

[Transcription of a document in the collection of the Oregon Historical Society, Portland, from the papers of Captain Davis Layton, commander of Co. H, 1st Regt. Oregon Mounted Volunteers. Mss 960. Transcribed by Glen M. Hamilton, descendant of Pvt. Supplina Hamilton, March 2018]

[Original manuscript title] **Copy of a report of the death of Pu Pu Mox Mox**

June 18th 1856 Dalles OT

Mr. W. H. Farrar
Adgt. 1st Regt
OMV

Sir in compliance with your request, I copy the following from my journal.

On the morning of the fifth of December 1855, Colonel Kelly dividing his command sent a detachment of men up the Walla Walla River under command of Maj. Chin. While he with about two hundred men left in search of Pu Pu Mox Mox, camp, marched over to Touchet River. Here found his camping place, but he had left. After discussing the propriety of further searching, we decided to follow up the stream still further. Had gone but a short distance, when we saw Pu Pu Mox Mox approaching in the distance accompanied by about 60 armed Indians bearing the flag of truce. On approaching him he stated that he did not wish to fight, that he wished to settle the difficulties without fighting, acknowledging that he had pillaged and destroyed the property of the white settlers there in that valley but was willing to pay for all of it.

Col. Kelly told him that he had come up there for the purpose of fighting and if he did not surrender himself and arms that he could leave our command with his white flag, then he might expect to fight him. Whereupon he gave himself up with six others as prisoners of war. On the morning of the 6th he sent one of his men out to bring in the other Indians, that they might settle the difficulties. He returned not.

We then moved up the river to his second encampment. On approaching it the Indians all withdrew to the adjoining hills. Another messenger was sent out to them requesting them to come in, but refused --- - entreaties were in vain. We then marched down to the mouth of the Touchet R. to join with Maj. Chin. Here one of the prisoners attempted to escape, whereupon they were all secured safely for the night.

On the morning of the 7th a party of Indians made their appearance on the hills in front of our camp. Here Colonel Kelly sent another messenger to them asking them to come in and give up their arms. They refused to do so but demanded of us their Chief, & ordered us to pass no further up the river or they would fight us.

About 8 O'clock we left camp on our way up the Walla Walla River. Had not moved more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile when the Indians fired at two men who were driving some loose cattle. Orders were then given to charge at them which we immediately obeyed. Here commenced a running fight of 10 miles in which a few of our men were wounded.

After chasing in pursuit of them 10 miles our horses began to fail and the Indians began to increase in number. By this time the command was all up to a place now called Ft. Bennett. Col Kelly was inquired of what should be done with the prisoners, his reply was to "tie them." In attempting this the prisoners

tried to make their escape. One drew a butcher knife and stabbed a man in the arm. Pu Pu Mox Mox undertook to seize a gun from a Mr. Warfield, where upon said Warfield struck him such a blow on the back part of the head that knocked him to the ground. He then raised to his knees when a second blow from the same gun brought him to the ground again. Several guns were discharged at him and his life was soon ended. All the others were killed excepting as who did not resist, or show fight. This was a Nez Perce Indian. The battle continued until dark when both parties retired to their camps. Soon after arriving in camp they fired into our midst. A strong guard was kept out during the night.

Early in the morning of the 8th the battle was renewed again with increased vigor. Continued fighting until night when both parties withdrew again. On the 9th the Indians again made their appearance, when they were attacked by our party. This days fight was not so hard as the former. Early in the morning of the 10th it was seen that the Indians had got possession of our ditches. A party was sent out to attack them. A hot firing was kept up for five or six hours, when the Indians were routed, and all were driven far above their camping ground.

Pee-pee Mox Mox

June 18th 1856

Dalles O.T.

Mr. W. ~~H~~ Farrar

Adjt. 1st Regt
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