

Records of the War Department

Records of the Headquarters of the Army

Selected Letters Sent, Volume 9, 1857

General Services Administration National Archives, Washington, 1953.

P. 23--I handed him for perusal General Order 51 exchanging the 4th and 6th regiments of Infantry. He was very emphatic in his remarks against making any changes in the stations of the troops in Oregon and Washington territories at this time, and fears that if troops are drawn from other positions to relieve the companies of the fourth and this latter regiment put in march an Indian war may result therefrom. With the present forces and judiciously distributed as the general conceives them to be, no such fears need be entertained. Genl Wool is anxious that Lieut Col. Buchanan and Major Garnett should return to the Department of the Pacific as an efficient field officer is required both at Fort Simcoe and Puget Sound. I informed him of the probability of the designation of Lieut. Col. Buchanan for the recruiting service. He said that whilst he did not desire to run counter to Col. Buchanan's wishes in this respect, yet that he conceived it essential that he or some other reliable field officer should be at Puget Sound. Major Garnett belongs at Fort Simcoe.

The mail of today brought us nothing of interest. I have the honor to be genl, very respectfully your obt. servant. (J or I) Thomas USA
44 Telegraph, Washington March 16, 1857
Bvt. Major General Davis C. Brig. Gen U.S.A. New Orleans, L.A.
Wool will be assigned to eastern department. You can have any other answer.
This second dispatch. Signed. Winfield Scott.

p 35 following 3 pps of discussion about rules, regulations, infantry tactics,that is, a stroke of the pen, designed to supercede the work called Infantry Tactics drawn up by me, of long, (23 years) in use, unchanged throughout our army, whereas the pet system

of Mr. Secretary Davis prepared by a cavalry officer, is no system at all and cannot be put into execution even as far as it pretends to go, on account of innumerable blunders and discrepancies. See some sixty pages of notes on file in the adjutant general's office, on a part of the first volume written by Major Garnett of the ninth infantry, an accomplished tactician and for some time professor of infantry tactics at the Military Academy. Every intelligent officer would concur on those criticisms and ~~could~~ probably find an equal number of objections to the second volume..

The notes, cited above this book of blunders must inevitably throw the army into great confusion, if a corrective cannot be ~~speed~~ speedily applied. The subject is of instant importance for the ~~renewed~~ season for drilling has already commenced in the south. It is therefore suggested that the order of the last month be suspended and the two systems of tactics-mine provides for Infantry, Light Infantry and Riflemen, be referred to a board of tacticians, with instructions to draw up a new system.

Respectfully submitted to the Secretary of War, HQ of the Army March 28 1857. Signed Winfield Scott. Headquarters of the Army New York March 30th, 1857 .

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Cooper. 172 182 Head quarters of the Army, New York Oct. 6, 1857
Colonel Samuel Adjutant General, Washington D.C. Colonel:

In addition to those put in orders today the following as far as can be ascertained are the names of the officers who may be available for duty and recruits ordered to the Pacific. As no reports are required to be made now to Army head quarters either by regulations or orders but an improper knowledge can be obtained here in relation to several of these officers particularly those on sick leave, and the object of this communication is to request the adjutant general to furnish me with any

additional information which the files offer an ... and also to inquire if ~~thx~~ there will be any other officers than those mentioned available for duty with these recruits ~~amx~~ on the 3d and 20th of November next. (over)

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1st Dragoons

Captain Joseph H. Whitt~~h~~esey, Absent sick since August 21,1856

Last report was of March 27. Condition not known.

3rd Artillery

Lst Lieutenant Edward H. Day Absent sick left company Feb 5, 1857

last report was of March 1,1857 from Tampa, Fla. Condition not known

2nd Lieut George F. B. Danby Fort Columbus

2nd Lieut Lawrence Kip do

4th Infantry

Captain Delaney Floyd Jones will be sent with the steamer of November 20th

Captain ? C Hunt Last report was of Feb 28,1857 from Rome, Italy Condition not known, supposed not to be available.

9th Infantry

Lieut Colonel Silas Casey Pomfret Conn will be placed in com and of draft of November 5.

Captain Presley Guthrie Absent sick since March 20,1857 . Last report was of September 2d from Cincinnati, O. This report of that date was were former ones is not according to regulations and gives no information as to his condition but as he is not required to make it, the general in charge has caused his volumntary communication to be sent back for correction.

Captain Charles S. Winder absent sick since November 26,1856, last report was of March 1,1857 from Eaton, Ind. condition not known.

(?)
2nd Lieutenant Clair Dearing ordered to report at Governor's island by the 1st of November

I have the honor to be , very respt. your obt servant John McDowell
asst. adjt. General. What is the address of Lt. Mowry. His last report is dated July 4.

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p. 270

413--Garnett O. 424 Head Quarters of the Army, New York November 17, 1854
 Bvt. Major Robert S. Captain 7th Infy. Willard's Hotel, Washington D.C.
 Sir:

In view of the improbability that you will be able to overtake your company this winter, the general in chief authorizes you to pass by the usual channels of correspondence and prefer direct to the War Dept. any request you may have to make in the case.

I am sir, very respectfully your obt. servant

G.W.L.

p. 423 332

Swords 294/433 Headquaters of the Army, New York, December 4, 1853
 Bvt. Lieut Colonel Thomas, quartermaster USA New Yor . Colonel:

The 9th Infantry now at Fort Monroe, is to be sent to the Department of the Pacific via Panama, with as little delay as practicable. The general in chief desires you will make such arrangements as may be necessary to procure the required transportation. As the regiment will, in all probability have to go to Oregon, please make the contract provide for carrying it to Fort Vancouver, if, on ~~vo06h~~ touching at San Francisco, it is found necessary. The usual conditions relating to the quality G G etc. of the transports to be complied with. Please ascertain ^{report} and ~~exxx~~ the earliest day the transports can be at Fort Monroe.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully your most obt. servt.

... McDowell, asst. adt. Genl.

333.

Cooper 415/430 Head Quarters of the Army New York, D cember 5, 1853

Colonel Samuel, Adt. General U.S.A. Washington D.C. Colonel:

I respectfully enclose herewith in advance of a printed copy, General Orders No. 7 ordering the 9th Infantry to the Department of the Pacific in conformity with the instructions contained in your letter of the 3d instant.

The address of the officers of the regiment on leave viz Lieuts. Fleming and Douglass (sic) is not known here. Will you please cause them to be notified of the revocation of their leave? I have notified Lieut Van Voast.

That as little baggage be taken, by the regiment, as possible, the General-in-Chief requests the Department General be requested to inform Col. Wright of the clothing, camp and garrison equipage, he can rely on finding available on his arrival out so that he may leave behind to come after him by some less expensive route, such of these articles as he will not need for immediate use. The companies, have, it is understood, a year's supply of clothing. I have the honor to be, very respectfully.

339 427

Wright 422/430 Head Quarters of the Army, New York, December 6, 1853

Colonel George

9th Infy Comd Fort Monroe Colonel

I had the honor on the 4th instant to send you by telegraph the orders of the general in chief to prepare your regiment to proceed as soon as practicable, via Panama, to the Department of the Pacific, and yesterday I sent to you General orders requiring it to embark on or before the 14th instant. I now respectfully communicate the following as the instructions of the general in chief for your government till you come under the orders of the general commanding the dept. of the Pacific.

An approved steamship, of sufficient capacity to contain all the regiment will leave here for its exclusive use to be at Fort Monroe by the 12th instant and carry your com and to Aspinwall, thence you will

be taken by rail-road to Panama.

At Panama the steamship company have an extra steamer, the Oregon which will be ready to put to sea immediately after your arrival. The Oregon, the only boat the company would offer, is chartered for a round sum for the exclusive use of the troops. The company state that since the addition of an upper deck forward, by using the lower cabins and placing some on deck, she will carry seven hundred men as far as San Francisco; beyond that place the weather not permitting men to be comfortable on deck, she cannot carry that number.

It is estimated here that your command will, all told have an aggregate of 820--a few more or less--and you cannot therefore carry them all up in the Oregon, even as far as San Francisco, admitting her accommodations to be as ample as they are considered to be by the owners. It is therefore a part of the agreement that those whom you cannot take up in the Oregon will remain at Panama and follow in the next mail steamer, which it is estimated will leave Panama about eight days after the Oregon. She will be coaled so as to make the entire voyage to San Francisco without touching at Acapulco and as she is faster than the Oregon it is estimated she will arrive at San Francisco but a few days ~~later~~ after her.

As you will see from the contract made by the quart. mst. Dept. the company is to provide quarters, separate and distinct from citizens, for those of the regiment who do not go from Panama in the Oregon whilst they are waiting there for the mail steamer, and it guarantees that whilst so waiting there shall be no desertions, agreeing to refund \$75 for every man whose transportation to Panama has been paid, who may desert prior to the sailing of the mail steamer. This is of course to be understood as applying to those who may desert through the neglect of the company.

As seventy five-dollars over and above the round sum for the Oregon are to be paid for every officer, man or laundress not

from Panama in the Oregon and taken up in the mail steamer, you are desired particularly to see that whilst the men are safely and comfortably provided for on the Oregon, she takes as many as possible so that not a man may be crowded out by baggage being stowed in place that could be used for passengers.

If on touching at San Francisco you receive no orders from the Head/ Qrs of the Department of the Pacific to the contrary, you will continue your voyage without delay to the Columbia, and place yourself as soon as possible in communication with the General Comd of the Department of the Pacific who is now in Oregon or Washington Territory, and by whose orders you will thereafter be governed.

As you may take more men in the Oregon, as far as San Francisco than can be carried comfortably beyond that point, they and those who will be taken up to San Francisco in the mail steamer will be transported from that place to Ft Vancouver, or as near it as possible in a separate steamer, to leave as soon as possible after the arrival of the Oregon.

The general desires you will give your especial attention to the amount of baggage that it is not in excess and that it shall in no wise interfere with the accommodation and comfort of the men.

This is the more necessary as the steamers are not built for carrying freight and ... no allowances of baggage will diminish their capacity for carrying passengers. p 429

or inconvenience those taken.

The general has requested that the quartermaster general be required to inform you of the amount of clothing, camp and garrison equipage you will find available on the Pacific Coast that you may leave behind to come after you by some less expensive route as many of those articles as you may be able to spare and still land in Oregon in condition

to take the field immediately.

The men will cross the Isthmus with their army knapsacks and equipments. You will place one of the field officers with that part of the regiment which shall be left at Panama to go up in the mail steamer.

You will make to these head-qrs. a report and return of your command on leaving Fort Monroe and on your arrival at Panama, and will direct each detachment of it to make one on leaving Panama, San Francisco and on their arrival at Fort Vancouver.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully your most obedt. servant

J. McDowell, asst. adt. Genl

340 Telegraph

Churchill 414/505. Head Quarters of the Army, New York Dec. 8, 1853.

Brig. General Sylvester (Churchill) (as noted in margin....)

Inspt. Genl. Washington D.C. Proceed immediately to Fort Monroe Va and inspect the 9th Infantry ordered to embark for the Pacific by command of Bvt. Lieutenant General.

(James ?) McDowell, asst. Adg. Genl

p. 435

Swords 423/470 344. Head Quarters of the Army, New York, Dec. 12, 1853

Bvt. Genl Lieut. Colonel Thomas, Qr Mr. USA Fort Monroe, Col.

Since the sailing of the Saint Louis, the general has seen the report of Colonel Mansfield inspector general and regrets to find that the company has filled the hold of the vessel with its own stores for the Oregon. It was the understanding that the entire ship, less the space necessary for the crew and stores for the passage to Aspinwall, was to be at our disposal and whether this filling the hold which is wanted for the baggage of the regiment is or not in violation of the letter of the contract, it is of the spirit of the agreement as understood by the general.

Whilst perhaps there is now no remedy for this, the general

directs me to express his direct disapprobation of the course of the company in this particular. The stores for the Oregon should have been provided in some other way than at the expense of the comfort of the regiment whilst on the Saint Louis.

The general is the more displeas'd at this, that he had given special instructions to Colonel Wright to diminish as much as possible, the baggage of the regiment that the men should be as little inconvenienc'd as possible and he now finds his precautions likely to be of no avail.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully your most obt servant.

...McDowell, asst. adjt. general.

4@4.. Garnett 270

Head Quarters of the Army, New York January 29, 56

Major Robert S. 9th Infantry New York Sir:

If, in arriving at Benecia with the recruits designat'd in special orders No. 6 you should find the commanding general of the Pacific Department still absent from his head quarters and there be no instructions from him for the disposition of the men, you will immediately ~~report~~ adopt measures for taking th 4th infantry recruits and those for the companies of the 3d artillery in Oregon and Washington Terr tories to Fort Vancouver where you will report to Major General Wool for his further orders. The recruits for the 3d artillery in California will be left at Benecia. I furnish herewith the number of recruits requir'd by each company of that regiment, for your guidance. Company A 47 B, 15-- D 50, F, 14, G 45, H 40, I 26, H 26 L 35.

I am sir, very respectfully your obt. servant

L(?) Thomas, B⁴⁰⁰ SSQ

Records of the War Department. Records of the United States Army Commands Department of the Pacific. Selected Letters sent, Vol. 7. General Services Administration, National Archives, Washington, 1953.

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Wright, George, Col. 9th Infy. Comd. Fort Vancouver. Head Quarters Dept. of the Pacific, Benecia, January 20, 1856

Colonel:

No doubt ere this you have received Special Orders No. 6 and letter of instructions dated 19th instant assigning you to the command of the troops in Washington Territory and Northern Oregon which includes Puget Sound, Vancouver, the Dalles and all the country north and east of the Cascade mountains. You will exercise supervisory control over all and direct such operations as you may deem proper.

As soon as the season will permit, preparatory to operations in the Indian country east and north of the Cascades you will establish the head quarters of your regiment at the Dalles where the troops intended for the Indian country will be concentrated previous to which every attention will be given to perfecting them in the rifle or light infantry drill, as also in the details of guards. The latter is an important duty and should receive every attention. I found but few of the younger officers of the 4th Infantry acquainted with that duty. Your own head quarters you can establish either at Vancouver or the Dalles. You will of course be most of your time at the latter place during the period of preparations for the field.

The points which I intended as the base of operations are the Selah fisheries on the Yakama river and some point on or near the Columbia river in the neighborhood of Ft. Walla Walla. It is my intention to establish a permanent post somewhere in that region, as the most eligible point to control the surrounding Indian tribes and to command the river and its crossings. On account of the scarcity of timber, it may

be necessary to go some distance up the Touchet River before a suitable position for the establishment of a post can be found. Between the Dalles and the Selah fisheries an intermediate post with one company may be necessary to prevent the Yakamas from taking fish in the streams which empty themselves into the Yakama and Columbia river. This intermediate post should be given to some active energetic officer.

Herewith you will receive a ... sketched by Capt. Cram, chief of the Top. Eng of the country in which your immediate command will be required to operate. I would recommend it to your attentive perusal. From this you will perceive that the Selah Fisheries are 100 miles from the Dalles and from the latter to the Atahnam River mission it is 70 miles, which position may become p. 386

important one, as an intermediate post between the Dalles and the Selah fisheries. From the Dalles to Walla Walla it is 162 miles and from the latter place to Selah fisheries 95 miles by the road to Steilacoom. With boats to cross the Columbia river your forces at either point could be in four days concentrated by forced marches in three days or less. For crossing the Columbia River I ordered four portable boats and a flat to be prepared in pieces to be put together on the arrival of the troops at or near Walla Walla. Expeditions should be prepared to leave at the earliest moment, that is, so soon as grass can be obtained for animals, for Ft. Walla Walla, the Selah Fisheries. It is not improbable however that you will be able on account of snow on the intervening mountains to go to the Selah fisheries so soon, by 3 or 4 weeks as to the Walla Walla country. Hence so soon as the season will permit you will conduct yourself with a force of four or five companies with three mounted Howitzers and one six pounder to Walla Walla. It is directed that you conduct the expedition with reference to proper selection of a proper position for a post and to ascertain the feelings and disposition of the several tribes

in that section of the country. I do not believe that the Walla Wallas, the Cayuses, Pelouses, Umatillas had resolved on war until the attack of the Volunteers on the Walla Wallas. The murder of the chief, Peu Pui while held a prisoner by the Volunteers has united these tribes against us. I do not believe however that they will continue the war a great while. The occupation of the country between the Walla Walla, Touchet and Snake Rivers and opposite side of the Columbia will very soon bring these tribes to terms. The occpt (?) of the Yakama country at the pr per time from the Abahnam mission and the country on the Yakima River, extending above and below the Selah Fisheries, will compel the Yakamas, I think, to sue for peace or abandon their country. Supplies for the Selah Fisheries must be packed ~~onxxux~~ unless they should be sent by way of Walla Walla and the Steilacoom road. It is desirable that at least 60 days provisions should be taken with either expedition to Walla Walla or the Selah Fisheries.

After the return of Major Raines I order d an inspection of all the animals, some four hundred and fifty when very few were found fit for ... Since then Major Cross, chf. qm has sent about 225 horses and mules to Vancouver. It is very desirable that all the animals, including the dragoon horses, should be well taken care of in order that they may be fit for service as soon as the troops can take the field. I have ag in ^{on} and again given instructions that subject and especially that the ~~dragoon~~ dragoon horses should hve the best of care and be put under cover. I order d I think, as early as last August, stables to be put up at the Dalles for the company of Dargoons at Vancouver. I ~~Orderd~~ understood they were nearly completed before I left the 12th January. When this comp. goes to the Dalles you will direct Major Fitzgerald to put his horses in the buildings designed as a stable for him. If the Qm occupies any part of it, the quarter master stores there will be moved out. The horses of that company must be kept in a condition for active

service by the time you will be ready to move

In conclusion I would remark that we have no authority to call for volunteers, to employ them or furnish them with supplies. Therefore the less you have to do with them, unless in extreme cases which I do not anticipate, the better it will be for the service. Many of them as well as most of the Oregonians are ~~xxxx~~ for exterminating the Indians and accordingly do not ~~..xxxxxxxfrkmdshixxxxix~~ discriminate between friends and foes. 6

The course thus far pursued by Gov. Curry and the Volunteers has only tended to increase our Indian enemies whilst it has subjected the regular service to greater inconvenience and expense. This by wasting the resources of Oregon and Washington without accomplishing the least good.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obt. servant,

John G. Wool, major general

P.S. Applications are frequently made for ~~cooks~~ ^{clerks} in the ~~command~~ commiss and QM depts. I have issued an order prohibiting any clerk being appointed in the disbursing departments except by special instructions from the War Department without my sanction and approval. If clerks are required by any disbursing officers under your command, the application should be made through you with your approval or otherwise.

By the Memoire of Capt. Gram you will perceive that obstacles on the route to the Selah fisheries and Walla Walla will require your attention. On fitting out expdt, parties shd. be organized to go in advance to remove as far as practicable all obstacles that would ~~regard~~ your progress.

John E. Wool