

WAR DEPARTMENT BOARD OF APPRAISERS  
MUNITIONS BLDG., 19TH & B STS.,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File No. 593 L/C.

1st Ind.

REC/pt

War Department Board of Appraisers, Purchase, Storage & Traffic Division,  
General Staff, Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C., December 1, 1919.  
To the Director of Finance (Through the Director of Real Estate Service).

1. The attached claim is being forwarded for the action of the Director of Finance, in compliance with Paragraph 3, General Orders No. 102, War Department, 1919.
2. The report of the Board of Appraisers and the records in the claim are herewith inclosed.
3. The report of the Board of Appraisers recommends that claimant be awarded the two buildings, of which he has been left in possession, and that in addition thereto, claimant, G. A. Pitman, Tigerville, S. C., be awarded the sum of \$1,460.00 in full settlement for all claims for loss or damage of the said claimant arising under said claim.

WAR DEPARTMENT BOARD OF APPRAISERS,

By

F. H. CALDWELL,  
Colonel, Cavalry,  
Chairman.

Incls.

WAR DEPARTMENT BOARD OF APPRAISERS,  
Munitions Bldg., 19th & B Sts.,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

File No. 393 L/C.  
Case under G.O.102, W.D.1919.

November 17, 1919.

In the matter of the claim of )  
G. A. Pitman, Tigerville, S. C. ) R E P O R T.  
for damages to property. )

This is a claim of G. A. Pitman, of Tigerville, S. C., in the amount of \$2050.00, for damages alleged by him to have been sustained to his buildings, grounds and timber, on a certain tract of 178 acres, of which he is the owner, which tract was leased by him to the Chamber of Commerce, Spartanburg, S. C., and leased by the said Chamber of Commerce to the United States, under blanket lease, for the purpose of an Artillery and Small Arms Target Range, the said land being more particularly described as follows:

Being in Glassy Mountain Township, Greenville County, S. C., and adjoining lands of Benny R. Pruitt on the North, S. L. Barton on the East, H. H. Turner on the South and Harris Pitman and others on the West;

the damage alleged being itemized as follows:

\$50.00 damage to buildings,  
1000.00 damage to ground,  
1000.00 to timber destroyed.  
\$2050.00

This claim was considered by a Local Board convened pursuant to paragraph 9, Special Orders No. 22, Headquarters, Camp Wade-worth, S. C., dated January 22nd, 1919.

The Board made physical inspection of the land of claimant, and took his testimony. Claimant testified that he had received \$450.00 damage to his crops, and this was verified by the Board. Examination of the land showed that it had been used as part of the Infantry Rifle Range; that there was constructed thereon, about 600 feet of heavily revetted pits; that these were located on about 30 acres of claimant's best cultivated land; that in the construction thereof, the top soil was scraped away in order to make embankments; that this particular tract of land was valued at from \$50 to \$75.00 per acre, and the damage to this 30 acre tract was estimated at \$450.00, as follows:

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
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"The estimate to tear out the trenches was made first as follows:

600 feet of heavy revetments would take 2 men 60 days at \$2.00 each per day, \$240.00, 2 men and team at \$6.00 per day 15 days to fill trenches as they were deep and wide. It would then have taken two men and team with scraper sixty days to have dragged the earth back where it was scraped up to make the embankment. This bank was ten feet high and 50 feet across and 600 feet long, and was necessitated because the position was on the slope of a hill, allowing one half the bulk as made part from the ground in front would make approximately 30,000 cu feet to move less about 30,000 feet to fill trenches. This approximated a cost of nearly seven hundred dollars which was the amount of an off hand estimate of Captain Acharson on similar trenches on the C. D. Lindsay place some days before. The amount of \$450.00 was a compromise; it did not exceed the average value of the land affected."

The Board found 15 acres of heavy pine timber completely dead, as a result of having been struck by rifle bullets, and many bullets were embedded in the timber, making it impossible to cut this up on account of injury to tools; that this particular timber had received a cross fire in two directions, from one of which came machine gun fire, and from the other, automatic rifle fire; and that it received also, machine gun fire from still another range. Mr. Pitman claimed that about 2000 cords could have been cut from the timber which was found to be dead, and the Board found this timber to be worthless for the above reason, and the claim for \$1000.00 damage to be a just and reasonable claim.

The Board estimated the damage to buildings at more than \$50.00, but \$50.00 was the amount claimed by Mr. Pitman, and this amount was therefore recommended by the Board.

The Board further found considerable damage to wire fencing on claimant's property, but Mr. Pitman made no claim therefor.

The Board therefore recommended in detail, the following award:

\$50.00 damage to buildings,  
 450.00 damage to ground,  
1000.00 damage to timber.  
 \$1500.00

The Board found two small target sheds on this land, for which claimant agreed to allow \$20.00 apiece, or \$40.00, as so much offset against his claim, but the Board recommended this adjustment. The Board also found that the Local Board, describes these sheds as being constructed of heavy construction, sheeted and roofed with roofing material."

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The Local Board, having recommended damages in the amount of \$1500.00, and placing the value of the two buildings at \$40.00, in effect recommends a final award in favor of claimant, in the amount of \$1460.00.

In view of the above facts, it is the writer's opinion that the damage to claimant's ground and timber was due to the operations of the army, in connection with small arms target practice; that his buildings were damaged on account of the removal of material therefrom by soldiers whose identity cannot now be ascertained; and that the said material was used by soldiers in the nearby camp.

Claimant has agreed in writing to accept \$1500 in full of damages to his land by reason of the occupancy thereof by troops, or any other act of the Government.

I therefore recommend that claimant be awarded the two buildings, of which he has been left in possession, and that in addition thereto, he be awarded the sum of \$1460.00 in full and complete satisfaction of this claim.

W. S. VALENTINE,  
Colonel, Cavalry,  
Member.

WST/twt.

Adopted November 28, 1919.  
WAR DEPARTMENT BOARD OF APPRAISERS.

By F. M. CAIDWELL,  
Colonel, Cavalry,  
Chairman.

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