

"malous position of being commanded by the Surgeon. The Court further entertain the opinion, that disobedience of orders should be dealt with, rather under the provisions of the Militia Law for the time being, instead of resort, as in this case, being had to an extreme measure, the propriety of, or indeed the authority for which, is very doubtful.

"With regard to the charge brought against Major Campbell of having refused to obey the orders of Colonel Sewell, the Commandant, this has not been proven in evidence, and he is therefore exonerated therefrom. But the Court cannot here avoid remarking that the use by that Officer, to his superior, of the expression, 'Colonel Sewell, I command here and will admit of no interference' shewed an absence of the true appreciation of their respective military positions. Implicit and ready obedience, at all times, and under any circumstances, to all lawful orders, on the part of Officers and Men of the Volunteer Force, is a duty of the first importance, and is the foundation on which their character as a military organisation must be built."

The Commander in Chief agrees with the opinion of the Court of Inquiry, that the conduct of Number Two Company, Eighth Battalion, on the evening of March Third, was of a nature entirely subversive of the principle of implicit obedience to the command of a superior, the observance of which is essential to the efficiency of all military organisations, whether the men composing the force be civilians or regular soldiers.

Volunteers must never forget that if their services are to be of any practical use to their country, they are bound equally with professional soldiers to make, when on duty, a complete surrender of their individual freedom of action.

Unless this sacrifice is thoroughly and cordially made, mere technical drill is worthless, and discipline, for any useful purpose, cannot with truth be said to exist.

The Commander in Chief regrets very much that the men of so fine a Company as Number Two, Eighth Battalion, should have been betrayed into conduct reflecting so much discredit upon themselves, and exhibiting such forgetfulness of the fundamental principle of military discipline.

Under all the circumstances however the Commander in Chief is satisfied to accept the apology offered before the Court of Inquiry on the part of the Company, namely, that the men acted in ignorance and without a premeditated intention of insubordination.

The Commander in Chief however would fail in his duty towards the Force if he did not warn the Company that any—the slightest recurrence of such unsoldierlike conduct—will be visited with severe punishment.

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