

THOMAS DOWLING, ALIAS JAMES MURPHY

MARCH 30, 1926.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 9234]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to whom was referred House bill 9234, to change the military record of Thomas Dowling, alias James Murphy, after consideration report favorably thereon and recommend that the bill do pass.

The records in this case show that this soldier was discharged without honor from his first enlistment in 1903, but that he subsequently served honorably and with "character excellent" notations on all his discharge certificates for about 18 years, including service in the World War. The soldier is now dead and any benefits from the passage of this bill will accrue to his widow and dependents, who appear to be in destitute circumstances. Your committee feels that, out of consideration for the long and faithful service of this soldier after 1903, his widow should not be deprived of the benefits accruing to honorably discharged soldiers.

The military record of the soldier as submitted by the Secretary of War follows:

CASE OF THOMAS DOWLING, ALIAS JAMES MURPHY

The official records show that Thomas Dowling enlisted November 28, 1899, at Chicago, Ill., and was assigned to Battery D, Sixth Artillery; was transferred August 4, 1901, to Troop D, Fifteenth Cavalry, and was discharged without honor January 12, 1903, at Iligan, Mindanao, P. I., by expiration of his term of service and paragraph 169, Army Regulations, 1901, as a private.

He enlisted as James Murphy April 30, 1903, at Chicago, Ill., and was assigned to Troop F, Seventh Cavalry; was transferred to Troop B, Second Cavalry, November 1, 1903; to Troop E, Second Cavalry, January 3, 1906, and was honorably discharged January 4, 1906, per cablegram from the War Department dated December 3, 1906, at Camp Stotsenburg, P. I., a private with character very good.

He reenlisted January 5, 1906, at Camp Stotsenburg, P. I., and was assigned to Troop F, Seventh Cavalry; was transferred April 10, 1907, to Troop A, Seventh Cavalry, and was honorably discharged January 4, 1909, by expiration of term of service, at Fort Riley, Kans., as a sergeant with character excellent.

He reenlisted January 5, 1909, at Fort Riley, Kans., and was honorably discharged January 4, 1912, by expiration of service, at Fort William McKinley, P. I., as a sergeant, Troop A, Seventh Cavalry, with character excellent.

He reenlisted January 5, 1912, at Fort William McKinley, P. I., and was honorably discharged January 4, 1915, at Camp Stotsenburg, P. I., as a sergeant, Troop A, Seventh Cavalry, with character excellent.

He reenlisted January 10, 1915, at Fort William McKinley, P. I., and was assigned to Troop I, Eighth Cavalry; was transferred July 8, 1916, to Troop I, Seventeenth Cavalry, and on January 13, 1917, he requested to be restored to service under his true name of Thomas Dowling and that the discharge without honor of January 12, 1903, be set aside and service under that enlistment be authorized as honest and faithful. He inclosed affidavits and discharge certificate.

On February 8, 1917, he was informed through his commanding officer that he would be retained in service without trial for fraudulent enlistment; that he would be credited with his service in Troop D, Fifteenth Cavalry, from November 28, 1899, to January 12, 1903; that the records were amended to show his name as Thomas Dowling, and in the future his name would be so borne upon all records, but that the discharge without honor of January 12, 1903, was an accomplished fact, and his request that such discharge be set aside and his service under that enlistment be authorized as honest and faithful could not be complied with. He was subsequently honorably discharged at Camp Stanley, Tex., May 4, 1919, as a sergeant, first class, Remount Casual, Quartermaster Corps, Army serial No. 1017339; reenlisted May 5, 1919, at Camp Travis, Tex., and was placed upon the retired list November 3, 1920, as a staff sergeant, Quartermaster Corps, Camp Travis, Tex., with character excellent.

Respectfully submitted.

ROBERT C. DAVIS,
Major General, The Adjutant General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
The Adjutant General's Office,
February 27, 1926.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

