is doubtful if all expenditures incurred by Colonel Morrow would have been authorized in a post in the United States, owned by War Department. It should have been evident, and the Commanding General is of the impression that he so notified the Commanding Officer 27th Infantry, that expenditures should not be made in excess of what was necessary for health and reasonable comfort of the troops. There is no claim of extravagance in charges made for work done, but there are indications of expenditures beyond what was necessary for health and reasonable comfort of men.

Explanation will be submitted as to authority for making expenditures in excess of \$25,000 without first getting authority.

By Command of Major General Graves:

T. W. King
Lieut. Col., A. G. Dept.,
Adjutant General.

2nd Ind.

Hq. 27th Inf., Vladivostok, Siberia, Mar. 2, 1920 - To
Commanding General, A. E. F. Siberia, Vladivostok.

1. I have no recollection of ever having made a verbal request for a specific and limited amount for this purpose; the records show that no such written request was ever made.

2. The authority for expenditures made at Beresovka is quoted in paragraph 4 of basic letter; to the best of my knowledge and belief this authority was not modified or limited in any way by the Commanding General while at Verkhne-Udinsk. Attention is invited to the following extracts from telegram sent to the Commanding General:

"Amex, Vladivostok,

Number four four:- August twenty second.

x x x
Can also secure barracks at Beresovka for entire command
stop These barracks in bad repair approximate cost of
putting them in proper shape twenty five to thirty thousand
dollars stop x x
the authority for the expenditure of the sums requested
should be immediately authorized in order render barracks
habitable before winter sets in and to save increased
cost as materials are increasing in price x x

It may be noted that my approximate estimate of amount needed to place these barracks in a livable condition was \$25,000 to \$30,000. It must also be noted that this estimate referred solely to the barracks at Beresovka and did not include the expenditures for the preparation of cars and buildings for winter quarters of companies guarding the railroad between Beresovka and Mysovaya; though I tried in every possible way to cause the railroad authorities to prepare these cars and buildings, and continued to do so until snow had fallen, I did not succeed and so was forced to prepare them myself. After the expenditure of approximately \$5,000 on the barracks at Mysovaya, these barracks were destroyed by fire. These troops being homeless and the thermometer 15° below zero required shelter, the providing of which necessitated additional expenditures. On account of the delay in securing authority for the expenditure of funds three platoons in tents had to undergo zero weather, while the cost of their proper housing daily increased on account of this same delay. The same results could have been accomplished in the summer for \$25,000 which were accomplished in the winter for about \$56,000 and the Commanding Officer of the 27th Infantry is not responsible as he fully reported the consequences incident to delay. I respectfully request that the telegraphic files be consulted as they will show the many efforts I made to obtain barracks when building material was cheap and labor plentiful. I also based my estimates of the cost of construction on the supposition that most of the work would be performed by my old and skilled men and unforeseen by me a thousand old men were taken from me and I was given a thousand green recruits in their places whose service could not be utilized in construction as the military necessities of my situation urged

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their instruction to prevent them in the case of conflict from killing each other instead of the enemy. This occasioned a great and an apparent additional cost for construction which does not appear to have been given full consideration. As is indicated in my telegram to the Commanding General, I had foreseen that materials would increase in price as soon as a demand for them arose, but the marvelous increase that actually occurred far exceeded my expectations. In spite of the speed with which this work was being done, many complaints of the coldness of the barracks were received before they were ready for winter occupancy. The preparation of the barracks was rushed in every way; material at hand had to be secured at once regardless of cost; work had to be continued on Sundays and holidays, this also regardless of cost. All this increased cost I had tried to avoid by securing barracks before the winter set in. Immediately after my arrival at Verkhne-Udinsk I telegraphed the situation to the Commanding General and continued to advise him of the necessity of securing barracks before the winter set in; in addition to informing the Commanding General of the situation, I tried in every way to secure barracks from the local authorities, and that barracks were received at all was due to the fact that I placed armed guards over them and retained them even after the Russian authorities had refused me these same barracks. After securing barracks I considered that my first and most urgent duty was to prepare these barracks for winter occupancy of my command before the winter actually arrived. While I kept the expenditures as low as possible I considered that a saving of \$10,000 or \$20,000 would not justify the loss of a single man by death from pneumonia, or other diseases caused or accentuated by exposure due to my failure to provide warm and sanitary living quarters for my men.

3. With reference to the sentence, "It is doubtful if all expenditures incurred by Colonel Morrow would have been authorized in a post in the United States, owned by the War Department," I desire to invite attention to the fact that posts in the United States are constructed for occupancy by American soldiers and are kept in a constant state of repair by a force of trained experts. For a just comparison between the upkeep of a War Department Post in the United States and the reconstruction of Beresovka, the allowance for the latter should at least triple that for the former.

4. No expenditures of government funds were made in excess of what was necessary for the health and reasonable comfort of my troops. In fact my troops were at some points not so well provided for as they should have been in the United States and as they have every right to expect to be in a foreign country.

5. The indications that expenditures were beyond what was necessary for health and reasonable comfort of my men are misleading and contrary to the actual facts of the case.

6. Answering that I had probably greater experience in construction work in foreign countries than any other line officer in the service and having had over twenty years service with troops I considered myself perfectly competent to judge the work that was necessary for the health and reasonable comfort of my troops. I also knew that no officer in Siberia could fairly judge of the work performed

at Beresovka unless he had been there to examine it carefully and thoroughly, knowing this, I feared that the Commanding General might be misled by the reports of inexperienced officers ignorant of conditions; I therefore requested that an inspector be sent to Beresovka believing that after receipt of the inspector's report the regiment would receive nothing but praise for its wonderful accomplishment. No inspector was ever sent to examine this work though I twice requested it by telegram.

7. Expenditures at Beresovka were made under verbal authority of the Commanding General made of record in telegram to Amex, Vladivostek, dated August 31 and signed Graves. His authority did not limit the expenditures to \$25,000 and this telegram is written in the handwriting of the Commanding General himself and reads as follows:

"Amex, Vladivostek, August 31.

Have authorized Colonel Morrow to take possession of barracks at Beresovka, to make necessary repairs there, and to make such expenditures as may be necessary for this purpose. (Signed) Graves."

C. H. MORROW,
Colonel, 27th Infantry,
Commanding