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OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs
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Indian School, Carlisle, Pa.,
Mar. 1, 1906.

Major W.A. Mercer,
Supt.

Reports death of Edward Tompkins at New Orleans en route to his home at Scott River Cal.

To Supt. 3/5/06

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE
INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL
CARLISLE, PENNA.

J.P.D.
March 1, 1906.

The Honorable,
The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

I have to report the death at the Charity Hospital, New Orleans, La., early Sunday morning, of Edward Tompkins who was a student at this school until February 16th when he was discharged and started to his home at Scott River, California, via the Southern Pacific Railway. This young man was 16 years of age, had been ill a short time here at the school prior to his departure and it was clear that he was suffering with tuberculosis. He had not, however, been confined to his bed at any time and his condition was not considered so serious but that he was thought to be perfectly able to make the journey home in safety. The southern route was chosen for him for the reason that a tourist berth could be procured through without change, and for the further reason that ^{it was thought} the less rigorous climate of the South might ameliorate any hardships that might be involved in the journey.

We had no knowledge of his illness in New Orleans until Saturday night, the 24th ultimo when a telegram was received from Sister Agnes at the Charity Hospital stating that the boy had been ill there since the 18th and was dying. We at once notified the father at Scott River, and after being notified on Sunday of the boy's death, we made an effort to arrange to have the remains forwarded to his home in compliance with the expressed wish of the father. The

arrangement to do this had to be abandoned when it was found that an escort was necessary and that the railroad people would only arrange for an escort as far as San Francisco. Interment was accordingly directed in New Orleans with request that expenses be kept at a minimum and the bills sent to me here.

We also called for a report of the boy's final illness and the immediate cause of death, but thus far have received no reply.

Very respectfully,

W. A. Mercer
Major 11th Cavalry,

Superintendent.

JRW-S