

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

File No. 402 L/C.

1st Ind.

FHE/msh.

War Department Board of Appraisers, Purchase, Storage & Traffic Division,
General Staff, Munitions Bldg., Washington, D. C., November 17, 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 5, 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 an award in
the sum of \$314.50 issue in favor of the claimant, Laura A. Parker, Tryon,
N. C., 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.

(Claim of Mrs. Laura A. Parker,
(Tryon, North Carolina))

2nd Ind. (S 12/4/19)

War Dept., Real Estate Service, Munitions Bldg., Washington, D.C., Nov.
24th, 1919, - To the Director of Finance. (Attention - Major Hartley)

1. Forwarded. Synopsis made on Claim No. 402 L/C.
2. In order that our files may be completed, it is requested that this
office be advised when final settlement is made on Claim No. 402 L/C.

By authority of the Director, Real Estate Service:

J. C. WHITAKER,
Lt.Col., Q.M.C.,
Fiscal Assistant.

PJA:mg
1 Invl.

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Noted - L.H.S.

File No. 492 L/O.

November 8, 1919.

Claim under G.O. 102, W.D. 1919.

In the matter of the claim of)
Mrs. Laura A. Parker, Bryon,) R E P O R T.
S. C., for damages to property)

This is a claim for \$500.00, on account of damage to buildings, ground and crops, the property of claimant, and pertaining to a certain tract of 80 acres, leased by claimant to the Chamber of Commerce, Spartanburg, S. C., and by the said Chamber of Commerce leased under blanket lease to the United States for purposes of an Artillery and Small Arms Target Range, and which land is more particularly described as being in Glossy Mountain Township, Greenville County, S. C., adjoining lands of Robert Parker on the North, H. E. Lockhart on the East, George W. Plunley on the South and William Morgan on the West.

This claim was considered by a board of Officers convened pursuant to paragraph 9, Special Orders No. 22, Headquarters, Camp Wadsworth, S. C., dated January 22nd, 1919.

The claimant, one Robert Parker and one George Parker were sworn as witnesses.

The Board made a physical examination of the land and appurtenances, and found that claimant's land was part of Artillery Camp No. 1; that there had been located on claimant's land a house and numerous out-buildings; such as, barns, sheds, hog pens and well-house. It was found that considerable lumber was torn from these buildings and used by troops in their tents and for the construction of such things as tent floors, latrine screens and tables. This element of damage is itemized as follows:

Home:		
6 Large Window Glass lights 12 x 24 @ 75¢		\$4.50
2 Sash Large Glass lights at \$3.00		6.00
1 Door upstair, 2 glass		3.50
Fire Place Mantel:		
10 ft. lumber @ \$3.00		.50
12 catches on windows @ 15¢		1.80
2 Locks at 35¢		.70
130 sq. feet Mosquito wire, back porch at 4¢		5.20
Screen Door		1.50
Private School House:		
3 Window glass 24 x 36 @ 75¢		5.25

ИЛИТОНС ВРДС. 1919 Г. В. 212.
МАР ДЕПАРТМЕНТ ВОУЛД ОФ АРРЯИЗЕРС

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Small Barn:		
40 feet lumber @ \$30.00		1.20
Well House:		
50 feet Siding @ \$30.00		1.50
Door, catch		.50
Small Hum House 8 x 10:		
totally torn down		
240 feet lumber @ \$25		6.00
Shingles		4.50
Kinges and lock, corn cribs		.75
Carpenter 4 days @ \$4.50		<u>15.00</u>
Total:		\$39.00

The Board found that when claimant was required to move from her place that certain articles of furniture were left stored in the house, under the assurance that the house would not be in line of fire, and would not be molested; that the house was nevertheless broken into and the following articles of furniture were removed:

- 1 bed
- 1 washing machine
- 1 marble wash stand
- 1 clothes closet
- 1 table

and the Board recommended that claimant be reimbursed for this furniture; that about 1000 feet of dressed lumber, stored in the building called the "shop" had been confiscated; that this lumber was valued at \$30.00, and the Board recommended reimbursement accordingly.

With respect to the above items of damage, the writer would say that investigation of many cases of damage claims on the Target Range at Camp Radaworth, S. D., showed that a Staff Officer, or Staff Officers, of the 27th Division, assured the various claimants that they could leave private property in their buildings, and that same would not be disturbed. Moreover, the occupants were ordered off their ^{land} before the lease began to run; that is, prior to November 27, 1917; and that they did not have reasonable opportunity to remove their property. It is the writer's opinion that for these reasons, the Government became the bailee of this property, and that the items of damage should be made good by the Government for that reason.

Evidence showed that the furniture stolen from claimant, was valued as follows:

Bed frame		\$10.00
Washing machine		10.00
Marble wash stand		10.00
Clothes closet		4.00
Table		<u>3.00</u>
Total		\$37.00

(See certificate of President of Local Board, attached to the pro-

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ceedings of the Local Board).

The Local Board ascertained that there had been a wire fence around claimant's property, part of which was two and part of which was 3 wire; that nearly all of the fence had been removed; that a very small amount of wire was still in evidence, but that this was so badly out as to be of little use. It was estimated that \$60.50 would be required to replace the fence. This is estimated as follows:

2000 feet of 2 wire and 1500 feet of 3 wire fence,	
7 spools wire at \$6.50	\$45.50
100 posts at 15¢	15.00
1 man, 5 days @ \$2.00 (setting posts)	10.00
2 men, 2 1/2 days @ \$2.00 (stringing wire)	10.00
Total	\$80.50

The above estimate of Major Johnson's, as to rectoration of fence, is \$4.50 less than the writer would award for the same job, taking Major Johnson's own figures.

The Board ascertained that at the time claimant moved from her land, 25 bushels of corn were left in a crib; that during the period of occupancy by the Government, the door with lock and hinges was broken off and the corn confiscated, some presumably fed to artillery horses, and the Board recommended damages at \$1.00 per bushel, or a total of \$25.00.

The Board further found that troops were camped on a portion of the land which was a terraced hillside; that the troops broke down the terraces and in consequence large ditches were washed in the land; that 18 acres of the land were so occupied, and restoration was estimated at \$72.00. Estimate is based upon the following:

"About 1500 feet of terraces badly washed out where troops camped, 2 men 15 days at \$2.00 per day to repair terraces, at 100 feet per day. This was on a hillside and about 600 yards long, and about 15 terraces, but no allowance was made except where it was all washed out or worn down."

A large number of valuable fruit trees had been used as hitching posts, the bark eaten off by animals, and the trees killed as a result. Damages were recommended in the amount of \$12.00, as follows:

10 small peach trees @ 50¢	\$5.00
4 Cherry trees, bearing, @ \$1.50	6.00
1 peach tree, bearing, at \$1.00	1.00
Total	\$12.00.

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Damages recommended by the Local Board were as follows:

\$56.00 damage to buildings,
 37.00 damage to furniture,
 30.00 loss due to theft of lumber,
 72.00 damage to ground,
 12.00 damage to fruit trees,
 25.00 for corn confiscated, and
 80.00 damage to barb wire, or a total of
\$314.50

In view of the above facts, I believe the claim of L. A. Parker, as adjusted by the Local Board, to be a just claim, and the settlement recommended by the Local Board, to be fair and reasonable.

Claimant has agreed in writing to accept \$314.50 in full of damages to her land, by reason of occupancy of said land by troops, or any other act of the Government.

I therefore recommend that an award issue in favor of Laura A. Parker in the amount of \$314.50, in full and complete satisfaction of her claim.

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

WST/twc.

Adopted November 15, 1919.

WAR DEPARTMENT BOARD OF APPRAISERS.

By F. M. CALDWELL,
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Chairman.

WASHINGTON, D. C.
MUNITIONS BLDG., 15TH & B STS.
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