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BY AUTHORITY.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, Dec. 12, 1847. GENERAL ORDERS—No. 370.

Before a Military Commission, convened by General Orders No. 336, of which Col. Geary, Pennsylvania Volunteers, is President, were Private A. Stewart, of Co. F, 8th Infantry.

CHARGE—Robbery. PLEA—Not Guilty.

SENTENCE:

The Commission found the prisoner Guilty of the charge against him, and sentenced him to refund ten dollars to the owner of rings (José Garcia), and to receive thirty-nine lashes on his bare back, well laid on.

Private Matthew Malone, of Light Co. A, 2d Infantry.

CHARGE—Robbery. PLEA—Not Guilty.

SENTENCE:

The Commission found the prisoner Not Guilty, and does, therefore, acquit him.

Private Wm. Annan, of Co. A, 2d Artillery.

CHARGE—Robbery. PLEA—Not Guilty.

SENTENCE:

The Commission found the prisoner Guilty, and sentenced him to have his pay stopped for three months, thirteen dollars of which to be refunded to the Mexican, (Cabeara), and to receive thirty-nine lashes on his bare back, well laid on.

The General-in-chief approves the proceedings of the Commission in the foregoing cases, and orders the sentences to be executed under the direction of the several regimental commanders.

By command of Major-General Scott: H. L. SCOTT, A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, December 13, 1847. GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 371.

Before a Military Commission convened in the city, by General Orders No. 334, and of which Major Bainbridge, 7th Infantry, is President, were tried:

Ignacio Obis Garcia, a Mexican. CHARGE—Riotous conduct.

Specification—In this, that the said Ignacio Garcia, did throw a stone or stones at the Mexican guard stationed in the main Plaza in the city of Mexico, on or about the 8th November, 1847, whilst said guard was stationed there to maintain order, during the infliction of punishment upon a Mexican, by order of the proper authorities.

CHARGE—Not Guilty.

SENTENCE:

The Commission found the prisoner guilty, as charged, and sentenced him to receive forty lashes, save one, on his bare back, well laid on, with a raw hide.

José Maria Hernandez. CHARGE and Specification as in the foregoing.

CHARGE—Not Guilty.

SENTENCE:

The Commission found the prisoner Guilty, as charged, and sentenced him to receive forty lashes, save one, on his bare back, well laid on, with a raw hide.

Patrick McGloem, a Teamster. CHARGE 1st—Assault with deadly weapons.

Specification—In this, that the said Patrick McGloem, a teamster in the service of the United States, did, on or about the 21st of September, 1847, at or near the wagon yard of the Depot Quartermaster in the city of Mexico, threaten to shoot with a pistol, Wagonmaster Cockery, and exhibit a pistol and make signs of an intention to carry said threat into execution, the said Wagonmaster, Patrick McGloem being, by orders of Capt. Allen, A. Q. M., under the immediate command of Wagonmaster Cockery and subject to his orders.

CHARGE 2d—Assault with deadly weapons with attempt to kill.

Specification—In this, that the said Patrick McGloem, a teamster in the service of the Quartermaster's Department, U. S. Army, did, on or about the 23d September, 1847, in the Wagon yard of the Depot Quartermaster, in the city of Mexico, attempt to kill principal Wagonmaster, A. J. Lee, inflicting a severe wound and endangering his life.

CHARGE—Not Guilty.

SENTENCE:

The Commission found the prisoner "Not Guilty" of the 1st charge and specification. Of specification to charge 2d—"Guilty," extending the words "inflicting a severe wound, and endangering his life."

CHARGE 2d—Guilty.

And does therefore sentence him "to be confined at hard labor, for six months at the Castle of San Juan de Ulloa, or such other place as the reviewing officer may elect, to forfeit all pay that is now, or may become due, and at the expiration of that time, to be discharged the service."

4th. William Deal, Nathaniel J. Campbell, and Michael Flarady, 1st Artillery.

CHARGE—Assault with attempt to kill.

Specification—In this, that the said private Wm. Deal, of the 1st Artillery, as principal, aided and abetted by Nathaniel J. Campbell, private 1st Artillery, and Michael Flarady, private 1st Artillery, did assault with bayonets or other deadly weapons, a Mexican watchman, named Seideo Vasques, and did stab and otherwise maltreat said watchman. All this in a street in the city of Mexico, on or about 8 o'clock, in the evening of the 23d November, 1847.

PLEA—Not Guilty.

SENTENCE:

The Commission found the prisoner, Wm. Deal Guilty of the specification, prisoner Nathaniel J. Campbell Guilty of the specification, and prisoner Michael Flarady, Guilty of the specification, and find them Not Guilty of the charge; but find them, Wm. Deal, N. J. Campbell and Michael Flarady, Guilty of assault with deadly weapons, and does sentence them to be confined at hard labor under charge of the guard at the castle of Chapultepec or such other place as the approving officer may appoint, for three months, and to forfeit four dollars of their monthly pay for the same period. The Court are thus lenient in consideration of the fact as testified to, that the watchman, Vasques, appeared to have been intoxicated, and to have left his post when the affray commenced.

The General-in-chief approves the proceedings of the Commission in the foregoing cases, and directs that the sentences be executed under the direction of the Military and Civil Governor.

Chapultepec is designated as the place of confinement of Patrick Gloen, Privates Wm. Deal, 1st Artillery, N. J. Campbell, 1st Artillery, and Michael Flarady.

By command of Major-General Scott: H. L. SCOTT, A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, December 13, 1847. GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 372.

1. The highways of Mexico, used, or about to be used, by the American troops, being still infested in many parts, by those atrocious bands called guerrilleros and rancheros, who, under instructions from the late Mexican authorities, continue to violate every rule of warfare observed by civilized nations, it has become necessary—in order to insure vigor and uniformity in the pursuit of the evil—to announce, to all, the views and instructions of general headquarters on the subject.

2. Every American post, established in Mexico, will daily push detachments, or patrols as far as practicable, to disinfest the neighborhood—its roads and places of concealment.

3. No quarters will be given to known murderers or robbers, whether called guerrilleros or rancheros, and whether serving under Mexican commissions or not. They are equally pests to unguarded Mexicans, foreigners and small parties of Americans, and ought to be exterminated.

4. Offenders, of the above character, accidentally falling into the hands of American troops, will be momentarily held as prisoners—that is, not put to death without due solemnity. Accordingly, they will be promptly reported to commanding officers, who will, without delay, order a Council of War for the summary trial of the offenders under the known laws of war applicable to such cases.

5. A council of war may consist of any number of officers no less than three, nor more than thirteen, and may, for any flagrant violation of the laws of war, condemn to death, or to lashes—not exceeding fifty—on satisfactory proof that such prisoner, at the time of capture, actually belonged to any party or gang of known robbers or murderers, or had actually committed murder or robbery upon any American officer or soldier or follower of the American army.

6. Punishments awarded by councils of war will be reviewed, approved or disapproved by the commanders who, respectively, order the councils, and in cases of approval, be immediately put into execution by their orders; but councils of war, except in extreme cases, will be ordered only by commanders of detached divisions or brigades, or by commanders of military departments.

7. All punishments, under this order, will be duly reported to general headquarters.

8. The new post, Rio Eric, will be considered under the direct command of the general-in-chief and in correspondence with him, until further orders.

By command of Major-General Scott: H. L. SCOTT, A. A. A. G.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, Dec. 13, 1847. GENERAL ORDERS—NO. 373.

I. With a view to detachments by brigade, the regular infantry of this army, old and new regiments, will be temporarily organized into brigades, under the three senior officers of the regular army, for duty, as follows:

1. BREVET BRIGADIER GEN'L SMITH'S BRIGADE:

Bvt. Capt. Page, Assistant Adjutant General. Regiment of Mounted Riflemen, temporarily dismounted; 3d regiment of Artillery, third, seventh, twelfth, and fourteenth regiments of Infantry and Marine corps.

2. BRIGADIER GEN'L CADWALADER'S BRIGADE:

Bvt. Capt. George Deas, Assistant Adjutant General. The fourth regiment of Artillery, 1st, sixth, eighth, ninth and eleventh regiments of Infantry.

3. BREVET COL. RILEY'S BRIGADE:

Bvt. Captain Conby, Assis and Adjutant General. The second regiment of Artillery; second, fourth and fifth regiments of Infantry, and Voltigeurs.

II. The field batteries, under the command of Captain F. Taylor, 1st Artillery, Lieut. W. El. French, 1st Artillery, Lieut. H. J. Hunt, 2d Artillery, will report to and serve with Bvt. Brig. Gen. Smith, Brigadier-General Cadwalader, and Bvt. Col. Riley, respectively.

The field batteries, under the command of Captain Steptoe, 3d Artillery, and Lieut. Lovell, 4th Artillery, are assigned to the Division of Volunteers commanded by Major-General Patterson.

III. Bvt. Captains Mackall and Hooker, Assistant Adjutant-General, will report, respectively, to Major-General Patterson and Brigadier-General Cushing.

By command of Major-General Scott: H. L. SCOTT, A. A. A. G.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, Mexico, December 14, 1847. GENERAL ORDERS—No. 374.

Division, brigade and regimental Quartermasters will immediately report to Captain Irwin, Chief Quartermaster, the quarters, occupied by officers, or corps of their respective regiments, brigades or divisions; specifying the name of the street and the number of the house.

By command of Major-General Scott: H. L. SCOTT, A. A. A. G.

Official Dispatches.

BATTLES OF CONTRERAS and CHURUBUSCO.

Report of Major-General Scott. No. 31.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY, San Augustin, Acapulco Road, 9 miles from Mexico, Aug. 19, 1847. (CONCLUDED.)

It has been stated that, some two hours and a half before, Pierce's, followed closely by the volunteer brigade—both under the command of Brig. Gen. Shields—had been detached to our left to turn the enemy's works—to prevent the escape of the garrisons, and to oppose the extension of the enemy's numerous corps, from the rear, upon and around our left.

Considering the inferior numbers of the two brigades, the objects of the movement were difficult to accomplish. Hence the reinforcement (the Rifles, &c.) sent forward a little later.

In a winding march of a mile around to the right, this temporary division found itself on the edge of an open wet meadow, near the road from San Augustin to the capital, and in the presence of some 4000 of the enemy's infantry, a little in rear of Churubusco, on that road. Establishing the right at a strong building, Shields extended his left, parallel to the road, to outflank the enemy towards the capital. But the enemy extending his right, supported by 3000 cavalry, more rapidly, (being favored by better ground) in the same direction, Shields concentrated the division about a hamlet, and determined to attack in front. The battle was long, hot and varied; but, ultimately, success crowned the zeal and gallantry of our troops, ably directed by their distinguished commander, Brig. Gen. Shields. The 9th, 12th and 15th regiments, under Col. Ransom, Capt. Wood and Col. Morgan, respectively, of Pierce's brigade, (Pillow's division); and the New York and South Carolina volunteers, under Col. Burnett and Butler, respectively, of Shields' own brigade, (Quitman's division), together with the mountain howitzer battery, now under Lieut. Reno, of the ordnance corps, all shared in the glory of this action—our 5th victory in the same day.

Brig. Gen. Pierce, from the hurt of the evening before—under pain and exhaustion—fainted in the action. Several other changes in command occurred on this field: Thus Col. Morgan being severely wounded, the command of the 15th Infantry devolved on Lieut. Col. Howard; Col. Burnett receiving a like wound, the command of the New York volunteers fell to Lieut. Col. Baxter; and on the fall of the lamented P. M. Butler, earlier badly wounded, but continuing to lead nobly in the hottest part of the battle—the command of the South Carolina volunteers devolved—first, on Lieut. Col. Dickinson, who being severely wounded, (as before in the siege of Vera Cruz,) the regiment ultimately fell under the orders of Maj. Gladden.

Lieuts. David Adams and W. R. Williams, of the same corps; Capt. Augustus Quarles and Lieut. J. B. Goodman, of the 15th, and Lieut. E. Chandler, New York volunteers—all gallant officers, fell in the same action.

Shields took 380 prisoners, including officers; and it cannot be doubted that the rage of the

conflict between him and the enemy, just in the rear of the *tete de pont* and the convent, had some influence on the surrender of those formidable defences.

As soon as the *tete de pont* was carried, the greater part of Worth's and Pillow's forces passed that bridge in rapid pursuit of the flying enemy. These distinguished generals, coming up with Brig. Gen. Shields, now also victorious, the three continued to press upon the fugitives to within a mile and a half of the capital. Here, Col. Harnay, with a small part of his brigade of cavalry, rapidly passed to the front, and charged the enemy up to the nearest gate.

The cavalry charge was headed by Capt. Kearny, of the 1st dragoons, having in squadron, with his own troop, that of Capt. McReynolds, of the 3d—making the usual escort to general headquarters; but being early in the day detached for general service, was now under Col. Harnay's orders. The gallant captain not hearing the *recall*, that had been sounded, dashed up to the San Antonio gate, sabering, in his way, all who resisted. Of the seven officers of the squadron, Kearny lost his left arm, McReynolds and Lieut. Lorimer, Graham were both severely wounded, and Lieut. R. S. Ewell, who succeeded to the command of the escort, had two horses killed under him. Maj. F. D. Mills, of the 15th infantry, a volunteer in this charge, was killed at the gate.

So terminated the series of events which I have but feebly presented. My thanks were freely poured out on the different fields—to the abilities and science of generals and other officers—to the gallantry and prowess of all—the rank and file included. But a reward infinitely higher—the applause of a grateful country and government—will, I cannot doubt, be accorded in due time, to so much merit of every sort, displayed by this glorious army, which has now overcome all difficulties—distance, climate, ground, fortifications, numbers.

It has in a single day, in many battles, as often defeated 32,000 men, made about 3000 prisoners, including eight generals (two of them ex-Presidents) and 205 other officers, killed or wounded 4000 of all ranks—besides entire corps dispersed and dissolved; captured 37 pieces of ordnance—more than treble our siege train and field batteries—with a large number of small arms; a full supply of ammunition of every kind &c., &c.

These great results have overwhelmed the enemy.

Our loss amounts to 1053—killed, 139, including 16 officers; wounded, 876, with 60 officers. The greater number of the dead and disabled were of the highest worth. Those under treatment, thanks to our very able medical officers, are generally doing well.

I regret having been obliged, on the 20th, to leave Major Gen. Quitman, an able commander, with a part of his division—the fine 2d Pennsylvania volunteers and the veteran detachment of U. S. marines—at our important depot, San Augustin. It was there that I had placed our sick and wounded, the siege supply, and baggage trains. If these had been lost, the army would have been driven almost to despair; and, considering the enemy's very great excess of numbers, and the many approaches to the depot, it might well have become, emphatically, the post of honor.

After so many victories we might, with but little additional loss, have occupied the capital the same evening; but Mr. Trist, commissioner, &c., as well as myself, had been admonished by the best friends of peace—intelligent neutrals and some American residents—against precipitation; lest, by wantonly driving away the government, and others—dishonored—we might scatter the elements of peace, excite a spirit of national desperation; and thus indefinitely postpone the hope of accommodation. Deeply impressed with this danger, and remembering our mission—to conquer a peace—the army very cheerfully sacrificed patriotism—to the great wish and want of our country—the *éclat* that would have followed an entrance—sword in hand—into a great capital. Willing to leave something to this republic, of no immediate value to us—on which to rest her pride, and to recover her temper, I halted our victorious corps at the gates of the city (at least for a time) and have them now cantoned in the neighboring villages, where they are well sheltered and supplied with all necessities.

On the morning of the 21st, being about to take up battering or assaulting positions, to authorize me to summon the city to surrender, or to sign an armistice with a pledge to enter at once into negotiations for a peace—a mission came out to propose a truce. Rejecting its terms, I despatched my contemplated note to President Santa Anna—omitting the summons. The 22d, commissioners were appointed by the commanders of the two armies; the armistice was signed the 23d; and ratifications exchanged the 24th.

All matters in dispute between the two governments have been thus happily turned over to their plenipotentiaries, who have now had several conferences, and with, I think, some hope of signing a treaty of peace.