Order book

October 27, 1862–April 8, 1863.

by

William O. Collins.
Under separate cover I am sending you a typewritten copy of Colonel Collins' order book. Mrs. Jarvis Richards of Denver, a member of our little reading party, was in Ohio,—Springfield I believe, and met Colonel Collins' sister who gave her considerable information regarding the man after whom your town is named and also about her brother Casper Collins, after whom Casper, Wyoming is named. Mrs. Richard succeeded in borrowing Colonel Collins' order book and we have just typed a copy for our own library. Much of the information you will see is unimportant, but considerable information throws light on military activities in your section of the country.

Yours very truly,

Chalmers Hadley.
Platte Bridge,  
October 27th, 1863

Col. Collins.

Have 28 men, 35 horses, 6 mules, quarters and  
stabling finished and good. 800 bu. corn, 31 tons hay, 50 cords wood. Can get balance wood without use Government teams without  
cost. Government needs 15 tons more hay. Can get at Deer Creek  
delivered here at 30 dollars. Ask Gen. Craig if I shall contract for it. Have rations to first April. Answer about ———  
immediately.

O. W. Van Winkle.

Fort Laramie,  
Oct. 28th.

Capt. Hays,  
Deer Creek.

Gen. Craig says he engaged 50 tons hay of Bousinette  
at $20.00. See that you get it all. May send more horses there.


Fort Laramie, Oct.

Capt. Van Winkle.

Sent your dispatch when received to Gen. Craig,  
expecting he would answer. He just called. Said he had not done  
so but that you might contract for fifteen more hay at lowest  
possible price, not exceeding $30 per ton. Gov. Tod thinks he  
has no power to appoint Supernumerary Lt. so make non-commissioned  
officers all right. I will send some blanks.


Sweetwater Bridge,  
October 29th, 1863

To Col. Collins.

I arrived here yesterday. There has been very  
little done in the way of improvements. There is about 50 cords wood hauled. Shall need Hill's teams some little time longer.  
Want to send two of them to Upper Crossing with commissary stores  
soon as that train arrives. We are hauling wood twenty miles.  
Dean was arrested for abusing Lieut. Doggett. I think he has  
complied as far as possible with the terms of contract and have  
released him from arrest.

O. S. Glenn

Fort Laramie,  
October 29th, 1863.

To Captain Hays, Deer Creek, &  
Captain Vanwinkle, Upper Platte Bridge.

Don't forget muster. Notify commander of your com-  
pany detachments.

Wm. O. Collins.
To Lieut. O.S. Glenn,  
Sweetwater Bridge.

Am glad you have reached your post and hope your energy and care will soon make everything right. Surely wood need not be hauled twenty miles. By making roads up the mountain across the Sweetwater as far as possible, and sliding or dragging down to proper points, it can certainly be got there. Has Doggett given you a written report of the facts connected with Dean arrest and of such other persons as know the facts, signed by themselves to submit to General Craig, that justice may be done all parties. Send by first opportunity, not by telegraph.

Wm. O. Collins.

To Col. Collins,  
Is it necessary to make out pay rolls for two last months.

H. Hays.

Fort Laramie,  
October 30th, 1862.

Capt. Hays,  
Deer Creek.

Rolls must be made out and forwarded after each muster. Copy for adjutant General should be sent to Capt. Enc to be forwarded by him.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Oct. 30th 1862.

Sergt. Stratton,  
I send by train today 60 feet lumber, shovel, spade, fork, axe and box. Will send a little extra rifle ammunition for target practice at geese and antelope as soon as I can.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, October 31st, 1862.

Capt. Hays,  
Deer Creek.

Will send rolls first opportunity. What arrangement is made as to mail. Will citizens send for it half the time.

Wm. O. Collins.

Deer Creek,  
October 30, 1863.

To Col. Collins,  
Capt. Vanwinkle and I have no blank pay rolls. Send us some.

H. Hays.
Fort Laramie,
Nov. 1st, 1862.

Lieut.O.S.Glenn.
Sweetwater Bridge.
Wheelock guide and scout employed by O'Ferrall has
claim for eighty dollars duly certified. Craig says must be paid
from funds in your hands. If you telegraph to have it done, I
will see that proper receipts are given. What did you do with
the warrants made out for Mackey's non-commissioned officers and
where is his list I gave you.

Wm.O.Collins.

Ficklins, Nov.1st,1862.

To Commander of Post,
I wish you to do something concerning this
soldier belonging to Co.F. for he is crazy and unmanageable and
struck the operator. Have to keep him tied and have not rations
for him.

Sergt. Stratton.

Platte Bridge,
November 1st, 1862.

To Col.Collins,
Officers for duty, three, enlisted men for duty sixty, on detached-
service two, sick one, waiting discharge four, absent sick three,
horses serviceable sixty two.

P.S.Vanwinkle.

Sweetwater Bridge
November 1st,1862.

To Col.Collins,
Mr. Bullock will let you have eighty (80) dollars
and charge it to account and take receipt. I did not have the
warrants for Mackey men made out as I did not have the list. The
list was left in the adjutants desk.

O.S.Glenn.

Capt. Vanwinkle,
Upper Platte Bridge.
your burglars have not arrived. Hays men got here
Oct.16th. What is the matter. They should all be instructed
together. Richards has brought me fifty two dollars belonging
to Creed saying he could not get exchange. I can send it to
Nebraska City by private hands in about a week, then it can be
mailed or forwarded by express. What shall I do.

Wm.O.Collins.
Fort Laramie, Nov. 3rd

Tel. Operator,
Horse Creek.

It is proposed to send a squad of about six men to your station. Have you house and stable room. Can eight or ten tons hay be got. Is wood plenty.

Wm. O. Collins.
Lt. Col. Comdg.

Platte Bridge
November 3d, 1863.

To Col. Collins,
My buglers will be down in a day or two. Send Creed's money and have it expressed from Nebraska City to his wife.

P. W. Vanwinkle.

Horse Shoe, Nov. 3d.

To Wm. O. Collins,
Lt. Col. Comdg.

Horse stable room but no house room. House by some work can be made comfortable. Hay cannot be got.
Wood plenty.

W. W. Meldrum.

Deer Creek, Nov. 4th, 1863

To Col. Collins.
Vananda and Pettijohn say they have not enough hay to winter horses and mules. They ask leave to send mules to Laramie. What shall I tell them.

H. R. Hays.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 5th, 1863

Capt. Hays,
If Vananda and Pettijohn have wood enough they can send down the teams. There is more corn to be sent to them, but your and Vanwinkle's teams can haul it.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 7th

Capt. Hays
Deer Creek,

Mail arrived today. Thirty letters for your company, twenty-one for VanWinkle.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 7th

Capt. Vanwinkle,
Upper Platte Bridge

Mail arrived today. Twenty-one letters for your company, thirty for Hays. Smith, bugler arrived today. Where is the other. Your failures to send them as ordered has made
trouble. Report the reason.

Wm.O.Collins
Upper Platte Bridge
Nov.3th,1862.

Col.Collins,
I had no other member of my company who was willing
to go to Laramie to be taught as bugler. I wrote per mail
explaining to you. I will start a man in the morning though
against his will. I think he will make a
good bugler.

P.W.Vanwinkle

Deer Creek,
Nov.3th,1862.

Col.Collins,
I am willing to take a contract to run a weekly
mail between Deer Creek and Fort Laramie, as you have told
my son. Please let me know the conditions.

I. Bioonette (?)

Sweetwater Bridge, 8th

Col.Collins,
Please inform me if soldiers detailed as teamsters
are allowed extra pay and if so how much. Lieut.Doggett started
to Salt Lake city the 23d day after I arrived here, therefore got
no written statement from him of the cause of Dean's arrest.

O.S.Glenn.

Fort Laramie,
Nov.8th, 1862

To his excellency Gov, D.Tod, Columbus, Ohio.
When Major O'Terral tendered resignation I telegraphed
you to withhold appointment till officers could recommend. Mackey
was recommended and appointed as per your dispatch of 21st Oct.
you subsequently filled Co. vacancies. Capt. Shipley now says
he has major's commission. Can this be so.

W.O.Collins.

Columbus,Ohio.Nov.9th,1862

To Col.Collins,
Thomas L. Mackey was appointed Major October 25th.
David Tod, Governor.

Col.Collins,
I left two beef cattle at fort. How will I get
them. Shall I turn Hill's teams over to Lieut.Glenn. Did you
get two mules I sent belonging to Mail Company. I send for the
mail tomorrow. Getting along well with work.

H.R.Hays.
Sweetwater Bridge,  
November 10th, 1862.

To Col. Collins,  
Lt. Doggett left Oct. 30th. He said the other officers had their pleasure trips and he had stayed here all the time and now he was going, the only reason I know.  
O. S. Glenn

Fort Laramie, Nov. 10th

Capt. Hays, Deer Creek,  
I will try to send the beef cattle by the corn train. You can turn over the teams to Glenn, or wait till they come down here when they will be turned over to the Post Quartermaster. Know nothing of the two mules but will enquire.  
W. O. Collins

Fort Laramie, Nov. 10th

Capt. Vanwinkle,  
Platte Bridge,  
Glenn informs me that Doggett left Oct. 29th for Salt Lake City. Glenn should have informed you and me instantly that I might have ordered arrest by Vananda. What shall be done now? Telegraph to Salt Lake City to arrest him or wait his return?  
W. O. Collins

Deer Creek, Nov. 10th

Col. Collins,  
I made out requisition for two months provisions when at the fort. I drew the same of Commissary sergeant. I told him I could not take beef cattle at that time, he said all right any time will do. He knows all about it.  
H. R. Hays

Platte Bridge, Nov. 11th

Col. Collins,  
Ellsworth, Supt. this Division on Lt. Glenn relieving Doggett of his command at Sweetwater, asked of me permission to take Doggett as an escort westwardly. I telegraphed Ellsworth, he could go. He went far as Sandy and I suppose now on his return, his horse having given out. I am aware I have no authority to give Lt. Doggett leave of absence except on duty, but was instructed to give telegraph Co. any assistance I could and knew of no better one to send than Doggett. Wait his return.  
Capt. Vanwinkle

Platte Bridge, 13th.

Col. Collins,  
The detachment at Ficklins is out of wood, no arrangement to supply them. Genl. Craig promised they should be furnished without keeping a team there. As they are out of corn and wood, you will confer a favor on me giving this your attention. If they are not supplied, I should ask that they rejoin their company.  
P. W. Vanwinkle  
Capt. Co. D, 6th O. V. Cav.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 13th.

Sergt. Stratton  
Ficklins Station  
Capt. Vanwinkle telegraphs that you have neither corn or wood. Is this so, speak to Genl. Craig who will pass today.  
W. O. Collins
Ficklins, Nov. 13th, 1862.

Col. Collins,

Mr. Ward has only delivered here about five (5) tons of hay. See Mr. Bullock and ask him to send six (6) tons more and try to arrange for his teams to remain here a few days and haul wood. The men are nearly destitute and must have fire. The telegraph Co. agreed to furnish wood but have failed. See Mr. Bullock at once.

Jas. Craig,
Brig. Genl.

Sweetwater, Nov. 13th.

Col. Collins,

Bill did not bring the mail bag here. Have not found out all the facts concerning Deans arrest. Am about through hauling wood. Will start the teams to Laramie Friday. Lieut. Doggett arrived here this evening.

Wm. S. Glenn.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 13th.

Mordecai L. Marshall,
Clermont House, Cincinnati.

Lieut. Love here sick of typhoid fever, well cared for.

Wm. O. Collins,
En. Col. 9th O.V. Cav.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 13th.

Capt. Hays,

Sent your beef cattle by corn train yesterday morning. Lt. Love is sick of typhoid. Have telegraphed to W.C. Marshall, Clermont House, Cincinnati. Can give you some more corn, say enough to make two thirds rations. How much more will it take. Shall it be left as train goes up. Gen Craig gone to States.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 13th.

Lieut. Vananda, Upper Sweetwater Crossing.

Are the mail sacks of books still at Silvers? Ascertain and let me know. Send them here if possible.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 13.

Capt. Vanwinkle,
Upper Platte Bridge,

Train with 3000 bushels corn will reach Platte Bridge Nov. 20th. Shall notify Glenn to come down and receipt. Can you store it till it can be distributed. Train can go no further up. Gen. Craig gone to States. Stratton has 46 sacks corn, 10 tons hay. Will send teams to haul wood.

Wm. O. Collins.
Lieut. Glenn,  
Sweetwater Bridge,  
Train with 3000 bushels corn will arrive at Platte Bridge Nov. 20th. Be there to receive for it and store till it can be distributed. It is a surplus and will enable us to improve horses and have some for spring when it will be most needed. Where are the mail sacks of books left at Silvey's.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 13th.

Lieut. Glenn,  
Sweetwater Bridge,  
Dont send down teams till you know whether you will need them to distribute corn.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 13th.

Col. Collins,  
Send me twenty-four (24) packages envelopes with our next mail and will make all right.

Ord. Sergt. Pettijohn  
Commanding post.

Three Crossings, Nov. 13th

Capt. Vanwinkle, Platte Bridge,  
Messenger leaves in the morning with mail for Deer Creek. 31 letters arrived for your company today.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 14th, 1862

Capt. Hays, Deer Creek,  
Mail arrived today. 36 letters for your company. Fury starts in the morning with them. If you want anything telegraph tonight or early in the morning. Love about the same. When Fury comes up, I think you had better send down Marshall.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 14th

Sergeant Stratton, Ficklins Station,  
How many tons hay were delivered to you. When was it delivered, how much have you now and in what condition.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 15th, 1862

Col. Collins,  
Send on the wood and hay at once. I fear the detachment will suffer for wood.

Craig.

Julesburg, Nov. 15th
Fort Laramie, Nov. 15,

Lieut. O.S. Glenn,
Sweetwater Bridge,
46 sacks of corn left at Ficklins Nov. 5th. I have given
Capt. Kiser receipt for it in your name, as he is going away. I have
Sergeant Stratton's receipt to trainmaster Hays. Should take more
corn at Deer Creek, as train passes to save hauling back and receipt
to you. Telegraph to him.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. C.

Cincinnati, Nov. 15th, 1862

To Col. Collins,
Answer immediately how W. Love is. Clermont House.

Manda Love.

Mrs. Love, Clermont House,
Cincinnati, Ohio.

Lieut. Love decidedly better, well attended. If worse
will telegraph.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 15th

Capt. Vanwinkle,
Platte Bridge,
The operator at Horse Shoe wants some one to stay with him
this winter for company. He will teach him telegraphing if desired.
How would Williamson do? Would it not be a good chance for him.
The operator is represented to be a very pleasant intelligent young
gentleman. Hay and corn for one horse could be sent down by return
orn train.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 16th

Lt. Vananda,
Have you found the mail sacks of books at Silvers. Ascerta-

tain where they are and if possible and send them down to me. Am
going to Ft. Halleck tomorrow. Love sick of typhoid fever, but better
Messenger left this morning with about 60 letters for Hays company.
Gen. Craig gone to States.

Wm. O. Collins.

Upper Crossings, Nov. 16

Col. Collins,
Ser. Hill forgot to bring those books to the Bridge with
him. Silvers had left before he had arrived there. Mr. R. Ellsworth
took a part of them. I do not know how many. Sorry to hear of Lt.
Love's sickness. Give my respects to him.

C. J. Vananda.
Lt. Vananda,
Upper Crossings,
where are the books Ellsworth did not take?
Wm. O. Collins.

Upper Crossings, Nov. 16.

Col. Collins,
I do not know, they are not at Silvers.
C.J. Vananda.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 16.

Lt. Vananda,
Upper Crossings,
How do you know that Ellsworth took any?
W.O. Collins.

Upper Crossing, Nov. 16

Lt. Col. Collins,
He told me so.
C.J. Vananda.

Fort Laramie, Nov. 16.

Lt. Vananda,
When?

Upper Crossings, Nov. 16

Col. Collins,
About a month since.

Salt Lake, Nov. 16/62

Col. Collins,
When I passed Silver's Ranch there were two sacks books, mail scattered about one room. They were patent office reports of 1860 and reports of military Commission to Europe, 1855 and 1856. I selected three of each kind and took with me to Sandy, left balance where I found them. I have since passed there and they were all gone. A Mormon train had passed, I think and I think they brought them to this city. I think I have seen some of the here since my arrival.

Ellsworth

Platte Bridge, Nov. 16,

Col. Collins,
Will send corn from here, have some hay at Dear Creek, will send from there. The boy is glad of opportunity to learn telegraphing. I think it is a good chance for him. Snow two feet deep in the mountains.

Capt. Vanwinkle.
Capt. Vanwinkle,
Am going to Ft. Halleck. If you have any messages send tonight or tomorrow morning.
Wm.O.Collins.

Platte Bridge, Nov. 15, 1862

Col. Collins,
Get my watch from Capt. Shipley if returned from Denver. Will send Williamson to Horse Shoe by return of corn train.
P.W.Vanwinkle

Ficklin's Ranch, Nov. '62

Col. Collins,
I suppose there was between four and five tons of hay delivered here and I think it was delivered about the 25th of Oct. We have it finely stacked. Gen. Craig looked at the stack and said we should have six tons more.
F. Stratton, Sgt.

Sgt. Stratton,
Ficklands Station.
If mule team is sent you, can you get your winters wood? How long will it take.
Wm.O.Collins.

Ficklen's Ranch, Nov. 16,

Col. Collins,
It will take three six mule teams 15 days to get enough wood to last us. It is to be hauled ten miles. Can't make but one load per day. I will assist all I can. 2 of our boys not able to do much.
Sgt. Stratton.

Sgt. Stratton,
You do not need 45 cords wood for six men.
Is not 20 cords enough. The operator must furnish his own. Is it ten miles to the wood. It is reported to me by those who know it to be six.
Wm.O.Collins.

Col. Collins,
I do not think 20 cords is enough. It will take as much for six men as it would for 13 and the way we will have to go, I do not think it is one inch short of 10 miles for wood for I was out looking for wood today.
Sgt. Stratton
Sgt. Stratton,  
How long will your present wood last?  
Wm.O.Collins.

Ficklin's Ranch, Nov. 16/63

Col. Collins,  
I think we have about four sticks and green ones at that.  
Stratton

Sgt. Stratton,  
Am going to Ft. Halleck tomorrow but will try to make  
arrangements for one or two mule teams to go down.  
Wm.O.Collins.

Ft. Laramie, Nov. 16/63

Lt. Glenn,  
Sweetwater Bridge,  
John Callahan says you have his commission as  
Lt. in the Mexican war. Have you got it or did you ever see it?  
I am going to Ft. Halleck tomorrow. If you have any message send  
tonight or tomorrow morning.  
Wm.O.Collins.

Ft. Laramie, Nov. 16/63

Col. Collins,  
Lt. Glenn out seeing to horses and men about 20 miles  
from here. Be back tomorrow evening I think.  
J.W. Ellsworth, operator.

Sweetwater Bridge, Nov. 16

Col. Collins,  
Hill will start for Fort tomorrow. I have fed them ever  
since Sept. I have also issued clothing to them. How will I account  
for them.

H. Hays.

Deer Creek, Nov. 16.

Capt. Hays,  
Deer Creek,  
Your provisions return for teamsters will be allowed.  
As to clothing send down your account by Hill and I will find out  
how it should be arranged.  
Wm.O.Collins.

Ft. Laramie, Nov. 16/63

Capt. Hays,  
Deer Creek,  
Am going to Ft. Halleck tomorrow. If you have any  
message send tonight or early tomorrow morning. Lt. Love is better.  
Wm.O.Collins

Ft. Laramie, Nov. 16
Sweetwater, Nov. 17/63

Col. Collins,

I returned this evening from the mountains where I have my horses pasturing. They are doing well on grass and half rations of corn. I do not think we have more than ten tons of hay here. Have not Callahan's commission but I did see a Lt. commission he had from the Gov. of Pa. though took no particular notice of it.

O. S. Glenn.

Sweetwater, Nov. 12/63

Col. Collins,

If possible I wish you would procure and send me a set of books cavalry tactics.

O. S. Glenn.

Sweetwater, Nov. 13/63

Col. Collins,

Assistant wagon master Hill and six teams on their road down to Ft. Laramie. What will be done with them, they are out of money and clothing. I think it would be better to get the clothing for teamsters there than to give them money, as there is little money on deposit.

O. S. Glenn.

Ft. Laramie, Nov. 15/63

Lt. Glenn

Sweetwater Bridge.

Dogget received for 31 tons hay at Sweetwater Bridge. Where is the balance? Measure what you have and estimate the quantity wasted and issued separately. You would do well to have the same done at each post, for no more can be had and enough has been received and paid for. Richards delivered 30 tons at Upper Sweetwater, 30 at Three Crossings and 31½ at Platte Bridge. I am just starting for Ft. Halleck. Telegraph to Major Meackey with whom I leave all business here. They will give no clothing to teamsters here. Hill's teams must have wood for Stratton at Fisklin's. I shall be back before teamsters leave for the states. Major Mackey will try to get Cook's tactics for you.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Upper Sweetwater Crossing, 25th

Lt. Col. W.O. Collins,

Sir: As commanding officer of this post, it becomes my duty to report to you an engagement at this place between the forces under my command and some 150 Indians of the Snake tribe. They attacked us about ten o'clock on the night of the 24th. I disposed my little band to the best advantage and then calmly awaited the issue of events. I was compelled to act entirely on the defensive. I had not forces enough to do otherwise. I only have nine men now with me, the rest of my detachment being in the mountains harding, for their fate I know nothing. I await from below to make reconnaissance. My loss was one killed, name Joe Good, a brave and true soldier. The Indians remained around our fort all night, but when day broke so that we could see to take aim, we made them skedaddle. We killed two I think. They are now lying around our camp at a safe distance and therein where they
had better stay. Respectfully

G. J. Vananda, Lt.

Lt. Col. W. O. Collins or Major Mackey,

James was discharged by Major O'Ferrall on Sept. 13th. Whoever hired him must certify his account. Please attend to it. Don't delay establishing at least a semi-monthly express to your command. Have you sent October returns?

Frank Eno, A.A.G.

Upper Sweetwater Crossing, Nov. 35.

8 P.M. Pettyjohn arrived all right at Upper Crossing. No Indians stirring but some seen about sundown. Big smoke seen in the mountains in direction heard this evening. Green arrived at 3 Crossings and will make Upper Crossings tomorrow evening. Vanwinkle hopes to reach 3 Crossings before sundown tomorrow. Vananda will send out in morning. See after herders.

Major Mackey,

Your men at Ficklins are tearing down the station commissary room for wood. If teams for hauling have not gone down yet, see to it immediately. Don't let useful building be destroyed.

Frank Eno.

Lt. Col. Collins, or Major Mackey,

If there is no apprehension of a further attack from Indians, direct Lt. Glenn to with his detachment of 18 men to remain at the Upper Crossings of Sweetwater. Direct Capt. Vanwinkle to leave 10 men at the Three Crossings in addition to the forces which has been stationed there and let him return to Platte Bridge and distribute the remainder of his company at that post and Sweetwater Bridge. Further details regarding the disposition of these garrisons are left to you. The design is to strengthen the Upper garrisons for the present by taking a small force from the lower ones. Establish immediately communications with your command at Deer Creek, express, rider, subsistence and forage should be left at Horse Shoe for their use. By order of Col. Alexander.

Frank Eno.

To Lt. Glenn,

Three Crossings,

You will return without delay with your detachment of eighteen men to the Upper Crossing and make arrangements with a new -- to remain there permanently. Arrangements will be made for subsistence and forage.

Thos. L. Mackey.
Capt. P.W. Vanwinkle,

Leave ten of your men at the three crossings under command of Sergt. Pettyjohn. Arrangements will be made for subsistence and forage. Until arrangements are made, Sgt. Pettyjohn will supply them with forage and subsistence. You will return to Platte Bridge yourself and distribute the balance of your company at that post and Sweetwater Bridge.

Thos. L. Mackey,
Commdg. Battalion, V.V.C.

Sweetwater Bridge, Nov. 30th.

Thos. L. Mackey,
I have been appointed Quartermaster of this division with my Headquarters at Sweetwater Bridge and only temporarily in command of any troops. How can I be ordered as you state. It is necessary I should be at Sweetwater Bridge to take charge of the Quartermaster's business.

Lt. O. S. Glenn.

Capt. Ens., A.A.G.
Ft. Kearney,

Lt. Glenn is by order A.A.... with headquarters at Sweetwater Bridge. I suggest therefore that the men he has with him be sent back to Upper Crossing under command of a non-commissioned officer to report to Lt. Venanda and allow Lt. Glenn to return to his post at Sweetwater Bridge. Lt. Glenn had left Upper Crossings before I received your orders and is now at Three Crossings waiting further orders. Answer immediately.

Thos. L. Mackey, Major Commdg.

Major Mackey,

Let Lt. Glenn return to Sweetwater and send the men back to Upper Crossing under charge non-commissioned officer. As soon as all these garrisons are established, send me at Omaha a telegraphic statement of strength of such from Deer Creek up. Also report where arrangements have been perfected for communications with these posts by express. This must not be delayed or neglected. I am now waiting for Oct. returns from those companies.

Frank Ens. A.A.G.

Lt. Glenn.

Three Crossings.

Have your men to return to Upper Crossings at moment's notice and await further orders. I have telegraphed headquarters.

Thos. L. Mackey,
Major Commdg.

Lt. Glenn and Capt. Vanwinkle,

Lt. Glenn you will return to Sweetwater Bridge. Send your men under command of non-commissioned officer back
to Upper Crossings and report to Lt. Vananda. This order is from Capt. Eno, Headquarters.

Thos. L. Mackey.
Major Comdg.

Three Crossings, Nov. 30th.

Major Mackey,

The lack of power of the different posts to protect themselves was not in lack of men enough to defend themselves but the fact that forage was not provided for the horses, making it necessary that the greater portion of the men are used as herders and consequently not able to assist in defending the posts. Sgt. Pettyjohn has enough men to defend this post against any Indian force that may come. Same at Upper Crossings and at other post on the line. It is out of the question to pursue the Indians at this time of the year. I will comply with your order if you still think it best, but would suggest that each detachment be ordered to their headquarters and protect themselves against any Indians and not attempt pursuit until spring. We think not to exceed thirty Indians attacked Upper Crossing. They are hunting and stealing and not war party.

(Signed) Capt. Vanwinkle
W. B. Rezner, Sergt.
Lt. Glenn
Lt. Doggett
Lt. Vananda
Sgt. Pettyjohn.

Three Crossings, Dec. 1st/63

Major Mackey,

Sir, I am at this post by leave of Capt. Hays, I having resigned and Capt. Hays gave me leave of absence to carry my resignation to Laramie. I have resigned on account of serious illness of my parents.

Respt.
J. C. Vananda.

Dear Creek, Dec. 1.

Major Mackey,

Lt. Vananda asked leave of absence to go to the Fort. I granted it. Sgt. Tracy in command at Upper Crossing.

H. Hays.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 1st/63

Lt. Vananda,
Upper Crossings,

Capt. Hays has no authority to grant you leave of absence. You will therefore remain at your post. If you wish to resign, forward your resignation with your reasons therefor to this headquarters for their remittal.

Thos. L. Mackey,

(The above dispatch was sent to Hays also.) Maj. Comdg.
Maj. Mackey,
Sir: Under the leave of absence granted by Hays, I have come this far. I asked Hays for leave to carry my resignation to you and he granted it and I now ask you for the same. It is a case of life and death and, Sir, if it is possible, please let me come. My mother is laying very low—every hour is worth a day to me. Please answer.
C.J. Van Anda.

Laramie, Dec. 1st. 62

Lieut. C. J. VanAbda. 
Sweetwater Bridge.
I reiterate that Capt. Hays had no authority to grant you leave of absence, nor have I such authority, no matter what the necessity. You will therefore return to your post at Upper Crossings at once unless you get leave of absence from District Head Quarters. Am astonished that you should take one step in this direction after receiving my former dispatch.
Thos. L. Mackey
Major Commanding.

Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 2, 1862

Maj. Mackey,
We do not think there is need of any more men at Upper and Three Crossings and would respectfully suggest that you order our men to their respective posts.


Fort Laramie, Dec. 2, 1862

Captain P. W. VanWinkle,
Sweetwater Bridge,
If my order directing you to place ten of your men at Three Crossings under Serg. Pettyjohn at Three Crossings, has not been complied with, obey it at once. If after my order is complied with, it is found unnecessary to keep the men there, I will endeavor to have it countermanded from Head Quarters. My order was made on order from Head Quarters and must be obeyed.

Thos. L. Mackey
Maj. Comdg.

Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 3

Major Mackey,
Your order to have ten men at 3 crossings was complied with—left with horses but no stable, cooking utensils or bedding sufficient for this weather, or change of clothing. I learn from Lt. Doggett that three of the men left this morning for this point. What shall be done with them. I telegraphed you three times. I received but one reply. Be good enough to answer this immediately as early replies are essential to fifty mile marches. When is Col. Collins expected at fort.

P. W. Van Winkle, Capt.
Capt. Van Winkle,
Make arrangements with Lt. Glenn for transportation of necessary supplies for your men at three crossings. Will endeavor to have order countermanded placing additional men there, but make arrangements as above. Don't know when Col. will be back. Was to be gone ten days, now out fourteen.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 3

Major Mackey, Comdg.

To Lt. O. S. Glenn
Sweetwater Bridge,
Make immediate arrangements & send full supplies of rations and forage to your men at Upper Crossings and for Capt. VanWinkle's men at three crossings. The train should go under suitable escort.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 2

Thos. L. Mackey,
Major Comdg.

To Capt. Eno:
There being no room at three crossings for any additional men or horses and no forage for latter, I suggest that Van Winkle's men be ordered back to their former post. I have ordered Lt. Glenn to send full rations & forage to his men at Upper Crossings. Answer soon.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 2

Thos. L. Mackey,
Major Comdg.

To Capt. Eno,
Subsistence cannot be furnished Upper Crossings without difficulty & forage not at all unless a train is sent from here & Thompson says he cannot furnish it. There is no stabling for additional horses or mules. They must stand out and will soon eat up all the hay & the detachment must be withdrawn. Officers in command above Deer Creek telegraph their respective posts can be held with their organized forces & that is my opinion and that of officers here. I respectfully suggest that the men sent forward be immediately ordered to their original posts. Shall the express you ordered to Upper Stations, be carried by soldiers and public horses or contracted for with citizens. Returned last night, made a good road through the mountain.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 3


Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 2

Major Mackey,
I am sick. As soon as I am well, will go to my post.
C. J. Vananda.
Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 2

Major Mackey,

I have sent several messages and received no reply, but instead orders I cannot obey. You gave me orders to supply rations and forage immediately as if I had large trains at my command, when you must know I have transferred every team in my possession except one. With that I could not get forage to Upper Crossings for fourteen horses till May in one hundred days, to say nothing of rations. My instructions from Gen. Craig was to distribute rations and forage before cold weather and I done so and he thought at the time, and all the officers on the road think now the force amply sufficient to defend it and I only drew rations and forage for what men are now on the road. If any more are sent, more subsistence will have to be sent from Laramie. We sent you a message Sunday night, signed by all the officers on the road except Hays, but to this you paid no attention. I would now respectfully suggest that you inform your self with regard to affairs on this road before issuing any more orders.

Lt. O. S. Glenn.

Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 3

Major Mackey,

Lt. Glenn informs me he has no means of transportation at his command. Inform me what to do with 3 men who left three crossings this A.M. in violation of orders now under at this post. Am ordered here by you. Shall I return to my headquarters.

Capt. VanWinkle.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 3

Capt. Van Winkle, Glenn, Vananda & others,

Returned last night. Think the men should all be ordered to return to their original post forthwith and have so telegraphed Capt. Eno. Shall take the responsibility of ordering if I do not get an answer soon. Wait till you hear from me. Mackey's orders were only repetitions of those he received from Headquarters and it was his duty to give them. If it is thought best to proceed against the three, they must be kept in arrest and sent to this fort for trial with the charges the first opportunity.


Ft. Laramie, Dec. 3/63

Lt. Glenn,

Sweetwater Bridge,

I think some of your messages to Major Mackey are couched in scarcely respectful language to him as your superior officer. Plain statements and inquiries can be expressed without discourtesy. Send no forage or subsistence to other post till you hear from me as the men will probably be ordered to their original stations. Send report as to hay and Dean affair as soon as convenient.


*Signature*

*Signature*
Lt. Vananda,

Report of attack upon your post just received. Accept my thanks for good conduct of yourself and men. I sympathize in the loss of Good. Send full official report with such facts as you have since learned for private conveyance as soon as convenient. Do not herd your stock away from the post hereafter. Economy your hay with the greatest care. The tons delivered you should last till spring or nearly so. Would like to accommodate you with leave of absence but the order of the War Department is so that I should be liable to court marshal for doing so. If you send your resignation to me, I will approve it and forward to Gen. Craig who will send to Washington.


Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 3/82

To Col. C. Collins,

I will return to my post as soon as I feel able. I will send reports soon of fight.

C. J. Vananda.

South Pass, Dec. 3, 1862

Lt. Col. Wm. O. Collins,

(Dispatch from Lt. J. C. Vananda substantially same as the one sent by him to Major Mackey dated Nov. 25th which see.)

Omaha City, Dec. 4, 1862.

Lt. Col. Collins,

The Indians may attack your post on Sweetwater at any moment and in larger force, but in view of the decided statements you make, you will use your own judgment in about strengthening any one post on returning the original garrisons to all. Require Lt. Vananda to furnish you a full written report and of recent engagement and send it to these headquarters. Semi-monthly express can be carried by the soldiers.

Frank Eno, A. A. Genl.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 4, 1863

P. W. VanWinkel, Glenn and Vananda,

Sirs, Telegram from Eno received leaving disposition of force to me. If you still think all men should be returned to original posts, have it done at once. If feed will be scarce at Upper & Three Crossings, would it not be well to send down part of horses to lower posts for this fort. Forage may be needed at upper posts in winter when it cannot be had. Prospect of payment at close of month. Make out and send last pay roll promptly to me. I will attend to forwarding. Use your best discretion. Tell me what you want act on defensive, watch everything closely, make the men do their duty and hope for the best. I will come up to see you as soon as I can.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Commanding.
W. B. Rezner,
Sweetwater Bridge,
Have you any vaccine matter.
W. O. Collins.

Col. W. O. Collins,
No.
W. B. Rezner, Surg.

Capt. Hays & VanWinkle,
Fifty-three letters here for Hays company,
fourtfeve for VanWinkle’s. Send down messenger for them immediately
with thr-monthly reports for November. Those for October not full
enough. Will send you blank forms. Send names and rank of men
at each station. Will citizens help towards express. If not must
have one ourselves, at least tri-monthly.

Platte Bridge, Dec. 8th.

Col. Collins,
Lt. Glenn telegraphs me that 50 or 75 Indians at Horse
Creek 12 miles this side. He has gone after them. I will stand with
15 men so as to be at Willow Springs by daylight in morning. Answer.
Capt. VanWinkle.

Laramie 8th.

Capt. VanWinkle,
Exercise your best judgment with command of any forces
that you go with. Be prudent and careful. Notify me immediately
if you need more help. Reply before you leave.
Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Capt. VanWinkle,
If you think best to send party to reinforce Glenn
do so. You are on the ground and know best, but remember we have
but few men. The Indians are numerous. The winter will be long
and our orders and arrangements are all calculated to defend only.
Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Platte Bridge, 8th.

Col. O. Collins,
Lt. Glenn sent me word about Indians and started
immediately. I sent him the following message. We cant make
Horse Creek to-day tonight. Will start in the morning if you think
best. My opinion had better keep good lookout at quarters and act
on defensive. Give me some of the particulars. What were they do-
ing in camp in morning. Unless I hear from Lt. Glenn soon, I think
best to start men so as to get Willow Springs by daylight.
Capt. VanWinkle.
Capt. VanWinkle,  
Laramie, 8th.

Our duty and policy is to defend at posts, we are not strong enough to, attack or follow. Did the Indians do anything wrong.

Wm. O. Collins.

Laramie, 8th.

To Operator, Platte Bridge,  
Any Indians seen in your vicinity.

Wm. O. Collins. Lt. Col.

Platte Bridge, 8th.

Platte Bridge.

No Indians have been seen around here.

Upper Crossing, Dec. 8th.

Col. Wm. O. Collins,  
Sergt. Tracy saw one yesterday. He was alone, no other traces to be found.

Upper Crossing, Sweetwater.

Dec. 8th.

Col. Collins,  
No Indians seen around this place.

Three Crossings.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 8th. /63

Capt. VanWinkle,  
Platte bridge.

Have men returned from pursuing Indians. What result, Frank McKeehan, bugler, has a weak breast and cannot stand blowing. Could you send another in his place. Clayton left his horse here unfir for service.


Platte Bridge, Dec. 10th.

Col. O. Collins,  
Men returned, could find no Indians. Will send mail in morning and bugler if I can. Let McKeehan return to company. I send three men under arrest with charges and specifications. Will write you by messenger.

Capt. VanWinkle.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 10th.

Lt. Glenn, Sweetwater bridge,  
Capt. VanWinkle sends messenger for mail in the morning. Teamsters transfer rolls much needed. Will he bring them. Answer.

Wm. O. Collins.
Ft. Laramie, Dec. 14th

Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 13

Lt. Col. W.O. Collins,

If consistent with your feelings and duty, I wish you to approve and forward my resignation with all dispatch possible.

C. J. Vananda.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 14

Lt. Vananda,
Sweetwater Bridge,

Major Mackey handed me your resignation dated Dec. 2nd. Shall I forward it.


Deer Creek, Dec. 13th

Col. W. O. Collins,

Vananda is at the Bridge sick and has been for some time. Sergt. Tracey is in command at Upper Crossing. Send my mail by Jules E. Coffee.

H. Hays.

Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 14

Col. W. O. Collins,

Please send by the ambulance 50 pair pants, 30 pair boots, 2 overcoats, three stable forks, 6 axe handles, twenty lbs. nails, 25 lbs. horseshoe nails, & Cook’s tactics, 1 sack shot.

C. S. Glenn.

Omaha, Dec. 15th.

Col. Collins,

What is the condition of your troops on both lines as to health, comfort, discipline, &c.

James Craig, Brig. Gen.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 15th

Gen. James Craig,
Omaha, N. F.

Troops healthy, horses improving, hay at detachment on Sweetwater will be short. Co. C at this post making excellent progress in drill. Co. A at Fort Hallack reported doing well also. Detachment probably drill less. Have ordered them to original posts. One man killed Nov. 24th in detachment at Upper Crossing, Sweetwater, another died at Three Crossings 7.7 today (?). Glenn and VanWinkle report Indians seen Dec. 7th 13 miles this side of Sweetwater Bridge. Will write you by mail today.


Omaha City, Dec. 15th

Lt. Col. Collins,
Comdg. 1st Battalion, 6th O. V. C.

Have you sent your October returns.

Frank Fro. A. A. C.
Capt. Frank Eno,  
Omaha, M.F.  
Reports for October & Nov. & other papers will be  
sent you today by mail.  

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 15th  
W. Collins, Lt. Col.  

Col. Collins,  
Bennett Tribbett of my company died yesterday of lung fever at Three Crossings of Sweetwater.  

Deer Creek, 14th  
H. R. Hays.  

Gen. Craig,  
Omaha.  
Nicholas Janis is here for pay. Says you have his account for balance twenty-seven days. Shall he be paid here and by whom.  

Fort Laramie, Dec. 15th  
W. Collins, Lt. Col.  

Johnson, operator,  
Upper Sweetwater,  
How many sacks of mail matter were burned at Pacific Springs when station abandoned & by whom.  

Fort Laramie, Dec. 15, 1863  
W. Collins, Lt. Col.  

Col. Collins,  
Am not certain about number mail sacks burned. They were burned by Mr. Flowers orders or consent.  

Upper Crossings, Dec. 15  
Johnson.  

Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 55  
Col. Collins,  
Sgt. Chaumes in command at Upper Crossing, telegraphs me they have only wood enough to do until the 1st of February. What shall I do? I have but one team and they have not forage sufficient to keep it there. Have my horses and Pettyjohn's on herd together at mountains.  
O. S. Glenn.  

Omaha, Dec. 17th 1863  
Col. Collins,  
Janis papers cannot be found here & of course I can give no orders. The officer who employed him must certify the time and the necessity and then the Quartermaster can pay him.  
James Craig, Brig. Gen.
Lt. Glenn,

Furnishing more wood now at Upper Sweetwater is out of the question. The supply was reported sufficient. There must have been neglect somewhere. I see no way but to ascertain the facts and make changes so that those in fault can be punished. Could you visit both Upper Stations and measure wood and hay.

W.O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 17, 62

Sgt. Chance,
Upper Crossing,

How happens wood to be short. Economize carefully till it can be inquired into.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 17

Col. Wm. O. Collins,

Our wood was cut and corded about one month ago. We had 73 cords, it is half gone. It was thought by the commanding officer of this post that we had enough and the teams sent away, but our wood was principally Quaken asp and soon burns up.

M. Charming.

Upper Crossing, Dec. 17th 1862

Col. Collins,

It would be impossible for me to go to Upper Stations at present. Is there not men at each of those Stations that could measure wood and hay and report?

O. S. Glenn

Omaha. Dec. 19/62

Lt. Col. W. O. Collins,

I send by mail Sgt. Shipley’s discharge.

James Craig, Brig. Gen.

Sweet Water Dec. 19th/62

W. O. Collins,

Lt. Col. Sir, Lt. Glenn showed me a dispatch from you ordering him to visit 3 crossing, Upper Sweetwater, and report the facts concerning wood, to find who had neglected duty. Sir, those facts can be ascertained without his going; from the language of your message you meant me and Sir, I can give Glenn, you or a Court martial all facts relating to it. I am

Respectfully, C. J. Vananda.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 19

Lt. Vananda,

Sweetwater Bridge,

Telegram 19th received. Are you well enough to return to Upper Crossing? If so, go immediately, resume command, make out and send by first mail messenger full report of quantity of wood and hay delivered there, quantity now on hand and how long will each last. Your resignation was sent to Gen. Craig by first mail after arrival. I shall telegraph him to retain it at present.

Ft. Laramie, Dec. 19th

Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 19

Lt. Col. W. O. Collins,
Sir, though not very well I intend starting in
the morning for my Post. Sir, not wishing to be impertinent, with your
permission I will ask your reasons for detaining my resignation.
C. J. Vananda.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 19th.

Lt. Vananda,
Upper Sweetwater Crossing,
Having been placed in command at Upper
Sweetwater Crossing, you are needed to explain why the plans and orders
for the maintenance of detachment there for the entire winter fail,
if they are likely to do so. I presume you do not wish to resign till
this is done.
Sweetwater, Dec. 19.

Col. Collins,
Sergt. Chance reports eleven (11) tons hay, twenty-two (22)
cords wood at Upper Crossing. Pettijohn reports fifteen tons at 3
crossings.
O. S. Glenn
Sweetwater Bridge, 19th.

Lt. Col. Collins,
The supplies at Upper crossing will fail to winter
the men there. I would ask of you, in case it is examined into, I would
prefer that it be done by a court martial.
C. J. Vananda.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 19th

Lt. Vananda,
Sweetwater Bridge,
Return to your post if able. Ask for court of in-
quiry in form if you desire it.
W. O. Collins.
Sweetwater Bridge, 20/63

Col. Collins,
I did not go this morning, not being very well and not
having anyone to go with me. I will go up in two (2) days with Pettijohn's mail
men. I would beg of you to have instant action on my
case so that my resignation can go on. I have no fears but that I
can honorably adjust the difficulty.
Respectfully,
C. J. Vananda.
Col. Collins,
Are you aware that Sioux Indians are preparing to attack our troops on this line? The same story has been told to Bissonnette three times and he credits the same.

H. Hays, Capt. 6th v.v.c
Fort Laramie, Dec. 21, 1862

Capt. VanWinkle,
Three pay rolls must be forwarded. You sent but two (2). Am having the third made out. Capt. Keyser will take to Headquarters at Omaha. You give five (5) Sergeants instead of eight (2). Williams as First Sergt, omit Apt from the roll altogether, have neither Quartermaster nor Commissary Sergt and no detached extra duty men or sick in hospital here. Capt. Hays reports rumor of Indians from the north. Inquire and watch carefully.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.
Fort Laramie, Dec. 21st, 1862

Capt. Hays,
Rumors here twice that Missouri Indians afflicted with smallpox and coming on this line to steal horses and property. May or may not be reliable - be watchful - get details and inform me.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.
Sweetwater, Dec. 21st/63

Col. Collins,
From telegrams received from you, it is evident that you hold me culpable in regard to the supplies at Upper Crossing and I now demand of you as commanding officer of the regiment, to order me to Fort Laramie to clean the stain off my name and I also demand a court of inquiry to examine the difficulty. I hope you will comply with my request and give me a chance to vindicate my honor. Answer immediately if you please, for I will start for my post in the morning and will save me a long ride by letting me come now for it will have to be righted. I can never rest with my honor disgraced.

Respectfully,
C. J. Vananda.
Fort Laramie, Dec. 22/63

Lt. Vananda,
A statement of the facts will be sent to Gen. Craig by Capt. Keyser who goes to Omaha tomorrow morning and when he is heard from you shall know the result.

W. O. Collins.
Sweetwater, 23/63

Col. Collins,
Will you give me permission or order me to Laramie a few days? I want to see to some business in the Quartermaster's department.

O. S. Glenn.
Fort Laramie, Dec. 22

Lt. Glenn,
Is your business here pressing and important? If so I will telegraph Gen. Craig for leave. In the present condition of things upon the line, you ought not to leave unless it is absolutely necessary.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.
Col. Collins,

Please order me to Laramie for I think it necessary, O.S. Glenn.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 22d.

Lt. Glenn,

I must decline to give you leave to come Fort Laramie at present unless you state urgent reasons.

Wm. O. Collins.

Sweetwater, Dec. 22d

Wm. O. Collins,

Lieut. Col.

It is necessary for me to come to Laramie to know something of my business and know no urgent reason for me here.

O.S. Glenn.

Omaha, Dec. 22d, 1862

Lt. Col. Collins,

Order such teams as may be at Platte Bridge and stations above to Upper Crossing Sweetwater to assist in getting a full supply of wood. That post must not be abandoned. If the garrison is too small, reinforce it. So far as investigation is concerned take such steps as the good of the service may demand. By Order.

Frank Eno, A.A. Gen.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 23d

Capt. Eno.

Omaha.

Ask General Craig to appoint court of inquiry immediately so that they can act at once. The officers named are willing to go. One team at Platte Bridge, one at Sweetwater Bridge, none above. May be necessary to take two from here.

Wm. O. Collin.

Deer Creek, Dec. 23d

To Col. Collins,

Reports from Upper Crossing say impossible to winter stock unless more forage. What shall I do. Unwell.

W. Hays.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 23d

General Craig,

Omaha.

Telegram received Dec. 15th stating that wood at Upper Crossing would only last to Feb. 1st. Examination made since show only 32 cords which will give out before that time. This involves abandonment of the post or new supplies. We should know how this happens—am preparing full statement of facts to send by Capt. Keyser that you may order Court of Inquiry, but on consultation with Thompson, Keyser and Mackay, they advise telegraphic appointment of Court of Inquiry to prevent delay and Maj. Mackey, Lt. Flickinger & Clarke are agreed upon if approved. Am going up to inspect all posts and will take them with me. Perhaps it would be well to authorize them to inspect and report as to all posts, would help me to enforce orders. Court of Inquiry should be only as to Upper Sweetwater Crossing which is asked for by Lt. Vananda.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.
Capt. F. Eno, A.A.G.
Omaha.

October returns for Companies B & D in detachments guarding telegraph line, were made out & mailed as soon as reports received permitted. Notified you of the fact Dec. 15th, 1862. Is Gen. Craig at Omaha. If so say I beg an answer to my request for court of inquiry as to Upper Sweetwater Crossing and some discretionary power as to manner of readjusting distribution of men, supplies, &c at each post so that all may be held till spring as was originally intended.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.
Omaha, Dec. 33rd/62

Lt.Col.Collins,

A stringent order has just been issued from Dept. Hq. Quarters respecting returns. Nov. returns received from the whole command. Yours for Oct. is yet behind. By this order the general will have to publish you in order for derelection of duty unless the fault is promptly remedied as you are about to visit your commands on Sweetwater, you will make complete arrangements to ensure the prompt transmittal of their returns.

By Order of Craig, Brig.Gen.
F. Eno, A.A.G.

Head Quarters, Omaha,
Dec. 24, 1862.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.

The General thinks a Court of Inquiry unnecessary your personal report & investigation will be sufficient. Make such changes as your judgment may dictate. The posts must all be held, all details of course to be arranged by you as immediate commander. Let one of these details be to establish a reliable express for prompt transmittal of returns.

By Order of Brig.Gen. Craig
Frank Eno, A.A.G.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 24th, 1862

Capt. F. Eno,

Your telegram of today is satisfactory though I think Court of Inquiry would have been beneficial. Great discontent exists among officers and men on the line. The orders sending men & supplies from post to post after attack at Upper Crossing disturbed previous arrangements & were thought unnecessary. Those who desire to do their duty are discouraged, those who do not, troublesome. Your order to send the only two teams which Van Winkle & Quartermaster Glenn have to Upper Crossing, I have not complied with. They need them and as I understand you now to leave such details to me, I shall endeavor to provide for the maintenance of each post. I shall probably take two teams from this post & one from above.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.
Capts. Hays & Van Winkle }  
Lieuts. Glenn & Vananda }  
and Sgt. Pettijohn 

I intend starting about Monday next  
with a small party of officers and men to inspect each post & especi- 
ally examine into the condition of things at Upper Sweetwater  
Crossing. If you need anything from here, inform me at once.  
W.O.Collins. 

Fort Laramie, Dec. 26, 1862 

Col. Collins,  
Please bring me twenty-four (24) packages envelopes.  

Three Crossings, Dec. 26, 1862 

All well.  

Sgt. Pettijohn 

South Pass, Dec. 27 

Col. Collins,  
Please bring for this place ten lbs. of fifteen dol- 
lars worth chewing tobacco, half dozen packages stamped envelopes  
if can get them, if not plains ones, also a few almanacs.  

W.C. Channel. 

Dear Creek, Dec. 37th. 

Col. Collins,  
I want six revolvers, one pair large cavalry pants.  
Please bring.  

Hays.  

Sweetwater Bridge, Dec. 22. 

Col. Collins  
Send me some hospital muster and pay rolls.  

Wm. B. Reznor, Surg. 

Upper Crossing, Dec. 28 

Col. Collins,  
Please bring half dozen papers pepper. 

Wm. B. Reznor, Surg. 

Upper Crossing, Dec. 23th 

Wm.O. Collins,  
You will oblige all here by bringing as much read- 
ing matter as you can conveniently; even old papers will be quite  
a treat. 

Johnson.  

Platte Bridge, Dec.  

Col. Collins,  
Can you bring some salt, we are out.  

Van Winkle, Capt.  

Van Winkle, Capt. 

Upper Crossing, 1862 

Col. Collins,  
Mr. Maddox wishes you to bring him a bible, large  
print as you can get.  

W. Myor?
Fort Laramie, Jan. 8/63

Col. Collins,
Sweetwater Bridge,

Where will I find charges against VanWinkle's men. Lt. Love has orders to remain here until after twenty-third inst. Supposed to be detailed on this court. Please attend to sending witnesses. We have had no mail as yet.

Thos. S. Mackey, Major.

Platte Bridge, Jan. 5th

Major Mackey,

Ask Hamilton for original charges. Will find them among my papers. Witnesses will come down with Capt. Van Winkle.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Fort Laramie, Dec. 27, 63

Capt. Hays,

Commanding officer of each detachment on telegraph line will take inventory of wood, hay, corn and all quartermaster and commissary stores at his station on the first day of January. Make report. Shall start tomorrow morning.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Fort Laramie, Jan. 1, 63

Johnson, Operator,

Please send by Sergt. Heriman a written statement giving full particulars of the burning of mail matter at Pacific Springs and by whose orders it was done. Give all the detail you can.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

For Lt. Col. Collins,

A French Canadian with Hoels telegraph train tells us Ch--- Indians burned house at Horse Shoe ranch, nine bucks in all. Cannot say as to number of lodges. Ranch burned on morning of 34th Sept. Capt. S. Hays and Van Winkle arrived here on day following.

W. W. Meldrum.

Deer Creek, Jan. 5th

Lt. Vananda,
Three Crossings,

You will report yourself under arrest at Ft. Laramie without delay.

Wm. Collins.

Deer Creek, Jan. 5/63

Capt. Eno, A. A. Gen.

Have ordered Lt. Vananda under arrest and to report to Laramie without delay. He is still at Three Crossings having never returned to his post. Wish his trial to be had at same time if possible. The management at Upper Crossings must be inquired into. Will go there if possible.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.
Capt. Eno, A.A.G.

Charges against Vananda will be preferred and sent as soon as possible. Trial should be had while Capt. Hays remains. Do not know for Court Martial is ordered, but might accommodate witnesses to have this about the same time if not by same court. Could brief charges be sent by telegraph—mail may take long time.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.

Deer Creek, Jan.5/63

Capt. Eno. A.A.G.

On my way to inspect detachment on telegraph line. Cannot get to Upper Crossings and be at Fort Laramie by the 20th but will go as far as I can and return. Returns for 10th and 20th of Oct. not furnished me by company commanders. No adjutant allowed to the Battalion and have had none since Hunter left. Shall I appoint an acting one and give instructions and making arrangements and regular transmission to Laramie. Do you change your order from two weeks express to ten days.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.

Deer Creek, Jan.5/63

Sergt.Pettyjohn.

Sgt. is Lt. Vananda still at your Post.

William Collins, Lt.Col.

Deer Creek, Jan.5/63

Col.Collins,

Yes.

E.S.Pettyjohn.

Three Crossings, Jany.5/63

Gen.Craig, Omaha.

On my way inspecting detachment on telegraph line.

No officers with me. Leave in morning for Platt Bridge,—any instructions to give?

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.

Omaha, Jany.5th,1863.

Lt.Col.Collins,

Charges must be preferred and sent here for approval before t. Vananda can be tried.

Frank Eno, A.A.Gen.

Omaha City, Jany.5/63

Lt.Col.Collins,

Forward charges by mail. Will try and get them back.

Frank Eno, A.A.G.
Jany. 7th, 1863
Col. Collins,
Platt Bridge,
A large black sachell here. It is a stranger to me.

Ellsworth.

Col. Collins,
Is it necessary that I should go to Laramie at once? My
horse is very much fatigued. If so, to whom will I report.
Respectfully,
C. J. Vananda.

Deer Creek, Jan. 8th/63

Col. Collins,
Please bring that pay roll down.

H. R. Hays.

Deer Creek, Jan. 12/63

Sergt. Chanels,
Have you made report of fuel, forage, commissary stores
&c at your post on first Jan.


Jany. 13/63

Dr. Riezuer,(?)
Sergt. Chanels telegraphs our books and mater. were taken
out of the wagon at Sweetwater Bridge by Surgeon Rezner—all the loose
papers in the box were intended for Upper crossing. Please collect
them, nail up the box and forward first opportunity,
Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Jany. 14th/63

Sergt. Hays,
Has Sergt. Herriman and party arrived.

W. O. Collins.

Jany. 13th/63

Col. Wm. O. Collins,
Our books and reading matter were taken out of the
wagon at Sweetwater Bridge by Surgeon Rezner. Our papers are always
taken before they reach this post. I would like to have such pro-
ceedings stopped.

M. Chanel

South Pass, Jany. 14/63

Wm. O. Collins,
Yes. (Answer to the despach No. 1)

M. Chanel.

South Pass, Jany. 13/63
Wm.O.Collins. Yes. (Answer to the despatch No.2)
F.M.Hays.

Mr. Bullock, When will Eastern mail leave. Shall get to Fort tonight.
Have large number of letters to mail.
Wm.O.Collins.

Capt. Eno, Just returned from inspecting post above. Will send returns for 31st Dec. and 10th Jan'y. by mail tomorrow, also charges against Lt Vananda who came down with me tonight,
W.O.Collins.

Col.Collins, Glenn is here. Can I come down with him?
H.Hays.

Sergt.Hays, How much wood have teams hauled. How long will you need them.
Wm.O.Collins.

Wm.O.Collins Have information from Halleck that Shipley and Allen are absent without leave. Subsistance and forage wasted or sold and will not last till spring. Troops almost in mutiny as the only mode of left of subsisting men and horses. You will take immediate steps to transfer Shipley's company to Laramie. Have the officers who compose the court martial arrived at Laramie. If not who of them are there.

James Craig, Brig.G.

Col.Collins, I am told that Corp.Seusey(?) wishes to go to Horse Shoe to learn telegraphing. Is Williamson still anxious to leave. Will you allow Seusey to take his place.
Ellsworth.

Gen Craig, Shipley's company ordered here by Capt.Thompson before I arrived. Supposed to be on the way. No members of Court martial got here except Capt.Vandewinkle. Have given leave to Capt. Hays and Lt. Glenn to come to Laramie to arrange Quartermaster's account. Probably be here tomorrow.
Gen. Craig,

Mail came from Ft. Halleck says Shipley's co. left Monday last. Will arrive tomorrow or next day. Cannot say whether Shipley or Allen are with them or not.

Wm. O. Collins.

Omaha, Jan. 22/63

Col. Collins,

Citizen physician will leave here tomorrow to relieve Rezner. See Capt. Thompson and procure ambulance and send down to Julesburg for him.

Capt. F. Eno.

Ft. Laramie, Jan. 23

Gen. Craig,

Hays and Glenn cannot get business done and return to Post in seven days. Will you extend it to eleven. Is Hays resignation (?) heard from.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Omaha, Jan. 23rd/63

Wm. O. Collins,

If the members of court do not come today, meet and adjourn from day to day until they arrive or you hear they are not coming. I cannot imagine why you suffered Hays and Glenn to leave their post when all the commissioned officers and the line except Doggett are away.

Jas. Craig, Brig. G.

Ft. Laramie, Jan. 23.

Gen. Craig,

Hays and Glenn both claimed to have important quartermaster's business to settle up before Alexander left. Glen is act. Battalion Q.M. They arrived last night. Shall I order them immediately to return or allow them to remain and complete their business.

Wm. O. Collins.

Ft. Laramie, Jan. 23/63

Gen. James Craig,

Shipley, Allen and Brown members of Court Martial not arrived.

Wm. O. Collins.

Omaha, Jan. 23.

Wm. O. Collins,

Let Hays and Glenn remain for a few days. They may be needed to serve on Court Martial. I regret that you gave them leave. The resignations are all returned for correction. Officers must by a late order, make affidavits that they do not owe Government and hand over public property before they can resign. Let me know when Shipley
Fort Laramie, Jany. 24.

Gen. Craig,

Wm. O. Collins.

Omaha, Jany. 26/63

Collins,
Charges having been filed against Capt. Allen and Shipley, they are excused from service on Court Martial now in session at Fort Laramie and Capt. Hayes, Lt. Kohney are detailed as members of the court.

James Craig, Brig. Gen.

Ft. Laramie, Jany. 26

Gen. Craig,
Allen sent the charges by Shipley. Kochney is here.

Wm. O. Collins.

Omaha, Jany. 26/63

Col. Collins,
Who do you want for judge advocate. Hayes or Kochney, the latter will be preferred.

James Craig, Brig. Gen.

Ft. Laramie, Jany. 26

Wm. O. Collins.

Omaha, Jany. 26/63

Lt. Kochney,
You are hereby detailed to serve as judge advocate with the Court Martial now in session at Ft. Laramie.

Jas. Craig, Brig. Gen.

Sweetwater Bridge, Jany. 26

Col. Collins,
I have started party for west end. They arrived at South Pass Station today. Mules pretty badly tired out. Boys up there propose put in fresh team and help them to Sandy tomorrow with your permission. If you give it will be a great accommodation to us as we are short of help at Salt Lake office and want one of the boys there soon as can possibly get him there.

Ellsworth

Ft. Laramie, Jany. 26th

Ellsworth,
If teams not needed at Upper crossings, they may do so. Ask Sergt. Hayes how many men do you want.

Wm. O. Collins.
Col. Collins,

Three or four men would be enough to care for themselves. Think Indians not many about there just now.

Fort Laramie, Jany. 28th, 1863

Sergt. Hays,
Upper Crossing,

Ellsworth asks for party and mules to go to Bandy Station which he will explain to you. If teams and men can be spared without detriment to the Post, send them. Exercise your discretion. Direct them to return as soon as possible.

Wm. O. Collins.

Ellsworth,

Linsey can take Williamson's place at Horse Shoe if you wish it. Hays and Vanwinkle both agree.

Wm. O. Collins.

Col. Collins,

That will suit all concerned.

Ellsworth.

McCollster,
Deer Creek,

Where is Sergt. Herriman's party?

Wm. O. Collins.

Sergt. Herriman left Deer Creek day before yesterday.

McCollster.

Sweetwater, Jany. 28/63

Col. Collins,

Am told there is but about ton and half hay left at Upper Crossing and sixteen head of stock feeding from it. Fear we shall have no hay. Repairing stock in spring rules looked to immediately. Will you give it your attention.

Ellsworth.

Ellsworth,

More hay cannot be furnished at Upper Crossings. Will telegraph as to removing more stock.

Wm. O. Collins.

Ellsworth telegraphs that hay nearly gone at Upper Crossings. Would it not be well to send down more stock.

W. O. Collins.
Col. Collins, I think it would be best to send more stock away, but little hay here.

F. M. Hays

How many should be sent down?

W. O. Collins.

Col. Collins, I can spare the teams and five horses.

Hays

Upper Crossing, Jan'y. 29

Cook, Operator

Horse Shoe, Tell Williamson to start tomorrow morning with sack containing mail and other articles, left by Harriman's party at your station. Harriman will meet him half way and get it so that Williamson can return the same day. Linsey will be there to relieve Williamson soon.

W. O. Collins.

Ft. Laramie, Jan'y. 29

Col. Collins, Is the mail in a sack?

Cook, Operator.

Horse Shoe, Jan'y. 29

Cook, Operator, Mail is in sack with other articles. Open and see.

W. O. Collins.

Bring all the sack.

Wm. O. Collins.

Fort Laramie, Jan'y. 29, 1863

Sergt. Hays, Send down five horses to Deer Creek. Send teams also if you have wood enough to last till 1st of Apr. but not otherwise. Be sure no mistake is made this time. Do not permit buildings or corral to... for fuel without orders.

Wm. O. Collins.

Omaha, Jan'y. 29"/63

Wm. O. Collins, Dr. Thompsken forgot his orders on his arrival. Place him on duty with troops on Sweetwater & relieve Dr. Rezner with orders to report to Col. of his regiment serving in eleventh corps army of the Potomac.

By order, Frank Eno.

Fort Laramie, Jan'y. 28/63

Dr. Rezner, The following despach just received. Dr. Thompsken is about Julesburg on the way.

Wm. O. Collins.
Omaha, Feb.1st, 1863.

Col. Collins,

Love has been excused from staff duty, as soon as court martial is through send him to command his company. Say to him that I regret to lose him, but his co. must be commanded. Tell Capt. Shipley he can send a new resignation if he desires. He cannot be ordered to Omaha while under arrest.

James Craig, Brig.Gen.

Omaha, Feb. 3, 1863

Lt. Col. Collins,

Have you received official letters from me of January 5th & 8th. Have you sent returns of 10th & 20th of Dec.

Frank Eno, A.A.G.

Fort Laramie, Feb. 3, 1863.

Capt. F. Eno,

Returns for 20th. Sent by mail of 20th for 20th. Sent by mail of 24th of 30th. Sent by mail which left today. Letter of 8th enclosing blanks received and receipts sent by mail of 24th. Will examine as to letter of 5th & if not received will telegraph.


Lt. Glenn, Deer Creek,

You had better take the ambulance from Deer Creek to carry up Dr. Thompsken & bring back Dr. Rezner.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Gen. Craig,

Resignation of Vanandas under charges sent by last mail. Thinking neglect at Upper Crossings required examination & court of inquiry being refused, I made charges but as he confessed, I do not care to prefer them. Suppose we let him slide. Court martial through all but Van Peasae. That has been going on a week and prosecution not yet through testimony.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Gen. Craig,

Capts. Shipley & Hays wish me to ask you whether in case their resignation should be accepted & sent to you at Omaha, you would notify them of the fact by telegraph & permit them to leave here without waiting for the mail to bring the acceptance to Laramie. We have had no mail for 19 days.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.
Gen. Craig,

Something should be done to fill the ranks of my Battalion & some additional horses & breech loading rifles got to prepare us for service if we are to be useful next season. I telegraphed because the mail to this point seems to have gone under. Ten of Shipley's men, one of Hayss & one of Van Winkles men have enlisted with regulars. Help us if you can,

Wm.O.Collins.

E.W.Taylor,
Omaha,

I learnt yesterday for the first time that you were at Omaha & publishing a paper. You told me your appointment when I saw you last but I did not know your location. Send me your paper and write me fully. I was ordered to the frontier with a Battalion of Ohio cavalry in April last and have spent most of the time since in the mountains. Write me as to railroad plans & I will tell you about what I know about railroad routes.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.

Wm.O.Collins,

I expected to have gone to Washington & would have procured arms &c for a portion of your command. Will write immediately and try to get ordered to purchase horses. I will inform Capt.Shipley & Hays by telegraph when their resignations are accepted.

James Craig, Brig.Gen.

Col.Collins,

Your aggregate for November one hundred & fifty three for December & and the 10th & 30th of January are hundred & fifty seven account for the lossfix You omit to return your field staff.

Frank Eno, A.A.G.

Omaha, Feb.9th,1863

Lieut.Coll.Collins,

Am waiting for you to correct your returns according to my dispatch of yesterday. On future returns note orders recd. by order.

Frank Eno. A.A.G.

Omha, Feb.10th,1863

Capt.Frank Eno,

Difference of two in return arises from discharge of Daniel White & Wm.Stratton, Co."D" both discharged from Laramie in October. Acting Battalion Staff now full, but Glenn Quartermaster and Reeves Adjutant both doing Company duty and so reported. Mackey and myself only remain.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.
Adj.Gen.of Ohio, (By mail from Omaha) I learnt incidentally that the designation of my Bttn. would hereafter be 1st Independent Bttn. Ohio Vol. cavalry. The Rocky Mountain service in which we are engaged is so peculiar that our separation from the 6th Regt. cam. should be final and complete. I was pleased to hear of the order. Will you please send me a copy.


Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col. The loss of Stratton & White was accounted for on your Oct. returns.

Frank Eno, A.A.G.

Capt. F. Eno, The error must have been made in consolidating by Fury who temporarily employed a clerk. True aggregate for co.B. Nov. & Dec. "77" & Co."D" 74 as appears from the company returns.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.

Gen.Craig, Court martial adjourned at 13 o'clock today. Proceedings will be forwarded by mail.

Wm.O.Collins, Lt.Col.

Lt.Col.Collins, The general court martial convened at Ft.Laramie by special orders .... of which you are president us hereby dissolved by order of Brig.Gen.Craig.

Frank Eno, A.A.G.

Col.Collins, Please inform me whether there will be any more hay sent to this post, if not I will have to cease feeding passing teams.

N.W.Stratton.

Ficklen's, Feb.11th,1863

Sergt.Stratton, Ficklin's Ranch No more hay will be sent. Capt. VanWinkle to whom I left to decide.

Wm.O.Collins.

Omaha, 16th,1863

Col.Wm.O.Collins, Gen.Craig has forwarded Capt. Hays resignation & request you to give Hays permission to come to Hd.Qtrs. if he desires it

W.B.Hughes, A.A.C.
Capt. F. Eno,  
Mail left this morning via Ft. Halleck with proceedings of court martial and returns of Feb. 10th. Love goes to his company.  
Wm. O. Collins  

Capt. W. B. Hughes, A.D.C.  
Capt. Hays will start in two or three days—coming by Omaha. Tell Gen. Craig I will write by him as to future plans. Capt. Shipley would like to come with him if leave could be obtained. If Gen. Craig has no objection, I think it would be well.  
Wm. O. Collins  

Hon. John Sherman, U.S. Senator  
Washington City.  
(By mail from Omaha)  
I am informed that the Smithsonian Institute has published a dictionary and grammar of the Sioux language. My Battalion is likely to be kept in this service the present season and it would help us in preparing for it. It is not unlikely that I could return the favor in some way. Please say to the manager of the Institute and send me a copy by mail if you can direct to this place. My Hd.Qtrs. will be here till spring.  
Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.  

Salt Lake City, Feb. 9th/63  
Lt. Col. Collins,  
Sir, will you please request the officer in command of your companies stationed on the telegraph line west of Ft. Laramie to send their company rolls for December 31st to Ft. Laramie, signed by officers and men, by some officers authorized to receive the money. I shall be at Laramie by the first of March.  
H. J. Adams.  

Gen. James Craig, Omaha,  
Capt. Thompson says cannot furnish Hays transportation to Julesburg. I hoped to communicate freely through as to reorganization of Battalion. No mail yet but one expected tomorrow. We need 150 men and horses & breech loading rifles. Horses for use this season. Should be bought here. How would it do to leave Mackey in command and let me go east to make arrangements. If it can be done without I do not wish it. Love gone to his company. Telegram today from H. J. Adams, pay master Salt Lake. Says will be here to pay troops Mar. 1st.  
Wm. O. Collins.  

H. J. Adams, Salt Lake,  
Glad to hear from a pay master. What route will you come. Will you need escort or conveyance from any point. Can you pay to March 1st if rolls are ready.  
Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.
Col. Collins,

Salt Lake, Feb. 20th, 1863

Sir, I leave here this morning by overland mail coach for Ft. Halleck. Capt. Allen will furnish me transportation and escort from there to Laramie. I cannot pay beyond Dec. 31st for want of funds. If possible have the company rolls of your command west of Laramie at your place by the 1st of March. If the rolls are signed by the officers and men, I will make the compilation and send the money to them. It will save time and expense. Please answer at Ft. Bridges.


Ft. Laramie, Feb. 20th/63

Capt. Van Winkle, Platt Bridge,
Lt. Love, Deer Creek,
Pay master leaves Salt Lake City this morning via Ft. Halleck. Will be here March 1st. Can pay only to Dec. 31st for lack of funds. Send pay rolls signed by officers and men with directions as to receiving and sending money. Mail expected tomorrow.

Wm. O. Collins,

Deer Creek, Feb. 20th/63

Col. Collins,

Shall I bring pay rolls to Laramie or send by a sergeant.

Lt. W. Love.

Lt. Love,

It would be well for a commissioned officer of your company or Van Winkle to be here to receive and send ... pay but I cannot give leave without consent from Gen. Craig. Get everything ready and you can come or send as he may think best.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Ft. Laramie, Feb. 20th, 1863

Capt. F. Eno,

Mail last night brought several letters from you, one returning Capt. Van Winkle's muster rolls and one directing as to reports. Both have been forty-eight days coming from Omaha, so do not see how Van Winkle's rolls can be corrected before paymaster arrives without ordering him here. Messenger cannot go and return in season.

Wm. O. Collins.

Ft. Laramie, Feb. 23, 1863

Capt. Van Winkle, Platte Bridge,
Lt. Love, Deer Creek, Mail arrived last night. 191 letters for Co. "B", 112 for Co. D. Has mail messenger started down. Send returns for 20th.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Ft. Laramie. Feb. 23, 1863

Capt. Van Winkle,

Your muster rolls for Oct. 31st are returned from headquarters. You neglected to sign them.
Col. Collins,  

Message left Deer Creek today. Will send report 20th on twenty-sixth when I send pay rolls. All well & right. Buffalo plenty in twenty miles.

Capt. VanWinkle.

Capt. VanWinkle, 
Platt Bridge, 

Your must have your Oct. rolls to correct. Shall send the to Horseshoe to meet messenger and return.

Wm. O. Collins.

Col. Collins,  

Take at least one company and go to relief of Ft. Halleck. Report as often as practicable by mail and telegraph.

Jas. Craig.

Capt. VanWinkle, 

Am ordered to go to relief of Ft. Halleck near which skirmish with Indians has just been had. Co. "C" has started. I go in the morning. Apt. wishes to go and I will take him but shall send him back in a few days if I am detained. Sent Smith to Horseshoe this morning with mail to meet messenger. He will be back tomorrow night.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Gen. Craig, Omaha,  
Co. "C" fifty men started today for Ft. Halleck. I follow in the morning with six more and shall overtake the company tomorrow night. Have you any directions to give as to time we shall remain or otherwise. Janis is here and I may take him with me for 10 or 13 days if no objection. I am anxious to learn of difficulty with Utes. He has some acquaintance with country and language.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Platt Bridge, Feb. 24th, 1863

Col. Collins,  

Will you or Sergeant Apt be at the fort when the pay master comes? Or shall I send Lieut. Glenn to the fort. Fifty Arapahoe warriors started this morning to fight the Utes. You may see them. They come in the 23nd with 75 ponies stolen from Utes. Answer.

Capt. P. W. VanWinkle.

Col. Collins,  

No instructions as to time you will remain away. Find and chastise the Indians if possible.

James Craig, Brig. Gen.
To Capt. Van Winkle,

I have no authority to give Glenn or you leave to come down. If you need Apt to attend to payment here he had better stay. Shall probably see paymaster at Halleck. Attend carefully to next muster and to rolls and returns.

Wm. O. Collins, Lieut. Col.

Fort Laramie, Feb. 34th, 1863

Capt. Van Winkle,

I have just heard you have lost your horses. If so, how did it happen. How many did you lose. Inform me so I can report to Hd. Qrs.

Thos. L. Mackey
Maj. 6th c. v. c.

Capt. Van Winkle,

On the night 13th inst. Friday my horses stampeded from camp at herd soon after dark. The guard was out at the time but supposed it to be wolves or bear which had stampeded them several times before, did not go after them until next morning when they found that the Indians had drove them to the foot mountains. Caught a part and drove the balance off. 28 Gov. horses, my private horse and four private horses. I took fifteen men and followed two days but as they were on good horses and traveled day and night, we could not overtake them. They were Snake Indians/. We followed them between the mountains north of Sweet Water Bridge and Three Crossings. They passed 30 miles north of Split Rock. Having only mules except four horses and no rations; as we started from the herd camp our mules gave out and we returned to Sweet Water Bridge.

Platt Bridge, Mar. 17th, 1863

Capt. Van Winkle,

Capt. Eno,

I have just received dispatch from Capt. Van Winkle stating on the night of 15th inst. Indians stampeded and drove off 28 head of Gov. horses and 4 private, so they followed Indians about 100 miles. Returned without getting any horses. Think it was the Snake Indians from direction they went. I could not report sooner as this was the first I had heard of it.

Thos. L. Mackey, Maj.

Platte Bridge, Mar. 17

Major Mackey,

I have telegraphed stage agents relative to mules taken from Arapahoes. No answer. Am satisfied they belong to whites as they are newly shod. What shall I do. Indians waiting for pay for capturing mules. What is usual pay for returning stolen animals. Snake Indians stampeded and got away with 30 head my best horses.

Capt. Van Winkle.
Capt. Van Winkle,  
Ft. Laramie, Mar. 17
Send the mules down here and we will pay the Indians when they come down.
Thos. L. Mackey, Maj.

Lt. Glenn,  
Sweet Water Bridge,  
Ft. Laramie, March 19th, 1863
Applied to Gen. Craig early in winter for leave to go or send to States to get men, horses and arms for Battalion. If I hear will let you know. Get gloves of Mrs. Dean and send them down. Got in from Halleck today.
Wm. O. Collins.

Capt. Van Winkle & Lt. Love,  
Ft. Laramie, Mar. 19th, 1863
How many men of your company will buy and own Smiths & Wesson rifles at $23 dollars each. Government furnishing ammunition. Arrived from Ft. Halleck today.
Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Gen. Craig, Omaha,  
Ft. Laramie, Mar. 19th, 1863
Arrived from Ft. Halleck today. Men all doing well. Soon be fit for duty. Please reply to my letters from Halleck.
Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Col. Collins,  
Deer Creek, Mar. 19th, 1863
With your leave I will start for Upper Crossings tomorrow to investigate condition of my company and company property.
W. Love, Lt. Co. "B"

Col. Collins,  
Platte Bridge, Mar. 19th, 1863
I have just recovered 18 of my horses that were stolen. They were brought in by a party of Arapahoes who say they accidentally discovered the Snakes with them on Wind River. Pursued and killed four Snakes of which they brought in the scalps and succeeded in getting 23 horses. I am still out six horses. I do not understand it. Snakes and Arapahoes are friendly. I have paid the Arapahoes some rations for returning horses. Will answer relative to guns in morning. If any suggestion, be glad to know tonight.
Capt. Van Winkle.

Lt. Love, Deer Creek,  
You have leave to go to Upper & Three Crossings to inspect detachments of your company. It is very proper to do so. Report to me the result.
Wm. O. Collins.
Capt. VanWinkle, Platte Bridge,

Glad to hear of getting your horses.

You were right in rewarding Arapahoes with rations. I think Arapa-
hoes and Shakes are not friendly but keep a good lookout and watch
them all. Send word as to guns as soon as possible.


Col. Collins,
My company all wants Smiths & Wesson rifle on the terms
you mentioned. Say seventy.

W. Love, Lt. Co. "B"

Col. Collins,
Will take forty (40) certain and perhaps fifty (50)
Smiths & Wesson guns. By Mackey's order I send the Indians who
brought in the two mules to Ft. Laramie for pay. Will send mules
first good opportunity if you think best. They were stolen by the
Arapahoes from the Utes. Let me know the probabilities of our des-
tination next summer. Be glad if you can regard Lt. Glenn's request
in regard to recruiting. He will be a good man for the place and
I ask it for my Co.

Capt. VanWinkle.

Gen. Craig, Omaha,

Over 200 of the battalion agree to buy and own Smiths
& Wessons carbine. Our Endfield are entirely unfit for this service.
Abreech loading arm is indispensable. As government seems unlikely
to furnish us, we will buy ourselves if permitted. The quickest way
would be to order me to Cincinnati to purchase and bring out. They
are needed immediately.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Capt. Eno, Omaha,
Is Gen. Craig at Omaha? Tell him I have letter from
Ordinance Department, Washington offering us ammunition if we will
buy the Smiths & Wesson carbine. Got report from all the companies.
About 240 men will take them. See no way to buy safely and promptly
but to go or send. It is so difficult to hear from Gen. Craig that I
ask permission to come immediately directly with Hd. Qrs. at St. Louis
& Washington when interests of service demand it.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

B. Kittredge & Co.
... by mail from Omaha. We shall probably need 240 of your rifles,
about that number of men agree to buy and the ordinance department
at Washington promise to furnish the ammunition. Shall probably send
an agent to make the purchase. Cannot send all the money but the men
agree in writing to have balance stopped next pay day. Officers will
go security.

Wm. O. Callina, Lt. Col.
Col. Collins,

Simons' engagement with Mitch Emxxx is out today. Would like to have him as interpreter for one month longer at $5 dolls per month as there is Indians constantly passing. It is an actual necessity. Should he leave there will be no one left who speaks the Indian language. Answer.

Capt. Van Winkle

Omaha, Mar. 33rd, 1863

Lt. Col. Collins,

General Craig is in Saint Louis. Your dispatches have been referred to him.

Frank Enc, A.A. Gen.

Three Crossings, March 23, 1863

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

I will vouch for my men taking rifles. Rations will last twenty days. Just arrived.

Lt. Love, Lieut. Commanding

Fort Laramie, March 24th,

Capt. Van Winkle,

If you think it necessary, employ Simons one month. Apt will start tomorrow. Smith is improving much out better leave him a little longer.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Platte Bridge, Mar. 25th

Col. Collins,

Lt. Doggett is here. He forwards to you his immediate and unconditional resignation and requests me to ask your attention to it in order to insure an early departure for the States. Whatever you can do in the way of securing transportation will be kindly received. All well. Answer.

Capt. Van Winkle.

Ft. Laramie, Mar. 25th

Capt. Van Winkle,

Platte Bridge.

Will do all I can to hasten acceptance of Doggett's resignation. He must attach to it an affidavit that he does not owe government anything and has handed over all public property. It can be sworn to before yourself or other officers. Sent order by Apt this morning for Glenn to come here on quartermaster's business. Suppose you order him down immediately and let him bring Doggett's resignation. I will approve and forward.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.
Lt. Love, South Pass,  

Ft. Laramie, Mar. 27th, 1863

An informed that Sergeant of your company has seduced squaw and harbors her. Examine into the matter and if proper arrest him. The circumstances as stated here are very disrespective and injurious to the service.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Lt. Col. Collins,  

South Pass, Mar. 27th, 1863

Will start for Deer Creek tomorrow. Will attend to that matter as soon as I arrive.

W. Love.

Seth E. Ward,  

Care of Robt. Campbell, St. Louis, (By mail)

Ft. Laramie, Mar. 28th/63

Nine young men, Ohio volunteer, now part of Laramie here, wish to get instruments and books to form a band. They want two leading instruments and the other seven such as would be suitable for the different parts. Second hand would do. Could you get them and send them out by the first train. It would do much to enliven the fort. Their limit is $325.00. They will pay the money to me at any time.

W. G. Bullock.

Col. Collins,  

Platte Bridge, Mar. 29th/63

I would like to send Sergt. Apt with a party of say four men north of Willow Springs after buffalo. We are out of fresh meat. Can I do so. Answer.

Capt. Van Winkle.

Capt. Van Winkle,  

Ft. Laramie, Mar. 29th

If you think best, you can send them. Do not let them stay longer than necessary.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Lt. Col. Collins,  

Sweet Water, Mar. 30th, 1863

Send for only sixty-five Smith & Wesson rifles for my company.

W. Love, Lt.

Capt. Eno, A. A. G.  

Fort Laramie, April 1, 1863

Have you heard from Gen. Craig in regard to purchase of breech loading rifles by the men. No time should be lost. Can do nothing without his sanction and encouragement. Have no adjutant with me and send no returns for 28 & 39 seasonable (?)
Capt. Eno, A.A.G. Omaha,

Company B and D are out of some kinds of company stores, will soon be out of all kinds. Have ordered Lieut. Glenn Acting Quartermaster here with wagons to make ... Small get supplies for about six weeks if not otherwise ordered.

W.O. Collins.

Omaha, April 1st, 1863

Lt. Col. Collins,

Gen. Craig will be back in a few days. He intended company "C" to return to Laramie per order of Mar. 6th.

Frank Enc, A.A.G.

FY. Laramie, April 1st, 1863

Capt. Eno, A.A.G.

Omaha,

You refer to order of Gen. Craig Mar. 6th. I have seen none since the one of Feb. 23rd ordering me to take at least one company and go to relief of Ft. Halleck. Please send me by mail copies of all your orders relating to my battalion since that date.

Wm. O. Collins

S.E. Ward, Care of Robt. Campbell, St. Louis.

Did you receive order to purchase instruments for volunteer bank here? Reply.

W.L. Bullock.

St. Louis, April 3, 1863

W.G. Bullock,

Your message for music instruments received this morning.

S.E. Ward.

Col. Collins,

We will be responsible for the number guns ordered for each company. Order two thousand cartridges extra for each. What is not paid on first and second pay day.

Capt. Van Winkle,

Lt. Love.

Platte Bridge, April 3rd 1863

Lt. Col. Collins,


Wesley Love, Lt.

Comdg Co. B

Deer Creek, April 3, 1863
Sweet Water Station was attacked by 13 or 20 Indians last night. Indians were driven off. Everything safe. No one injured except Ira Grossman, who is seriously wounded.

Operator.

Fort Laramie, April 4th

Capt. Eno, A.A.G. Omaha

Sweet Water Station attacked last night by about 20 Indians, driven off. One man seriously wounded, no property taken or destroyed except some wagon harness.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Sweet Water Bridge, Apr. 5

Col. Collins,

Will you please arrange with Gen. Craig to let me know by telegraph if my resignation is accepted and order me likewise to Omaha to be mustered out of service immediately.

G. W. Doggett, Lt.

Ft. Laramie, April 5th/83

Lt. Doggett,

Cannot give you leave to come down till I hear from Gen. Craig. He is not now at Omaha. Your resignation was forwarded to him soon as received. Will try to hear of acceptance by telegraph and get leave for you to come down.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt.

Hd. Qrs. Omaha, April 6, 1863

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Turn over command to Major Mackey and report in person at these headquarters for the purpose of attending to the purchase of arms and horses for your battalion.

By order of Brig. Gen. Craig.

Frank Eno, A.A.G.

Ft. Laramie, April 6, 1863

Capt. VanWinkle, &
Lt. Love,

Following message just received,- Shall start day after tomorrow to Julesburg for Omaha. Hope to get arms, men and horses for battalion. How much money will men pay now toward rifles. Bullock will advance what you offer to send down immediately. State precise number of rifles your company will take and you will be responsible for. Send all money you can. Tell what I can do for you. Shall make no unnecessary delay but return as soon as possible. Will telegraph from Omaha.

Wm. O. Collins, Lt. Col.

Lt. Col. W. O. Collins,

There is four men in hospital from Upper Crossing.

Deer Creek, April 6th, 1863
Five more will have to go to hospital from Three Crossings, all cases Scarbutis. Only leaving 8 men there for duty. What shall I do.

Yours respectfully,
W. Love, Lt. Co. B

Lt. Love, Deer Creek,
post at Upper Crossing must be maintained at present. See no way but to bring down sick and send other men. Lt. Glenn is here getting supplies. Teams start tomorrow. If you want anything, reply.


Capt. Van Winkle,
Lieut. Love,
The following order just received. A general muster of all troops within this department in the service of the United States will be made on the 11th inst. or as soon thereafter as practicable and the rolls forwarded without delay directed to Adjutant General of the army for the use of the Provost Marshal General in making draft to fill up regiments and battalions to the proper complement. By command of Maj. Gen. Curtis, N.J. Curtis, A.A.G.
Don't fail to attend to it.

Commd.

Deer Creek, April 8th

Col. Collins,
Company will not send money for rifles now but will take 63 and pay for most of them as soon as they arrive and balance next pay day. I will be responsible for them.

W. Love, Lt.

Platte Bridge, April 8th

Col. Collins,
My men have mostly sent their money home. They ordered the guns to be paid according to your letter from Ft. Halleck to me. Will send 60 dollars to your credit at Mr. Bullock's. I want to send two hundred and twenty (220) dollars by express from Omaha. Can you get the money of Mr. Bullock. I will forward to him first mail. Answer and I will give you directions about expressing.

Capt. Van Winkle.

Fort Laramie, April 8, 1863

Capt. Van Winkle,
Platte Bridge,
You don't name the number of rifles you want or that you will be responsible for them. Mr. Bullock will advance any money that you will replace soon. I can express it from Omaha or take it with me to Ohio as you prefer.

Col. Collins,

I will take forty (40) rifles and be responsible for them. Did not know you were going to Ohio. Of course take the money with you. Get at Mr. Bullock three hundred (300) dollars and leave at Burrell & Co. Two hundred dollars to credit Alfred E. Miller. Fifty (50) dollars to Mrs. Walter St. Clair, twenty twenty dollars to Mrs. Jno. Creed, thirty dollars Mrs. Van Winkle.

Capt. Van Winkle.

Platte Bridge, April 6th, 1863

Col. Collins,

Our herd was stampeded today about one o'clock by 6 Indians on horseback. The Indians fired some dozen shots. We got government horses but five followed them to mountains south when Indians came out of bushes. About 30 had a running fight for about two miles. Killed one Indian. Apt. with 10 men is in pursuit. I will take 10 men and go to Red Buttes. They are Snakes, about 30 well armed. None of my men hurt.

Capt. Van Winkle.

Platte Bridge, April 7th

Capt. Van Winkle,

Glenn starts in the morning. Shall he bring say 20 men to help and strengthen post.

W.C. Collins, Lt. Col.

Ft. Laramie, April 7th

Col. Collins,

We have enough men at this post. I think Glenn had better have 10 more men. We got all horses back except three Govt. and one private. No man hurt, one Indian killed. Apt. had charge of squad and I went to Red Buttes with a squad.

Capt. Van Winkle.

Platte Bridge, April 8th

Gen. Craig, Omaha,

Intended to start for Omaha this morning but telegraph last night of Indian troubles. Horses at Platte Bridge stamped last yesterday, one o'clock by 30 Snakes. Pursuit and running fight, one Indian killed, horses recovered except three Govt. and one private. Mackey and myself have agreed upon Lt. Glenn at Post C.M. Please order that public property be turned over to him. Lt. Glenn is here company. Can he remain here for that purpose. Hopo to be at Omaha in seven days. Answer tonight.

W.C. Collins, Lt. Col.

Ft. Laramie, April 8th/63

Col. Collins,

The sixty dollars that I telegraphed you I would have placed to your credit at yr. Bullock's on account of rifles is all that I can send at this time.

Capt. Van Winkle.

Platte Bridge, April 7th, 1863