

## Indian Wars



## Congressional Medal of Honor



## Civil War



**Reid, James C. AKA Reed, James C.  
Paradise Valley, NV April 29, 1868.  
8<sup>th</sup> U.S.. Cavalry, Camp Winfield Scott.  
His is the only CMOH earned in NV.**

**REID, JAMES C. (MISSPELLED REED)**

Private, U.S. Army  
Company A, 8th U.S. Cavalry  
Date of Action: April 29, 1868

***Citation:***

The Medal of Honor is presented to James C. Reed, Private, U.S. Army, for extraordinary heroism on April 29, 1868, while serving with Company A, 8th U.S. Cavalry, in action in Arizona Territory. Actual location of battle was Paradise Valley, Humboldt Co., NV.

Private Reed (Reid) defended his position (with three others) against a party of 17 hostile Indians under heavy fire at close quarters, the entire party except himself being severely wounded with SGT Kelly, and PVT Ward dying.

▪ **Date of Issue: July 24, 1869**

▪

**Born: at Kilkenny, Ireland  
Home Town: San Francisco, California**

NOTE: Arizona is mistakenly listed as place of action.

James C. Reid's, (AKA Reed, James C., & Reed, Thomas C.) grave has not been located as of 11-11-14 by members of General William Passmore Carlin Camp 25, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Reno, NV in 2014.  
Camp Commander John A. Riggs

**Below is the actual recommendation submitted by 1LT Joseph Kargé (Former Civil War brevet Brigadier General of the 2<sup>nd</sup> New Jersey Cavalry), Commander of Camp Winfield Scott, Paradise Valley, Humboldt Co., Nevada. 1LT John Lafferty, second in command.**

“Camp Winfield Scott Nev.  
May 1st 1868

Lt. Charles Hobart  
A.A.A.G. District of Nevada  
Lieutenant:

I have the honor to report on the 20th ultimo, a citizen residing in the vicinity of the post reported at seven o'clock a.m. reported that a horse of his died within one hundred yards his dwelling in a pasture had been cut loose the night previous and led off by the indians. I ordered Lt. Hunter to take three enlisted men and one indian guide in pursuit believing however at the time that the horse had strayed or was taken by some white man.

I cautioned Lt. Hunter that in case he struck the track and became satisfied that indians were the perpetrators of the thief to be cautious and not allow himself to be drawn in to a snare. The owner of the missing horse accompanied the detachment, mounted on a government horse furnished to him by more orders.

At 11 o'clock a.m. same date another report reached camp that three yokes of cattle belonging to a citizen residing within one mile and a half of the place from which the horse was taken, were also missing, no longer doubting that Indians were the perpetrators I immediately ordered Lt. Lafferty temporarily attached to the post to proceed with six enlisted men and one days rations in the direction taken by Lt. Hunter and having struck his trail to follow up. And afford him such assistance as circumstances might require.

No tidings were received from either party until six o'clock a.m. a citizen came in and reported that a detachment under Lt. Hunter had been surprised by Indians in a canyon eight miles from camp, all their horses being shot dead and they themselves badly wounded, were keeping the Indians at bay in a cave. Lt. Lafferty having not yet made his appearance. I requested Major Kearns U.S. Paymaster, who happened to be present at the post to pay the garrison to take command of the camp, leaving him thirteen men, and with the remaining ten in number

I left camp within five minutes after I had received the fatal news. Lt. Lafferty met me on his return some six hundred yards from camp and reported that he had failed to take Lt. Hunters trail and having learned that the reported three yoke of cattle had turned up all safe, he was under the impression that the first report of Indians excited more in the imagination of the citizens than in reality, and under this impression he returned to camp expecting to find Lt. Hunter also returned. I left therefore Lt. Lafferty in charge of the camp.

I proceeded at the gallop under the guide of the Indian guide and the citizen who had made their escape from the place of action on foot. I reached the mouth of the canon eight miles from camp at sundown and after a march of five miles more through intricate defiles I reached the reported beleaguered party at dusk. An oblong cave some one hundred feet in circumference surrounded

on the side by high and perpendicular rocks affording a solitary entrance of not more than six feet in width had fortunately offered a temporary refuge to the retreating detachment, that was hotly pursued by the blood thirsty foes but owing to the coolness and intrepidity of Lt. Hunter who although severely wounded, and more rolling than walking covered the retreat of his wounded men with his spencer carbine.

The cowardly savages although seventeen in number and apparently well armed with repeating rifles as the nature of the wounds they inflicted attest dared not attack the four men now under shelter. I found one man private Reid as the only capable for defense, and he was pacing his beat at the mouth of the cave. Lt. Hunter, Sergt. Kelly and private Ward were stretched at full length on the rough rocks, the former with carbine in his hand, the two latter growning under excruciating pain.

Lt. Hunter who with all sense cheerful and composed received a gunshot wound in the right upper hip, the ball of a small caliber ranging inwardly toward the bladder, where it still remains, another ball struck him across the chest perforating all his clothes and undershirt and inflicted a slight wound on his right wrist, his right ankle badly strained causing him more inconveniences and pain. The more serious wounded Sergt. Kelly was struck by a large conical bullet injuring his collarbone and the first rib. Private Ward shot through the lungs by a similar bullet to that of Kelly's since died.

I did my utmost to make the wounded as comfortable as possible under existing circumstances the night being cold and the snow several feet deep in the cave, Lt. Hunter although suffering severally from his wounds mounted a horse and with an escort of five men proceeded to ranch in the valley six miles distant from the cave.

Before scouting from the camp I ordered Act. Asst. Surgeon Haye's to accompany my detachment with surgical instruments and medical relieves as might be required, these to be carried with him on horseback also an ambulance to proceed as far as the nature of the ground would permit, which was to the mouth of the canyon. Act. Asst. Hayes failed to make his appearance when his services were most needed. Although I had taken all dire precautions to have him piloted to the ground in case he lost his way in the darkness. The only cover I was in possession of was a pair of my blankets and six saddle blankets with which to keep the wounded men from freezing. The emergency of the case and great ? carry assistance to the wounded made us forget both overcoats and blankets, as well as canteens. Water was brought to the wounded which they carried all the time from a half mile off in boots furnished by their comrades. Shirts and drawers were used as bandages of compresses to stop the flow of blood, the night was passed in anxiety and suffering by the sick and well.”

This was the written report by 1LT Kargé was in Corporal Jacob Gunther's file at the National Archives: Jacob Gunther, Corporal/ 8th U.S. Cavalry/Company E of Schuylkill County, PA.

Served Arizona, 1868 and 1869 and earned the Congressional Medal of Honor for Bravery in Scouts and actions against Indians. Date issued 6 September 1869.

Researched by the General Willian Passmore Carlin Camp 25, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Reno, NV in 2011-2014. Camp Commander John A. Riggs