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REBUKE ENDS CASE AGAINST GEN. BUTLER

Plans for Court-Martial
Abandoned on Orders
of Administration.

SENSATION IN CAPITAL

Marine Officer, 'Good Sol-
dier,' Takes Reprimand
to Avoid Trial.

BULLETIN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Court-
martial proceedings against Major-
General Smedley D. Butler were
dismissed by direction of President
Hoover himself, the United
Press learned today.

BY RAYMOND CLAPPER
United Press Staff Correspondent
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WASHINGTON, Feb. 9.—Plans
for court-martialing Major-General
Smedley D. Butler of the United
States marine corps were aban-
doned on the initiative of the ad-
ministration, it was learned today.

For several reasons the highest
officials of the government decided
it was unsafe to go through with
the court-martial. General Butler,
on his part, finally consented to be
a "good soldier" and enter the ar-
rangement under which he was re-
commended by Navy Secretary Adams.

This sudden collapse of what
promised to be one of the most spec-
tacular military trials in American
history caused a sensation in Wash-
ington, and was a subject of dis-
cussion everywhere.

The abandonment of the court-
martial was regarded as being un-
precedented as the original decision
itself.

Public Spectacle Prevented

Most important for the govern-
ment's international relations, the
cancellation of the trial removes the
possibility of a public spectacle in
which would enter the question of
statements that Premier Mussolini of Italy ran over
a child with his automobile and
went on without giving aid.

It was learned today that the
government, through state and com-
merce department attaches in Italy
made a thorough investigation of
the story which Butler in his speech
at the Senate last month had told
about this incident. All of these
reports came back to Washington
agreeing that there was no truth in
the story.

Hints were conveyed to General
Butler late last week that for vari-
ous reasons it would be desirable
all around if some arrangement
could be made which would make
the court-martial unnecessary.

General Butler hesitated until
after consulting with counsel but
finally agreed.

Butler Writes Letter

A conference was held Sunday at
the home of Navy Secretary Adams
where the arrangements were
worked out.

Butler Monday wrote a letter to
Adams relating that when he made
the speech he understood it was not
to go beyond the four walls within
which were assembled the members
and guests of the Contemporary
Club of Philadelphia.

Butler said he was telling Adams
this "on the assumption that it was
not in the department's possession to
when it was decided to bring me to
trial." It is known that the phras-
ing of this sentence was given much
attention.

Neither Butler nor his counsel
will say whether this information
was included in the original report
of the incident which Butler made
to the navy upon which the decision
to court-martial him was made.
Secretary Adams says it was not.

All have made a gentleman's
agreement not to explain what lies
behind the phrase "on the assumption."

Many Protests Received

President Hoover and other gov-
ernment officials have received
voluminous mail protesting against
the court-martial. General Butler
has received equally voluminous
mail extending sympathy.

It is known that some influential
administration senators felt that
the administration was making a
grave mistake in forcing the court-
martial, that a reprimand was suf-
ficient and more desirable from
every point of view.

Other criticism came privately
from many of Butler's friends in
the service who felt that he was
being crucified for an indiscretion
which, while warranting reprimand,
did not warrant severe pen-
alties and dishonor.

General Butler was back in com-
mand at Quantico, Va., marine base
today.

Action Liked by Italy

ROME, Feb. 9.—An apparently of-
ficially inspired note in the *Giornale
d'Italia* today said the American
navy department's action in dis-
missing charges against Major Gen-
eral Smedley Butler proved the cor-
rectitude of relations between Italy
and the United States.

Hourly Temperatures

6 a. m....	30	10 a. m....	33
7 a. m....	30	11 a. m....	34
8 a. m....	30	12 (noon)....	35
9 a. m....	31		

Autos Blessed

By United Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 9.—The
aid of St. Christopher was
invoked by a Roman Catholic
church to prevent automobile
accidents. Sixty motor cars
were blessed formally in the
saint's name and sprinkled
with holy water outside the
church of the holy family
which celebrates a "motorists'
mass" every Sunday.

10 MEN, CAUGHT ON DRIFTING ICE FLOE, RESCUED

Trapped While Saving 16
Men and Boy From
Giant Cake.

By United Press

PINEHURST, N. Y., Feb. 9.—
Seven coast guardsmen and three
fishermen who had drifted on an ice
floe in Lake Erie since rescue at-
tempts were disrupted Sunday night
by a broken line, were taken from
the floe today.

The men were rescued by guard-
smen who had set out from shore at
dawn to judge some six miles
across an ice shelf to reach the floe.

Surfman Fred Nirscher of the
coast guard was the first man to
reach shore. The other guardsmen
and the three fishermen followed
Nirscher within an hour.

Floe Only Few Feet Wide

"The ice floe we were on was
only about 100 feet long and seven
feet wide," Nirscher told the United
Press when he reached shore. "The
end of the floe changed into slush
ice as it drifted before the wind,
gradually bringing the edges of the
floe closer and closer to us."

Potter had been reported missing,
when prosecuting authorities tried
unavailably to find who would represent
him at his perjury trial.

Rose From Newsboy Start

An hour after the police alarm was sent
out for "Rarin' Bill," or William E.
as the former councilman less generally
was known, late Sunday.

"I had not been seen since Tues-
day, when he appeared to bask in
the public gaze in the famous
'statesmen's window' at city hall."

Potter had been reported missing,
when prosecuting authorities tried
unavailably to find who would represent
him at his perjury trial.

Police Squad Battered Down the Door

In a davenport that faced the
entrance to the living room was
"Rarin' Bill's" body. The head had
been battered.

A police squad battered down the
door. On a davenport that faced the
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