

others than soldiers employed—the ordnance officers, Lieutenant Sill and Welcher, were struck with its advantages as a site for an arsenal, and Lieutenant Welcher made a report to that effect to the colonel of ordnance, requesting permission to obtain it. Satisfied there could be no difficulty in the transfer to the United States, and being always desirous of advancing the public interest, I yielded the place to Lieutenant Welcher, and he occupied it with his detachment for some weeks, when he told me he had received instructions from the colonel of ordnance not to take the place, but to build elsewhere. I was surprised soon after this to receive an indorsement of the Secretary of War, on a statement of the colonel of ordnance, refuting the report made to me by Lieutenant Welcher, and desiring to know for what amount I would be willing to dispose of my improvements.

My communication to your office of December 26, 1859, placed the whole matter before you; and I shall only add that, since that date I have held the place subject to the disposition of the War Department.

These are the facts of the case, in regard to which the general-in-chief has permitted himself to receive misstatements from a subordinate in arrest for conduct the Secretary himself decides in your communication was a grave breach of discipline.

The course pursued by the general-in-chief is the more marked from his having declined to land at Fort Vancouver for the purpose of giving his personal attention to a proper disposition of the requirements of the service. I am not surprised, therefore, that the Secretary of War should express disapprobation towards myself, and circumstances so adverse to an impartial hearing of the case.

I remain, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. S. HARNEY,

*Brigadier General, Commanding.*

Colonel S. COOPER,

*Adjutant General United States Army,*

*Washington City, D. C.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF OREGON,  
*Fort Vancouver, W. T., April 25, 1860.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to General Orders No. 6 of this year, from the headquarters of the army, I have directed special reconnaissances to be made, with a view to obtain the most suitable location for the new post ordered to be established in the vicinity of Fort Boisé.

The explorations and discoveries of the past season render this the more necessary, since they indicate the establishment of a new route for emigrants, some distance to the west of Snake river, to avoid the sandy and barren portions of that route.

To enable the general-in-chief to observe the positions of the proposed routes, a copy of the map of that section of country, taken

from C  
probable  
suitable  
the troo  
shall cau  
until ear  
I am,

ASSIST  
I

Sir: I  
withdra  
informat  
building  
Washing  
that the  
A sir  
Simcoe,  
general-  
I am,

ASSIST

Fort  
Depart  
Harney  
at Fort  
three c  
Resp