

## XXXVII.

## GENERAL ORDERS.

THE undersigned, commanding the Exploring Expedition, has attentively examined the proceedings of the Naval Court of Inquiry, relative to the detention of the boat at Good Success Bay, in March last, and the conduct of Lieutenant Dale, who was in charge of her.

In the opinion of the court he concurs; having been an eye-witness to the principal transactions, and believes that the whole difficulty and detention of the boat arose and was occasioned by the inexperience of Lieutenant Dale in managing a boat in the surf: the mode of using the ample means he had; a want of determined perseverance to execute his orders; and some procrastination in effecting his progress through the surf; being influenced by the timidity of some of those with him, arising from the novelty of the situation they were placed in.

In consideration of the remarkably long confinement of Lieutenant Dale under suspension, and being fully impressed with the opinion of the court relative to his good conduct and attention to the men during his detention on shore; he is restored to duty, and will resume his duties accordingly.

The undersigned takes this opportunity to impress upon all under his command, the great necessity of adhering strictly to and carrying orders into execution, and of obtaining information relative to the best modes of surmounting difficulties before encountering them; also, to provide themselves fully with the means necessary to execute orders; and all those who may be passengers in boats to abstain from interfering or giving advice, unless it is asked,—as many delays and difficulties may thus be avoided.

He cannot refrain from expressing the high opinion he has of the conduct of Lieutenant Hartstein; also, of John Moore (quarter-master), Francis Williams (boatswain's mate), and Samuel Stretch (quarter-master), who volunteered in the attempt to afford assistance to the party on shore, and he desires to return them his thanks for their conduct.

The Naval Court of Inquiry, of which Captain William L. Hudson is President, is hereby dissolved.

CHARLES WILKES,  
Commanding Exploring Expedition

U. S. Ship Vincennes,  
Callao, June 20th, 1839.