

Copy

Deputy Quarts. As. Genls Office,
Department of the Pacific
San Francisco, Cal. July 10-57

Sir:

Your requisition for lime and other materials has been referred by Capt. Jordon to me and I would remarks that the quantity (120 bls) of lime called for apper ing to be a great deal more than should be required for the quarters at your place. Where a material cheap at its place of manufacturoyy but exceedingly expensive when it has to be transported so great a distance, should be used in the most sparing manner.

turning lath is not at all necessary for comfortable or even neat appearance of the legs of bunks for which it is requeste d and cannot be sent.

The master wheel for your saw mill I understand you are yourself to procure at Portland.

Fire brick is entirely to heavy an article to justify its transportation if no substitute can be found near the post good fire stone, easily cut, can be had as I was informed at the Dalles.

Capt. Ingalls will be directed to send you 20 bbls of lime and 2 sheets of sheet iron of the kind you require, being one for each company kitchen.

Very respectfully, your obt. servt.

Thos Swords,

Dep. Q.M Genl

Lt. J.K. Allen, s a q master
Fort Simcoe.

Fort Simcoe, W.T.

July 28, 1857

Major:

I deem it proper again to urge upon General Clarke the necessity of ordering ~~anxiously~~ general court martial at this post. The number of prisoners now under charge of the guard exceed that of the guard itself and though as many of them as I could obtain irons for are heavily ironed they have within a month made three bold and well executed attempts at escape each of which was near proving successful. They ... the full penalty of the law and that too, speedily. If these men escape punishment the discipline of the post in my opinion will ~~be ruined~~ injured

I am sir, very respectfully, your obt servant

R.S. Garnett

maj. 9th infantry, comd post.

Major W.W. Mackall,

Asst U.S.A.

Fort Simcoe, W.T.

May 28, 57

Major:

I present herewith charges against several men of my command for desertion and by that a general court martial for their trial may be ordered to meet here at the earliest practicable moment. The impunity with which this crime has been committed by the men of this regiment during its service in the territory or rather the difficulty hitherto encountered in getting together courts empowered to inflict an adequate punishment has seriously impaired in my judgment its discipline.

It cannot be expected that discipline ~~xxxx~~ can be maintained among troops when this legal means of punishing crimes are withheld.

The following are the officers at his post.. for this service: viz

Maj R.S. Garnett, 9th infy. comd of officers

Capt J.J. Archer 9th infy

Capt H.M. Black 9th infy.

1st Lieut IW or J.W. Frazer, 9th infantry

1st lt. G.W. Carr, 9th infy

1st lieut J.C. Howard, 9th infry .

2d Lieut W. Myers 9th infry.

2nd Lieut J.K. Allen 9th infry A.C.S. and A qm

2 lieut . B.S. Alexander 9th infry post adj.

Asst. surgeon A. Hegar, med dept.

The officers of Capt. Woodruff's company are in daily expectations of going on service with the Northwestern Boundary commission.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obt servt. R.S. Garnett, maj 9th infy
comd. post. to ~~00~~ W.W. Mackall, asst. adj. genl U.S. Army, Benecia, Cal.

War Dept. Letters Rec'd. 54-58

236W 1857 Fort Dalles, O.T. May 3, 1857 G. Wright, Colonel 9 Infantry
In reference to the new army regulations not recognizing a regimental fund.

Head Quarters 9th Infantry

Fort Dalles O.T. May 3d 1857

Colonel:

As the new regulations do not recognize a Regimental Fund I forward the amount of it for the last four months direct to you.

The regulations allow a certain number of men for a regimental Band but deprives us of all means of furnishing instruments, music etc. As colonel of a regiment I much regret the change in the disposition of the Regimental and Post funds--The old system worked admirably--The company fund arising from the savings from the ration was ample to meet all their necessary wants. The regiment and post funds, judiciously expended, proved beneficial to the Regiment--much more so it is believed than the new system will--the more the fund is divided and subdivided, the less real benefit will be derived from it.

For the support of a band and other Regimental expenses, voluntary contributions from the officers cannot be relied upon; when a majority of them are serving at posts distant from Head Quarters and with only a remote prospect of joining.

Most of the regiments have ~~been~~ band instructor, to whom extra pay is guaranteed, and in every my regiment, in order to purchase instruments, music etc. we had to anticipate the usual benefit of awhich was supposed to be permanent, we are now left without the means of liquidation.

A good band is an ornament to a Regiment; the dull routine of a soldier's life is made cheerful by it, and I beg most earnestly that the subject may be considered by the proper authorities.

Very Respectfully

Your Most Obt. servt.

Col. S. Cooper, Adjt Gen. U.S.A. Washington City G. Wright, Col 9 Infy.
D.C.

4-G, Washington City, D.C. January 8, 185~~6~~⁷ [6 Xed out and 7 written above]

R.S. Garnett, major 9th infy.

Requests the post of Fort Simcoe, W.T. to be organized in orders
... in G.O.W.D. May 29, 57. Respectfully recommended; Fort Simcoe being
a large and important post in the very heart of the Yakama country, W.T.
S. Cooper, adjutant general. A.G.O. May 30 57; received Jan'y 8.57.

1313 283 Approved. J.B. Floyd, War Dept. Sec. War, May 30, 57.

Washington City D, C.

January 8, 185~~6~~⁷ [xed out again]

Colonel:

I have the honor respectfully to request that the post of Fort
Simcoe in Washington Territory may be officially organized as one of
the important posts of that region of our Indian country and that it may
be placed upon the list of double ration posts.

Fort Simcoe was established on the 8 of August 56 in compliance
with order No. 10 from the head quarters of the Northern District
of the Department of the Pacific, Col. George Wright 9th Infy.
commanding. These orders were issued in compliance with instructions
from Major General Wool commanding that department. The post is about
sixty five or seventy miles north of the Dalles ~~on the Columbia~~ in
the Yakama country. It is situated in the valley formed by the two
streams, the Tapanish and Simcoe, is three miles ~~distance~~ distant
from this point on the former stream up which Major Waller 4th Infy.
fought an action in the fall of 55 with the Yakamas under their
chiefs Kamiakin and Owhi. This valley has been hitherto the habitual
winter ~~home~~ residence of Kamiakin. All the late hostilities in that
region of country had their origin in the machinations of that turbulent(?)
chief and his warlike tribe. He still seems perpetual hostile to the
whites and tries incessantly among the 1,200 friendly Indians who are

wintering in the neighborhood of my post, has spies and emissaries. It is my judgment that a military force never less than my present four companies will always ~~be~~ be necessary in this part of Washington Territory, and especially so during the lifetime of Chief Kamiakin. I believe him to be the of the white man.

There are at present four companies of my regiment at Fort Simcoe.

Before my departure I had erected five temporary buildings (log) for their winter accommodations I can ^{easily} ~~truly~~ say I shall take occasion to submit in compliance with the regulations a plan of the post and buildings ^{I consider to be wanted there} which ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~. It is proper to add that building material is abundant and convenient and that I have caused a wagon road to be opened between it and the Dalles.

I trust I may be excused for adding that the post at ~~Muckleshute~~ Muckleshute (sic) Prairie in the Puget Sound District and the post at Walla Walla are important points in my judgment, in that regard, and that a military force kept at each of those points will exert a very beneficial influence on our relations with the Indians. The former post is within two days travel of the Nah-chess pass upon which commitments (?) through the Cascades range of mountains with the Yakama country and which was much used by the Indians during the late troubles.

I am sir, very respectfully

your obd't servant

R.S. Garnett, major 9 Infy.

Colonel S. Cooper

Adj't. Genl. of the Army.

Ft. Simcoe, W.T.

Feb. 1st, 1857

Colonel:

Since the last communication I had the honor to address you, nothing has occurred to disturb the peaceful relations existing between us and the neighboring Indians. The treaty of peace has proved of so productive of benefit to them and is so well based on their personal interest, that it is but reasonable to conclude that every day continuance of it will confirm and render it more stable.

The bands from the Selah, Na-chess and To-panish, 615 in all, received yesterday 6780 lbs of flour. The Indians on the To-panish applied for permission to move to the post, fearing as they said an attack from Skloom. Believing I could better give them protection here I brought them to the post the middle of January..

Our interpreter Brown, does not give ~~xxx~~ satisfaction, being very deficient in knowledge of English and I think it desirable that a man competent should take his place. There is no one at the post qualified for that duty. Brown could answer well enough for an express rider and might be so employed with more advantage than as interpreter.

Since the 9th Jan'y the saw mill has been out of repair. The master wheel having again broken beyond the possibility of putting it in working condition. We have therefore been forced to rely for boards entirely on the manual labor which cannot supply enough to keep the citizen mechanics employed. The quartermaster has in consequence discharged three of them

I have the honor to enclose letters from White, tho' of different dates they were received by me the same day (24th Jan'y) from the lands of the Indians. It is to be observed that Skloom gives the names of the murderers of Mr. Bollon. Should any of them come to the post it is expedient that I make them prisoners. The Indian, whom white calls

Mitchele is I presume ~~Michellie~~ Michelle who twice visited this post last autumn. (very difficult to transcribe)

About sunset of 30th ulto, ~~Krwalcheuthe~~ Krwalcheuthe, son of Owrai came to the post accompanied with one of his wives and announced that his father and a son of Tiaies would arrive the succeeding day. I held conversation ~~shadadocomadococce~~ with him ~~the following~~ that morning his language was not pious and his manner did not provide an easy approach? At first I determined to send him from the post the next morning but subsequently determined to let him ~~stay~~ await his father's arrival who ... here in the afternoon of yesterday. This day I held council ~~xxxxxxxx~~ with them in presence of the officers. Owai's vouched a and said he was so authorized to speak for Tiaies. desire for peace and said in general terms that he is friendly and would invite his people in that sentiment.. His son followed in the same strain but less strongly. I replied that you had offered them peace or war and that he has not seen fit to accept the former and that all I could do was to send you his speech and await your reply and that in the meantime I would not molest them. He then in rather equivocal language desired that All Indians might be included in the amnesty to which I replied that none but himself and his son and Tiaies who was represented by his son should Rem and enjoined him to keep away from hostile Indians. ~~was~~ With the disadvantage of a bad interpreter it is difficult to secure ~~an~~ a correct impression but I am not convinced of the sincerity of their declarations.

Since the hostile demonstrations...by Skloom I have been desirous of sending out an expedition against him and my determination to do so was confirmed by the opinion of the ~~xxx~~ ranking officers whom I assembled in council. I have been endeavoring to surmount the difficulties in the way and have had a boat constructed capable of passing over the Yakama 12 or 15 men at a time. In hope of ~~xxxx~~ being able to complete the necessary arrangements it is my purpose to start

the expedition on the 4th inst. Capt. Archer having volunteered
will have the command composed of 60 or 70 men. The success of the
expedition depends in a great degree on the secrecy and celerity of
of its movements yet offers if successful results quite commensurate
with our efforts to make it.

Very respectfully, your obt. servt.

D. Woodruff , Capt. 9th Infy.

Col. George Wright, U.S.

Comd. Col. River District, Fort. Dalles, O.T.

Fort Simcoe W.T.

August 14, 1857

Colonel:

The acting asst. q. m of the post placed in my hands on the 26th ulto a communication of July 10 addressed to him by you giving him the result of a requisition made by him under my instructions and approved for materials with which to carry on the building at this post.

The communication does not state whether the requisition was submitted to Genl. Clarke or not. I judge from his endorsement on a communication from one of June 3 that such is his wish in relation to my requisitions and estimates.

The reason given by you in your letter of the 10th ulto for not granting the supplies called for by the requisition are so inconsistent in my judgment with the best economy and the interest of the service that I deem it my duty to call your attention again to the subject not however with the expectations of changing any actions in the case but for the purpose of protecting myself against the supposition that by silence I have admitted their force or soundness.

In regards to the 120 barrels of lime called for by one as necessary for completion of the post . You decide that 20 are sufficient. 20 barrels of lime to build a four company post in latitude 46 30 N. mechanics who know how to perform this feat ought to have been sent along with the lime. None such are here. Your reasons are that 120 bbls of lime appear to be a great deal more than should be required for the quarters at your own post where a material ~~shap~~ cheap at its ~~source~~ place of transportation but exceedingly expensive when it has to be transported so great a distance should be sent in the most sparing manner. Are you prepared to say that lime has been used here in any other manner or that that requisition was made

with the intention of using it in any other manner than one demanded by the most rigid economy.

The lime hitherto used here has only been used in these parts? of ~~exposed~~ exposed to the action of fire (fireplaces) and those exposed to the weather and in pointing log grs. (or qrs ?) all other work ... the greater part .. common ... only was used nor was the lime used even in the cases mentioned in the to make ordinary good mortar. And such was the manner in which it was intended to use the 120 barrels called for with the addition only of underpriming ..., white washing, plastering a small portion of the frame qrs (comdy offers and caps.)

The short sighted economy of ~~using~~ using mortar so much in line has already manifested itself here and during the coming winter will do so to much greater extent. One of the chimnies put up here last fall, the very last one, is now in such condition that it will have to be pulled down and another put up before the winter. The labor thus thrown away could have brought lime in the first place for three chimnies to say nothing of my time thus taken up. To be sure the brick was bad and the weather ~~was~~ very cold, but still had the mortar been capable of hardening properly the chimney would not have been so very unfit for use. When I first came here my instructions with regard to plastering without having examined the matter closely. Were that ... finishing for the interior of qrs would be cheaper than plastering as being more readily obtained. But the climate is dry that this is not the case. Boards warp, shrink and cracks to such an extent that you cannot make a permanently tight wall with it. All the flooring and all the board lining and ceiling which I put in the qrs here last fall will have to be taken down this fall, as soon as I can get other buildings up for the accommodation of the command and ~~replanned~~ replanned and put up tight again. How long to remain so I can't tell. And this process will have to be gone through with next fall with these

when you were here, nor can be make one. As to the stones at the Dalles got Capt. Jordan to send me up some during the time my requisition was awaiting action. But the mechanics who quarried them is now here putting them up. He is a very skillful man and tells me it took him three days faithful work to quarry and .. enough to (soft as it is) to make one fire place. He is employed at \$5 per day. Each fire place thus costs \$15 at the Dalles. He tells me it requires 128 fire bricks for one fire place and that ~~fire~~ fire brick cost 2 1/2 cents in San Francisco making \$3.20 the cost of a fire place in S.F. I cannot be made to believe that it would cost \$11.80 to send 128 brick to the Dalles nor even half of it. It would be near \$90 per M for transportation. I should like to contract with government for half that sum. Moreover the stone would have to be quarried and dressed and this takes time. Your ~~views~~ ^{views} of economy on this item are not less doubtful to my mind than in the previous one. It is a fatal mistake to imagine that the great cost of building in this country is due to the cost of materials. It is not so. ~~The~~ The enormous wages which labor brings is the true cause of it. Material or rather lumber is rather cheap in this country than otherwise and so would be the stone if it did not cost so much to prepare it for use.

The six sheets of iron (the next item mentioned in your letter) were asked for to build cooking furnaces in the kitchens of the ~~five~~ four companies belonging to this post. Three are now here and more here when you were. One is temporarily absent about on the Boundary survey. You direct Capt. Ingalls to send "2 sheets of iron of the kind required being one for each company kitchen. You seem to think that there are only two companies or company kitchens here. There are four, one for each company. Six sheets were asked for; four to form the entire surface of the furnaces (one for each furnace) and two to be cut up to make doors

These other two ranges. I shall have to build of indifferent brick and worse mortar to tumble or by next summer and then to be rebuilt. All this may be economical but I fear it will not pass muster under that name here, particularly next summer. It is too late in the summer now to get out stone from the Dalles on any think like sufficient quantity. It will be as much as the train can do (and I fear greatly more) to haul our subsistence and clothing for the winter. Much valuable time has been lost by the slow movement of the train induced by the necessity of stopping at the Dalles to forge shoes.

Those 20 barrels of lime, or rather 19 of them have arrived. As also four small sheets of iron which by riveting can be made into two of the size wanted but it is proper to state that previous to the arrival of the lime I had succeeded in begging some 16 or 17 barrels from Dept Jordan. These with the 19 and what Captains Jordan may have left from his own use may keep the masons at work until it gets too cold to work in mortar but upon the buildings which will be nearly ready by next spring before wagons can reach us. I shall have to stop work for want of mortar to put up the chimnies.

There were two items in my requisition of which you made no mention at all viz, white lead and funds.

The white lead was wanted chiefly to prime and paint the board work in the hope that it would prevent the shrinking and cracking to a sufficient degree to render it unnecessary next year to take them down and refit them. If my hopes were realized a great expense would have been saved the govt. It was at least worth the trouble.

I stated on my monthly post returns of ..(I think that one of the causes of the large number of sick in my command was that men were shirking extra duty labor from the belief that they would never be paid. I was anxious to disabuse them of this belief by paying them up to within one quarter of date. By the same mail that brought your letter I was informed by Capt. Ingalls that

you had caused \$5,000 to be shipped to Fort Walla Walla. In not supplying this post with at least an equal sum you have deprived me of the most efficient means I could have had of ... the work before me.

The requisitions forwarded from this post by me have been and will be made out with a view to all the economy which it can be supposed that the government desires. No expenditures have been made on any other principle and so far as the result is visible here I feel safe in challenging ~~any~~ any officer in the quartermaster dept. if it were possible to get one to work out here to do more at a less cost in the same time and under the same circumstances.

But to all these delays and difficulties thus far enumerated I should have no sort of objections if they did not involve the time of my command or of the building of this post ~~where~~ was under the charge of an officer of the quartermasters department and carried on by his civil employes as ought to be the case. I do not consider the building of post by troops to be a proper or legitimate ~~only~~ occupation for them unless under circumstances which could not be avoided by a ... of foresight. Such is not the case here and I find no ... here to the ... of their discipline and instruction diverted from their more professional occupation to perform the duties which properly belong to another department of the army. But even with this state of things I could be satisfied I could discover in the action upon my requisitions any disposition to assist me in finishing promptly and once for all the work to be done here. Had my requisitions been promptly and fully answered and a supply of mechanics furnished me I am confident in the belief that by early spring (if not this winter* when the season arrived for the proper instruction of my command I should have been able and the more prepared to give their undivided attention to it. But as it is the best part of another season will have to be occupied in labor and the command, half soldiers and half mechanics, thus continued in a condition little better than that of a well organized

in labor and the command, half soldiers and half mechanics thus continued in a condition little better than that of a well organized horde of laborers. This result is justly to be laid at the door of the quartermaster department.

No military man will contend that troops can be properly disciplined and instructed when they are compelled to handle axes more than their arms.

The instinct of man to shelter himself from the elements of heaven is fully as powerful as any obligation of discipline which can be imposed on him.

Your letter of the 14th ult. communicating to me Genl Clarke's wishes in relation to the completion of the commanding officers qrs here and the erection of the additional buildings was received on the same day. I regret that the general was unable to make a personal inspection of the post himself. It must necessarily have been more perfect and satisfactory to him than any report which staff officers or myself could make to him.

I presume the plan of the commanding officers qrs. originally proposed was the one submitted to the General and hence the misapprehension under which he seems to labor in relation to the principal floor. The plan was somewhat changed by me after my arrival here in the spring in order to cut off or ~~isolate~~ isolate two attic rooms for comdy. officers and adjt. officers. As I thought I explained to you when you were here and there are only four apartments on the principal floor which could be deemed assignable for an officer's habitation. As I thought I then told you the four ~~rooms~~ rooms my authorized allowance, more abundant for my new individual ~~additions~~ wants, The two remaining attic rooms could only have been subscribed to me as providing for the comfort of the occasional military visitors of the post whose duties unhappily bring them to this distant byin (sic ???)

As I am expected to do by the laws of the country prescribing my p.... and I desire to do. But these unhappy individuals can feel as you and Major Mackall did when here in tests ??? They must charge the responsibility of the comdy offer to the illitral spirit of quartermaster regulations . I have been told that a different course was pursued in regard to the comdy offer's quarters at Fort Cascades which were somewhat more ~~ample~~ ample than the words of the regulations would perhaps permit. But I presume thae Gen'l expects that post himself and saw the manifest propriety of it. If I have been ~~pro~~ reliably informed I have simply to expect that the plans and reports submitted to him in relation to this post ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ were such as not to permit him to extend the same policies to it.

The two upper rooms of the Comdy officers Qrs. cut off as offices I propose to finish plastering for these purposes unless the Gen. desires otherwise. The remaining two attic rooms will remain unfinished as he directs.

The other buildings will be put up according to my original plans or according to plans still more economical if it be satisfactory to the genl. for I have such which I would ... for.

I am Col. Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

R.S. Garnett, major 8th infy.

Commdy. post

Lt. Col. Thos. Swords,
Deputy qrmstr gal c u.S.A. San Francisco, Cal.