

The prisoner J. S. Dyer having been claimed by Chalmers, commanding forces of the so-called Confederate army, at Como, Miss., February 2d, 1864, as a private in Perry's company of his command, will, upon the completion of the foregoing sentence, be reported to the Commissary General for exchange as a prisoner of war.

By order of MAJ.-GEN. S. A. HUR

CHAS. H. TOLSON
Lieut. and Act'g

OFFICIAL,

Assistant Adjutant General

Feb 27, 1864
Certs

Military Commission.
John M. Ryan, citizen.
Jacob S. Dyer, citizen.

HEAD-QUARTERS 16TH ARMY CORPS,

Memphis, Tenn., February 27th, 1864.

General Orders, } No. 27. }

I.—Before a Military Commission, which convened at Memphis, Tennessee, pursuant to Special Orders No. 259, dated 20th October, 1863, Headquarters 16th Army Corps, and subsequent Special Orders, and of which Brig.-General W. R. Montgomery, U. S. Volunteers, was President, was arraigned and tried:

JOHN M. RYAN, Citizen.

CHARGE 1ST—*Forgery.*

SPECIFICATION 1ST—In this, that the said John M. Ryan, citizen, heretofore, to wit, on or about the 20th day of April, A. D. 1863, at the city of Memphis, county of Shelby, and State of Tennessee, did, wilfully, maliciously and feloniously, and with intent to defraud the United States, alter, change, forge and counterfeit a certain provision return of colored laborers (contrabands) employed on the Memphis and Charleston (Military) Rail Road for eleven days, commencing on the 20th day of April, 1863, and ending on the 30th day of April, 1863, for the whole number of nine hundred and thirty five (935) rations, falsely pretending the same to have been approved by George G. Fride, Colonel and Chief Engineer, U. S. M. R. R., upon which the whole number of rations were drawn, contrary to law and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

SPECIFICATION 2D—In this, that said John M. Ryan, citizen, heretofore, to wit, on or about the 1st day of May, 1863, at the city of Memphis, Shelby county, Tennessee, did, wilfully, maliciously and feloniously, alter, change, forge and counterfeit, with intent to defraud the United States, a certain provision return of colored laborers (contrabands) for twenty days, commencing on the 1st day of May, A. D. 1863, and ending on the 20th day of May, A. D. 1863, for the whole number of three thousand (3000) rations, when in truth and in fact the same had been approved but for one thousand rations, upon which the whole number of rations (2000) were drawn, contrary to law and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

SPECIFICATION 3D—In this, that the said John M. Ryan, citizen, on or about the 20th day of May, A. D. 1863, at Memphis, Shelby county, Tennessee, did, falsely, maliciously and feloniously make, alter, forge, and counterfeit, with intent to defraud the United States, a certain provision return of colored laborers (contrabands) for eleven days, commencing on the 20th day of May, 1863, and ending on the 31st day of May, 1863, for the whole number of one thousand, six hundred and fifty (1650) rations, falsely pretending the same had been approved for the whole number of one thousand, six hundred and fifty rations, when in truth and in fact the same had been approved but for five hundred and fifty rations, upon which the whole number (1650) of rations were drawn, contrary to law and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

SPECIFICATION 4TH—In this, that the said John M. Ryan, citizen, on or about the 1st day of June, A. D. 1863, at the city of Memphis, Shelby county, Tennessee, did, wilfully, maliciously and feloniously make, alter, change, forge and counterfeit, with intent to defraud the United States, a certain provision return of colored laborers [contrabands] for twenty days, commencing on the 1st day of June, A. D. 1863, and ending on the 20th day of June, A. D. 1863, for the whole number of six thousand, seven hundred and eighty rations, falsely pretending the same to have been approved for the whole number of rations, when in truth and in fact the same had been approved but for seven hundred rations, upon which the whole number of rations [6780] were drawn, contrary to law and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

SPECIFICATION 5TH—In this, that the said John M. Ryan, citizen, on or about the 1st day of July, 1863, at the city of Memphis, Shelby county, Tennessee, did, wilfully, maliciously, feloniously and with intent to defraud the United States, make, alter,

change, forge and counterfeit a certain provision return of colored laborers (contrabands) for thirty-one days, commencing on the 1st day of July, A. D. 1863, and ending on the 31st day of July, A. D. 1863, for the whole number, six thousand, nine hundred and forty-four [6944] rations, falsely pretending that the same had been approved for the whole number of six thousand, nine hundred and forty-four rations, when in truth and in fact the same had been approved but for seven hundred and forty-four rations, upon which the whole number [6944] of rations were drawn, contrary to law and against the peace and dignity of the United States.

CHARGE 2D—Embezzlement.

SPECIFICATION—In this, that the said John M. Ryan, citizen as aforesaid, heretofore, to wit, on the 10th day of June, A. D. 1863, at the city of Memphis, county of Shelby and State of Tennessee, being then employed by the Government of the United States to superintend contraband employees on the United States Military Rail Road, in the State of Tennessee, did, whilst so employed, receive and take into his possession a certain beef order, drawn by the United States Commissary for a large amount of beef rations, to wit, seven thousand, five hundred [7500] pounds of beef, of great value, to wit, of the value of two hundred [\$200] dollars, the account of the United States Government; and did then, fraudulently and feloniously, embezzle the said beef order of the United States from his employers of the United States, contrary to law.

CHARGE 3D—Fraud.

SPECIFICATION—In this, that the said John M. Ryan, citizen as aforesaid, heretofore, to wit, on or about the 10th day of June, A. D. 1863, at the city of Memphis, county of Shelby and State of Tennessee, whilst in the employ of the Government of the United States, superintending contrabands on the United States Military Rail Road, did, knowingly, wrongfully and fraudulently take and procure, sell and dispose of for his own use, a certain beef order of the Government of the United States calling for a large quantity of beef, to wit, seven thousand, five hundred [7500] pounds, in favor of contrabands employed on said Rail Road; of great value, to wit, of the value of three hundred [\$300] dollars, contrary to law and existing military orders.

To each and all of which charges and specifications the accused pleaded *Not Guilty*.

FINDING AND SENTENCE.

The Commission, after mature deliberation, find the accused as follows:

Of the 1st specification to 1st charge. Not Guilty.
Of each and all of the remaining specifications and charges. Guilty.

And do therefore sentence him, the said John M. Ryan, citizen, "*To be confined at hard labor in such Military Prison as the Commanding General may determine, for three years from the date of the approval of the Commanding General, and that the said Ryan forfeit and pay to the Government of the United States the sum of two thousand dollars.*"

II.—The findings in this case are approved and the sentence is confirmed. The Military Prison at Alton, Illinois, is designated as the place of confinement. The Provost Marshal of the District of Memphis is charged with the safe delivery of the prisoner at that Prison, and with the collection of the fine imposed.

If at the expiration of the term of imprisonment the fine remains unpaid, the prisoner will be held in custody until the same be paid.

III.—Before a Military Commission which convened at Memphis, Tenn., by virtue of Special Orders No. 4, Ext. VII, Head-Quarters 10th Army

C. rps, 4th January, 1864, and subsequent Special Orders, and of which Brig.-Gen'l W. R. MONTGOMERY, U. S. Vols., was President, was arraigned and tried:

JACOB S. DYER, citizen.

CHARGE—*Conspiring to destroy property belonging to the United States, in violation of the laws of war.*

SPECIFICATION 1ST—In this, that the said Jacob S. Dyer, a citizen of the United States, and owing allegiance thereto, assuming the semblance of peaceful pursuits, and not having the appearance or character of a soldier, did conspire with, with a view to burn, and did pay one Thomas Gurley, one Charles Hewlett, and one Jeff Davis, certain sums of money for burning steamboats, or agreeing to burn steamboats on the Mississippi river, said steamboats being laden with the property of the United States. This at or near Hernando, Miss., between the 1st of July and the 1st of October, 1863.

SPECIFICATION 2D—In this, that the said Jacob S. Dyer, a citizen of the United States as aforesaid, and not belonging to any regular organized force at war with the United States, and assuming the semblance of peaceful pursuits, and not having the character or appearance of a soldier, did conspire with one William Causey, also a citizen of the United States, with the design of destroying or obstructing the navigation of the Mississippi river, by paying certain sums of money to one Thomas Gurley, Charles Hewlett, Jeff Davis and other persons unknown, to burn steamboats plying on the Mississippi river, said steamboats being laden with the property of the United States. This at or near Hernando, Miss., between the 1st of July and the 11th of October, 1863.

SPECIFICATION 3D—In this, that the said Jacob S. Dyer, a citizen of the United States as aforesaid, and not belonging to any regular organized force at war with the United States, assuming the semblance of peaceful pursuits, and not having the character or appearance of a soldier, did atet the rebel enemies of the United States by conspiring with one Thomas Gurley to burn, with a view to destroy, a certain building on Front Row, in the City of Memphis, Tennessee, known as "Exchange Building," with the design of destroying certain ammunition and munitions of war belonging to the United States, supposed by them the said Dyer and Gurley, to be contained in the building. This at or near Hernando, Miss., between the 1st of July and the 11th of October, 1863.

To which charge and each and all of the specifications thereto, the accused pleaded *Not Guilty*.

FINDING AND SENTENCE.

The Commission after mature deliberation find the accused as follows:

Of the 1st specification to charge.	Guilty.
Excepting the words "one Charles Hewlett and one Jeff Davis."	
Of the 2d specification to charge.	Not Guilty.
Of the 3d specification to charge.	Not Guilty.
Of the charge,	Guilty.

And do therefore sentence him, the said Jacob S. Dyer, citizen, "*To forfeit and pay to the Government of the United States a fine of ten thousand dollars, and to be confined at hard labor in such Military Prison or State Penitentiary as the proper authority may direct, for the period of five years.*"

IV.—The findings in this case are approved and the sentence confirmed. The Military Prison at Alton, Illinois, is designated as the place of confinement. The Provost Marshal of the District of Memphis is charged with the safe delivery of the prisoner at that prison; and with the collection of the fine imposed.

If at the expiration of the term of imprisonment the fine remains unpaid, the prisoner will be held in custody until the same be paid.