

MATILDA KLOPPING

FEBRUARY 15, 1927.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House and ordered to be printed

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

REPORT

[To accompany H. R. 13119]

The Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill (H. R. 13119) for the relief of Matilda Klopping, having considered the same, report thereon with the recommendation that it do pass.

Mr. Auf der Heide, who introduced the bill, made the following statement:

The records at the War Department show Charles Klopping first enlisted August 11, 1863, in Company G, Fifteenth New York Heavy Artillery. He served with this organization until June 29, 1864, when he was captured by the Confederate forces. It is alleged that after his capture he joined the Confederate forces and was with the Tenth Tennessee Infantry, and on December 28, 1864, was recaptured by the Federal forces. I have no information as to what action, if any, was taken by the Federal forces in connection with his alleged service with the Confederate army, other than confinement in a Union prison, but the records do show that on March 16, 1865, he reenlisted in Company C, Fifth United States Volunteer Infantry, and served until his honorable discharge October 11, 1866.

Mr. Klopping is dead but his widow tells me that she often heard him say that he did not willingly join the Confederate forces, but, being a prisoner in a Confederate prison, he was practically compelled to go with the Confederates or else starve to death.

It would appear that no action was taken against him by the Union forces, and in view of the fact that he was permitted to reenlist under his own name, and get an honorable discharge at the expiration of his second enlistment, he is entitled to have an honorable discharge as of the date of his capture by the Confederates while he was serving his first enlistment with the Fifteenth New York Heavy Artillery.

This correction of Mr. Klopping's military record is sought so that his widow may have a clear title to a pension.

I sincerely hope your committee will favorably report my bill.

The record of the War Department is as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, July 15, 1926.

HON. JOHN M. MORIN,
*Chairman Committee on Military Affairs,
House of Representatives.*

SIR: In response to your request for a report in duplicate on House bill 13119, Sixty-ninth Congress, first session, for the relief of Matilda Klopping, widow of Charles Klopping, formerly a member of Company G, Fifteenth New York Heavy Artillery, and Company C, Fifth United States Volunteers, I invite your attention to the inclosed report in duplicate from The Adjutant General on Carl Klopping.

Respectfully,

FOX CONNER, *Acting Secretary of War.*

CASE OF CARL KLOPPING, COMPANY G, FIFTEENTH NEW YORK HEAVY ARTILLERY,
AND COMPANY C, FIFTH UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS

WAR DEPARTMENT,
THE ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
July 15, 1926.

The ACTING SECRETARY OF WAR:

The official records show that Carl Klopping, also found as Charles Klopping, was enrolled August 11, 1863, and was mustered into service August 27, 1863, as a private of Company G, Fifteenth New York Heavy Artillery, to serve three years. He was captured by the Confederate forces June 29, 1864, at Andersonville, Ga., and enlisted in the Tenth Tennessee Infantry, Confederate States Army. He was captured by the Union forces December 26, 1864, and confined at Alton, Ill. He enlisted at Alton, Ill., March 22, 1865, for three years in Company C, Fifth United States Volunteers, an organization composed of Confederate deserters and prisoners of war, and was mustered out with that company and honorably discharged the service October 11, 1866.

It is held by the War Department that Carl Klopping by reason of his enlistment in the Confederate States Army became a deserter from Company G, Fifteenth New York Heavy Artillery.

This soldier has several times applied for removal of the charge of desertion from his military record, stating that after his capture by the Confederate forces he remained in Andersonville prison until October or November, 1864, when he was obliged to enter the Rebel service to keep himself from starvation. That he entered the Rebel service reluctantly with the intention at the first opportunity to gain the Federal lines and that at the first fight that he was engaged in he with a number of his comrades escaped to the Federal lines and surrendered without arms to General Grierson.

His application for removal of the charge of desertion has been repeatedly denied and still stands denied on the ground that the case does not come within any of the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 2, 1889, the only law in force governing the subject of removal of charges of desertion in Civil War cases.

Respectfully submitted.

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

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