

Fort Vancouver, W.T.

April 27th 1856

Sir:

I have the honor to forward charges against B Major G.O. Haller 4th Infy and Capt E.O. C.Ord brd act his coadjutor, with his charges against myself and comments thereon with a request that the whole matter be investigated thoroughly.

I present them in a tangible shape for immediate investigation, undertaking the harvest part ordinarily tho' not in this case to prove a negative.

Very Respectfully

Your Most Obt Servt.

G.J. Rains

Major 4th Infantry

To 1st Lieut. R. Arnold

Aid a a.a. adt. general

U.S.A.

Present

editor of the Oregonian at Portland O. "y and that before making his official report, an account of his engagement with Indians on or about 6th of October last, thus forestalling public opinion. This at Fort Dalles, O.T. on or about the 12th October 1855

G.J. Rains

Major 4th Infy

Comdy Col. R and Puget S
District

To 1st charge and specif

1st Lieut Jno Withers, Rigt 2 4th Infy and act. adjt

1st Lieut E.H. Day 3rd Act

The order itself on record and accompanying papers

For 2nd charge and specif.

Captains H.D. Wallen and ~~Lienk~~ D A ??? 4th Infy.

1st Lieut E.H. Day, 3rd Infy.

2nd Lieut A. Gracie qr 5th Infy.

Wm Farar? U.S. Attorney Oregon and accompanying papers

History of the facts

For the first specification and first charge lies the immediate cause of the Indian war, for the military failing to go and make inquiry as ordered, into the death of persons said to have been murdered (tho' then there was but one named Mattice) requiring but a day's march out of their course; Indian agent Bolon went alone was injudicious in his threats, tho' suffered such as _____ to leave the Roman Catholic mission some 3x 4 miles ; where he was undertaken by a few Indians , some 3 or 4 miles, and still threatening to bring the military upon them, he was there killed and the Indians gathered their forces for war.

The 1st specification 2nd charge speaks for itself --

B. Maj. Haller having called for a court of inquiry and that having been ordered by the Comdg Genl of Dept. it was supposed the subject would be fairly disposed of, but that court from the major's own acts instrumentally has never convened. The charge is therefore presented in specification

For the 2nd specification, 2nd charge the officers of the expedition feeling themselves aggrieved appointed Lt. Gracie spokesman who informed the major that they had determined to publish a counter statement as to the reported author and therefore first desired to know if he wrote it he answered "he did." The manuscript was seen when in route for publication by Capt. Wallen and the Editor Dryer acknowledged to District Attorney Farrar [?] that Bvt. Major Haller wrote it.

Di4of 1853

Charges against B. Major Haller, 4th Infty.

Charges and specifications preferred against Brevet Major Granville O. Haller, captain 4th Infantry.

Charge 1st "Neglect of Duty."

Specification-In this that Brevet Major G.O. Haller Captain 4th Infantry having received a dispatch for Lieutenant E.H. Day 3rd Artillery commanding a detachment in the field and having received instructions from his commanding officer Major G.J. Rains 4th Infantry commanding the Columbia River District to send the said dispatch to the said (Lieut. Day) as soon as practicable, did fail and neglect to forward said dispatch. This at Fort Dalles O.T. on or about the 19th of September, 1855.

Charge 2nd Misbehaviour before the enemy by making and unnecessary, disorderly and shameful retreat.

Specification--In this that Brevet Major Granville O. Haller a captain of the 4th Regiment U.S. Infantry being in command of a detachment of U.S. Troops in the Yakima country about 40 miles north of the Dalles of the Columbia O.T. and in presence of hostile Indians did without necessity shamefully abandon his position and retreat in disorder from the presence of the enemy did throw away and abandon his artillery, to wit, one mountain howitzer and when re enforced by a detachment of 40 men and a howitzer and no longer pursued by the enemy did continue to retreat in disorder, till he had crossed the Columbia River and reached Fort Dalles.

This on or about the 7th day of Oct. 1855/

Charge 3rd "Violation of the 292th paragraph of the General Regulations of 1847 for the Army--

Specification--In this that Brevet Major G. O. Haller, Captain 4th Infantry did make a report relative to the march and operations of his command for publication in the Oregonian a newspaper published in Portland, O.T.

This at Fort Dalles O.T. on or about the 6th of October 1855 and within one month after the termination of the campaign to which it relates to wit, the campaign against the Yakima Indians.

Charge and specifications against
Edward O.C. Ord, 3rd artillery

Charge 1st conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman

Specification 1st In this that Capt. Edwd O.C. Ord of the 3rd Regt of Artillery U.S.A. did enter the mission house of the Catholic Mission in the Ahtanum Valley Washington Territory on or about 11th of November 1855 and unlawfully before soldiers did possess himself of a pair of boots and other property belonging to the priest; that as an officer setting example to sacking the priest's quarters and that of the church by the soldiery which followed accordingly.

Specification 2nd In this that Capt. Edwrd. O.C. Ord of the 3rd Regt of Artillery at the Roman Catholic mission house specified on or about the 11th of November 1855 when his commanding officer Major G.J. Rains 4th Regiment of Intantry and giving orders not to molest any property belonging to the priest or church except eatables did in contempt therefore continue to put on a pair of boots not his own but the priest's and had some skins folded up not his own property and all were carried away by him

Specification 3rd In this that Capt. Ed. O.C. Ord of 3rd Regt. of Artillery in a newspaper production dated Vancouver W.T. Janu'y 11 1856 published in the New York Herald of 17th of February 1856 does assail ? his late commanding officer in violation of Par. 292 Gen'l Regulations of the army in words following to wit: "Our expedition went into the Yakima country some 800 strong about 500 volunteers and 300 regulars A big fight was expected but the commanding officer of the regulars was by nature adapted for any thing but a partisan chief. He marched about over plains and mountains, got into rivers, drowned some men lost alot of horses and mules , got into snows, marshes and every type of scrape except a battle (the' there was some chance of it) lost some of his party, burned a Catholic mission and then came in with about the most disgusted set of young army officers and volunteers that we have seen lately. No doubt the chief's report to Washington state that the expedition had produced great moral effect. No young officer is asked for a true report and so that the truth is not told, it is considered unmilitary to write to the papers to tell the truth 'out of school.' So much for foggy ?? field officers and dear people, you have got hardly any others. The field officers of all the regiments except perhaps tthe recently created ^{where} ~~now~~ young men are put in are all old fogies; they are

to run Indians or ponies as to run down mountains as General Scott is to run into an enemy's govt through a loop hole with due respect to the general

Signed E. O.C.O.

The said Capt. E.D.C. Ord thus misleading the public and covetly endeavoring to cast public ~~mix~~ odium upon his commanding officers for letting some of his party burn the Catholic mission which he knew to be false.

Charge 2nd Neglect of duty

Specification In this that Capt. E.O.C. Ord of 3rd Regt. of Arty when ordered by ~~him~~ the commanding gen of Department of the Pacific to report to Major Rains to take the field for active service against the Yakima Indians in an order dated Head 2nd Dept of the Pacific Menecia Oct. 27th 1855 did join at camp opposite Fort Dalles on or about 30th Oct 1855 and did take the field with his company not in proper condition for the campaign for the clothing for himself and company

C. J. Rains

Maj. 4th Infy. late comd. of the Yakima Expedition

1st 2nd spec 1st charge

Lieut Geo P. Ghrie 3rd Arty.

Mr. Hugh A. Goldsborough of Olympia W.T.

Sergt Maj. Galbraith 4th Infy.

Sgt Mathew Kelly of H Co 4th Infy.

Pr Michael Brooky H " "

Pr Jno Bowers

Pr Michael Howlahan of K M M This man is said to have rolled up the skins for the capt.

To 3rd Spec. The newspaper New York Herald of 17th Feby 1856

To 2nd charge and specif.

Charges and specifications preferred against Brevet
Maj. G.O. Haller, 4th Infy.

Charge.. Neglect of duty

Specification: In this that Brevt. Maj. G.O. Haller 4th Infantry
at Fort Dalles O.T. on or about the 19th of September, 1855,
did fail to forward to Lieut Day of 3rd Regt. of Artillery commanding
44 men and one mountain howitzer in the field on the immigrant trail
in route to the Dalles O.T., a letter forwarded for that purpose with
instructions to be sent on as soon as practicable; altho' he Bvt. Maj.
G.O. Haller 4th Infy had reason to believe it was an important order
from Major Rains commanding officer of the district calculated to
check hostilities and preserve the peace of the country thus
evincing an indifference hereto.

Charge--end--Conduct unbecoming an officer

Specifications 1st In this that Brevt. Major G.O. Haller 4th
Regt Infantry on or about the 7th of October 1855 about 40 miles
north from Fort Dalles Yakima country however deserving of credit
otherwise, did improperly dispose of a mountain howitzer, the property
of the United States and with his forces did shamefully abandon in
precipitate retreat the whole country north of Fort Dalles to the
hostile Indians putting the Columbia River between himself and the
enemy, tho' having received a re-inforcement under Lieut Day of
some 40 men of artillery and another mountain howitzer, and tho' not
pursued by any of the enemy within 25 miles or more from that fort ~~branch~~
sought as his place of safety, which proceeding around the whole
Indian country for war with the United States.

Specification 2nd In this that Brevt Maj. G.O. Haller 4th
Regt of Infantry in violation of paragraph 292 general regulations
of 1847 for the army, did and for publication in a newspaper, to the

Additional

Charges and specifications proposed against Capt. E.O.C. Ord 3rd Arty.

Charge Contempt and disrespect towards his commanding officers.

Specifications- In this that Capt. E.O.C. Ord of 3rd Regt of Artillery at Fort Dalles, O.T. on or about 9th December 1855 did forward covertly the following accusations set forth in charges and specifications against his commanding officer Major G.J. Rains, 4th Infy late commanding the Yakima Expedition thus allowing him no chance to say anything in his defence, the same being untrue, derogatory and malicious.