

I. Before a general court-martial which convened at Washington, District of Columbia, pursuant to Special Orders, No. 50, Headquarters of the Army, Adjutant General's Office, March 3, 1885, and of which Major General WINFIELD S. HANCOCK is president, was arraigned and tried—

Brigadier General *William B. Hazen*, Chief Signal Officer U. S. Army.  
CHARGE.—“Conduct to the prejudice of good order and military discipline, in violation of the 62d Article of War.”

*Specification 1st*—“In that Brigadier General *William B. Hazen*, Chief Signal Officer United States Army, knowing that the Secretary of War had, in the performance of his official duty, decided, in the month of September, A. D. 1883, that it was not practicable to send in the year 1883 an expedition to the Arctic regions for the relief of Lieutenant A. W. Greely, an officer of the Army, and his party then in those regions, did, in his official annual report as Chief Signal Officer bearing date October 15, 1884, criticise the said official action of the Secretary of War and impugn the propriety thereof, by saying of and concerning the sending of a relief expedition to the Arctic regions for the relief of Lieutenant A. W. Greely and his party in the year 1883 as follows :

On the return of the escort ship bringing the relief party to St. John's, September 13th, there was still time, as known from previous experience and shown by subsequent facts, to send effective relief.

This at Washington, D. C.”

*Specification 2d*—“In that Brigadier General *William B. Hazen*, Chief Signal Officer United States Army, knowing that the Secretary of War had, in the performance of his official duty, decided, in the month of September, A. D. 1883, that it was not practicable to send in the year 1883 an expedition to the Arctic regions for the relief of Lieutenant A. W. Greely, an officer of the Army, and his party then in those regions, did, without having been requested or authorized by the Secretary of War so to do, address and send to the Secretary of War a communication written by him, the said Chief Signal Officer, bearing date the 17th day of February, 1885,

To which charge and specifications the accused, Brigadier General *William B. Hazen*, Chief Signal Officer U. S. Army, pleaded as follows:

To the 1st Specification, "Not guilty."

To the 2d Specification, "Not guilty."

To the 3d Specification, "Not guilty."

To the CHARGE, "Not guilty."

#### FINDING.

The court, having maturely considered the evidence adduced, finds the accused, Brigadier General *William B. Hazen*, Chief Signal Officer U. S. Army, as follows:

Of the 1st Specification, "Guilty."

Of the 2d Specification, "The court finds the facts as alleged, but attaches no criminality thereto."

Of the 3d Specification, "Guilty, except the word 'intentionally,' and except the words 'with a view to its publication, and did cause the same to be published, on the 2d day of March, 1885, in a newspaper printed and published in the city of Washington, D. C., called 'The Evening Star,' and except the word 'such,' and except the words 'as was described in the interrogation of the said reporter,' and except the words 'entirely ignored,' and of the words thus excepted not guilty; substituting, however, for the words 'entirely ignored' the word 'negatived,' and of the substituted word guilty."

Of the CHARGE, "Guilty."

#### SENTENCE.

And the court does therefore sentence him, Brigadier General *William B. Hazen*, Chief Signal Officer U. S. Army, "To be censured in orders by the reviewing authority."

II. The record of proceedings of the general court-martial in the foregoing case of Brigadier General *William B. Hazen*, Chief Signal Officer U. S. Army, having been submitted to the President of the United States, the following are his orders indorsed thereon:

EXECUTIVE MANSION, Washington, April 17, 1885.

The proceedings, findings, and sentence in the foregoing case of Brigadier General *William B. Hazen*, Chief Signal Officer United States Army, are hereby approved.

In giving effect to the sentence of the court-martial, it is to be observed that the more exalted the rank held by an officer of the Army the greater is the responsibility resting upon him to afford, through his own subordination to his superior officers, an example for all others who may be of inferior rank in the service. To an officer of fine sensibilities, the mere fact of being brought to trial before a court-martial must be in itself a mortification and punishment.

In the foregoing case, the accused, whose high rank and long experience in the service should have inspired him with a full realization of that respect for constituted authority which is essential to military discipline, has been adjudged guilty of indulging in unwarranted and captious criticism of his superior officer, the Secretary of War, thereby setting a pernicious example subversive of discipline and the interests of the service. Subordination is necessarily the primal duty of a soldier whatever his grade may be. In losing sight of this principle the accused has brought upon himself the condemnation of his brother officers, who examined the charges against him, and seriously impaired his own honorable record of previous conduct. It is to be hoped that the lesson will not be forgotten.

General *Hazen* will be released from arrest and assume the duties of his office.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

III. By order of the President of the United States the general court-martial of which Major General WINFIELD S. HANCOCK is president is hereby dissolved

BY COMMAND OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL SHERIDAN:

R. C. DRUM,

*Adjutant General.*

OFFICIAL: