

Proceedings of a court of inquiry convened at Washington, D. C., pursuant to the following order :

[Special Order No. 249.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, October 31, 1883.

[Extract.]

* * * * *

3. The following order has been received from the War Department :

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, October 31, 1883.

By direction of the President of the United States a court of inquiry is hereby appointed to investigate the organization and fitting out of the Greely relief expedition partly transported by the steamer Proteus, having particular reference to the orders and instructions issued for the guidance and government thereof, and the arrangements made for assistance from the United States steamer Yantic.

The court will make a full and thorough investigation of all matters relating to the general conduct of the expedition, including, particularly, the failure of the Proteus to keep in company with the Yantic up to Littleton Island or its neighborhood, and the failure to establish a well-provided relief station at or near Littleton Island, and will take into consideration in their investigation such records and correspondence pertaining to the original Greely expedition as they may deem necessary, and will report the facts developed by their investigation and their opinion as to whether the conduct of any officer of the Army in the premises calls for further proceedings before a general court-martial, and the reasons for the conclusions which they may reach.

DETAIL FOR THE COURT.—Brig. Gen. S. V. BENÉT, Chief of Ordnance; Col. O. M. POE, aid-de-camp; Col. R. B. AYRES, Second Artillery. Maj. HENRY GOODFELLOW, judge advocate, United States Army, will act as recorder of the court.

The court will meet in the city of Washington on the 8th day of November, 1883.

ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

* * * * *

By command of General SHERMAN :

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

NOVEMBER 8, 1883—10.30 a. m.

The court met. Present, all the members and the recorder.

The court and recorder were duly sworn according to law.

The court then proceeded with closed doors to consider the proper method of proceeding.

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The recorder announced that immediately upon receiving notice of the appointment of the court he had telegraphed requesting the Adjutant-General to furnish the court with all the official correspondence and reports showing the history of the Arctic expedition under command of Lieutenant Greely, and of that recently sent to its relief. Since the recorder's arrival in this city the Adjutant-General had informed him that this telegram had been properly referred, with directions for a compliance therewith.

The court, after deliberation, directed a letter to be addressed to the Adjutant-General (a copy of which is annexed marked A).

A.

ROOMS OF COURT OF INQUIRY,
Washington, D. C., November 8, 1883.

SIR: The court of inquiry appointed by Special Order No. 249, A. G. O., C. S., has organized and is now in session, and has the honor to request to be furnished with certified copies of all instructions, reports, and correspondence to, from, and with the War Department, Adjutant-General's Office, Signal Office, and Lieutenant Greely and the officer in command of the expedition sent to his relief in the years 1882 and 1883.

In order to save time it is suggested that the instructions, any part or parts of which bear upon any plan of escape or rescue, be furnished at first.

It is also desired by the court that the originals (in addition to the certified copies requested) of the instructions to the commanding officer of the Signal Service relief expedition be sent to the court for inspection.

The court further asks that the Secretary of the Navy be requested to furnish the court with officially certified copies of all instructions, reports, and correspondence on record in the Department relating to the cruise of the *Yantic* in Arctic waters on the same errand; and to instruct the commander of the *Yantic*, who was charged with that duty, and Lieutenant Colwell of the Navy, who is understood to have accompanied the Army Signal Service expedition, to hold themselves in readiness to appear as witnesses before the court should their attendance be required, and to report their residence or address to the judge advocate of the court.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. V. BENÉT,
Brigadier-General, Chief of Ordnance, President of Court.

Brigadier-General DRUM,
Adjutant-General of the Army.

The court then, at noon, adjourned to meet to-morrow at 11 o'clock.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Friday, November 9, 1883—11 a. m.

The court met pursuant to adjournment. Present, all the members and recorder.

The recorder laid before the court a number of copies (certified and transmitted to the court by the Chief Signal Officer of the Army) of the records and correspondence of the Signal Office relating to the Arctic expedition of 1883. These documents were read and directed by the court to be attached to this record as exhibits (to be properly arranged and numbered hereafter in chronological order according to their date and identified by the initials of the recorder).

First Lieutenant Ernest A. Garlington, Seventh Cavalry, presented himself before the court and asked that the privilege might be reserved to him to appear at any stage of the proceedings when he might deem it necessary, and introduce counsel to assist in his behalf in this investigation.

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The president of the court directed him to put his request into writing, when it would receive due consideration.

The reading of the papers above mentioned having been concluded, the court was closed for deliberation, and after discussing the matters presented in the papers that had been read, at 3 o'clock p. m. adjourned until to-morrow at 11 a. m.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Saturday, November 10, 1883—11 a. m.

The court met pursuant to adjournment. Present, all the members and the recorder.

The recorder announced that Mr. H. H. Alexander, appointed stenographic reporter of the court, with the approval of the court, was present and ready to be sworn.

By direction of the court Mr. H. H. Alexander was then duly sworn to the faithful performance of his duties as stenographic reporter.

The reading of the official copies furnished from the Signal Office was then proceeded with. A letter (annexed marked B) of Mr. Garlington, requesting permission to appear with counsel, if at any time in the course of the proceedings he should deem it necessary, was then read to the court.

Mr. Garlington, being present in court, was informed that his request was granted.

The court then, it being 3 o'clock, adjourned until Monday at 11 o'clock a. m.

B.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 10, 1882.*

To the President of the Court of Inquiry instituted by Par. 3, S. O. 249, C. S., A. G. O.:

SIR: I have the honor to ask the privilege of employing counsel, who shall appear before the court whenever it shall seem to me best for the purpose of arriving at the truth, or for my own interests. It occurs to me that it may be of great assistance to the court if there shall be present, acting in my behalf, counsel who has made a special study of that branch of the inquiry in which I am specially interested.

Although the story of the voyage of the *Proteus*, of the loss of the ship, and of my subsequent retreat is very simple, I do not feel myself competent, by reason of my inexperience in the examination of witnesses and of my personal interest in the matter, to present it so clearly to the court as it ought to be made appear. It is apparent to me, from much that has already been said, that patient study and thorough preparation can alone avail in dealing with occurrences in the Arctic regions. Grave injustice has already been done me by persons who have reached conclusions unsupported by the facts, and therefore I conclude that if to my own knowledge can be added the skill of counsel whose duty it shall be to devote all his time to the examination into the conduct of the expedition after its departure from Saint John, Newfoundland, the labors of the court will be greatly lightened and its counsels greatly assisted. I have secured the services of Mr. Linden Kent as my counsel, who, with the permission of the court, will appear before it to aid me whenever it shall appear necessary.

I am sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. GARLINGTON,
First Lieut. Seventh Cavalry, Acting Signal Officer.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.,
Monday, Nov., 12, 1883—11 a. m.

The court met pursuant to adjournment. Present, all the members and the recorder.

The reading of papers sent from the Signal Office was resumed.

The recorder presented a number of papers received from the Secretary of War, being the instructions to Lieutenant Garlington, commanding the relief expedition of 1883, and his report with inclosures and accompanying correspondence. These papers were read, and, the same belonging to the files of the War Department, copies thereof are hereto annexed as exhibits.

The court then, at 3 o'clock, was closed and proceeded to consider what witnesses, if any, should be summoned.

After deliberation, the court, at 3 o'clock and 30 minutes p. m., adjourned until 11 to-morrow.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
November 13, 1883—11 a. m.

The court met pursuant to adjournment. Present, all the members and the recorder.

The recorder presented to the court three volumes of certified copies of the records of the Navy Department, furnished by the Secretary of the Navy, and offered them in evidence. They were read, and are annexed to this record as exhibits. Whereupon

Lieut. ERNEST A. GARLINGTON was sworn and examined as follows:

By the RECORDER:

Question. You are a first lieutenant in the Seventh Cavalry?—Answer. Yes, sir.

Q. And have been in that regiment since you graduated in 1876?—A. I have.

Q. And served?—A. And served with the regiment continuously.

Q. Until you took charge of the Arctic matters submitted to your care?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What time did you first become connected with the Arctic expedition?—A. I arrived here on the 20th of February, 1883.

Q. You had volunteered before that time, had you not?—A. Yes, sir; I volunteered during the month of December, 1882.

Q. And you were assigned to duty?—A. I was ordered to report here to the Chief Signal Officer during the month of February. I was ordered to Saint Paul during the month of January on this duty, but after arriving there the Secretary of War notified the department commander that it was too early to bring the officers and men intended for this duty. East, and I was ordered back to my post at Fort Buford, Dakota Territory. During the month of February I received telegraphic orders to report again.

Q. You came on duty at what time?—A. I reported to the Chief Signal Officer for duty the 21st of February.

Q. How were you engaged from that time until you left St. John's in command of the expedition?—A. I was engaged in getting together the stores and materials for the expedition.

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Q. You sailed on the Yantic from New York on what date?—A. The 12th of June.

Q. And arrived at St. John's on what date?—A. I arrived at St. John's on the 21st of June.

Q. You state in your report that when you arrived you found the Proteus had shipped her cargo and it had been stowed?—A. Yes, sir; General Hazen's instructions were for the Alhambra to discharge her stores into the Proteus. That was not practicable, because the Proteus could not go alongside the wharf where the Alhambra lay, and they were shipped from that storehouse down to the storehouse of the owners of the Proteus and loaded under the supervision of Captain Pike. The stores sent from New York were all on board when I arrived there, and they were loading the stores that had been left by the expedition of the year before.

Q. Was any representative of the Signal Service present?—A. No, sir.

Q. None of your party?—A. No, sir; a sergeant had been sent from New York on board the Alhambra in charge of the stores, by direction of General Hazen.

Q. But he had nothing to do with stowing them?—A. He left the ship at Halifax and returned to Washington City.

Q. None of your party was sent by the Alhambra?—A. This sergeant was of my party. He claimed to have met with an injury on the way up, and left the ship at Halifax and returned to the United States.

Q. He did not accompany you afterward?—A. No, sir.

Q. What report or statement of stores did you receive that were shipped on board the Proteus; what invoice?—A. I do not exactly understand you.

Q. Did you know what stores you were taking out with you?—A. I knew what stores left New York.

Q. In the Alhambra?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Had you verified the stores yourself?—A. No, sir; I was present when the stores were loaded on the Alhambra, during the loading of the stores, and there was an agent there of the Quartermaster's Department verifying the stores as they were turned over to the ship. I was furnished with a copy of the bill of lading, and also an invoice of all the stores that had been furnished me, and these invoices were verified by the representative of the Government—a transportation agent.

Q. Do you know whether they were inspected, and by whom?—A. The commissary stores were inspected by General Hawkins; under his personal supervision. The medical stores were furnished me by the medical purveyor there—General Swift, I think.

Q. What was the aggregate strength of your own party as it left St. John's?—A. Thirteen men, including Lieutenant Colwell and myself.

Q. For what time were you rationed?—A. I had supplies for forty men for fifteen months from the 1st of July, 1883.

Q. That was the total amount of supplies you took for yourself and for Lieutenant Greely's colony?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You stated in your report that your party was not supplied with arms; that is, in their personal possession. Will you explain how that was?—A. Two shot-guns were bought for the use of the expedition, and a certain number of carbines were shipped from the Signal Office here for the use of the expedition, and were stored with the rest of the property that

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arrived at St. John's before my arrival there, and when I got to St. John's I had the stores in the main hold removed, and also some of the stores from the other portion of the ship—as many as I could get out without unloading the ship entirely. I spent one whole day in doing that and failed to find the arms and a good many other stores for which I was looking.

Q. You never saw the arms?—A. I never saw them at all. I searched for them again at Disko and still failed to find them.

Q. What fire-arms of any description had your party at the time of the wreck of the Proteus?—A. Lieutenant Colwell had a shot-gun of his own, Private Moritz had a repeating rifle of his own, Private Ellis, of the Signal Corps, had a Winchester rifle, and I had a Hotchkiss rifle which Lieutenant Colwell brought with him from the Yantic.

Q. How many rounds of ammunition had you?—A. Lieutenant Colwell had eighty-six cartridges, loaded, and there were about 1,500 rounds of carbine ammunition.

Q. Were there no pistols in the party?—A. Lieutenant Colwell had a pistol, and I think Ellis had a pistol.

By the COURT:

Q. A revolver?—A. Yes, sir.

By the RECORDER:

Q. And some ammunition?—A. Yes, sir; a small quantity.

Q. [Submitting a paper to witness.] I will ask you to look at this paper and see if it is your original report of the expedition, made at its date.—A. [After examining same.] That is not the original report that I submitted.

Q. It is signed by you, is it not?—A. Yes, it is a duplicate of the original report that I submitted in writing.

Q. And signed by you?—A. Yes, sir; and that copy was thoroughly compared with the original and is the same.

Q. [Submitting another paper to witness.] Those are your original instructions, are they not?—A. [After examining the same.] Yes, sir; those are my original instructions. I was furnished with several copies of those instructions. That is one of the copies.

(The papers identified by the witness were received from the office of the Secretary of War, and have been read, and copies of them are hereto attached as exhibits.)

Q. I will ask you if that report was prepared from original data or memoranda made by yourself at the time?—A. Yes, sir; the report was prepared by me from data made on the spot.

Q. And, so far as your recollection goes, it is correct in all its statements?—A. Yes, sir; the report is correct as I submitted it. I have never compared the printed copy with the original report.

Q. I wish you would state the history of the inclosure described as No. 4 and as instructions for the Yantic and the Proteus.—A. Between the 15th and 20th of May, 1883, I was in the office of the executive officer of the Signal Office, Lieutenant Caziare, and he showed me the rough notes of a paper which he was preparing to be furnished the Navy Department as a basis of the instructions which the Signal Office was going to ask to have given the naval vessel which I was informed was to accompany me. In this conversation I learned that General Hazen, previous to his depart-

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ure for St. John's, Newfoundland, which had occurred some days previously, had asked the Navy Department to detail a suitable vessel to go with us as a tender; but no one in the Signal Office knew that such a request had been made, nor was there any copy of the letter on file that he had sent to the Navy Department. A few days afterwards I learned from Lieutenant Caziarc that this paper had been submitted to Captain Powell, who was then Acting Chief Signal Officer, and that that officer had declined to take any steps in the matter until the return of General Hazen. I remember nothing more of the memorandum until the 5th of June, I think. General Hazen in the mean time had returned from St. John's and I was furnished with my instructions. I was in the office of Lieutenant Caziarc when I got the instructions. I opened them and found in the same envelope with the instructions this memorandum. It was not addressed, not numbered as an inclosure, and bore no official marks whatever except in the lower left-hand corner the initials (O. C. S. O.) of the office of the Chief Signal Officer, June 5, 1883. I had never seen it before, except in the rough notes; I went into General Hazen's office and told him that I had received my instructions, and among them I had found this paper, and called his attention especially to that clause relating to the landing of all my stores at Littleton Island on my way north, and also calling his attention to the fact that it conflicted with my instructions; he said that he did not know how that paper got in there, and I think I remarked that I knew how it got in: that it had been prepared by Lieutenant Caziarc, and perhaps he had probably put it in; after he made the remark that he did not know how the paper got in among my other papers I of course thought that he had not even approved this memorandum, and that it was nothing more than a piece of paper that had accidentally got in among my instructions. We then had some conversation about the expedition, in the course of which he told me that he had the utmost confidence in me, and that while I should make the attempt to follow as nearly as possible the plan laid down in the letter of Lieutenant Greely, which had been written from Fort Conger, that I must be governed to a great extent by my own judgment on the spot. I do not think there was anything more of any importance in that conversation.

By the COURT:

Q. Did General Hazen state that the memorandum got in there accidentally or that he did not know how it got there?—A. His words were, "I don't know how that got in there."

Q. Did he make any effort to withdraw it?—A. No, sir. After that I paid no more attention to the memorandum at all and never regarded it as an instruction or suggestion in any light, nor did he in that conversation allude to it in any way as a suggestion or that I was to act upon it as a suggestion.

By the RECORDER:

Q. Did General Hazen say anything that would lead you to believe that he had known of that paper before?—A. No, sir.

Q. While this conversation was going on where was the executive officer, Mr. Caziarc?—A. He was in his own office, I think.

Q. The adjoining office?—A. The adjoining office.

Q. Now, when you saw those rough notes had you any conversation

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with Lieutenant Caziarc in reference to the projected additional instructions?—A. Yes, I think I talked with him about the instructions to the naval vessel; I remember distinctly telling him that I wished the instructions so drawn up that there would be no conflict between the commander of the Yantic and myself; that is, the commander of the naval tender and myself; and some other general conversation probably. I do not remember anything particular, though, except that; it was an unofficial conversation; I did not regard Lieutenant Caziarc as having really anything at all to do with my instructions, and from the conversation I had with him I inferred that he was drawing up this paper of his own accord; not from any orders he had received, but, as he thought, to facilitate matters and have the paper in readiness if called for. I looked upon it more as the expression of his private opinion than anything else.

By the COURT:

Q. Did you have any conversation with Lieutenant Caziarc after the interview with General Hazen upon that subject?—A. No, sir; I did not take the paper into consideration at all after my conversation with General Hazen.

By the RECORDER:

Q. Where was the agreement made with Commander Wildes in reference to the manner in which the vessels should proceed?—A. At St. John's, Newfoundland.

Q. Had you at that time seen the instructions to the Yantic?—A. No, sir; I did not see the instructions to the commander of the Yantic until my return to Washington.

By the COURT:

Q. After the expedition?—A. Yes, sir.

By the RECORDER:

Q. You were not furnished with any copy of them?—A. No, sir.

By the COURT:

Q. You did not know what the instructions were?—A. I did not know anything except that his orders were not to enter the ice, or to place his ship in no position where he would run the risk of having to remain a winter in the Arctic regions. That I gathered from conversation with Commander Wildes and the officers of the ship on the way up, and I knew that the letter that had been prepared in the Signal Office had made that a condition—that the ship was not expected to go into the ice or to place itself in any unusually dangerous position.

By the RECORDER:

Q. What letter was that?—A. The letter written by General Hazen asking that a naval ship be detailed for the duty.

Q. How were you informed of that?—A. I think by Lieutenant Caziarc, or in the Signal Office; it was the subject of general conversation in the Signal Office.

Q. Before you left?—A. Before I left; General Hazen never had any conversation with me about this naval vessel; I did not know that he

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contemplated asking for it at all, and only heard of it incidentally after it had been asked for.

Q. You observed in your instructions that you were informed that a naval tender would accompany you to Littleton Island?—A. Certainly.

Q. Now, do you remember that Commander Wildes informed you that he had orders not to enter the ice, or was it not to enter the ice-pack?—A. Not to enter the ice-pack.

Q. Then that and the reasons you have stated in your report were your grounds for believing that he would not go to Littleton Island?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. All the grounds?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In Lieutenant Greely's letter mapping out a plan of operations for his relief he states that the material for the depots at A and B should be prepared in St. John's before the vessel started. You had no opportunity to make them, I suppose, from what you have stated as to the time of your arrival?—A. The stores were all stowed before I got to St. John's, and in order to get out the provisions to make these depots I would have had to have broken out much more of the stores than I had time to do, and I knew that I was going to stop at Disko and could prepare these depots there just as well as I could at St. John's, and therefore put it off until then, and did prepare the depots after I arrived at Disko.

Q. How were the stores prepared for the depots?—A. They were all packed in barrels.

Q. On top of the rest of the cargo?—A. Yes, sir; they were stowed where they could be gotten at at once, right under the fore-castle.

Q. Had you any stores prepared in bags ready to be thrown overboard in an emergency; were you supplied with any canvas bags or tarpaulin bags?—A. No, sir; I had no canvas bags or tarpaulin bags except the boat bags. When I got to Disko I had such provisions as would be needed in case of emergency all put right under the main hatch. In the main hold the stores were all placed right under the main hatch, so that in a moment, by just lifting off the cover, the stores could be gotten out on the ice just as rapidly as if they had been on deck.

Q. They were in barrels?—A. No, they were not in barrels. These stores were miscellaneous cargo. But the depots that had been prepared to be established at different places were in barrels.

Q. How were the stores secured that you expected to take out in an emergency?—A. In boxes or barrels, just as it might be. Hard bread was in barrels and the canned goods were in boxes.

Q. With reference to this stowing of the cargo I desire to ask if you made an application to proceed by the Alhambra yourself from New York for the purpose of superintending the stowing?—A. I did. I sent a telegram to General Hazen from New York on the 7th of June strongly recommending that not only myself but the entire party be sent on the Alhambra to St. John's so that I might be there when the stores arrived, verify the bill of lading, and superintend the stowing of the cargo as I wanted. I got no reply to that telegram until after the ship had sailed, which was to send Sergeant Wall on board the Alhambra and that myself and party should go on the United States steamer Yantic. I had had orders to send Sergeant Wall on the Alhambra before I left here.

Q. And he went?—A. He went.

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By the COURT :

Q. Is that the man who left the ship at Halifax and turned back ?—A. Yes, sir.

By the RECORDER :

Q. How long was the Alhambra making the passage on that occasion ; what time did she arrive at St. John's ?—A. I do not remember exactly.

Q. What is the average length of the passage ?—A. About seven or eight days.

Q. And you left in the Yantic on what day ?—A. On the 13th of June.

Q. And arrived when ?—A. On the 21st.

Q. Now of these thirteen men constituting your party, how many, if any, had had any nautical experience or education ?—A. Sergeant Kenney and Corporal Elwell had been in the merchant marine. Private Murphy had served an enlistment in the United States Navy as a seaman, and had been on board of the Juniata when it went north in 1873. Private Moritz had been a sailor on the lakes. Private Rogge had been with the expedition of 1882. The other men had had no sea experience.

Q. You state in your report that at a certain time only two men were able to assist in managing the boats ?—A. That was in my own boat. Sergeant Kenney and Private Murphy were in my boat.

Q. And how many had Lieutenant Colwell in his boat who were capable of rowing or managing the sails ?—A. He had three good sailors and Moritz, who had had some experience.

Q. What experience as an ice navigator had Captain Pike, the commander of the Proteus, had ?—A. He had been a master of a steam sealer for a great number of years. I think he had commanded the Proteus for ten years, when he had made his trips to the ice in the spring catching seals. He had also commanded the Proteus when he took Lieutenant Greely to the Arctic regions in 1881, but his ice experience of that trip was limited, as they saw no ice at all until they got within fifteen or twenty miles of Discovery Harbor. He had had no ice experience in the Arctic regions whatever.

Q. You know that from his own statements, do you ?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You had no regular ice master on the Proteus ?—A. No, sir ; he was an ice master.

Q. There was an ice master on the Yantic ?—A. Yes, sir.

By the COURT :

Q. Who selected the crew of the Proteus ?—A. The owners of the ship.

Q. Was Captain Pike a scientific, educated seaman ?—A. I should say not.

By the RECORDER :

Q. Did he appear to have any knowledge of the use of nautical or astronomical instruments ?—A. I do not know whether he could take an observation with the sextant or not. He would go through the operation every noon-day when he could see the sun, but he always went to a different part of the ship from where we were to work out his observations, and I have no personal knowledge as to whether he could successfully take a time-sight or not. I placed no dependence in his observations, however. Lieutenant Colwell always took the observation for position and I of course took his data.