

CASE NO. 35

SHOON-KA-SKA

Proceedings of a military commission
convened at Camp Release opposite the mouth
of the Chippewa River by virtue of the following
order

Order No 55

Head Qrs Camp Release Sept 28 1862

A military commission composed of Colonel
Cruck of the 1st Regt Lieut Col Marshall of the 7th Regt
Captains Grant and Bailey of the 1st Regt and Lieut
Olen of the 3rd Regt will convene at some convenient
point in camp at 10 o'clock this morning
to try summarily the Mullatto and Indian
or mixed blood who may be brought before
them by direction of the Colonel Commanding
if found guilty of murder or other outrages
upon the whites during the present state of
hostilities of the Indians the proceeding
of the commission to be returned to these
Head Quarters immediately after their
conclusion for the consideration of the Colonel
Commanding

The Commission will be governed in these
proceedings by military Law and usage

By order of the Colonel Commanding
military Expedition

Signed

S. H. Fowler

A U A G

Order
No 65

Head Qrs Camp Release Minn Oct 15th 1862

I The Military Commission whereof Col
Cruck 1st Regt Minn Vols is President will
reconvene tomorrow at 10 o'clock A.M. or as

soon thereafter as practicable and proceed
with the business before it

II Lieut Col W. R. Marshall 7 Reg Minn Vols
being absent on duty Maj Geo Bradley
of the same Regt is hereby detailed to fill the
vacancy thus occasioned

By order of Genl H. A. Sibley

Lt. W. Fowler

Lieut Col a a a Lt

1862

Camp Release opposite the
mouth of the Chippewa River

Oct 11th 1862

The military commission met pursuant to the
above order

Present

Colonel Crooks	1 st Regiment M V	Members
Maj Bradley	7 th "	
Capt Grant	6 th "	
Bailey	1 st "	
Lieut Olew	3 "	
Judge Advocate		
Adjutant Ward	McPhails Mounted Rangers	
Recorder		

The military commission was then
duly sworn and Shoorn-ha-ma a
sient Indian was arraigned on the following
charge and specification viz

Charge & Specifications against Shon-ha-shu-a Sioux Indian (White Dog)

Charge Participation in the Murders Robberies and Outrages Committed by the Sioux Tribe of Indians in the Minnesota Frontier

Specification In this that the said Shon-ha-shu-a Sioux Indian did between the 18th day of August 1862 and the 28th day of September 1862 join with and participate in the ~~Murders~~ Murders Robberies and Outrages Committed by the Sioux Indians on the Minnesota Frontier and did give the Command to fire on Capt. Marsh's Command at the river near the Lower Agency on the 18th day of August 1862

Witness By order of Agent D. H. Sully
Comy mil. Expeditions

Magner (of the Nemille Rangers) L. M. Fowler
David Habebant L. C. L.

Thos. Robinson a a a g

Godfrey (Negro)

John Magner

When Capt. Marsh and his Company got to the ferry the prisoner was there with a big tomahawk and was all painted over red -

Mr. Quinn was interpreter for Capt. Marsh - He asked him what he was doing with that weapon - He said he had it for a pipe & he wanted to smoke with it -

Capt. Marsh asked me to go down the bank & see if I could ascertain how many Indians were across the way - I did so -

On my return to Capt. Marsh he asked me how many I had seen. Deft. was still talking to Capt. Marsh to detain him while the Indians crossed the river to surround them. I heard the interpreter say so -

I told him it was impossible for me to count them as the place was red with their heads through the weeds on the opposite side -

Marsh ordered his men to about face then Deft. waved his hand to the Indians & gave the order to fire -

I went down after they were
all killed at Red Wood to find Prescott -

I then heard the firing at the ferry -

I went down & wanted to
speak with the white soldiers, and
waved my hands with the ^{white} Indian
soldiers to stand back - They
said if I ordered them to stand
back they would kill me - I
then did nothing - I then told
Marsh to come over on the ferry -

Marsh told me to bring over the
ferry boat - It was in the middle
of the river & I told Marsh to send
over the flat boat - I was
just getting on the flat boat when
the Indians fired - I was not at
Bush Cove - I went to the Ferry Fort
because I was afraid & was compelled
to go - I never fired a gun - I was
at New Hen, but lost my shot pouch
with all the bullets in it -

30
I so understood it from Quinn - I was
so excited after the time that I don't recollect
about it exactly -

David Harbancet -

I saw capt. about the
agency houses at Red Wood - Saw him at the
stores & saw him at Fort Ridgely - I
heard his wife say he talked with Quinn
so as to give the Indians time to get around
them - The woman said he gave the command
to fire - I saw capt. fire once at the fort.

He was with a lot of Indians & they
bried - He shot once - There were 20
in the party -

Geoffrey - I saw capt. at New Ulen -

I saw him again at Wood Lake -

I saw him there smoking with a tomahawk.

Didn't see him shoot - Didn't hear
him induce others to go into the fight -

I heard at Red Wood on the day
Marsh was killed that White Dog had
a Council with the Indians Capt. Marsh -
that he told him to cross the river -

Capt. Marsh through Quinn asked
White Dog why they were killing the whites

2 White Dog told him to come over - that
while they were talking the Indians crossed
over - I heard the Indians say that
White Dog was the leader & had more
influence than any one there and
that it was through them that
the whites were killed -

And therefore after due deliberation
on the foregoing, the evidence being closed
the Commission was closed and proceeded
with their finding and sentence.

The Military Commission find the
prisoner, the said Shoon He-ska, a Guano
Indian as follows -

Guilty of the specification
Guilty of the charge
and sentence him to be hung by
the neck until he is dead -

D. D. Heard,
Recorder

Wm. Crook

R. C. Allen Lt. 3rd Minn Vol.
Judge Advocate Mil. Comm.

Col. 6th Minn Vol.
Pres. Mil. Comm.

Shoon He-ska

sentenced to be hung

Charge, testimony re -

16th