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OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec. MAR 17

1905

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Capt. W. A. Mercer,  
Carlisle School,

Feb. 22, 1905,

Enc. newspaper  
clipping from the  
New York Times re. to  
the desertion from the  
army of Glen Pierce  
and others claiming to  
be students of Carlisle.

Yours  
Truly

To Sup't. 3/21/05

Edw J

Asst. Commr

Please let the newspaper men see this. If any are disposed to use the facts, please ask them not to use Mercer's language literally, or quote from his letter, ~~that~~ I have no objection to their citing him as authority for the denial.

J.S.H.



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL.

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT.

CARLISLE, PA.

February 22, 1905.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir:

I inclose herewith a clipping from the New York Times of Feb. 21st, in connection with which I wish to say that this is a fake article from first to last as far as facts are concerned.

Glen Pierce was at Carlisle. He came in 1897 and deserted in 1898; was worthless and a trouble all the time and never was engaged in athletics, and is not a brother of Bemus Pierce the well known foot-ball coach.

Wallace Dockstader came in 1899, deserted in 1901; was returned to the school in 1902 and deserted again in 1903. He also was a worthless character and absolutely of no use to himself or anybody else and not engaged in athletics at this school.

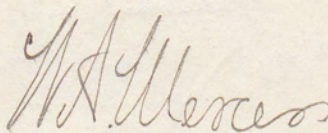
Abren and Lee were never at Carlisle.

Hereafter every Indian that leaves Carlisle school will be supplied with a discharge on printed form with his character given thereon, and recruiting officers of the Army should be instructed not to enlist any young Indian who claims to have been a Carlisle student unless he can show a discharge with a good character. Such worthless fellows as Pierce and Dockstader are not only an injury to the Army but their public disgrace also reflects more or less on



Carlisle, particularly when they make such false statements as they are reported to have made.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W.A. Mercer".

Captain 7th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

AES



H. J. Jones

File 21

"All the News Fit to Print."

VOL. LIV...NO. 17,20

# INDIAN ATHLETES IN PRISON AS DESERTERS

## Quartet, Including Three Carlisle Stars, at Castle Williams.

### DID NOT LIKE LIFE IN ARMY

All Enlisted at Warren, Penn., Last March—Will Not Explain Desertion—Kept in Jail a Month at Buffalo.

For the first time in its history, Castle Williams, the old military prison on the northwest end of Governors Island, received yesterday a quartet of Seneca Indians, three of them in schooldays famous athletes of the Indian school at Carlisle, Penn.

The redmen, who began to serve terms for desertion from the army, are Glen Pierce, a few years ago one of the tackles on a famous Carlisle football team; Wal-lack Dockstader, one of the best short-stops the Indian school ever produced; Luke Abren, a star pitcher four years ago, and Morris Lee, a Seneca boy who was not so fortunate as to get a chance to distinguish himself at the Indian school.

The advent of the Indians caused a sensation on Governors Island, especially when it became known that three of them had in recent years won fame for the school that is considered the model of its kind the world over. All the Indians were sentenced by a court-martial that recently sat at Fort Porter, near Buffalo, to serve one year each. They deserted from Company L, First Infantry, garrisoning that post.

Early yesterday a Sergeant and a corporal of the First Infantry appeared at the Manhattan slip of the Governors Island ferry with the prisoners. The soldier on duty at the slip, as soon as he saw the athletic redmen, rushed to the 'phone and, calling up a comrade on the island, announced the approach of the finest-looking Indians that ever visited Governors Island. He did not know then that they were military prisoners.

When the General Hancock, the Governors Island ferryboat, after a struggle through the ice, finally made the island a crowd of soldiers from the Eighth Infantry was at the landing to get a glimpse of the big Senecas from "up State." The minute the Hancock was made fast the Indians, heads erect, looking neither to right nor left, their stoical faces showing indifference to the curious eyes focused on them, walked off the boat, flanked by the big white soldiers from Fort Porter. They were marched straight to the Castle, where the "non-coms" from "up State" turned them over to Capt. Perkins and Sergt. Way. Less than ten minutes had elapsed since their landing at the Battery.

Sergt. Way began the taking of pedigrees. Abren, the baseball twirler, was first to go through the ordeal. He said he was twenty-five years of age and was born in Cold Spring, N. Y. He had enlisted, his papers showed, at Warren, Penn., on March 22, 1904. Eight days later he deserted. On Dec. 17 the civil authorities in Buffalo took him into custody. They kept him a month and one day and then returned him to the military authorities, who lost no time in court martialing him.

Pierce, the tackle of six years ago, said he was twenty-eight years of age and that he had enlisted at the same time as Abren. He deserted on July 15 and was apprehended at the same time as Abren. Dockstader and Lee also took French leave at the same time as Pierce and the same court that sent the football player down sentenced them. Another Seneca, it was announced, would be brought to New York this morning to serve a similar sentence.

The Indians received prison clothes, with the red "P" that denotes prisoners of the first class, stamped on all of them, while just above the big "P" on the coats appeared the numbers by which they will be known while in prison. Pierce, Abren, and Lee refused to tell why they had deserted. Dockstader, however, said:

"Pierce, Abren, and I are all Carlisle boys and we all enlisted in the First Infantry about the same time. Lee, a Seneca, like ourselves, also went in at that time. Pierce is a brother of Bem's Pierce, the greatest football guard that ever lived, and of Harley Pierce, another football player. Why did we desert? That's another question, and I am not going to answer it now. Good bye."

"It's a pity such fine looking chaps get into a scrape like this," re-  
"Way" the Indians were