

Personal

Norfolk Virginia
February 1865

Major Genl E. O. C. Ord
Commanding Dept of Va

General

The Military Commission now in session at Norfolk of which Brig Genl George H Gordon U.S. Vols is President has been collecting and recording testimony with regard to the official acts and conduct of myself and other General Officers

So far as I am concerned I do not shrink from any open and fair investigation of any act of my private or official life

This Commission is

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MMN # 76619

Date: 1865

Description: Gen. George F. Shepley wrote an appeal to Major Gen. Edward O.C. Ord, who had recently relieved Shepley of his command of the Division of Eastern Virginia.

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It does not appear upon the face of the order to have been intended by you thus to act-

I most respectfully suggest that if the Commission is to act as a Court of Inquiry into my official conduct or "to examine into the nature of any transaction accusation or imputation against" me as "an officer" I should, according to the Articles of War, "be permitted to cross examine and interrogate the witnesses so as to investigate fully the circumstances in the question"

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pelled to enter into bonds of twenty
five thousand dollars not to
divulge the testimony they have
given before the Commission -

Some of the witnesses have
publicly stated that they have been
inquired and have testified to
matters of hearsay and rumor
of which they had no knowledge -

I cannot believe it possible
that you would for a moment
^{allow} the slightest imputation to exist,
even in your own mind, upon
the integrity or even expediency of
any act of mine resting upon
evidence taken before a secret com-
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I most respectfully ask, what I am sure your sense of justice will instantly and cheerfully accord to me, the right, before the Commission closes its labors and makes its report, to see the testimony - to be confronted with the witnesses - to examine and interrogate them - and to submit any testimony I may have to offer - It is publicly stated here and generally believed that I was relieved of my command in consequence of this testimony which I have never heard and therefore this respectful request and protest seems to me to be imperatively required from me

I disclaim the slightest disrespect in this communication to yourself or any officer

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I disclaim the slightest disrespect in the communication to yourself or any officer

of the Government who may
have ordered the Commission.

On the contrary I wish
to express to you my most
sincere and heartfelt gratitude
for the kind just and very
gratifying assurances you gave
me in the interview of yesterday.

May I not also hope that
you will feel willing in your
reply to vindicate me from those
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my removal which you as-
sured me were groundless

With sincere gratitude

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Your Obedt Srvt

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