

## CONFEDERATE CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

JONESBOROUGH, GA., *November 14, 1864—9.25 p. m.*General BRAXTON BRAGG,  
*Richmond, Va.:*

Prisoners taken yesterday report Sherman with three corps in and about Atlanta. Scouts and prisoners report enemy destroying railroad between Atlanta and Marietta. Yankee camp rumors say Sherman will move forward.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to General Hardee.)

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JONESBOROUGH, *November 14, 1864.*General JOHN B. HOOD,  
*Tuscumbia:*

Scouts report Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps marched into Atlanta yesterday. Large fires been seen in Atlanta for last three days. Prisoners say camp rumors are they intend marching to Augusta and Savannah; also, that Sherman is in Atlanta.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

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JONESBOROUGH, GA., *November 14, 1864.*

General J. B. HOOD:

Sherman, with Fifteenth and Twentieth Corps and Kilpatrick's cavalry, is in Atlanta. Prisoners and citizens say camp rumors are that they will march to Augusta and Savannah. Scouts and prisoners report Sherman destroying railroad from Atlanta to Allatoona.

J. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to General Bragg, Richmond; Lieutenant-General Hardee, Charleston; Lieutenant-General Taylor, Selma; Major-General Cobb, Macon; Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith, Lovejoy's; Governor Joseph E. Brown, Milledgeville, and Col. M. H. Wright, Columbus.)

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JONESBOROUGH, *November 14, 1864.*Lieut. Gen. R. TAYLOR,  
*Selma, Ala.:*

Scouts and prisoners report enemy destroying railroad between Atlanta and Marietta. Prisoners report Sherman in Atlanta, and that camp rumors say he will move toward Mobile or Savannah. Prisoners also report Fifteenth, Seventeenth, and Twentieth Corps at Atlanta. Large fires observed in Atlanta for last three days.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to General Hood.)

NEAR ATLANTA, *November 14, 1864.*

General J. H. CLANTON,  
*Blue Mountain :*

The enemy's cavalry may move through Carrollton toward West Point and Montgomery Railroad. Keep it well watched.

J. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

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GRIFFIN, *November 15, 1864.*

General S. COOPER :

The enemy has burned Atlanta and destroyed railroad to Allatoona, burning bridge over Chattahoochee. He moved out of Atlanta with very large force in direction of Macon by Jonesborough and McDonough. We have no force to hinder him and must fall back to Macon, where re-enforcements should be sent at once to meet him successfully.

HOWELL COBB,  
*Major-General, Commanding.*

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NEAR JONESBOROUGH, *November 15, 1864—2.30 p. m.*

General J. B. HOOD :

Enemy advanced with infantry, cavalry, and wagons early this morning. Have driven our cavalry back to this place. Strength not yet ascertained. Enemy have burned many houses in Rome, Marietta, and Atlanta; also destroyed railroad and burned bridge over Chattahoochee.

J. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to General Braxton Bragg, Richmond; Lieutenant-General Hardee, Charleston; Lieut. Gen. R. Taylor, Selma; Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith, Lovejoy's; Governor Joseph E. Brown, Milledgeville; General G. T. Beauregard, Tuscumbia, and Col. M. H. Wright, Columbus.)

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LOVEJOY'S, *November 15, 1864—3.45 p. m.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding, &c. :*

GENERAL: Yours of 2.30 p. m. is received. My trains are getting ready to start. The wagons came in just as your note was received notifying me that the pickets were driven in and the enemy at Morrow's Mills. If they come too close to me I will endeavor to give them a warm reception. If nothing occurs to prevent I will move to-night to the position spoken of yesterday afternoon.

Yours, truly,

G. W. SMITH,  
*Major-General.*



CIRCULAR.]

HEADQUARTERS WHEELER'S CORPS,

*November 15, 1864.*

I. All orders heretofore issued regarding destroying supplies and removing stock before the enemy are modified as follows:

II. All mills near the enemy's line of march will be rendered useless to the enemy by breaking the machinery, and, when practicable, by drawing off the water.

III. No mill building, corn-crib, or any other private property will be burned or destroyed by this command.

IV. All horses, mules, and other stock which citizens have left on the enemy's line of march will be driven off and proper receipts left for the same. When no owner can be found, accurate accounts will be kept, so that the stock can be reclaimed by the owner.

V. Commanders of troops in falling back before the enemy will send reliable officers and men at least one day in advance to instruct citizens in which direction to drive their stock.

By order of Major-General Wheeler:

M. G. HUDSON,

*First Lieutenant, Aide-de-Camp, and Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen.*

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TUSCUMBIA, *November 16, 1864—3 p. m.*

General S. COOPER,

*Richmond:*

Reports of General Wheeler indicate that Sherman is about to move with three corps from Atlanta to Augusta or Macon; thence probably to Charleston or Savannah, where a junction may be formed with enemy's fleet. The threatened attack on Wilmington in that event must be intended for Charleston. I would advise all available force which can be spared from North and South Carolina be held ready to move to defense of Augusta or crossing of Savannah River, in conjunction with forces in State of Georgia. Should Sherman take Charleston or reach Atlantic coast, he might then re-enforce Grant. General Taylor has been ordered to move with the available forces into Georgia, and assume command of all troops operating against Sherman should he move as reported.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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LOVEJOY'S, [*November*] 16, 1864—11 a. m.

(Via Barnesville.)

General BRAGG:

Scouts from enemy's rear report that Sherman left Atlanta yesterday morning with Fifteenth, Seventeenth, and Twentieth Corps in two columns—one on Jonesborough, and one on McDonough road; cavalry on his flanks. Many houses been burned in Rome, Marietta, and Atlanta, and railroad bridge over Chattahoochee destroyed by the enemy. Enemy advancing this morning.

JOS. WHEELER,

*Major-General.*

(Same to Generals Beauregard, Cobb, Hardee, Hood, Smith, and Taylor, and Governor Brown.)



GRIFFIN, *November 16, 1864—4 p. m.*

(Received Richmond 1.10 p. m. 17th.)

General BRAGG:

Enemy checked this evening near Bear Creek. Enemy evidently marching to Macon.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to Generals Beauregard, Cobb, Hardee, Hood, Smith, Taylor, and Governor Brown.)

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NEAR JONESBOROUGH, GA., *November 16, 1864—Daylight.*

General J. B. HOOD,  
*Tuscumbia :*

Fifteenth, Seventeenth, and Twentieth Corps, with Kilpatrick's cavalry, left Atlanta yesterday morning in two columns—one on Jonesborough, and the other on McDonough road. Fourteenth Corps has reached Atlanta, giving Sherman four corps, fully 60,000 men.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to General G. T. Beauregard, Tuscumbia; General Braxton Bragg, Richmond; Lieut. Gen. Hardee, Charleston; Lieut. Gen. R. Taylor, Selma; Major-General Cobb, Macon; Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith, Forsyth; Governor Joseph E. Brown, Milledgeville; Col. M. H. Wright, Columbus.)

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NOVEMBER 16, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Jonesborough, Ga. :*

Telegraph me daily, whether you have news of importance or not. If Sherman advances to the south or east destroy all things in his front that might be useful to him, and keep a portion of your force constantly destroying his trains.

J. B. HOOD,  
*General.*

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CAMP STEPHENS, NEAR GRIFFIN, GA.,  
*November 16, 1864—9.30 a. m.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding, &c., near Lovejoy's :*

GENERAL: The rear of my command arrived here at 3 o'clock this morning in very good condition, considering the night's march, for new troops. By 1 or 2 o'clock this afternoon they will, I think, be perfectly ready for anything that may turn up; in fact, are ready now if heavy work is necessary. My movements must, of course, depend in great degree upon the force and movements of the enemy and your ability to hold them in check. If too much engaged yourself please have one of your staff officers notify me of every change in the position of affairs. If the full force of the enemy is moving toward Macon my command should be well ahead of them to put the house in order for defense. If they move in full force toward Augusta it is still important for us to



reach Macon soon to take the cars. The rolling-stock of this railroad is not adequate since their losses in Atlanta. If they are not in largely superior force it is best for us to fight them here. You, I know, will appreciate my anxiety to know the force and movements of the enemy. At General Cobb's request I inclose some papers which he wishes referred to you.

Yours, very truly,

G. W. SMITH,  
*Major-General.*

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GRIFFIN, November 16, 1864—12 m.

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding, &c., near Lovejoy's :*

GENERAL: Yours of 6 a. m. was received in my camp at 10.35, and was forwarded to me here in a few minutes. Last night yours of 10.30 was received at Bear Creek Station at 12 m. I call your attention to these delays; at this time they may be the cause of very serious evil. Mine of 9.30 a. m. would have been greatly modified had yours of 6 o'clock been previously received. I dislike to refer to these matters, but they are just now of great importance. The heavy column marching by McDonough makes it necessary, in my judgment, for this command to move promptly to Forsyth. I have sent for cars. If they come this afternoon will make arrangements for starting, leaving all commissary stores and forage not needed by my command for the use of yours. Colonel Dibrell has just come in. He says his instructions from you will justify his taking position near Griffin, toward McDonough, instead of six or seven miles southwest as now. He will report to you his exact position as soon as he selects it. General Cobb and myself both recommended this strongly to Colonel Dibrell, and have no doubt it will meet with your approval. It is very important that this heavy column by McDonough should be opposed by a strong cavalry force. They are on the direct road from Atlanta to Macon. If they turn toward Augusta we ought still to be in Macon as soon as practicable. Colonel Anderson, of my staff, will hand you this, and give you my views more fully.

Yours, very truly,

G. W. SMITH,  
*Major-General.*

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SELMA, ALA., November 16, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER:

Please keep me advised of enemy's movements. I have your dispatches of yesterday and day before. Should enemy move east better telegraph General Hardee and Richmond direct.

R. TAYLOR,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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MACON, GA., [November 17,] 1864.

President DAVIS,  
*Richmond, Va. :*

Sherman's move upon this place is formidable, and the most dangerous of the war. His policy is universal destruction. If by concentration of all forces that can be brought together Sherman's army could



be crushed, he having cut loose from his communications, it would be the greatest result of the war. The only mode I see for making defense and destroying Sherman is to order garrisons of Charleston, Savannah, and Wilmington here at once. If not beaten here he will either march to Charleston or Savannah.

HOWELL COBB,  
*Major-General.*

MACON, *November 17, 1864.*

General COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I left Griffin at 10.30 last night, and telegraphed the joint views of General Wheeler and myself. The enemy are advancing in two columns, by Griffin and McDonough, evidently moving on Macon. His forces estimated at 35,000, including Kilpatrick's cavalry. We are falling back rapidly to this place. The enemy will probably be here by Monday. We are too weak to resist them unless re-enforced promptly. The prisoners should be removed from this State.

HOWELL COBB,  
*Major-General.*

MACON, *Thursday Morning, November 17, 1864.*

[Governor J. E. BROWN:]

DEAR GOVERNOR: Things are very bad here. Sherman in person is leading, say, 30,000 men against us. We are retreating as rapidly as possible, consistent with good order and efficiency. The militia are retreating in admirable order and good discipline, as General Cobb reports. I will meet them between this and Forsyth this evening. I believe the Legislature will grant you large and liberal powers. Tell them the country is in danger. Let all of her sons come to her rescue.

Yours, faithfully.

R. TOOMBS.

P. S.—We have called for the troops in Wilmington, Charleston, and Savannah. If we do defend here they will be on us by Monday. Cavalry force said to be below 6,000. Send all the troops you can. If we do not get help we must abandon this place.

Yours,

R. TOOMBS.

TUSCUMBIA, [*November 17, 1864*].

General S. COOPER,  
*Richmond:*

General R. Taylor has been ordered to repair forthwith to Georgia and take command of all Confederate troops now operating against Sherman.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

TUSCUMBIA, *November 17, 1864.*

General S. COOPER:

I leave for Corinth this morning, whence I will move according to circumstances. No news since report of yesterday.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.



TUSCUMBIA, [November 17, 1864].

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond:*

General Wheeler reports from Jonesborough, Ga., enemy advanced with infantry, artillery, cavalry, and wagons on morning of 15th instant, driving back our cavalry to Jonesborough.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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RICHMOND, [November 17, 1864].

General BEAUREGARD,

*Tuscumbia:*

Generals Cobb and Wheeler report Sherman moving with three corps on Macon. This information has probably been communicated to you, if not anticipated by you, but we are not informed. Have you taken measures to meet it? You are aware that few, if any, troops out of your department can now be sent to its defense.

By direction of the President:

S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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RICHMOND, VA., November 17, 1864.

General BEAUREGARD,

*Tuscumbia, Ala.:*

Your dispatch of yesterday just received. You were dispatched this morning respecting Sherman's movements on Macon. At same time General Taylor was telegraphed to call for the reserve forces of his department, and if possible to aid in resisting the army of Sherman. Your order to General Taylor to move with the available forces into Georgia is approved. General Hardee was telegraphed this morning that his command, for the present, was extended to embrace all that part of Georgia south of the Chattahoochee River, and directed to move promptly to the scene of operations, and endeavor to obtain an adequate force by concentrating detachments from garrisons, convalescents from hospitals, reserves, militia, and volunteers. Copy of your dispatch has been sent to the President, and I await his further directions.

S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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NEAR GRIFFIN, GA., November 17, 1864—11 a. m.

Lieutenant-General HARDEE,

*Charleston:*

Enemy are turning their columns on shortest road to Macon. Scouts from enemy's rear report Fourteenth Corps moving up to join Sherman.

JOS. WHEELER,

*Major-General.*

(Same to General Howell Cobb, Macon; Governor J. E. Brown, Milledgeville, and General R. Taylor, Selma.)

CHARLESTON, November 17, 1864.

Hon. J. A. SEDDON, *Secretary of War, Richmond*:

General Cobb has called on me for re-enforcements to defend Macon. I will send him the Fifth Georgia, now stationed at Florence, which is the only troops I can spare without stripping the coast and leaving it open to the enemy.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

RICHMOND, [November 17, 1864].

General HARDEE, *Charleston*:

It is reported that Sherman is moving rapidly upon Macon. Your command, for the present, is extended to embrace all that part of Georgia south of the Chattahoochee River. You will move promptly to the scene of active operations, and endeavor to obtain an adequate force by concentrating detachments from garrisons, convalescents from hospitals, reserves, militia, and volunteers.

By order of the President:

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

NOVEMBER 17, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER, *Comdg. Cavalry, Lovejoy's Station*:

Call Clanton's command to you and give him such orders as you think best to assist you in retarding the advance of Sherman.

J. B. HOOD,  
*General.*

GRIFFIN, November 17, 1864—12 m.

General JOHN B. HOOD, *Tuscumbia*:

Scouts from enemy's rear report that Fourteenth Corps crossed the Chattahoochee on 15th on way to join Sherman, giving him four corps.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to General Braxton Bragg, Richmond; Lieut. Gen. W. J. Hardee, Charleston; Lieut. Gen. R. Taylor, Selma; General Howell Cobb, Macon, and Governor J. E. Brown, Milledgeville.)

NEAR GRIFFIN, GA., November 17, 1864—2.20 p. m.

General J. B. HOOD, *Tuscumbia*:

Enemy are turning their columns on shortest road to Macon. Scouts from enemy's rear report Fourteenth Corps moving up to join Sherman. I have no orders regarding holding any city, should enemy besiege or assault. Please send orders to me or General Cobb.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to General Braxton Bragg, Richmond, and General Beauregard.)



TWELVE MILES NORTH OF FORSYTH,  
*November 17, 1864—6.40. (Via Macon.)*  
(Received 2.30 p. m. 18th.)

General BRAGG:

Enemy still moving toward Macon by shortest direct road. Scouts report a force of the enemy between Yellow and South Rivers.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

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RICHMOND, [November 17, 1864].

Maj. H. C. GUERIN:

Sherman's movement may cut us off at any moment from Southwest Georgia. Urge the collection [of] corn with utmost activity, and push forward to Wellford. Telegraph your district officers to lose no time.

By order of Commissary-General:

J. C. ABRAMS,  
*Captain and Assistant Commissary of Subsistence.*

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RICHMOND, [November 17, 1864].

General TAYLOR,  
*Selma:*

You are authorized to call for the reserves of your department, and requested, as far as practicable, to aid in resisting the army of Sherman, reported to be moving south from Atlanta.

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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MILLEDGEVILLE, November 18, 1864.

President DAVIS:

A heavy force of the enemy is advancing on Macon, laying waste the country and burning the towns. We have not sufficient force. I hope you will send us troops as re-enforcements till the exigency is passed.

JOS. E. BROWN.

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RICHMOND, VA., November 18, 1864.

General H. COBB,  
*Macon, Ga.:*

In addition to the troops of all kinds you should endeavor to get out every man who can render any service, even for a short period, and employ negroes in obstructing roads by every practicable means. Colonel Rains, at Augusta, can furnish you with shells prepared to explode by pressure, and these will be effective to check an advance. General Hardee has, I hope, brought some re-enforcements, and General Taylor will probably join you with some further aid. You have a difficult task, but will realize the necessity for the greatest exertion.

JEFFN, DAVIS.

CORINTH, November 18, 1864—7 a. m.

Hon. J. A. SEDDON:

I have just arrived here on my way to Georgia. Please order immediately to General Cobb, at Macon, a large supply of Rains' subterran shells, with competent person to employ them.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
General.

[Indorsement.]

NOVEMBER 19, 1864.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL:

Instruct General Rains to give immediate attention to this.

J. A. S.,  
Secretary.

CORINTH, November 18, 1864—11 a. m.

(Received 19th.)

General S. COOPER:

General Taylor telegraphs from Mobile that he may not, through accident on roads, reach Macon before Sherman's force. I am in same condition here. I therefore respectfully urge that General Hardee should be ordered to assume temporary command forthwith of the troops operating in Georgia.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
General.

CORINTH, November 18, 1864.

(Received 19th.)

General S. COOPER:

General Cobb reports from Macon, November 17:

Enemy is advancing in two columns, by Griffin and McDonough, evidently moving on Macon. His force three corps, estimated at 30,000, including Kilpatrick's cavalry. We are falling back rapidly to this place. Enemy will probably be here Monday.

I have ordered Generals Hood and Taylor, and requested General Hardee, to send General Cobb all the re-enforcements they can spare. I have ordered General Taylor to Macon forthwith, and am going there in person rapidly as condition of roads will permit.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CORINTH, November 18, 1864—4 p. m.

(Received 19th.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

General Hood reports from Florence, 18th:

Jackson's cavalry division could not be spared from this army without seriously embarrassing Stewart's operations, while General Wheeler has with him some thirteen brigades of cavalry.

I have suggested to General Hood, if he could not spare troops for Georgia, to take the offensive immediately to relieve it.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.



RICHMOND, *November 18, 1864.*

TO THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA:

You have now the best opportunity ever yet presented to destroy the enemy. Put everything at the disposal of our generals; remove all provisions from the path of the invader, and put all obstructions in his path. Every citizen with his gun, and every negro with his spade and axe, can do the work of a soldier. You can destroy the enemy by retarding his march. Georgians, be firm! Act promptly, and fear not!

B. R. HILL,  
*Senator.*

I most cordially approve the above.

JAMES A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*

CORINTH, *November 18, 1864.*

TO THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA:

Arise for the defense of your native soil! Rally round your patriotic Governor and gallant soldiers! Obstruct and destroy all roads in Sherman's front, flank, and rear, and his army will soon starve in your midst! Be confident and resolute! Trust in an overruling Providence, and success will crown your efforts. I hasten to join you in defense of your homes and firesides.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CORINTH, *November 18, 1864.*

General J. B. HOOD,  
*Florence:*

Batteries ordered from Macon cannot now be expected here. Send two soon as possible until others can be had.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CORINTH, *November 18, 1864—3 p. m.*

General J. B. HOOD,  
*Commanding, &c.:*

General Wheeler reports from Griffin yesterday that scouts from enemy's rear report Fourteenth Corps crossed Chattahoochee on 15th to join Sherman, giving him four corps. Should that be true, could you not spare then, at once, some troops for Georgia, or take the offensive immediately? General Cobb is urgent in his calls for assistance.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

CORINTH, MISS., *November 18, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER:

Employ your cavalry to best advantage, retarding advance of Sherman's army and destroying supplies in his front.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

FORSYTH, *November 18, 1864—10 p. m.*

(Received 19th.)

General BRAGG:

Enemy pressing on rapidly.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*HEADQUARTERS,  
*Florence, Ala., November 18, 1864.*Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry, Griffin, Ga. :*

Your dispatches of 17th received. It is very important that you should not allow any portion of your mounted force to be shut up in a besieged city, but keep them constantly harassing the enemy, destroying his trains, and cutting off his foraging parties.

J. B. HOOD,  
*General.*HEADQUARTERS,  
*Florence, Ala., November 18, 1864.*Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry, Griffin, Ga. :*

In returning the section of artillery to Roddey which is with Hannon; you need only send the men and horses, as other and better guns have been obtained.

A. P. MASON,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*FORSYTH, *November 18, 1864—9 p. m.*Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding, &c.*

GENERAL: About half of my infantry started for Macon by rail last night, and the trains have this moment returned. The rest of the infantry will be put upon the cars in a few minutes. I sent fourteen pieces of artillery, under Major Palmer, for Macon at 1 o'clock this morning. My wagon train has started, and as soon as the infantry are off I will start. General Beauregard telegraphs me that General Taylor has been ordered to take command of troops in Georgia. In meantime directs everything to be done to check Sherman's advance, which, in my opinion, can, under present circumstances, be best done by the infantry, by being in the fortifications at Macon, leaving the outside work to the cavalry. There is a large amount of stores here; I will endeavor to get cars sent up to remove them. In case you have to fall back suddenly to this place please notify the trains below. I received information this morning that a large force of the enemy were moving down the Georgia railroad. If this is so, and I am disposed to credit the man who sent the information, Sherman may stop on the Towaliga and move the mass of his forces east. In that case he will endeavor to break Central railroad to prevent our going by rail to Augusta. I shall always be glad to hear how you are getting on.

Yours, very truly,

G. W. SMITH,  
*Major-General.*



COLUMBIA, *November 18, 1864.*

President DAVIS:

If the emergency warrants am I authorized to go into Georgia with such force as I can carry, and retain there my rank.

JAS. CHESNUT, JR.,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding Reserves.*

RICHMOND, *November 19, 1864.*

TO THE PEOPLE OF GEORGIA:

We have had a special conference with President Davis and the Secretary of War, and are able to assure you that they have done and are still doing all that can be done to meet the emergency that presses upon you. Let every man fly to arms! Remove your negroes, horses, cattle, and provisions from Sherman's army, and burn what you cannot carry. Burn all bridges and block up the roads in his route. Assail the invader in front, flank, and rear, by night and by day. Let him have no rest.

JULIAN HARTRIDGE,  
J. H. ECHOLS,  
JOHN T. SHEWMAKE,

MARK H. BLANDFORD,  
GEO. N. LESTER,  
JAS. M. SMITH,

*Members of Congress.*

PETERSBURG, *November 19, 1864.*

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS,

*Richmond, Va.:*

I have not received General Cooper's dispatch. I know of no troops within reach of Sherman except those in Georgia, nor do I know of a ———.\* All roads, bridges, provisions, &c., within Sherman's reach should be destroyed. The population must turn out. Wheeler could do much. It would be extremely hazardous and ———.\* Savannah will probably be Sherman's object. Troops that can be spared from Charleston, Savannah, &c., should take the field under Hardee.

R. E. LEE.

CORINTH, *November 19, 1864.* (Received 20th.)

General S. COOPER:

I leave this morning for Macon, via Mobile, the nearest route. Weather and roads are so bad that movements of Army of Tennessee are much retarded.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CORINTH, *November 19, 1864.* (Received 20th.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

General Wheeler telegraphs from Griffin, on 17th, that enemy are turning their columns on shortest route to Macon, and scouts from

\* Cipher unintelligible.

enemy's rear report Fourteenth crossed Chattahoochee to join Sherman, giving him four corps. This information has been communicated to General Hood. It is left optional with him to divide and re-enforce Cobb, or take the offensive immediately to relieve him.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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MACON, November 19, 1864.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War:*

There is great scarcity of arms in Georgia and South Carolina to meet the enemy. It is necessary to have additional arms to put into the hands of the levy en masse ordered by the Legislature of Georgia, and the reserve militia of South Carolina now called out by Governor Bonham. Please have all spare arms sent to Charleston, S. C., subject to my orders.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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MACON, November 19, 1864.

General S. COOPER:

I reached here this morning. The enemy on both sides Ocmulgee River, about thirty miles from Macon. A column is reported near Social Circle marching on Augusta. My opinion, hastily formed from the information before me, is that the enemy will ultimately form junction and march upon Augusta; General Cobb concurs. The force of the enemy consists of the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, and Twentieth Army Corps; and the infantry under General Cobb is around Macon.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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MACON, November 19, 1864—8 p. m.

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Enemy's cavalry entered Clinton to-day. Enemy reported seven miles this side Madison at 9 o'clock this morning; said to be Slocum's corps.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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MACON, November 19, 1864. (Received 20th.)

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I have ordered Wheeler to make an attack on the enemy to-morrow at Clinton (20th), [so] as to ascertain definitely his movements and intentions.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*



MACON, November 19, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

Colonel Ould will declare paroled prisoners exchanged as soon as he can make Yankee delivery. Enemy's movements indicate an advance on Augusta. What defense have you to protect Savannah from land attack?

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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SAVANNAH, GA., November 19, 1864.

General HARDEE,  
*Macon, Ga. :*

Have no defenses but an inundation, which is not complete and does not cover the crossing of the Charleston railroad over Savannah River. I need the troops on the way to Oconee bridge. Can I recall them?

L. McLAWS,  
*Major-General.*

---

MACON, November 19, 1864.

Maj. Gen. L. McLAWS:

The force at the Oconee bridge cannot be spared yet. General Wheeler says that prisoners report that Sherman is going to Savannah by way of Augusta. Be prepared to press negroes if you need them.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

TENNILLE, November 19, 1864.

General McLAWS, or Colonel ANDERSON:

SIR: The Yankees are expected at Oconee bridge. We are determined to dispute their passage and defend the bridge. Please send us if possible one howitzer and caisson, with canister and grape, occupying an open car. We have some twenty old artillerists cut off from their commands who will man the piece.

WM. A. IRWIN,  
*Aide-de-Camp, Twentieth Military District.*

---

TENNILLE, November 19, 1864.

General L. McLAWS:

Men are mustering fast. I think I can start with 100 in an hour, and have 200 by noon. Shall I press an engine and train to carry men. I have rifles and ammunition.

H. T. HALL,  
*Major.*

---

TENNILLE, November 19, 1864.

General McLAWS:

No transportation here to move troops. Have sent over fifty cavalry to Oconee bridge. Will have over 100 infantry ready for afternoon train. Captain McKee, at 14, is mustering strong. I leave at once.

H. T. HALL,  
*Major and Commissary of Subsistence.*

FORSYTH, *November 19, 1864—1.30 p. m.*

General BRAGG:

Scouts near Hillsborough report enemy moving toward Augusta.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

---

MACON, GA., *November 19, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER:

General Taylor has been ordered here; left Mobile yesterday morning. General Hardee expected this morning. Re-enforcements are promised.

HOWELL COBB,  
*Major-General.*

---

• AUGUSTA, *November 19, 1864—11 a. m.*

General S. COOPER:

Enemy advancing toward Macon; also a strong column of all arms along the railroad from Atlanta to Augusta; were at Social Circle yesterday. General Hardee passed last evening on his way to Macon.

B. D. FRY,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

RICHMOND, *November 19, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. JAMES CHESNUT,  
*Columbia, S. C.:*

You are authorized to go into Georgia with such voluntary force as you can take consistently with public necessity, and command there according to your rank.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

---

WEST POINT, *November 20, 1864—10 a. m.*

General J. B. HOOD:

Push on active offensive immediately. Colonel Brent informs me first order for movement one of Jackson's brigades to Wheeler has been suspended by you. It is indispensable; it should be sent by best and quickest route to Newnan, to cut off communications of enemy with Kingston, and to protect construction of telegraph lines and railroad to Augusta via Atlanta. I have appealed to people of Georgia to defend their homes.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

AUGUSTA, GA., *November 20, 1864.*

His Excellency President DAVIS:

General Hardee requested me to inform you that he passed through to Macon Friday. He could bring no troops but Fifth Georgia, about



200 muskets. Carolina reserves (1,700) all needed to guard prisoners at Columbia. We have to put in trenches here about 2,000 locals and convalescents. Rumors of enemy's advance on this place unreliable. I will do my utmost to aid General Fry in every contingency. I use "victory" key.

W. M. BROWNE.

---

GORDON, November 20, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS,  
*Savannah:*

It is my opinion you had better send troops to guard Oconee bridge. Keep your telegraph office open.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

OCONEE BRIDGE, November 20, 1864. (Via Tennille.)

Captain ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

I arrived here safely this morning. Have no news at present to report. Could you not send up an operator and battery with the next train, as his presence here would save great inconvenience in dispatching. There is no operator here, and I have to send to Tennille for the purpose of dispatching. Answer.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, Commanding, &c.*

---

GORDON, November 20, 1864.

Maj. Gen. HOWELL COBB,  
*Macon:*

I report here with 200 men. Send me 10,000 rounds of ammunition, .69 caliber, and a medical officer.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, November 20, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

General Fry telegraphs from Augusta that he wants 500 small arms; none here; and Major Huger has telegraphed to Savannah to have all sent on which you can spare. Would be well to inform Fry of what he can get.

R. S. RIPLEY,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

AUGUSTA, *November 20, 1864—2 p. m.*

General S. COOPER:

Telegraph to Macon just broken. General Hardee was there this morning. Slocum's corps at Madison, on Georgia railroad, yesterday. Will make the best defense I can here.

B. D. FRY,  
*Brigadier-General.*

AUGUSTA, *November 20, 1864—7 p. m.*

General S. COOPER:

This morning enemy had advanced on the line of Georgia railroad as far as Oconee River. I believe it to be Slocum's corps. Wires cut near Macon. I have no communication with General Hardee since morning. Fighting reported near Macon.

B. D. FRY,  
*Brigadier-General.*

WEST POINT, MISS., *November 20, 1864.*

General WHEELER:

General Hardee will for the present give orders for the defense of Georgia east of the Chattahoochee. My views are that positions should be defended only so long as not to risk safety of troops and materials required for active operations in the field. Meanwhile remove to safe locality all Government property on line of enemy's march, and consume or destroy all supplies within his reach.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

*Abstract from return of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, Lieut. Gen. W. J. Hardee commanding, for November 20, 1864.*

Command.	Present for duty.		Effective total present.	Aggregate present.	Aggregate present and absent.	Pieces of field artillery.
	Officers.	Men.				
General staff.....	19			19	24	
McLaws' division.....	211	2,597	2,968	3,736	5,803	44
Ripley's brigade.....	86	1,637	1,951	2,152	2,854	4
Trapier's brigade.....	22	361	415	496	726	3
Robertson's brigade.....	39	853	899	1,013	1,443	26
Miller's brigade.....	96	1,224	1,314	1,578	2,973	10
Taliaferro's brigade.....	137	2,792	3,009	3,383	4,401	3
Post of Florence, S. C.....	90	1,209	1,279	1,567	2,492	
Post of Columbia, S. C.....	46	616	631	736	962	
Total.....	746	11,309	12,466	14,680	21,678	190



*Organization of troops in the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, commanded by Lieut. Gen. William J. Hardee, November 20, 1864.*

## MCLAWS' DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. LAFAYETTE MCLAWS.

1st Georgia Regulars, Col. Richard A. Wayne.  
 Barnwell's (Georgia) Light Artillery, Col. Richard A. Wayne.  
 22d Georgia Battalion (six companies), Maj. Thomas D. Bertody.  
 27th Georgia Battalion, Company D, Lieut. W. R. McLaws.  
 29th Georgia Battalion Cavalry (six companies), Capt. J. T. Wimberly.  
 3d South Carolina Cavalry (eight companies), Capt. A. M. Lowry.  
 Symons' Reserves (ten companies), Maj. John Cunningham.  
 Beaufort (South Carolina) Artillery, Lieut. John J. Rhodes.  
 Bonaud's (Georgia) Battalion (two companies), Capt. Malcolm T. McGregor.  
 Terrell (Georgia) Light Artillery, Capt. John W. Brooks.  
 Clinch's (Georgia) Light Artillery (two companies), Maj. George W. Anderson.  
 Cobb Guards (two companies), Maj. Alfred L. Hartridge.  
 Daniell's (Georgia) Light Battery, }  
 Guerard's (Georgia) Light Battery, } Capt. J. A. Maxwell.  
 Maxwell's (Georgia) Light Battery, }  
 German (South Carolina) Artillery, Company A, Capt. F. W. Wagener.  
 German (South Carolina) Artillery, Capt. William K. Bachman.  
 Hanleiter's (Georgia) Battery, Capt. Cornelius R. Hanleiter.  
 South Carolina Horse Artillery (section), Lieut. Richard Johnson.  
 Lafayette (South Carolina) Artillery, Capt. J. T. Kanapaux.  
 Mercer (Georgia) Artillery, Lieut. Col. William R. Pritchard.  
 2d Engineer Troops, Company D, Capt. James W. McAlpine.

## RIPLEY'S BRIGADE.

Brig. Gen. ROSWELL S. RIPLEY.

32d Georgia Volunteers (seven companies and detachment), Capt. S. J. Heath.  
 1st South Carolina Regulars (ten companies), Col. William Butler.  
 1st South Carolina Cavalry, Company K, Capt. Angus P. Brown.  
 Keitt's (South Carolina) Mounted Rifles, Capt. Ellison S. Keitt.  
 Ripley (South Carolina) Rangers, Lieut. C. P. Bolton.  
 1st South Carolina Artillery (seven companies), Maj. Ormsby Blanding.  
 Gist Guards (South Carolina) Artillery, Lieut. Theodore G. Boag.

## TRAPIER'S BRIGADE.

Brig. Gen. JAMES H. TRAPIER.

Kirk's Squadron (South Carolina) Cavalry (two companies), Capt. M. J. Kirk.  
 Steele's Company (South Carolina) Cavalry, Capt. J. J. Steele.  
 German (South Carolina) Artillery, Company B, Capt. F. Melchers.  
 Santee (South Carolina) Light Artillery, Capt. Christopher Gaillard.  
 Waccamaw (South Carolina) Light Artillery, Capt. Mayham Ward.

## ROBERTSON'S BRIGADE.

Brig. Gen. BEVERLY H. ROBERTSON.

3d South Carolina Cavalry, Company B, Capt. Archibald L. Campbell.  
 Stono (South Carolina) Scouts, Capt. John B. L. Walpole.  
 2d South Carolina Artillery (two companies), Capt. Medicus Rickenbaker.  
 Marion (South Carolina) Artillery, Capt. Edward L. Parker.  
 Palmetto Battery Light Artillery (three companies), Capt. Charles E. Kanapaux.  
 Washington (South Carolina) Artillery, Capt. George H. Walter.  
 Mathewes' (South Carolina) Heavy Artillery, Capt. J. Raven Mathewes.  
 South Carolina Siege Train, Company A, Capt. Benjamin C. Webb.

## TALIAFERRO'S BRIGADE.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM B. TALIAFERRO.

47th Georgia (six companies), Col. Aaron C. Edwards.

1st South Carolina Cavalry (nine companies),	}	Lieut. Col. William H. Campbell.
Palmetto Light Artillery, Company E,		
South Carolina Siege Train (two companies),	}	Lieut. Col. Joseph A. Yates.
1st South Carolina Artillery (three companies),		
Bonaud's Battalion Georgia Volunteers,		
2d South Carolina Artillery (eight companies),		Col. A. D. Frederick.
Lucas' (South Carolina) Battalion (three companies),		Maj. J. Jonathan Lucas.
Chatham (Georgia) Artillery,		Lieut. Samuel B. Palmer.
Orleans Guard Battery,		Capt. G. Le Gardeur, jr.

## MILLER'S BRIGADE.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM MILLER.

Battalion Florida Reserves, Capt. Isaac B. Nichols.

2d Florida Cavalry (ten companies), Lieut. Col. Abner H. McCormick.

5th Florida Battalion (three companies), Capt. W. H. Milton.

29th Georgia Battalion (two companies), Capt. F. L. Pepper.

Independent (Florida) Cavalry Company, Capt. — Chisolm.

Florida Reserves (seven companies), Capt. — Gilchrist.

Abell's (Florida) Artillery, Capt. Henry F. Abell.

Kilcrease (Florida) Light Artillery, Capt. F. L. Villepigue.

Campbell's (Georgia) Siege Artillery, Capt. Charles G. Campbell.

## POST OF FLORENCE, S. C.

Col. GEORGE P. HARRISON, Jr.

1st South Carolina Cavalry, Capt. J. S. Wilson.

3d Battalion South Carolina Reserves, Maj. William P. Gill.

4th Battalion South Carolina Reserves, Lieut. Col. James H. Williams.

5th Battalion South Carolina Reserves, Lieut. Col. Thomas R. Brown.

6th Battalion South Carolina Reserves, Maj. Robert Meriwether.

7th Battalion South Carolina Reserves, Maj. J. W. Ward.

## POST OF COLUMBIA, S. C.

Lieut. Col. ROBERT S. MEANS.

South Carolina State Reserves (five companies), Capt. Edward Powell.

Williams' Battalion (South Carolina) State Reserves (two companies), Lieut. John McCarley.

Detachment of Artillery, Lieut. — Holyland.

Post Guard, Capt. Rufus D. Senn.

Provost Guard, Capt. D. H. Hamilton, jr.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,

*Richmond, Va., November 21, 1864.*

Governor JOSEPH E. BROWN:

(Care of General Fry, Augusta, Ga.)

Your telegram to the President has been referred to the Department for answer. The movements of the enemy in Georgia are viewed with interest and concern. Whatever re-enforcements of men and means the Department can command from its limited resources, in consistency with general safety, will be afforded.

J. A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*



MACON, *November 21, 1864.*

(Received 22d.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Believing the enemy has gone toward Augusta I have ordered all the disposable force from this place to that point. I shall leave myself to-night or early to-morrow. As far as I can learn the damage done the railroad is very slight; I am having it repaired. No injury to the railroads west or south of this place.

W. J. HARDEE,

*Lieutenant-General.*

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. C., GA., AND FLA.,  
 No. 282. } *Charleston, S. C., November 21, 1864.*

I. Pursuant to paragraph XV, Special Orders, No. 264, Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, Maj. Gen. Robert Ransom is assigned to command of the Second Military Sub-District of South Carolina, formerly First District of South Carolina.

\* \* \* \* \*

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

H. W. FEILDEN,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

MACON, [November] 21, 1864,

(Via Oconee 22d.)

Major-General McLAWS:

Believing the enemy is moving on Augusta, I have ordered all the disposable force from this place to that point. Send up cars to take away the troops. The damage done the railroad is believed to be considerable; I am having it repaired. Hasten the cars forward. I shall leave to-morrow morning.

W. J. HARDEE,

*Lieutenant-General, Commanding.*OCONEE, *November 21, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS,

*Savannah, Ga.:*

Can you send me 1,000 men from Charleston or Savannah? The enemy are flanking me on the right. Send me a map of the State of Georgia.

H. C. WAYNE,

*Major-General.*

[Indorsement.]

NOVEMBER 21, 1864.

Send copy to headquarters, Charleston, and to Colonel Cuyler.

L. McLAWS,

*Major-General, Commanding.*

CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY,  
Savannah, November 21, 1864.

Major-General McLaws:

DEAR SIR: Every car at this time is engaged bringing prisoners from Camp Lawton. The very instant I can command cars I will place a train at No. 13 for Government stores, and I will give directions immediately thereafter to bring down the stores at Millen. Our road is not injured as yet from Gordon down. I received the following from Augusta, from our operator at Gordon, written yesterday:

The lumber train was captured at Griswoldville and burned to-day. Negroes all safe. Destroyed the machine shops and foundry and Georgia Chemical Works. Road burned at Griswoldville.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. R. CUYLER,  
President.

GORDON, [November] 21, 1864.

Major-General McLaws,  
Savannah:

I have been cut off from Macon for thirty hours. It is reported to me that Macon will be evacuated by our troops, the enemy being too strong. I have therefore, in council, decided to fall back to the Oconee; the now important point in this neighborhood. My force is 450, including 60 cavalry and 4 pieces of artillery. I report to you for orders.

HENRY C. WAYNE,  
Major-General.

GORDON, November 21, 1864.

Colonel RAINS,  
Augusta:

Send me 250 cartridge boxes and belts. The rain is ruining my powder.

H. C. WAYNE,  
Major-General.

G[ORDON, November] 21, 1864.

General FRY,  
Commanding, &c., Augusta:

Have you any news of importance from Macon? The wires are cut, but I will send a courier through. Cavalry force of the enemy moving on the east of me as if for Milledgeville. Keep me advised.

HENRY C. WAYNE,  
Major-General.

AUGUSTA, November 21, 1864.

General S. COOPER:

At least one corps of the enemy has advanced as far as Oconee River on railroad from Atlanta. Railroad and telegraph cut near Macon. I have had nothing from General Hardee since yesterday. After the enemy passes through I could be again at work here. The machinery



is all important, and to save it I must have control of my workmen and also as much transportation as I may require. Unless such instructions are immediately given I cannot accomplish it.

GEO. W. RAINS.

*Colonel, Commanding.*

---

CENTRAL RAILROAD, Gordon, November 21, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,

*Assistant Adjutant-General, Headquarters Savannah:*

Major-General Wayne proposes falling back from this place to the Oconee bridge. The enemy are reported 40,000 strong, moving on Macon, and 20,000 on Augusta. A small force of the enemy were in Milledgeville yesterday evening. I await further orders. Telegraph me at No. 14.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,

*Major, &c.*

---

OCONEE, November 21, 1864.

Captain ELLIOTT,

*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

If the enemy should attempt to go round for the purpose of destroying the Ogeechee railroad bridge, I will need a train to transport troops there for its defense. Can you not send a train here subject to my orders?

A. L. HARTRIDGE,

*Major, &c.*

---

OCONEE, November 21, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT:

Assistant Surgeon West has arrived, but without medicines. Captain Fremder's cavalry company not yet arrived. I have seized all the fords above and below the railroad bridge, and have ordered all boats to be kept on this side, and destroyed if necessary. I have received the major-general's dispatch allowing me to retain the Twenty-seventh Georgia Battalion. No citizens have reported yet.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,

*Major, &c.*

---

OCONEE, November 21, 1864.

Captain ELLIOTT,

*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

General Wayne and his command, between 400 and 500 men, left Gordon at 3.30 o'clock, and are now here. As we left Gordon the Yankees entered it, but no information could be gathered as to their strength. General Wayne has assumed command here. I await further orders,

A. L. HARTRIDGE,

*Major, &c.*

HEADQUARTERS,  
Macon, Ga., November 21, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry:*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee wishes you, when you reach the nearest point of your march to the Oconee bridge, on the Central railroad, to send a regiment there to aid in its defense. There are about 100 men there at present, but he does not think that force sufficient.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

D. H. POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS WILLIAMS' KENTUCKY BRIGADE,  
November 21, 1864—3 p. m.

Major POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General for General Hardee:*

I found the enemy about four miles from Clinton, about one regiment strong. I have driven them over a mile, and am still driving them. Have not as yet learned anything of the force they have in their rear.

Very respectfully, &c.,

WM. C. P. BRECKINRIDGE,  
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
Charleston, November 21, 1864.

J. R. TUCKER,  
*Flag Officer, Charleston, S. C.:*

MY DEAR SIR: J. H. Toombs, chief engineer under your command, has suggested that from his knowledge of the use of torpedoes and the roads over which the enemy will probably pass in Georgia, that he may be able to delay their advance and inflict serious injury on them. If you can dispense with his services for a short time, and order him to report to me, I will detach him on that service.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

RICHMOND, VA., November 22, 1864.

Col. WILLIAM M. BROWNE,  
*Aide-de-Camp, &c., Augusta, Ga.:*

You will convey to generals commanding armies or posts in Southern Georgia my instructions that every effort will be made, by destroying bridges, felling trees, planting subterra shells, and otherwise, to obstruct the advance of the enemy. All supplies which are likely to fall into the enemy's hands will be destroyed. Communicate with General Hardee, commanding forces in Southern Georgia, or to General Beauregard, if he has arrived, to learn whether any force has been sent



from the Army of Tennessee to co-operate in the defense of Southeastern Georgia. If it is not too late I wish that Forrest with his cavalry should be sent to impede the march of Sherman's army and prevent it from foraging on the country.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

---

RICHMOND, VA., *November 22, 1864.*

General B. BRAGG,  
*Wilmington, N. C.:*

If the condition of affairs will permit I wish you to proceed via Columbia to Augusta to direct efforts to assemble and employ all available force against the enemy now advancing into Southeastern Georgia. General Hardee and perhaps Taylor and Beauregard are at Macon; Brigadier-General Fry, and perhaps Chesnut, at Augusta. General Lee will telegraph you.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

---

WILMINGTON, *November 22, 1864—9 p. m.*

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS,  
*Richmond:*

I will leave by first train but shall carry but few troops, most of these here being reserves which cannot be taken from the State.

B. BRAGG.

---

WILMINGTON, *November 22, 1864.*

Hon. R. H. MAY,  
*Mayor of Augusta:*

I leave here to-day with re-enforcements for Augusta. Exhort your people to be confident and resolute.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

OCONEE, *November 22, 1864.*

General L. McLAWS:

The Fourth Kentucky Infantry (mounted) is on its way to my support, and will be here at about 1 o'clock to-night. Ordered here by General Wheeler. The cannonading heard this afternoon was Wheeler pressing the enemy in the rear down the railroad.

H. C. WAYNE.

---

OCONEE, *November 22, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

Some of the militia are coming in. Can you not send me 100 arms and ammunition, say 40 rounds for each?

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

TENNILLE, *November 22, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

Please send 5,000 rations (breadstuffs, meat, and salt) to Oconee bridge; 4,000 rounds .69 and 6,000 rounds .54.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *November 22, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

Dispatch received. Telegraph communication with General Hardee, at Macon, is broken. It is suggested that General Wayne may be able to communicate with him and get his orders on the subject-matter of your telegram. Do you or General Wayne want a map of Georgia?

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

OCONEE, *November 22, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

One hundred and eighty-five enlisted men you sent up, 145 cadets, 200 militia—my cavalry and artillery horses have not yet come up—total, 530 men. No medical supplies or instruments.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

OCONEE, *November 22, 1864.*

General McLAWS:

My cavalry and artillery horses just in; reported the force of the enemy at Gordon at 2,400; a portion went up the Milledgeville road, and the rest this way, tearing up both roads. Heavy cannonading now going on in the direction of Macon; firing rapid.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

OCONEE BRIDGE, *November 22, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

I have just received information that seems reliable that a heavy force of the enemy entered Gordon last evening after I left it, and this morning started for this bridge. Macon was to be attacked last evening or this morning. The enemy are moving, it seems, down the country on Macon or Augusta and down this road.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

OCONEE, *November 22, 1864.*

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT:

In falling back from Gordon I have lost eighteen of my artillery horses, leaving me but six. I intend pressing eighteen from the farmers in the adjacent country. Can you supply me with artillery harness? Please answer at once.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*



OCONEE BRIDGE, *November 22, 1864.*

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT:

I do not think the enemy who entered Gordon yesterday were over 200 strong; they are probably the same party who entered Milledgeville the day before. I have sent Captain Brown down with a train this morning after supplies. Please have a train furnished him so he may return immediately.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

---

OCONEE BRIDGE, *November 22, 1864.*

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

I will hold the bridge until I get other orders from you.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

---

OCONEE, *November 22, 1864.*

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Major Hall reports the enemy as having crossed at Blackshear Ferry, twenty miles from here.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

---

AUGUSTA, *November 22, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

Your telegram received. As president of the senate I have assumed command of the militia of the State east of the Oconee River, and have ordered all able-bodied men to report to me here. I will try and see General Wayne to-day, and conceive some measure with him to impede the enemy's progress. Am short of arms; can you furnish any? Date of my commission, June 3, 1862.

A. R. WRIGHT.

---

RICHMOND, VA., *November 22, 1864.*

General B. D. FRY,  
*Augusta, Ga.:*

You will, to enable Colonel Rains to save the valuable machinery, allow him such of his workmen and such amount of transportation as may be necessary. The great and first wish being the repulse of the enemy in the event of an advance on Augusta, every other consideration will be regarded as subordinate to that.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

---

AUGUSTA, *November 22, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

On Sunday the Seventeenth and Twentieth Corps moved from Madison, on Georgia railroad, toward Milledgeville, which is now in hands of enemy, who have cut Central railroad from Oconee to Gordon.



General Hardee was at Macon on Sunday; have not heard from him since. Sherman seems to be moving on Augusta and Savannah, 45,000 strong. I can as yet count only 4,000 for defense here. Am gathering all. People show little spirit.

B. D. FRY,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, *November 22, 1864.*

General S. COOPER:

An intelligent lieutenant, with fifteen scouts, has just reported he followed enemy from Eaton Mountain to Morgan County, and came here by railroad, which we still use to Greensborough. Twentieth and Fourteenth Corps, under Slocum, form left of Sherman's army, and are moving down Oconee River; may move others on Augusta or Savannah. Have just heard from General Hardee, at Macon, date yesterday; says he will come here.

B. D. FRY,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, *November 22, 1864.*

President DAVIS:

Have not been able to see General Wayne to-day; hope to do so to-morrow. I have reliable authority that Milledgeville was not occupied by the enemy as late as 3 o'clock Sunday morning. A company of cavalry has just reached here, which left Macon late Saturday afternoon. They marched directly from there, passing through Milledgeville, and saw no enemy on their route.

A. R. WRIGHT.

---

MACON, *November 22, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*In the Field:*

GENERAL: I am directed by Lieutenant-General Taylor to instruct you to send a company, immediately on receipt of this, under a strictly reliable and competent officer, around to some safe point on the Georgia Central Railroad, and between the enemy and Savannah, with instructions to station his men at suitable distances, and apply by telegraph to the commanding officer at Savannah, in Lieutenant-General Taylor's name, for full information as to the condition of affairs eastward and toward Augusta, and report the same fully and promptly to this place.

Most respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

W. F. BULLOCK, JR.,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

FLORENCE, *November 22, 1864.*

Capt. W. F. NANCE:

Your dispatch received twenty-four hours after date. Merriwether's battalion was sent by General Hardee's orders to Augusta before your dispatch was written. I suppose from date, &c., it was for same purpose you ordered Williams. Who is in command of the department?

GEO. P. HARRISON, JR.,  
*Colonel, Commanding.*



[Indorsement.]

It seems that Colonel Harrison had received a dispatch prior to the one from this office and sent another battalion in place of Williams'.

Respectfully,

NANCE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, November 22, 1864.

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

It seems that General Sherman is marching to the coast; I believe to this place. You will see by last department returns that I have not the troops to make a defense by land. If troops are withdrawn from the harbor batteries, the enemy's fleet and troops are in sight and ready to enter. I earnestly ask for re-enforcements, and such instructions as may be thought necessary. Lieutenant-General Hardee is in Georgia, and communication with him cut off.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, &c.,  
*Charleston, November 22, 1864.*

[General HARDEE?:]

GENERAL: I have sent Mr. Toombs, chief engineer C. S. S. Chicora, of the Navy Department, with some torpedoes, which he thinks he can use to some advantage against the enemy in their advance through Georgia. I have directed him to call on you and explain the nature of the service on which he is sent, and I have to request that you will give him such aid as you can to enable him to carry out the object in view.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. SUB-DIST. SOUTH CAROLINA,  
No. 7. } *Charleston, November 22, 1864.*

Pursuant to paragraph I, Special Orders, No. 282, Department of of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida, the undersigned assumes command of the Second Sub-District of South Carolina. All existing orders will remain in force until otherwise ordered.

The officers of the present district staff will continue on duty with these headquarters.

First Lieut. B. F. Taylor and First Lieut. J. W. Jones are announced as aides-de-camp, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

R. RANSOM,  
*Major-General, Commanding.*

AUGUSTA, *November 23, 1864.*

His Excellency President DAVIS:

Your dispatch received and orders obeyed. Nothing definite known of enemy's advance. I will keep you advised of all information I receive from military authorities here.

W. M. BROWNE.

---

AUGUSTA, *November 23, 1864—9.10 p. m.*

Dr. W. S. MORRIS:

Major Hartridge drove enemy back across river. General Wayne with militia and operator back again, and office reopened. Enemy have taken flat-boat; am building another.

J. A. BRENNER,  
*Superintendent.*

[Indorsement.]

NOVEMBER 24, 1864.

Respectfully submitted for the information of the President.

JAMES A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*

---

RICHMOND, VA., *November 23, 1864.*

General B. BRAGG,  
*Augusta, Ga.:*

The law which restricts reserve troops to service within their State has been suspended for sixty days. I did not suppose those at Wilmington could be spared. You will exercise a large discretion in the disposition of the forces which may be made available.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

---

SAVANNAH, *November 23, 1864.*

General S. COOPER:

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I left Macon Monday night for this place, via Fort Valley, Albany, and Thomasville, and reached here to-night. When I left Macon I could hear of no enemy west of the Ocmulgee. The enemy had not been at Forsyth, Griffin, or Barnesville. It was believed that Sherman was moving with his main force on Augusta. I could, however, gain no definite or reliable information respecting the movement of the enemy's infantry. Wheeler attacked the enemy's cavalry at Clinton Sunday, but gained no advantage and got no information. The same day Colonel Crews drove the enemy from Griswold, but being re-enforced, Crews was in turn driven from the place. Monday Wheeler advanced on Griswold and drove Kilpatrick, who retreated on Milledgeville. Believing Macon would not be attacked, in which my principal officers concurred, I ordered General Smith's entire force, and a part of Cobb's, to move on Augusta via the Central railroad. This road was broken, but as far as heard from could be easily repaired. Lieutenant-General Taylor was in Columbus Monday, and was expected at Macon Tuesday following, and would assume command.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*



OCONEE BRIDGE, *November 23, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

Road not repaired as the enemy is still on it in my front making for the bridge. I am expecting an attack momentarily. Have not seen General Hardee. His courier followed the enemy and came in last evening, and will try to return this morning. The people in Macon, from my dispatches, know little of what has transpired on the road between that town and this place. Will send you word when the road shall be open for cars.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

OCONEE BRIDGE, [*November 23*], 1864—9 p. m.

Major-General McLAWS:

Major Hartridge has driven the enemy back across this river, but they have the flat. Austin, with the cadets, has gallantly held the bridge. The enemy are constructing a flat in the woods to try to cross below me to-night. Send me 5,000 .54 cartridges.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

TENNILLE, *November 23, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

A courier just in from General Wayne reports, engaged the enemy at 12 m. at the bridge; about 200 crossed at Ball's Ferry, and were driven back by Major Hartridge. General Wayne says send him 5,000 rounds of .54 cartridges; and also says shall he hold his position if he is flanked. Train waits answer.

H. T. HALL,  
*Major, Commissary of Subsistence.*

---

SAVANNAH, *November 23, 1864.*

Major-General WAYNE,  
*Tennille:*

Bring off the stores with you from Tennille.

By order of Major-General McLAWS:

R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

The operator at the Bay office says the stores at Tennille have all been loaded and will leave to-night.

D. C. B.,  
*Operator.*

---

OCONEE, *November 23, 1864.*

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Enemy reported four miles on the other side of the river, advancing on bridge.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

OCONEE, November 23, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT:

The enemy reported fighting our pickets at Ball's Ferry, four miles below here. I am going there with part of my command.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
Major, &c.

---

OCONEE BRIDGE, November 23, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

I left one man killed and one wounded at Ball's Ferry. There will probably be fighting here to-morrow. If Captain Brown has reported send him back with supplies; also, 2,000 cartridges (.57) at once.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
Major, &c.

---

OCONEE, November 23, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT:

Major Hartridge has gone to meet the enemy at Ball's Ferry. Our forces are fighting the enemy on the other side of the river, at the end of the trestle-works.

W. A. REID,  
*Lieutenant and Acting Adjutant.*

---

OCONEE, November 23, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Lieutenant-Colonel Thompson has arrived here with the Fourth Kentucky Infantry (mounted), consisting of eighty men.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
Major, &c.

---

HEADQUARTERS,  
Macon, Ga., November 23, 1864—11 p. m.

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry Corps, in the Field:*

GENERAL: The lieutenant-general commanding directs that you furnish him at the earliest practicable moment with any information you may have relative to the enemy's movement toward the Oconee—whether he is going directly toward the railroad bridge from this side, or is moving to cross the river below the railroad bridge, with the view of striking the railroad again at Davisborough or Tennille; and also such information as you may have from General Wayne, who, when last heard from, was proceeding to east side of the Oconee to take position at railroad bridge, with eleven pieces of artillery and about 500 or 600 men. If you possess any information on these points when this reaches you, you will communicate it at once to these headquarters. He further directs you to cross the Oconee without delay, place yourself in front of the enemy, and inform General Wayne rela-



tive to his movements. Should the enemy leave the railroad and strike toward Augusta you will get on his flank, annoy him as much as possible, and communicate promptly and constantly with Lieutenant-General Hardee at Savannah. The lieutenant-general commanding desires you on receipt of this to endeavor to learn the present whereabouts, if possible, of Carswell's brigade, Georgia militia, now commanded by Colonel Willis, which must be somewhere south of the railroad and this side of the Oconee. The enemy is reported to have left Clinton about sundown this evening, taking the direct Milledgeville road. Brigadier-General Ferguson and Colonel Breckinridge have been ordered to follow closely, harassing him as much as possible, and send scouts to the right for the purpose of getting in communication with and receiving orders from you.

I am, general, most respectfully, your obedient servant,  
W. F. BULLOCK, JR.,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

RICHMOND, November 23, 1864.

Gen. A. R. WRIGHT,  
*Augusta, Ga. :*

I deem it very fortunate that you are in position to exercise at the same time the authority of your Confederate and State commission. The Adjutant-General, C. S. A., will issue an order placing you on duty in Georgia. This telegram in the meantime will be sufficient for that purpose.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

---

AUGUSTA, November 23, 1864.

President DAVIS,  
*Richmond :*

I am here with a portion of my command; more expected.

JAS. CHESNUT, JR.,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, November 23, 1864.

General McLAWS:

Making every preparation for defense. General Bragg telegraphs that he will leave to-day with re-enforcements. Chesnut and Gartrell are here. People much more cheerful.

B. D. FRY,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, November 23, 1864.

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

If any troops are sent from Virginia I ask that Major Basinger's battalion be of the number. His officers and men are instructed in the use of heavy artillery. There is but one company here now to man the city batteries, and I am in daily expectation of an attack by water. Re-enforcements are absolutely essential here.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*



HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA, &c.,  
*Charleston, S. C., November 23, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. J. H. TRAPIER,  
*Georgetown, S. C.:*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee directs me to prepare for a very heavy attack on this city. It is necessary to have every available force at and near this place. You will, therefore, order Gaillard's battery from Santee, and Kirk's squadron from Georgetown, to repair without delay to Mount Pleasant and report for temporary duty to Maj. Gen. R. Ransom, commanding the Second Sub-District. The troops will bring with them as full supplies of subsistence and ammunition as practicable, and prepared for active service. Hold your remaining force, with the exception of Melchers' company, to move at the shortest notice to the same point—Mount Pleasant. I desire to see and confer with you, and will be glad if you will repair to this city as soon as you have given the necessary orders to carry out the foregoing instructions. Order Captain Melchers to use the utmost care and watchfulness, and, in the event of an attack during your absence, to defend his post to the last extremity, and if forced to retire to [save] his guns, or, if too hard pressed for that, to spike them and save his men, bringing them to Mount Pleasant. Instruct your staff officers, in the event of a threatened attack on Georgetown, to move the Government property in their charge to the Pee Dee bridge.

I am, very respectfully, general, your obedient servant,  
 SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General, Commanding.*

MACON, *November 24, 1864.*  
 (Via Savannah 28th. Received 29th.)

President JEFFERSON DAVIS:

I arrived here this morning. Reports indicate enemy's advance to have reached a line extending from Davisborough to Warrenton, moving eastwardly, destroying Central and Georgia railroads. Probabilities are that the enemy will follow most direct route to Port Royal, intending to re-enforce Grant as soon as practicable. State militia and reserves leave in the morning, under General G. W. Smith, to re-enforce General Hardee. Have ordered General Hood to take active-offensive in Middle Tennessee to relieve General Lee.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

MACON, GA., *November 24, 1864.*  
 (Via Mobile.)

General J. B. Hood:

Sherman's movement is progressing rapidly towards Atlantic coast, doubtless to re-enforce Grant. It is essential you should take offensive and crush enemy's force in Middle Tennessee soon as practicable, to relieve Lee.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*



SAVANNAH, November 24, 1864.

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I left Macon to go to Augusta, believing my presence there more necessary than at Macon. Since my arrival here I have learned with pleasure that General Bragg is ordered there. There was fighting to-day at Ball's Ferry, near the Oconee bridge; the enemy was repulsed. I have 600 or 700 men guarding the Oconee bridge and the river.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

RICHMOND, VA., November 24, 1864.

General W. J. HARDEE,  
*Savannah, Ga.:*

When the purpose of the enemy shall be developed every effort must be made to obstruct the route on which he is moving, and all other available means must be employed to delay his march, as well as to enable our forces to concentrate, as to reduce him to want of the necessary supplies. Your attention is called to the prisoners of war who have been collected in Ware County. The position is, I suppose, only designed for temporary occupation. You will keep in constant communication with General Bragg, while you remain on the coast, so as to have entire unity of design and operation.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } ADJT. AND INSP. GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
 No. 279. } *Richmond, Va., November 24, 1864.*

\* \* \* \* \*

XLI. Brig. Gen. A. R. Wright, Provisional Army, C. S., is assigned to duty with the forces operating against General Sherman, commanding United States forces in Georgia.

\* \* \* \* \*

By command of Secretary of War:

JOHN W. RIELY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

OCONEE, November 24, 1864—1 a. m.

General McLAWS:

You must get some one else to remove stores from Tennille, for it is questioned if we get out of this pickle. Am holding the bridge, and holding Ball's Ferry, eight miles below, but how long my men can hold out, with the movements I am compelled to make against Kilpatrick's 3,000 men, will be the question.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

OCONEE, November 24, 1864.

General McLAWS:

The enemy have planted a battery in front of the bridge and are trying to shell us out.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

OCONEE, November 24, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

Enemy sent up a rocket last night and opened heavily again at day-break this morning and still at it. Am nearly out of .54, only twenty-five rounds to the man left. Send me up ammunition, and, if possible, 1,000 men.

WAYNE,  
Major-General.

---

OCONEE, November 24, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

I am again attacked at Ball's Ferry in force. Do send me ammunition; I am nearly out.

H. C. WAYNE,  
Major-General.

---

OCONEE, November 24, 1864—8.55 p. m.

Major-General McLAWS:

I have held the bridge to the last extremity. The enemy have succeeded in setting fire to the trestle-work on the other end of the bridge; it is burning slowly. We still hold this side, and shall continue to hold it until driven back. The enemy are in heavy force on the other side. I believe I have more than Kilpatrick's division in front of me. Wheeler has not yet come up.

H. C. WAYNE,  
Major-General.

---

OCONEE BRIDGE, November 24, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

Major Hall reports to me that the enemy are on the Linton road to Tennille, fifteen miles off.

H. C. WAYNE,  
Major-General.

---

OCONEE, November 24, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,

*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

The force of the enemy is, in my opinion, exaggerated. I do not think there are more than 800 men. Major Hall, at No. 13, reports the enemy seen fifteen miles on the other side of Buffalo Creek, the bridges over which are all destroyed, but they may force a passage. Sharpshooters of the enemy on this side of the river, and ours on the other, firing on each other.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
Major, &c.



OCONEE, [November] 24, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT:

My men are in good spirits, but I cannot depend much on the militia. The enemy are attacking us in front. I will hold the bridge as long as possible. If forced to fall back I will retreat in direction of Ogeechee bridge. Please send me three days' cooked rations for 200 men.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

---

OCONEE, November 24, 1864.

Captain ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

General Wheeler with 10,000 men is crossing Blackshear Ferry, twenty miles below here, and is coming to our assistance. We still hold our position at the bridge. The enemy have burned the long trestle on the other side. Our loss this morning, 2 killed and 5 wounded.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, Commanding.*

---

OCONEE, November 24, 1864.  
(Received 4 p. m.)

General McLAWS:

They have opened a piece of artillery on us.

A. L. HARTRIDGE.

---

OCONEE, November 24, 1864.  
(Received 4 p. m.)

General McLAWS:

The enemy are still fighting us in front, and are moving slowly down the river with wagons, I think with the intention of throwing a pontoon bridge across the river.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

---

OCONEE, November 24, 1864.

General McLAWS:

The enemy have turned their artillery in the opposite direction and are shelling. They must be attacked in the rear.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

---

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Oconee Bridge, November 24, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding, &c.:*

GENERAL: Your dispatch of to-day by Hamilton Smith is just received at 2 p. m.; your dispatch of yesterday by Hodges has not been received. The enemy are now trying to shell me out. Force in front

TENNILLE, November 25, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

Send two days' of bread and meat for 1,300 men to Millen, and telegraph General Wayne, so that he can send to Millen for it when it arrives.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

TENNILLE, November 25, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS,  
*Savannah:*

Wheeler fought the enemy's cavalry three miles and a half from Sandersville and drove them back upon their infantry, taking prisoners, from whom he learned that three corps were crossing Buffalo Creek. It seems certain that the enemy is moving toward Savannah.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

TENNILLE, November 25, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS,  
*Savannah:*

Send to No. 12, on the C[entral] railroad, 7,000 army and 5,000 navy-pistol ammunition at once for General Wheeler; it will be needed to-morrow morning.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

TENNILLE, November 25, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

Send 8,000 rations of bread and meat to Millen for Wheeler's cavalry.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

OCONEE, November 25, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

Send 1,500 bushels of corn to Millen for Wheeler's cavalry.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

OCONEE, November 25, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS,  
*Savannah:* .

The enemy are trying to force Ball's Ferry. There is heavy firing below—apparently at Blackshear Ferry. The movements of the enemy are evidently on Savannah.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*



OCONEE, November 25, 1864.

General McLAWS:

The enemy have driven us back from across the bridge. Three heavy columns are across the river, and they have possession of Ball's Ferry, below here.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

OCONEE, November 25, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

Three heavy columns are this side of the river, and to save the men I will retire.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

OCONEE, November 25, 1864.

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT:

The enemy are reported on the right, this side of the river, in large force. We are preparing to meet them. We still hold the bridge, which is burning slowly at the other end.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

---

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Station No. 13, November 25, 1864—5.30 p. m.*

General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry Corps:*

GENERAL: The information sent me about the movements of the enemy is important. It shows clearly, I think, that the enemy is moving on Savannah. Endeavor to get all the information you can.

Respectfully and truly, yours,

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

OCONEE, November 25, 1864.

General WHEELER:

General Bragg directs me to say to you to stick close to the enemy; to harass him in front and flank; and above all to destroy subsistence and forage in the route over which the enemy advances; also, to keep up and open communication with the forces at this point.

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY DIVISION,  
*Sandersville, November 25, 1864—4 p. m.*

Lieutenant HUDSON,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General:*

LIEUTENANT: From scout reports I locate the enemy, at last reports, as follows: A force on the road from Long Bridge to Warthen's Store,

six miles from Warthen's; also, on the road from Long Bridge, exact locality not accurately known, some report only three miles; also, on the Milledgeville road, three miles from Sandersville. I learn from a courier that General Allen is five miles in rear.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALFRED IVERSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

AUGUSTA, *November 26, 1864.*

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

So far we have failed to open communication with Macon, the enemy having interposed his whole force between us—seems to have neglected that point. This leaves us dependent on the force east of him. They are feeble in number, wanting in organization and discipline, and very deficient in equipments. No offensive movement can be undertaken, and but a temporary defense of our scattered posts. If no more means can be had our only policy is to make sacrifices and concentrate. The country is being utterly devastated wherever the enemy move.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

AUGUSTA, *November 26, 1864.*

(Received 27th.)

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

General Wheeler encountered the enemy's cavalry yesterday three miles west of Sandersville and drove them back to Buffalo Creek, where he found the infantry crossing. Prisoners captured represent four corps. The movement does not indicate whether this or Savannah is the objective point.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

RICHMOND, VA., *November 26, 1864.*

General BRAGG,  
*Augusta, Ga.:*

Yours of the 26th received. I hope you will soon hear from Macon and know of other forces. I do not understand suggestion as to making sacrifices for concentration.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

MACON, GA., *November 26, 1864.*

General J. B. HOOD:

Can you and Lee recommend to me a major-general of Army of Tennessee with sufficient rank to command Wheeler and his cavalry. He must be active, energetic, bold, and a good disciplinarian. His consent for transfer must be had.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*



MACON, GA., November 26, 1864.

General J. B. HOOD:

Would not Maj. Gen. Edward Johnson be a good officer for cavalry command referred to this morning? If so, order him, should he consent to transfer, to report forthwith at Montgomery. Cannot Major-General Martin be ordered back to his division?

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

MILLEN, November 26, 1864.

President DAVIS:

Enemy entered Sandersville to-day in force. Wheeler says Kilpatrick has gone toward Augusta, and he will pursue him with all of his force, except one brigade, which will be left in this front. Wheeler is uncertain whether Sherman is going to Augusta or Savannah.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, November 26, 1864.

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

General Hardee telegraphed last evening—

Send special messenger to Lieutenant-General Taylor, at Macon, to bring all his disposable force to Savannah, as I believe the enemy are marching on that place.

Distances from Macon to Savannah: To Albany by railroad, 107 miles; to Thomasville, to march, sixty-two miles; to Savannah by railroad, 200 miles. The enemy are within 140 miles from Savannah. I have no troops to defend land side.

L. McLAWS,  
*Major-General.*

---

MILLEN, November 26, 1864—3.44 p. m.

(Received 4 p. m.)

General McLAWS:

Send for two companies of cavalry from South Carolina. Wheeler, when I last heard from him, expected to be forced from Sandersville, as he was pressed by a heavy force of cavalry and infantry. I shall be in Savannah to-morrow morning. Please order my carriage to meet me at depot.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

MILLEN, November 26, 1864.

General McLAWS:

Wheeler says Kilpatrick has gone toward Augusta, and he will follow after him with all his force except one brigade. Enemy entered Sandersville to-day in force.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

MILLEN, November 26, 1864.

General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry:*

I send you a dispatch from General Bragg. It will be taken by engine as far as it is deemed safe, and from thence it will be sent to you by courier. It is important that you ascertain in what direction the enemy moves from Sandersville, whether toward Augusta or toward Savannah. Put up your telegraph wires at some point below, so as to communicate with Bragg and myself.

Yours,

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

RICHMOND, VA., November 26, 1864.

Col. W. M. BROWNE,  
*Augusta, Ga.:*

I am very anxious to know progress of operations, and to learn what is known at Macon of our troops, present and expected. Could not a courier go through the country?

JEFF'N DAVIS.

---

AUGUSTA, November 26, 1864.

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

Enemy's cavalry reported 1,000 strong, but believed not to exceed half that amount, were near Warrenton at midday. Infantry strength not reported, but believed to be 20,000, near Sparta, at same time. Our cavalry in their front barely sufficient to watch roads and drive off stock. Nothing official from Central road. There is good reason to believe the left of the enemy is at Sandersville; the cavalry of that wing said to be 5,000 strong; this is believed to be nearly correct; infantry, 20,000 to 25,000. Dispatch just received says enemy's cavalry, of his right wing, under Kilpatrick, is marching toward Augusta. Wheeler, with nearly equal force, is endeavoring to overtake them. An officer through from Macon to-day says all quiet there; General Taylor in command; enemy devastating country behind him. I have been ordered by General Bragg to take command of local brigade.

W. M. BROWNE,  
*Colonel, &c.*

---

AUGUSTA, November 26, 1864.

Major-General McLAWS:

Enemy's cavalry near Ogeechee Shoals, Warren County; infantry near Sparta. I have nothing official from Central road.

B. D. FRY,  
*Brigadier-General.*



MILLEN, November 26, 1864.

General SAMUEL JONES:

About 10,000 prisoners of war will probably go to Florence. Wheeler says Kilpatrick has gone toward Augusta, and he will follow after him with all his cavalry except one brigade. Enemy entered Sandersville to-day in force.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,  
Richmond, Va., November 27, 1864.

General BRAXTON BRAGG,  
*Augusta :*

It was intended your command should extend to the coast and embrace all combinations against the present movements of the enemy. General Hardee will receive instructions from you to insure unity and concert of action.

J. A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*

---

AUGUSTA, November 27, 1864.

Hon. J. A. SEDDON :

Your dispatch of to-day is received. Unable to decline a responsibility of such magnitude so unexpectedly transferred to me. In assuming it I must candidly express my belief that no practicable combinations of my available men can avert disaster.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

AUGUSTA, November 27, 1864.  
(Received 28th.)

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond :*

We have lost communication with the front. A small cavalry raid cut the Savannah railroad and telegraph this morning at Brier Creek, twenty-six miles from here. General Wheeler was yesterday confronting the enemy's infantry at Sandersville. An officer who left Macon on the 23d states that one corps of the enemy was still confronting us there, our force not exceeding 5,000; nearly all militia. The force here, including all available resources, does not exceed 6,000 effectives; only one battery. I am not yet advised from Charleston and Savannah, but know the means are small. Neither point could long resist the enemy's whole force; hence my remark about concentration. General Hardee has gone to Savannah. Wheeler will continue to confront and harass the enemy. I have not learned the strength of his command. He estimates the enemy's force at about 30,000.

BRAXTON BRAGG,  
*General.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,  
Richmond, Va., November 27, 1864.

General HARDEE,  
*Savannah:*

Confer with General Bragg as to combinations against the present movements of the enemy. His command extends over your department.

J. A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*

---

SAVANNAH, November 27, 1864—1 a. m.

General SAMUEL JONES:

Send Colonel Gonzales to me for a few days. I need intrenching tools; have you any to spare? I need light batteries or light guns; how many can you give me? Answer immediately. It is reported that enemy's cavalry crossed Savannah River twenty miles below Augusta.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH BARRACKS, November 27, 1864.

General SAM. JONES:

Have all railroad bridges in your district between Charleston and Savannah thoroughly guarded.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, November 28, 1864—5 p. m.

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

On 26th enemy started a heavy cavalry force in this direction from his main body near Sandersville, General Wheeler promptly following, leaving a portion of his force to confront Sherman. Kilpatrick reached vicinity of Waynesborough yesterday, where Wheeler overtook and attacked him. A running fight has continued to this time, the advantage with us. We are now driving them toward Millen. Young's command has just arrived, and will go forward to Wheeler, who will, I hope, be able to mount most of them from his captures. Devastation marks the enemy's route. Have nothing from the movements of enemy's infantry since Wheeler left their front. I fear they may cross the Savannah and make for Beaufort; it is perfectly practicable.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

MACON, November 28, 1864.

(Received 30th.)

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Forrest's cavalry cannot now be spared from the Army of Tennessee; moreover, it could not reach here in time. The whole of Wheeler's command is operating against Sherman's force. No news from General Hood. Enemy have evacuated Decatur.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*



MACON, *November 28, 1864.*

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE:

Forrest's cavalry cannot now be spared from the Army of Tennessee; moreover, it could not get here in time. Sherman is doubtless making for sea-coast at Port Royal, Ossabaw Sound, or Darien; thence to re-enforce Grant.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

AUGUSTA, *November 28, 1864—7 a. m.*

General JOSEPH WHEELER:

GENERAL: Yours of 12.30 yesterday was received last night and gave me great pleasure. I trust you will be able to keep up with the enemy and press him on here. We are fully prepared for him. As soon as possible let me hear what you can learn of the movements of the main column, and endeavor to have my instructions carried out in regard to it. How is enemy provided with subsistence and ammunition?

Very respectfully and truly, yours,

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

CHARLESTON, *November 28, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Have you received my telegrams of the 22d and 23d instant asking for re-enforcements? I cannot too strongly urge my need of them. General Hardee informs me, from Savannah, that it was reported yesterday the enemy's cavalry had crossed the Savannah River twenty miles below Augusta.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

RICHMOND, *November 28, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES,  
*Charleston, S. C.:*

Your dispatches of 22d and 23d were immediately sent to the President and Secretary of War. I have no instructions from either in respect to those dispatches, and you must be as fully aware as the authorities here that there are no re-enforcements that can be sent to you.

S. COOPER.

---

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,  
*Richmond, Va., November 28, 1864.*

General S. JONES,  
*Charleston, S. C.:*

It is impossible to afford re-enforcements. All troops at command of department are being pressed forward to intercept enemy. You must rely on your own resources.

J. A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*

SAVANNAH, November 28, 1864.

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

Wheeler telegraphs from Waynesborough, at 8.30 p. m. yesterday, that Kilpatrick was there with large cavalry force and had started down on Millen road. General Bragg telegraphs to-day that the enemy had not crossed the Savannah, as reported.

D. H. POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, GA., November 28, 1864.

General SAM. JONES:

The report is unfounded; the different ferries are guarded, and all boats are ordered to be destroyed. The enemy's cavalry and our own are near Waynesborough, where fighting has been going on this morning. We are not as well informed about his infantry, but believe it to be between the Ogeechee bridge and Millen.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
Charleston, S. C., November 28, 1864.

Major-General RANSOM,  
*Commanding:*

GENERAL: The major-general commanding directs you to order one company of the Thirty-second Georgia Regiment to Brigadier-General Robertson, without delay. It should go to Adams' Run by the morning train. Please notify the quartermaster as soon as practicable of the strength of the company, that he may furnish the necessary transportation.

CHAS. S. STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, November 29, 1864—12 m.

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

It is reported, via Savannah, the enemy with infantry and artillery entered Millen yesterday. Wheeler is rapidly pursuing Kilpatrick, who retreats in that direction from Waynesborough.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

AUGUSTA, November 29, 1864—6.30 p. m.

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

General Jones telegraphs from Charleston:

Ten gun-boats with transports landing troops at Boykins, on Broad River. Four gun-boats with transports and barges are by this time at Mackay's Point, junction of Pocotaligo with Broad River. I am sending all assistance from here, and think we must make the struggle near the coast.

As the movement relieves Wilmington might not some of the North Carolina reserves be sent to General Jones?

BRAXTON BRAGG.



MACON, *November 29, 1864.*

President JEFFERSON DAVIS:

Having sent General Hardee General Taylor and all aid possible, General Maury reporting Mobile threatened I have sent him General M. L. Smith to command its defenses. I will leave to-day for Montgomery. No news yet from the Army of Tennessee.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

MACON, *November 29, 1864.*

(Received 30th.)

General S. COOPER:

I have ordered immediate reconstruction of all railroads and telegraph lines destroyed by Sherman's forces. Work reported to be progressing rapidly on Central road.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

MACON, *November 29, 1864.*

(Received 30th.)

General S. COOPER:

Wheeler's cavalry requires reorganization; one additional major-general is needed. I recommended Brig. Gen. S. W. Ferguson for temporary appointment. Please answer by telegraph.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

---

MACON, *November 29, 1864.*

(Received 30th.)

General S. COOPER:

To prevent confusion please inform me if order extending General Hardee's department to south side of Chattahoochee still remains in force.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *November 29, 1864.*

Hon. J. A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War:*

As railroad and telegraphic communications may soon be cut with Charleston I desire you to know that I have, including the local troops, less than 1,000 men of all arms. General Smith is expected with 3,200 men, but has not yet arrived. If railroad communication is cut with Charleston, which is threatened by ten gun-boats and barges, of course no re-enforcements can be sent from Augusta.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS,

*Savannah, Ga., November 29, 1864—10 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. G. W. SMITH,  
*Commanding, &c.:*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee directs that you proceed at once with the first two trains of your troops which may arrive at Savannah to-night, and in the same cars to Grahamville and Coosawhatchie, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, which places are being threatened by raiding parties of the enemy; and, if you find yourself the ranking officer present, that you command, and drive the enemy back to their gun-boats.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

C. S. NAVAL STATION, COMMANDANT'S OFFICE,  
*Savannah, Ga., November 29, 1864.*

General L. McLAWS,  
*Commanding Military District of Georgia, &c., Savannah:*

GENERAL: When I consulted with you this morning in relation to the propriety of removing the property of the C. S. Navy Department from this station, in view of the reported approach of the enemy toward this city, and inquired of you as to the time such removal should be effected, you advised me to commence it immediately. Will you do me the favor to suggest the point to which, in your judgment, it will be advisable to remove that property.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOSIAH TATNALL,  
*Flag-Officer, Commanding Naval Station.*

---

SAVANNAH, November 29, 1864.

General Wayne:

Communicate the following information and instructions to Major-General Wheeler:

All the roads leading to Savannah are obstructed. He must operate on the flanks and rear of the enemy.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, November 29, 1864.

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER:

Dispatch received. Press closely upon the enemy, and keep me informed.

BRAXTON BRAGG,  
*General.*



## HEADQUARTERS,

No. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ , Central Railroad, November 29, 1864—5.45 p. m.

Major-General WHEELER,

*Commanding Cavalry Corps:*

GENERAL: I have the honor to forward the following telegram just received from Lieutenant-General Hardee:

SAVANNAH, November 29, 1864.

Major-General WAYNE:

Communicate the following [information and] instructions to Major-General Wheeler:

All the roads leading into Savannah are obstructed. He must operate on the flanks and rear of the enemy.

Communicate by courier, if possible, to him along the line of railroad to Savannah.

If possible, please acknowledge the receipt of this dispatch.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY DIVISION,

*Farmer's, November 29, 1864—4.20 p. m.*

Lieutenant HUDSON,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General:*

LIEUTENANT: My latest intelligence places the enemy marching toward Waynesborough in heavy force. Captain Humphreys states that a scout on the Pugeley's Bridge road failed to discover the enemy in twelve miles. I stopped Lewis' brigade at Walker's Bridge, with instructions to guard all the bridges from that down. Hannon is at Farmer's Bridge, covering the river above. I will have all General Wheeler's instructions carried out.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALFRED IVERSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, GA., November 29, 1864.

Maj. Gen. SAM. JONES:

Have you any spare arms? Can send you near 1,000 Yankee prisoners, if you can arm and use them. Savannah River should be rigidly patrolled as high up as the mouth of Brier Creek. Pocotaligo will probably be the point aimed at.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

AUGUSTA, November 29, 1864—11.40 a. m.

General SAMUEL JONES:

Make every disposition possible to prevent the enemy from ascending Broad River and cutting the Savannah railroad. All your movable force should assemble in that vicinity.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

AUGUSTA, November 29, 1864—6 p. m.

General JONES:

One thousand South Carolina reserves have left here, under General Chesnut, to report to General Hardee. A North Carolina brigade of 2,000 is about starting, under General Baker. You are authorized to use them for the defense of your department, subject to General Hardee's instructions. Have transportation ready, and lose no time in making the necessary disposition.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

AUGUSTA, November 29, 1864.

General SAM. JONES:

Provide transportation to Savannah for 3,000 men; they leave here this afternoon.

By order of General Bragg:

M. B. McMICKEN,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief Quartermaster.*

---

SAVANNAH, November 29, 1864.

Major-General JONES:

Lieutenant-General Hardee, temporarily absent, will reply in relation to Kirk's squadron when he returns. Enemy's gun-boats reported coming up Broad River. Latest advices from Augusta report Wheeler driving Kilpatrick from Waynesborough toward Millen. No information of enemy's infantry on Augusta side of Ogeechee. Ferguson crossing Oconee at Milledgeville 26th, following the enemy; reports no enemy near Macon.

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, November 29, 1864.

General S. JONES:

The following dispatch just received from Pocotaligo: "Yankee gun-boats coming up Broad River."

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, November 29, 1864.

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

Send Thirty-second Georgia to Pocotaligo to protect railroad, and instruct the commanding officer to move against any raid of the enemy coming from Broad River.

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*



CHARLESTON, *November 29, 1864.*

(Received 2.45 o'clock.)

Col. T. B. ROY:

Steamer got aground. Thirty-second Georgia delayed. Forty-seventh Georgia (about 400) at depot, but delayed by train coming from Savannah. Breakdown on the Augusta road 112 miles from here will delay re-enforcements. Will let you know when Forty-seventh Georgia leaves.

H. W. FEILDEN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *November 29, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

If any other regiment can be better spared than the Thirty-second Georgia it may be sent to Pocotaligo instead.

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *November 29, 1864—7 p. m.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Hurry forward re-enforcements to Grahamville. The enemy expected there to-morrow morning. Tell Captain Hunt to keep our horses in Charleston.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
*Charleston, November 29, 1864.*

General ROBERT RANSOM:

The major-general commanding directs you to order the Thirty-second Georgia Regiment and Kirk's squadron to Pocotaligo, without delay, to check the enemy advancing on that point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. S. STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

POCOTALIGO, *November 29, 1864.*

General S. JONES:

Ten gun-boats with transports and barges are at Boyd's Landing. Troops near Grahamville. Four gun-boats are coming up Broad River to Mackay's Point, which is the approach to Pocotaligo and Coosawhatchie. Re-enforcements needed.

JOHN JENKINS,  
*Major, Commanding.*

---

GRAHAMVILLE, *November 29, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAM. JONES:

It is important that I should be re-enforced to-night. Please hurry Harrison on to Coosawhatchie.

JOHN JENKINS,  
*Major, Commanding.*

## HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES,

*Augusta, November 30, 1864. (Received December 1.)*

Col. JOHN B. SALE,

*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

Following just received from Major-General Wheeler:

FOUR MILES WEST BUCK HEAD CHURCH,

*November 29—9 p. m.*

We fought General Kilpatrick all night and all day, charging him at every opportunity. Enemy fought stubbornly, and a considerable number of them killed. We stampeded and came near capturing Kilpatrick twice, but having a fleet horse he escaped bare headed, leaving his hat in our hands. Our own loss about 70, including the gallant General Robertson, severely wounded. Our troops all acted handsomely.

General Robertson has arrived here. His left arm is badly broken at the elbow, but he is doing well.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

*AUGUSTA, November 30, 1864.**(Received December 1.)*

Col. JOHN B. SALE,

*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

To re-establish our communications west, I have ordered the immediate repair of the Georgia railroad to Atlanta. With exception of bridges the damage is reported as slight. We should also have a line of telegraph on that route.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

*RICHMOND, November 30, 1864.*

General BEAUREGARD:

*(Care of Col. W. M. Browne, Augusta, Ga.)*

Yours of the 24th received. It is probable that the enemy, if short of supplies, may move directly for the coast. When that is made manifest you will be able to concentrate your forces upon the one object, and, I hope, if you cannot defeat his attempt, that you may reduce his army to such condition as to be ineffective for further operations. Until Hood reaches the country proper of the enemy he can scarcely change the plans for Sherman's or Grant's campaigns. They would, I think, regard the occupation of Tennessee and Kentucky as of minor importance.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

*SAVANNAH, November 30, 1864.*

President DAVIS:

Have just reached here. Directed by General Beauregard to send you following dispatch, in his name:

*MACON, GA., November 26—p. m.*

President DAVIS,

*Richmond:*

I have ordered General Taylor to report forthwith, for present emergency, to General Hardee, but to return soon as practicable. Sherman is evidently moving rapidly to Atlantic coast for purpose of re-enforcing Grant. I have ordered again General Hood to take immediate active offensive operations to relieve General Lee. Railroads in Georgia destroyed by enemy are being repaired expeditiously. I hope to re-establish shortly direct communication with Richmond.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

[W. M. BROWNE.]



RICHMOND, VA., November 30, 1864.

General BEAUREGARD,  
*Macon:*

For the present emergency your command will extend eastward to the sea-coast. Your minute knowledge of the low country will enable you to dispose of the forces operating against Sherman, as well as those defending the coast, so as more effectually to retard the advance of Sherman and the junction of the enemy.

By order of the President:

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

---

SAVANNAH, November 30, 1864.

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

The enemy yesterday landed at two points, threatening Grahamville and Coosawhatchie, on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad. All available forces have been drawn from Charleston for defense of those places, and General Smith, who arrived in the night with 1,200 Georgia State troops, was sent at once to the threatened point. Operator at Grahamville this morning reports enemy 5,000 strong, and still landing from transports.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

GRAHAMVILLE, November 30, 1864.

Lieutenant-General HARDEE:

The enemy have extended both their wings, and are evidently in force. Fight still progressing. The troops have not arrived. We shall need re-enforcements.

G. W. SMITH,  
*Major-General.*

---

RICHMOND, VA., November 30, 1864.

General TAYLOR,  
*Savannah, Ga.:*

Yours of this date received. When General Beauregard leaves Macon for the East you will be necessary in the West. The enemy's purpose is not so fully developed as to determine his operations.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

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NOVEMBER 30, 1864—11.30 A. M.

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER:

Thank your gallant old command in my name for their brilliant services. I promised it in advance to the people of your native city, and nobly have you redeemed my pledge. General Robertson has arrived and is doing well, though he will be long disabled.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

FIVE MILES FROM WAYNESBOROUGH,  
November 30, 1864. (Via Charleston.)

Lieutenant-General HARDEE:

I am moving toward Walker's Bridge to intercept enemy if they move toward Augusta. Have left scouts to see if they move toward Savannah. Enemy's infantry encamped last night on Sparta road to Augusta, and also on Sparta road to Savannah. It is impossible to tell which direction they will go until it is known what march is made to-day.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

AUGUSTA, November 30, 1864—6.45 p. m.

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Near Walker's Bridge:*

General Bragg wishes you, on approach of the enemy, to destroy all bridges and defend line of Brier Creek. Important to keep telegraph line to Millen standing to last moment.

ARCHER ANDERSON,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

FOUR MILES WEST OF BUCK HEAD CHURCH,  
November 30, 1864.

General WAYNE:

GENERAL: The enemy with force of infantry encamped last night at Blount's Mills—Blount's Mills is half-way between Louisville and Walker's Bridge. I cannot learn of the enemy's moving down the railroad toward Savannah. There are rumors to that effect, but my scouts have not yet reported.

Respectfully,

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

N. B.—I am moving with all my force, except one small regiment, to get in front of enemy. Captain Dobbs is in command of regiment left here with orders to report direct to you.

J. W.

ON LOUISVILLE AND AUGUSTA ROAD,  
BY FARMER'S BRIDGE, THREE MILES FROM LOUISVILLE,  
November 30, 1864—1.30 p. m.

General BRAXTON BRAGG:

GENERAL: I have been on rear and left flank of enemy from Macon here. Colonel Breckinridge, with Kentucky brigade, joined me this morning, and we are operating in concert. The enemy still in Louisville. The Fourteenth Corps is out on this road, and has been encamped here since day before yesterday, when the advance reached Louisville. Their army is detained by the swamp at Rocky Comfort Creek. I have not yet ascertained whether the main force is moving on Waynes-



borough or down the Ogeechee. I estimate their infantry at about 30,000, or less, and their cavalry at from 3,000 to 3,500. They seem very apprehensive of meeting a large force in front, and are hurrying on as rapidly as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. W. FERGUSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, *November 30, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

With the forces sent you must beat back the enemy and hold the Savannah railroad. Prompt and vigorous measures will accomplish it. Sherman, nevertheless, appears to be advancing very slowly, if at all, with his main force. Wheeler has beaten back his cavalry to the Ogeechee, west of Millen.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

AUGUSTA, *November 30, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

What is your information from the enemy in your district? Did my troops arrive in time for the action? We have opened communication again from here with Savannah. The enemy's infantry is advancing on this point, and our troops must return at the earliest possible moment.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

---

SAVANNAH, *November 30, 1864—1 a. m.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Major-General Smith is ordered to Grahamville and Coosawhatchie, and will command there. Are the points threatened not Pocotaligo —? Major-General Smith will take 1,500 men with him.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *November 30, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

All the troops coming from Augusta and the regiments from Charleston will be stopped on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, in vicinity of Coosawhatchie and Grahamville.

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *November 30, 1864.*

General S. JONES:

Hurry forward the re-enforcements from Augusta. Smith is heavily engaged. Has the Thirty-second Georgia been sent forward?

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

SAVANNAH, *November 30, 1864.*

General S. JONES:

Have re-enforcements passed through Charleston? Hurry them on to Grahamville to General Smith.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

SAVANNAH, *November 30, 1864.*

Major-General JONES:

Dispatch received dated 4 p. m. says eight transports going up Broad River with troops aboard, and seven came down without troops. Enemy re-enforcing by every boat that goes up the river. Hurry forward the troops to Grahamville.

W. J. HARDEE.

[First indorsement.]

GENERAL: I send you all these dispatches without acting on any, because the matters embraced are so important that I have thought you had better see them all, as they may suggest additional orders or modifications of those already given.

C. S. S.

[Second indorsement.]

Major STRINGFELLOW:

Hurry forward the troops now in this city to Grahamville. Send your brother to hurry them up, and see what they need in the way of arms, and have them supplied as far as possible. Major Pringle must hurry and start transportation.

[S. JONES,  
*Major-General.*]

GRAHAMVILLE, *November 30, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

General Hardee has directed me to turn over the command to the next officer in rank so soon as enough troops arrive from Charleston to relieve the Georgia militia, and has indicated General Robertson as the officer. I have, therefore, told General Robertson that it is necessary for him to remain here. We repulsed the enemy to-day in every attempt they made on our position. They had largely superior forces, but in repeated attacks during six hours failed to drive us an inch from the position first assumed by us. Hurry up all the forces intended for this section.

G. W. SMITH,  
*Major-General.*

COLUMBIA, *November 30, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

The battalion of cadets will report to you for service within this State with these conditions: that I shall resume control of them at any moment that I or my successor may think proper. When Colonel De Saussure's forces join them I wish them to compose a part of his command for the present.

M. L. BONHAM,



COLUMBIA, November 30, 1864.

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

By order of the Governor I have directed the State troops who have not rendezvoused at Hamburg, but who are en route for the coast, to report to you to be forwarded. Will you order transportation for them?

A. C. GARLINGTON,  
*Aide-de-Camp and Inspector-General.*

---

RALEIGH, November 30, 1864.

Hon. J. A. SEDDON:

Can you give me any information of affairs in Georgia to lay before the Legislature that would assist in inducing them to authorize sending the State troops beyond the State line? Such a proposition is now before our Legislature, and my total ignorance of the situation prevents my urging it with sufficient force. Answer immediately.

Z. B. VANCE.

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WAR DEPARTMENT, U. S. A.,  
*Richmond, Va., November 30, 1864.*

Governor Z. B. VANCE,  
*Raleigh, N. C.:*

There is urgent need for more forces to meet the advance of General Sherman's army, and to prevent its junction with forces being landed and threatening movement at Pocotaligo. Latest accounts make it still doubtful whether Sherman is not marching on Augusta. General Wheeler has just telegraphed that the infantry of the enemy have turned to a road leading to that city. General Bragg has suggested that as the movement near Pocotaligo frees Wilmington from the danger of attack, the reserves from North Carolina should be sent to him, and the matter is now under General Lee's consideration. It would be wise, as well as patriotic, on the part of North Carolina to give all assistance possible to defeat or frustrate the designs of Sherman while remote from her borders. General Beauregard telegraphs his opinion that Sherman's ultimate design is to re-enforce General Grant.

J. A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*

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AUGUSTA, December 1, 1864—12 m.

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

\* \* \* The [enemy's] cavalry having been driven in, the enemy's main force was yesterday found near Louisville, with strong outposts in this direction. They have secured large supplies in the country; but our cavalry is now all up, and it is hoped they will be prevented, to a great extent, in future. The report from Savannah of the enemy's entrance into Millen on 27th was premature. Telegraphic communication was reopened to Savannah by that route yesterday. Enemy is just now reported as at Station 9, on Central railroad, advancing.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

(Extract submitted to the Secretary of War by Colonel Sale.)



AUGUSTA, *December 1, 1864.*

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

Following received from Lieutenant-General Taylor, at Savannah:

General Hardee is at Grahamville. No fighting there since yesterday evening, when enemy was driven five miles, leaving their dead on the field.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

AUGUSTA, *December 1, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Your dispatch\* to General Beauregard has been received and forwarded. I have had no intelligence from him.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

GRAHAMVILLE, *December 1, 1864.*

General McLAWS:

The enemy are now seriously threatening Coosawhatchie. It is absolutely necessary to keep the two trains here at present.

G. W. SMITH.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES,  
*Augusta, Ga., December 1, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER:

GENERAL: General Ferguson reports from Farmer's Bridge road. His note is inclosed,† though it is hoped you have made a junction ere this. The general is instructed to report to you. With this increased force it is hoped you will be able to cover the enemy's front and retard his movements much, whatever may be his line of march. The bridges, causeways, &c., on all creeks should be destroyed; forest trees should be felled at every point where they will obstruct the march; fences may be pulled down and used—indeed, every expedient which ingenuity may suggest should be adopted to retard the enemy's movements. At the same time you should keep your fighting force close in his front, so as to make him work under every disadvantage. To enable you successfully to carry out these orders you are authorized to impress, for temporary use, all the laborers and tools necessary, and to use the means of the people in the country, as far as they may be of advantage. Supplies of all kinds useful to the enemy and not required for your use must be destroyed. You will observe by the map that Rocky Creek still remains to be crossed if the enemy move to Savannah, and Brier Creek should he move here. These swampy streams are represented as impassable, except at the regular bridges, and afford you the means of greatly retarding the enemy. Let it be known through the country generally that we are very largely re-enforced here and at Savannah, and are prepared for any movement on us. We have troops from Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and the troops from Macon

\* Of November 30, p. 911.

† See November 30, 1.30 p. m., p. 912.



commenced arriving in Savannah on 29th ultimo. A good many volunteer and militia companies of cavalry are out about Brier Creek. They should be collected by you and used to obstruct roads and pick up stragglers. Brigadier-General Young, with part of Hampton's cavalry, will join you soon.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
ARCHER ANDERSON,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

P. S.—I inclose a sketch\* of the crossings of Brier Creek. A copy of this dispatch has been sent to General Ferguson.

A. A.

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HEADQUARTERS ALLEN'S DIVISION OF CAVALRY,  
*December 1, 1864.*

Lieut. M. G. HUDSON,  
*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General:*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report that I have encamped my command on a road leading from the road we came yesterday to Waynesborough, and near the latter road. The intersection is about six miles from our camp of last night. I have sent scouts on all the roads leading toward Louisville, and will also send a scout across the Ogeechee, as directed by General Wheeler.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
WM. W. ALLEN,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

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MONTEITH, *December 1, 1864.*  
(Received 11 p. m.)

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

A courier has just arrived from No. 2, Central railroad, and reports as follows: That the enemy's cavalry are three miles from Millen, and the infantry seven miles from there. A courier from General Wheeler reports the enemy making for Augusta. General Wheeler wishes 40,000 rounds of ammunition for army and navy pistols sent to Augusta. This courier left his camp yesterday evening.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, Commanding.*

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AUGUSTA, *December 1, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Send everything you can to Grahamville, so as to crush out the enemy in our front there, and be ready to meet the main army thereafter. Sherman's progress is slow. His main body yesterday at Louisville.

BRAXTON BRAGG.



SUMMERVILLE, *December 1, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

Will be in Charleston at 1 o'clock to-day with 2,000 men.

L. S. BAKER,  
*Brigadier-General.*

HEADQUARTERS DISTRICT OF SOUTH CAROLINA,

*Charleston, December 1, 1864.*

General ROBERT RANSOM,

*Charleston, S. C.:*

GENERAL: Yours of this morning has been laid before the major-general commanding. He directs me to say in reply that no answer was made to the communication referred to because he supposed that you understood, from verbal statements, that it was impossible to give you the men or labor called for. The evils alluded to in connection with the present system of obtaining labor are patent, and have been made the subject of many communications to the Governor of this State and the Department at Richmond. It seems, however, that they are beyond the control or correction of the major-general commanding. By reference to the act of Congress authorizing the impressment of slaves you will observe that it can be done in such States as have legislated on the subject only under the State law, and as South Carolina has provided for this subject her law must govern. By its terms the impressment can be made for thirty days only, and the slaves must be discharged at the expiration of that term. The disregard of this provision in some cases is regarded by Governor Bonham in his late message as one of the main reasons to which he attributed the failure in the execution of the law. He points out the evil arising from the short term of service required, and asks the Legislature to correct them. It is to be hoped that this will be done. Under existing orders from department headquarters the chief engineer has control of and is responsible for the efficient working of these slaves. He was notified this morning that 2,000 would be here during the day, and of that number as many as the exigencies of the service elsewhere allowed will be assigned to your sub-district.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. S. STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

MONTGOMERY, *December 2, 1864.*

(Via Savannah. Received 4th.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Telegram of 30th received here on my way to Mobile. I shall repair forthwith to Atlantic coast.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

C. S. HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE WEST,

*Montgomery, Ala., December 2, 1864.*

General E. KIRBY SMITH,

*Commanding Trans-Mississippi Department:*

GENERAL: You are probably aware that the Army of Tennessee, under General J. B. Hood, has penetrated into Middle Tennessee as



far as Columbia, and that the enemy is concentrating all his available forces, under General Thomas, to oppose him. It is even reliably reported that the forces under Generals A. J. Smith, in Missouri, and Steele, in Arkansas, have been sent to re-enforce Thomas. It becomes, then, absolutely necessary, to insure the success of Hood, either that you should send him two or more divisions, or that you at once threaten Missouri, in order to compel the enemy to recall the re-enforcements he is sending to General Thomas. I beg to urge upon you prompt and decisive action. The fate of the country may depend upon the result of Hood's campaign in Tennessee. Sherman's army has lately abandoned Atlanta on a venturesome march across Georgia to the Atlantic coast about Savannah. His object is, besides the destruction of public and private property, probably to re-enforce Grant and compel Lee to abandon Richmond. It is hoped that Sherman may be prevented from effecting his object, but should it be otherwise, the success of Hood in Tennessee and Kentucky would counterbalance the moral effect of the loss of Richmond. Hence the urgent necessity of either re-enforcing Hood or making a diversion in Missouri in his favor.

Hoping that you may give us the desired assistance, I remain, your obedient servant,

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

AUGUSTA, *December 2, 1864.*

General S. COOPER:

Following received from Lieutenant-General Hardee, dated yesterday, at Savannah:

I have just returned from the front. The enemy was badly whipped, and has retired. Coosawhatchie, another point on railroad, is threatened, but do not apprehend a serious attack.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

(Copies sent President and Secretary of War.)

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GRAHAMVILLE, *December 2, 1864.*

General S. COOPER:

A force of infantry, artillery, and cavalry, under Foster, attempted to gain the railroad at this point, but were met and repulsed. A force of marines, under Dahlgren, attempted to gain the railroad at Coosawhatchie, but were met at Bee's Creek and repulsed.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

(Copies sent President, Secretary of War, Generals Lee and Bragg.)

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GRAHAMVILLE, *December 2, 1864.*

General McLAWS:

The enemy is moving upon us. Put about 1,000 men in the cars immediately, and hold them in readiness to come to this point.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*



GRAHAMVILLE, *December 2, 1864—7.30 a. m.*

Major-General McLAWS:

The enemy have again retreated. There is no occasion for sending the 1,000 men. What news from up the Central railroad?

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

GRAHAMVILLE, *December 2, 1864.*

General McLAWS:

Thirteen hundred troops will leave Augusta this evening for Savannah; 1,000 will leave here this evening for Savannah, and 1,200 more will follow as soon as transportation can be had. I will come to Savannah by first train.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

GRAHAMVILLE, *December 2, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS.

I have telegraphed superintendent of Charleston and Savannah Railroad for trains to transport 1,200 troops from Coosawhatchie and Grahamville to Savannah immediately. See to it.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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No. 6, CENTRAL RAILROAD, *December 2, 1864.*

General McLAWS:

Just received following from No. 7:

The scouts from up the railroad left Millen at 6 o'clock this morning. They heard the drums of the enemy at 8.30. Mr. Heard, agent at this place, went to within one mile of Millen at 9 o'clock. The enemy then occupied that place. Three scouts are now coming down the Middle Ground road with dispatches from Colonel Johnson. Will report as soon as they arrive.

E. T. LUDWIG,  
*Operator.*

WAYNE,  
*Major-General.*

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No. 7, CENTRAL RAILROAD, *December 2, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

At 10 o'clock this a. m. a body of the enemy's cavalry occupied Millen. Colonel Johnson with some of his men and three scouts from this place were at the car-sheds when one of the enemy rode up, about 200 yards in advance. He was taken prisoner, and scouts report that he told Colonel Johnson that their infantry were just above the railroad bridge across Buck Head Creek, half a mile above Millen, and that a body of cavalry were going down the other side of the Ogeechee. Scout just returned from Clifton Ferry, about two miles above this place, reports that a small number [are] already across. He fired on one of their vedettes, and came in to report. He has just gone back for further information.

E. T. LUDWIG,  
*Operator.*



## HEADQUARTERS FOURTH BRIGADE, GEORGIA MILITIA,

*Altamaha Bridge, December 2, 1864.*

R. W. B. ELLIOTT,

*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

SIR: In accordance with instructions from General McLaws I proceeded on yesterday to this point. I left Colonel Sims, with the Twelfth Regiment, at the west end of Ogeechee bridge, with instructions to hold that and King's Bridge. I have made my headquarters, with two regiments, on the island on the east side of Morgan's Lake. I have a company posted at the eastern trestle-work of this crossing, a guard at the east end of the main bridge. At Johnston Station there is a militia company from McIntosh County, picketing down the river. At Doctor Town, on the west side of the river, there are three small companies of militia; they have sent a scouting party up the river on the east side, and have mounted pickets, one at Clark's Bluff and one at Pinhominy, both below on the west side of the river. My position here is such that I can go easily to either side of the river. My force is, however, not large; the brigade is a small one at best, and many of the men dropped out at home on their way here. I have, aggregate, at Ogeechee, 147 men; at Altamaha, 220 men. I could not make a more equal distribution without breaking the regiments, which, in consequence of the want of field officers, I did not think wise. We are now on the second day without regular rations.

Respectfully,

H. K. MCKAY,

*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

---

DOCTOR TOWN, *December 2, 1864.*

Col. T. B. ROY,

*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Will arrive at 11 a. m. with 600 men. Please send inspector to point out camping-grounds. Send rations to depot.

L. VON ZINKEN,

*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

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AUGUSTA, *December 2, 1864.*

General WHEELER:

The movements of the enemy yesterday indicate a tendency toward Savannah. You should press down upon him, keep in his front, cut off his foraging parties, and skirmish with him hourly. He should not be allowed to get between you and Savannah. The officers who tore up the railroad bridge should be removed.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

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AUGUSTA, *December 2, 1864.*

General WHEELER:

Have your scout well to the rear of the enemy, and be prepared to strike. I leave here this evening with 10,000 men; will be followed by portion of General Wade Hampton's cavalry, under General Young. Answer by 9 o'clock, if possible, or have courier meet me at Waynesborough.

BRAXTON BRAGG.



HEADQUARTERS WILLIAMS' KENTUCKY BRIGADE,  
*Junction of Waynesborough and Warrenton and Farmer's  
 Bridge Roads, December 2, 1864—5 p. m.*

ASST. ADJT. GEN., WHEELER'S CAVALRY CORPS:

LIEUTENANT: Since receiving General Wheeler's order to report to General Cobb I have been operating in the rear of the left flank of the enemy; have been engaged several times. I followed Howard's Right Wing, consisting of Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps, to near McIntyre's, on Central railroad; then moved to Milledgeville, and crossed the Oconee; then by forced march crossed Ogeechee at Fenn's Bridge. I have reason to believe the Fifteenth Corps crossed Oconee at Jackson's Ferry, two miles above Central railroad bridge; the Seventeenth, at Ball's Ferry, six miles below the railroad. I struck the Twentieth Corps on Tuesday a mile and a half from Louisville, on the Fenn's Bridge road; on Wednesday the Fourteenth Corps, two miles and a half from Louisville, on Patterson's Bridge road, and three miles from Louisville, on Farmer's Bridge road; and on yesterday had a very severe fight with a large cavalry force (part of Kilpatrick's corps) nine miles from Louisville, on the Waynesborough road. I have lost many men and valuable officers, and I have captured some prisoners; some I sent to Macon, some turned over to General Ferguson, with whom I have been co-operating, though not under his orders, he thinking it best for us to act independently, but close enough to support each other. A large force of cavalry and at least two divisions of infantry, scouts report, left Louisville yesterday morning. The infantry encamped on the place of Mrs. Netherland, some thirteen miles from Louisville. I think the main force of Slocum have passed down the two Savannah roads—the one to Birdville, the other near the railroad. If I do not receive orders to-night I will move to the Waynesborough road, thence to the Birdville road. I have not definite information of your headquarters.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. C. P. BRECKINRIDGE,  
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

HEADQUARTERS LEWIS' BRIGADE,  
*Ray's Bridge, December 2, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER:

GENERAL: At the time of receiving your order to halt where I was I had three regiments with me, about three-quarters of a mile from Waynesborough, on Ray's Bridge road, the remaining two regiments on their way from railroad to Ray's Bridge to join me at Waynesborough. Apprehending an attempt of the enemy to reach Ray's Bridge, I left one regiment near Waynesborough and two others disposed and fortified on the road toward the bridge. One regiment is here at this point and the other at railroad bridge. I have sent scouts on all the roads in the direction of Millen. I have not sent scouts in the direction of No. 9 or Louisville, for the reason that I met a scouting party sent by you from Harrison's brigade upon those roads. No enemy have appeared in front of Waynesborough, or nearer than four miles. I have received direct and reliable information that no enemy had been at Millen up to 8 a. m., nor have they been seen anywhere east or below Waynesborough and Millen road. An intelligent gentleman now present, Dr. T. A. Ward, states the first bridge below railroad



bridge is Ray's, two miles in air line; Thompson's, six miles below Ray's; Gadby's, six or seven miles below Thompson's; Ellison's, seven or eight miles below Ellison's [Thompson's?]. To each of these bridges I send immediately an officer and five men as you direct. I think, with my brigade in its present disposition, that I can hold the enemy in check for some time. •

Respectfully, yours, &c.,

JOS. H. LEWIS,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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GRAHAMVILLE, *December 2, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Troops coming from Augusta must not stop in Charleston, but be hurried forward to Savannah. I leave for Savannah this afternoon.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

GRAHAMVILLE, *December 2, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

Send Captain Brooks with the 270 men to Savannah instead of Grahamville.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, *December 2, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Thirteen hundred South Carolina militia, under Colonel De Saussure, will leave here for Savannah at 6 p. m. Provide transportation to Savannah on their arrival.

By command of General Bragg:

M. B. McMICKEN,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief Quartermaster.*

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RICHMOND, *December 2, 1864.*

[General BRAXTON BRAGG:]

GENERAL: I trust you will pardon my presumption in writing you on military subjects, but my knowledge of the country and the railway lines in Georgia and South Carolina emboldens me to offer a suggestion, which I am certain you will receive in the spirit in which it is offered. Of course it will occur to you that the moment the enemy reaches Millen, in Georgia, and any point on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad in South Carolina, Savannah becomes hopelessly isolated, and can neither raise re-enforcements from Augusta or Charleston, nor send any to either of those places. Some place must be given up, however, and it were better Savannah than Charleston. But there is a large amount of most valuable rolling-stock at Savannah, and many locomotives, tools, machine shops, cotton and tobacco. The cotton and tobacco should be destroyed, if necessary, and the rolling-stock, &c.,



run out before the Charleston and Savannah road is cut. Should Sherman reach any point on that road, or a column come out from Beaufort and occupy it, everything of value in Savannah must be lost; for if well out on the Gulf road to Thomasville, a raiding party of 1,000 men would find no difficulty in destroying it. It is impossible for us here to say where Sherman is going. Your last telegram left him at No. 9, ten miles above Millen. Supposing the rear column may reach Grahamville, he may move down the Central road to Savannah, in which case no concentration can be made against him, as he would tear up the road as he advanced, whilst both flanks would be protected, the one by the Savannah and the other by the Ogeechee River. Such forces as might be at Savannah, unable to escape to Charleston and beyond the reach of re-enforcements, would have to retire toward Thomasville. Indeed, if the enemy should establish himself on the Charleston and Savannah road—either by moving up from the sea and down from Georgia—Savannah, Southern Georgia, and all Florida would pass into his hands. This will be evident upon an inspection of the map. It would seem to be of the first importance, therefore, to save the movable railway property at Savannah, of which there is a large amount, and to do this it must be removed before the Charleston and Savannah road is cut, unless Sherman cross the river opposite Millen, in which case it might be moved up the Central road to that point.

Of Sherman's ultimate object there can be but little doubt, viz, the reduction of Savannah or Charleston. If the former, then he will establish a water base there and throw forward his advance to Millen, and thus cut our communications. If Charleston be his object, as it probably is, then his establishment at that place would leave him only sixty miles to march to reach Branchville, where he would place himself astride the only line by which we can communicate with the South. In this event his base would be unassailable and his flanks, admirably protected by a river and swamp on either hand, would be free from attack. For four years the enemy has tried to penetrate the Confederacy from the north and east by land. He reached Atlanta it is true, but found it impossible to keep open his communications, since the further he advanced the longer and more difficult of defense became his base and line of communication. This policy, it now appears, has been changed. Hereafter he will operate from the sea or some of its tributaries. This makes his base safe, and renders it easy to protect his short communications. This policy reduces the length of his communications to sixty miles from Charleston to Branchville, whereas before it was near 500 miles from Louisville to Atlanta. After Charleston, Wilmington will probably be the next point of attack, and then Richmond. These ideas have been floating through my mind. There may be nothing in them. If so, you will be sure to find it out and no harm will come of them. All I can hope is that you will excuse me for presuming to send them to you. It strikes me that your suggestion of concentration is the only alternative left us, and should be adopted. We must make up our minds to abandon some place and concentrate for a stubborn resistance. There is nothing new here. I do not think Grant has the least idea of attacking Lee. He is only maneuvering to prevent his sending re-enforcements to Georgia. Colonel Forsyth is here and well. The president has disapproved of the finding in the case of his son Charles.

Very truly, yours,

P. W. ALEXANDER.



AUGUSTA, *December 3, 1864—6 p. m.*

(Received 12.30 a. m. 4th.)

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

A strong force of the enemy's cavalry and infantry advanced from Louisville, and encamped last night six miles from Waynesborough. They turned off this morning toward Savannah. Our cavalry is pressing on the rear, and all available means are being thrown to their front by rail. There is time yet for any assistance which can be spared to be sent by way of Charleston.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

[First indorsement.]

Respectfully submitted to His Excellency the President, as information.

JNO. B. SALE,  
*Colonel and Military Secretary.*

[Second indorsement.]

SECRETARY OF WAR:

What has been or can be done to augment force, &c.?

J. D.

MONTGOMERY, ALA., *December 3, 1864—7 a. m.*

Lient. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,  
*Savannah, Ga.:*

I leave to-day for Augusta and Savannah. Construct loop-holes and embrasures on defenses of latter city. Works along overflows around city are essential. Obstruct all roads from Millen to Port Royal, Ossabaw Sound, and Brunswick.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

MONTEITH, *December 3, 1864.*

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT:

The roads are so obstructed between here and Sister's Ferry that I am unable to get a courier to the commander of the C. S. steamer Macon.

A. L. HARTRIDGE,  
*Major, &c.*

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. ARMIES CONFEDERATE STATES,  
 No. 7. } *Augusta, December 3, 1864.*

\* \* \* \* \*

II. Brigadier-General Young will immediately proceed, with all the men he has mounted, in the direction of Waynesborough, join Major-General Wheeler, and receive his orders.

\* \* \* \* \*

By order of General Bragg:

ARCHER ANDERSON,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS,

*Augusta, December 3, 1864—10 a. m.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry Corps:*

GENERAL: The commanding general desires me to impress upon you the importance of immediately driving back upon their infantry the enemy's cavalry, now apparently pressing in this direction. Your force, in his opinion, is too much scattered; it should be gathered up; and the enemy's cavalry being pushed back, unremitting effort should be made to harass their main body and impede their march.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ARCHER ANDERSON,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*AUGUSTA, December 3, 1864—12 m.*

General WHEELER:

In reply to your questions whether you shall operate on Sherman's front or flank, General Bragg cannot instruct. Your own judgment must determine. Main object is to retard and harass enemy.

ARCHER ANDERSON,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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*NEAR BEAVER DAM, December 3, 1864—10 a. m.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry:*

GENERAL: On yesterday morning the enemy drove me from Buck Head Church, and I fell back to Lawton Station. After remaining at the station some time they came against me in large force of cavalry, and I retreated to Beaver Dam Creek. I have scouts out on the roads, and will dispatch any information they may gain. I destroyed the bridge at the church, but did not get your dispatch in time to destroy the other bridges. I sent a lieutenant with a squad of men to destroy Jones' Bridge, but he has not returned.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

S. P. DOBBS,  
*Captain, Commanding Ninth Alabama.*

P. S.—I sent you two couriers yesterday and neither have returned.  
S. P. D.

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*SAVANNAH, December 3, 1864.*

General JONES:

Order troops which left Augusta yesterday to stop [at] Coosawhat-chie and report to General Chesnut.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*



SAVANNAH, *December 3, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Send the cadets to join the militia at Grahamville

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*COLUMBIA, *December 3, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

Telegram received at 9 p. m. I do not wish the cadets sent to Savannah. I have received no request to send them, and know no reason for it.

M. L. BONHAM.

COLUMBIA, *December 3, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

If General Bragg has expressed no wish for the cadets to remain at Charleston send them to Grahamville, to report to Colonel De Saussure, at that place. Since I telegraphed you General Bragg telegraphs me that De Saussure's destination was Grahamville, but put Savannah through mistake. He has been halted at the former place.

M. L. BONHAM.

AUGUSTA, *December 4, 1864.*

(Received 1 p. m.)

Col. JOHN B. SALE,

*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

The column is moving on what is known as "Eastern road to Savannah." There are several ferries from mouth of Brier Creek to Charleston and Savannah Railroad bridge; none below that. General Hardee reports he is patrolling river with a gun-boat. I have had all ferry-boats destroyed, and ordered all roads to and from river to be broken up and blockaded by felling heavy timber. The roads all pass by causeway to the river, on both sides, over dense swamps. None of enemy's forces remain near Macon, and from best information I can obtain it is thought all of ours have left there for Savannah. The Georgia militia who were on Central railroad moved back toward Savannah, and at last accounts were at Station 4½, our cavalry, however, far in advance of them.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

SAVANNAH, *December 4, 1864.*

(Received 5th.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Skirmishing with the enemy's infantry this evening at Station 4½, Central railroad, forty-five miles from the city. Two corps of the enemy reported by prisoners to be marching on either side of the Ogeechee. The defense of the South Carolina railroad from Savannah to Charleston requires 3,000 men. Can I expect re-enforcements from Richmond?

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

SAVANNAH, *December 4, 1864.*

Major-General McLaws:

Cars will be sent you to-morrow for 3,000 troops. Withdraw to the outer line of defenses, and dispose your troops on that line; remain in charge of them.

By order of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

No. 3. ATLANTIC AND GULF RAILROAD,  
*December 4, 1864.*

Major-General McLaws:

The President having ordered my return to my department I cannot remain here longer, unless positively ordered.

R. TAYLOR,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

CIRCULAR.]

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,  
*In the Field, December 4, 1864.*

In future, commanders of troops, in falling back before the enemy, will send reliable officers and men, at least one day in advance, to instruct citizens in which direction to drive their stock.

On the enemy's approach all horses, mules, and other stock that citizens have left on the enemy's line of march will be driven off, and proper receipts left for the same. When no owner can be found accurate accounts will be kept so that stock can be reclaimed by the owner.

By order of Major-General Wheeler:

M. G. HUDSON,  
*First Lieutenant and Aide-de-Camp, Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.*

HEADQUARTERS WILLIAMS' KENTUCKY BRIGADE,  
*Dr. Dillard's, three miles from Farmer's Bridge, on Farmer's  
Bridge and Louisville Roads, December 4, 1864—11 p. m.*

Lieutenant HUDSON,

*General Wheeler's Aide-de-Camp:*

LIEUTENANT: I received your order of 8 a. m. yesterday at 12 m., and moved to strike the enemy's flank. At 12 p. m. last night I received another order to report to you at Thomas' Station, and proceeded this morning at daylight in that direction; but finding it impossible to get there on account of the enemy, I attempted to join you at Waynesborough, and, getting within a mile and a half of town, I was again cut off, and had to fall back to this point. I will report with my command to-morrow morning.

Very respectfully, &amp;c.,

W. C. P. BRECKINRIDGE,  
*Colonel, Commanding, &c.*



SAVANNAH, *December 4, 1864.*

General S. JONES:

I need 600 arms and accouterments for the South Carolina militia now at Grahamville. Send the arms if you have them; also ammunition to suit.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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SAVANNAH, *December 4, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

Make your headquarters at Pocotaligo, or some other convenient point, and take immediate charge of the forces for the defense of the Charleston and Savannah Railroad.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *December 4, 1864.*

General JONES:

What troops left Charleston this morning for Savannah? If any, stop them at Pocotaligo.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *December 4, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Re-enforcements are needed at Pocotaligo immediately; see that they are sent.

W. J. HARDEE.

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ADAMS' RUN, *December 4, 1864.*

Major-General JONES:

A regiment of Yankee cavalry is reported moving toward Combahee bridge. I have nothing but some heavy artillery in that sub-district.

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES,  
*Augusta, December 5, 1864.*

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary:*

The following just received from General Wheeler:

NEAR WALKER'S BRIDGE, *December 4, 1864—6 p. m.*

Pursuant to instructions we drove enemy's cavalry upon infantry and attacked about midnight. The infantry was occupied in tearing up railroad near Thomas' Station. At daylight this morning Fourteenth Corps and Kilpatrick's cavalry advanced and attacked my position. My command had been necessarily spread out over two or three miles to procure forage, but was quickly concentrated to resist the attack. Enemy made several charges upon the position which I had taken, all of which were repulsed by fire from behind breast-works and by counter-charges. Enemy's vastly superior forces, which completely enveloped my flanks, compelled me

to retire toward Brier Creek. A number of officers and men were killed and wounded, including Colonel Gaines, commanding brigade, severely wounded. Enemy's loss very heavy; General Kilpatrick reported wounded. My officers and men behaved most gallantly.

NEAR WALKER'S BRIDGE, *December 4, 1864—8 p. m.*

Enemy have all moved east of Buck Head Creek. They appear to be encamped on railroad, from Waynesborough to Station 7, on Savannah road. Possibly their advance is nearer Savannah than Station 7. I have had three brigades on enemy's front and rear, and balance of my command on their flank. Seventeenth Corps crossed Ogeechee, from Emanuel to Burke County, opposite 95, on Thursday. On Wednesday Fifteenth Corps moved from Louisville toward Station 90. Enemy's cavalry passed through Waynesborough, stealing horses in Emanuel County. General Sherman in person reported near Thomas' Station to-day.

NEAR WALKER'S BRIDGE, *December 5, 1864—4.30 a. m.*

Enemy's infantry and cavalry left Waynesborough going toward Millen; they were in very large force, both infantry and cavalry. Everything now appears to be moving toward Savannah.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

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AUGUSTA, *December 5, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

From two sources (unofficial) I learn General Beauregard left Macon on 1st and was in Montgomery on 2d. I again send a copy of your dispatch to him, to be telegraphed from Macon.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

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SAVANNAH, *December 5, 1864.*

Major-General JONES:

You are placed in charge of the entire line of the Charleston and Savannah Railroad. It is suggested that there should be a force at Green Pond. You will keep a movable force of 500 infantry and one section of artillery on a train, ready to move at a moment's notice to any threatened points. A train has already been furnished General Chesnut for this purpose.

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *December 5, 1864.*

Major-General JONES:

Colonel Colcock has been sent up the Savannah River with a battery and a section of artillery and a company of cavalry, and the gun-boat Macon, which has reached Sister's Ferry, has been ordered to patrol as high up the river as practicable. Lee has been ordered to furnish the transportation you need.

T. B. ROY,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*



SAVANNAH, December 5, 1864.

General S. JONES:

Last information from Wheeler is that all movements of the enemy tend toward Savannah. We still hold Station 4½, Central railroad.

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

GRAHAMVILLE, December 5, 1864.

Maj. Gen. SAM. JONES:

The gun-boats in position off Dawson's Bluff shelling the works protecting Coosawhatchie. Captain Kanapaux asks for 20-pounder Parrotts; can you furnish them to him?

JAS. CHESNUT, JR.,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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COOSAWHATCHIE, December 5, 1864.

Major STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

My scouts reported the enemy advancing at 1 o'clock to-day, with artillery and infantry. General Chesnut telegraphed me at 3 o'clock that scouts reported the enemy advancing on the Bee's Creek breast-works in considerable force. Several barges are reported coming up the Coosawhatchie River. They advanced their pickets within 200 yards of Bee's Creek works, four miles distant. We fired on them, and they retired. They are still in our front, four or five miles distant. I have about 1,600 men of all arms. I will dispatch you again as soon as scouts come in. We need more artillery.

L. J. GARTRELL,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

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COOSAWHATCHIE, December 5, 1864—7 p. m.

Major STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Enemy's gun-boats, five in number, retired half a mile lower down the river. Their infantry and artillery have also retired about three miles beyond our outer works. All quiet to-night.

L. J. GARTRELL,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

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AUGUSTA, GA., December 6, 1864.

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS,  
*President of the Confederate States:*

SIR: Your letter of the 30th ultimo, acknowledging the receipt of my telegram of 24th of November, was received by me on the road from Macon to this place. With the limited reliable means at our command I believe that all that could be has been done, under existing circumstances, to oppose the advance of Sherman's forces toward the Atlantic coast. That we have not thus far been more successful none can regret more than myself, but he will doubtless be prevented from capturing Augusta, Charleston, and Savannah, and he may yet be made to experience serious loss before reaching the coast.



On the 16th of November, when about leaving Tusculum, Ala., on a tour of inspection to Corinth, Miss., I was informed by General Hood of the report just received by him that Sherman would probably move from Atlanta into Georgia. I instructed him at once to repeat his orders to General Wheeler to watch closely Sherman's movements, and should he move as reported, to attack and harass him at all favorable points. I telegraphed to Lieutenant-General Taylor, at Selma, Ala., to call on Governor Watts, of Alabama, and Governor Clark, of Mississippi, for all the State troops that they could furnish, and with all the available movable forces of his department to keep himself in readiness to move at a moment's notice to the assistance of Maj. Gens. Howell Cobb and G. W. Smith, who were then at or about Griffin, Ga., threatening Atlanta. I also telegraphed to General Cobb to call upon Governor Brown, of Georgia, and Governor Bonham, of South Carolina, for all the State troops that could be collected. I made all necessary preparations to repair forthwith to Georgia in the event of Sherman's executing his reported movement.

On my arrival at Corinth, on the 18th of November, having been informed that Sherman had commenced his movement, I issued all necessary orders to meet the emergency, including an order to General Hood to send one division of cavalry (Jackson's) to re-enforce Wheeler, but this order was suspended by him, his objection being that his cavalry could not be reduced without endangering the success of his campaign in Tennessee, and that General Wheeler already had thirteen brigades under his command. I finally instructed him to send only one brigade, if he contemplated taking the offensive at once, as had already been decided upon. I then left Corinth for Macon, where I arrived on 24th of November.

I did not countermand the campaign into Tennessee to pursue Sherman with Hood's army for the following reasons:

First. The roads and creeks from the Tennessee to the Coosa Rivers across Sand and Lookout Mountains had been, by the prevailing heavy rains, rendered almost impassable to artillery and wagon trains.

Second. General Sherman, with an army better appointed, had already the start of about 275 miles, on comparatively good roads. The transfer of Hood's army into Georgia could not have been more expeditious by railway than by marching through the country, on account of the delays unavoidably resulting from the condition of the railroads.

Third. To pursue Sherman the passage of the Army of Tennessee would necessarily have been over roads with all the bridges destroyed, and through a devastated country, affording no subsistence or forage, and, moreover, it was feared that a retrograde movement on our part would seriously deplete the army by desertions.

Fourth. To have sent off the most or the whole of the Army of Tennessee in pursuit of Sherman would have opened to Thomas' forces the richest portion of the State of Alabama, and would have made nearly certain the capture of Montgomery, Selma, and Mobile, without insuring the defeat of Sherman.

Fifth. In October last, when passing through Georgia to assume command of the Military Division of the West, I was informed by Governor Brown that he could probably raise, in case of necessity, about 6,000 men, which I supposed might be doubled in a levy en masse. General Cobb informed me, at the same time, that at Augusta, Macon, and Columbus he had about 6,500 local troops, and that he hoped shortly to have collected at his reserve and convalescent camps near Macon 2,500 more. Of these 9,000 men he supposed about one-half, or 5,000, could be made available as movable troops for an emergency.



To oppose the advance of the enemy from Atlanta the State of Georgia would thus have probably 17,000 men, to which number must be added the thirteen brigades of Wheeler's cavalry, amounting to about 7,000 men. The troops which could have been collected from Savannah, South Carolina, and North Carolina before Sherman's forces could reach the Atlantic coast would have amounted, it was supposed, to about 5,000 men.

Thus it was a reasonable supposition that about 29,000 or 30,000 men could be collected in time to defend the State of Georgia and insure the destruction of Sherman's army, estimated by me at about 36,000 effectives of all arms, their cavalry, about 4,000 strong, being included in this estimate.

Under these circumstances, after consultation with General Hood, I concluded to allow him to prosecute with vigor his campaign into Tennessee and Kentucky, hoping that by defeating Thomas' army, and such other forces as might hastily be sent against him, he would compel Sherman, should he reach the coast of Georgia or South Carolina, to repair at once to the defense of Kentucky, and perhaps Ohio, and thus prevent him from re-enforcing Grant. Meanwhile supplies might be sent to Virginia from Middle and East Tennessee, thus relieving Georgia from the present constant drain upon its limited resources.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

*General.*

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AUGUSTA, *December 6, 1864—7 p. m.*

General S. COOPER:

Have just arrived and will repair as soon as practicable to Charleston and Savannah.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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SAVANNAH, *December 6, 1864.*

(Received 7th.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

The Fifteenth Army Corps is on the right bank of the Ogeechee. Prisoners were captured from it to-day. They are evidently of an intention to recross twenty-five miles above. All recent movements indicate their intention to do so at Jenks' and Wright's Bridges, which have been destroyed.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

AUGUSTA, *December 6, 1864.*

General HARDEE:

Wheeler so far off he could not cross river in time. General Young's brigade (250 mounted, 550 dismounted) moves to-day by rail to Pocatigo, to observe left bank Savannah.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

(Same to Major-General Jones.)



## NO. 3, ATLANTIC AND GULF RAILROAD,

*December 6, 1864.*

Capt. R. W. B. ELLIOTT,

*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Lieutenant Baker has just returned from scout. He met the enemy's cavalry yesterday at General Cone's residence, in Bulloch County, and fell back to Jenks' Bridge. Late in the afternoon he was attacked there, and compelled to fall back to Black Creek, in Bryan County, where he made stand until the enemy crossed the creek above, about 2 p. m., and he was ordered by Colonel Prather, Tenth [Eighth] Confederate Cavalry, to retire to Harper's Bridge, on Cannouchee. Movements indicate that a force of the enemy is making its way around headwaters of Cannouchee for this section. He was informed that there was a division of infantry and 500 cavalry at Statesborough on Saturday.

G. P. RANEY,

*Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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AUGUSTA, *December 6, 1864—11.15 a. m.*

Major-General WHEELER,

*Alexander:*

Press well on enemy's left flank, so that if he crosses Savannah River you will know it immediately, and advise me.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

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AUGUSTA, *December 6, 1864—12.45 [p. m.].*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Three companies South Carolina cavalry militia, under Major Crump, headquarters probably Allendale, Barnwell district, are observing Savannah River and obstructing roads from ferries. Communicate such orders to them as may be proper.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

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AUGUSTA, *December 6, 1864—10.30 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

Organize proper parties to overflow rice lands along Savannah River, to obstruct thoroughly with trees and torpedoes and break up roads from the stream toward Pocotaligo. Fraser Matthewes and Joseph Guss, of engineer department, might superintend.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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POCOTALIGO, *December 6, 1864—5.30 p. m.*

Lieutenant-General HARDEE,

*Savannah:*

I cannot answer your question as to the number of troops required to hold this road just at this time, as I have no report yet from Chesnut. Enemy advanced to-day in large force on road from Gregory's, on Tul-



liffny, to Coosaw. Our troops met and drove them back, but were in return driven back demoralized, and occupied works at Coosaw. General Gartrell has just telegraphed me that he can hold that place. I am endeavoring, and think will succeed, to collect a force of 500 or 600 men to attack in their rear, on road from Old Pocotaligo to Coosaw, at daylight.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *December 6, 1864.*

Major STRINGFELLOW:

Forward this through to General Hardee at Savannah: There are two trains with troops from Wilmington and train with light artillery from Augusta on this side of bridge, waiting for the road to be cleared to go on. A train of North Carolina State troops will reach here at 1 a. m.; will hurry them on immediately. There are four trains on Savannah railroad due here, blocking the way.

R. C. GILCHRIST.

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ADAMS' RUN, *December 6, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

General Hardee telegraphs that Wheaton's battery has been ordered to Combahee. Let Webb remain until Wheaton arrives. I have ordered Kemper to Green Pond; communicate with him after his arrival. What is the news this morning?

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 6, 1864—10 a. m.*

General SAM. JONES:

Twelve barges are landing troops at Gregory's, on the Tullifinny, about three miles distant. Send Forty-seventh Georgia and section of artillery.

L. J. GARTRELL,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 6, 1864.*

Major STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Colonel Daniel, commanding seven companies of Fifth Georgia, reports the enemy about 1,000 strong, and asks for re-enforcements. I have sent him First Reserves, about 200 strong. I have notified him of the movement of troops from Pocotaligo.

L. J. GARTRELL.

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COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 6, 1864.*

Major-General JONES:

Are you certain that the telegraph line has not been tapped by a Yankee operator?

L. J. GARTRELL.



COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 6, 1864.*

Major STRINGFELLOW:

The Forty-seventh Georgia just arrived. Section of artillery will come by next train. Send 40,000 rounds ammunition, caliber .69. Some of the boxes have no caps. We have only 35 wounded, most of them slightly.

L. J. GARTRELL.

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HEADQUARTERS,

*December 6, 1864—2.40 o'clock.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES,

*Commanding:*

GENERAL: The enemy advanced in heavy force from Gregory's Point. They are now on the road from Old Pocotaligo to this place (Coosawhatchie), and on both sides. We fought them two hours and a half, but had to fall back to our works. If you send a force in their rear, on the road from Old Pocotaligo, it will not only assist us, but probably cut off the enemy. Some provision had better be made to prevent their getting between you and us. I would have communicated with you by telegraph, but the operator says the wires are cut. I must have some old troops; the new ones won't stand.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. J. GARTRELL,

*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 6, 1864.*

General JONES:

The enemy advanced in large force on the road from Gregory's. We met them and drove them back. They were re-enforced, and, portion [of] the troops becoming demoralized, I ordered them to fall back to this side of the river. Enemy not pursuing. The engagement lasted two hours and a half. Loss slight. Send Forty-seventh Georgia Volunteers and any other troops you can spare. The main attack seems to be intended for this point. I would have dispatched you sooner, but being at the front and informed by operator that the line would not work, I sent a courier some time since. We can hold this place. Ammunition is getting short.

L. J. GARTRELL.

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POCOTALIGO, *December 6, 1864.*

Col. A. C. EDWARDS,

*Commanding Forty-seventh Georgia Regiment:*

COLONEL: Brigadier-General Gartrell has been ordered to send your regiment to the position now occupied by the State Cadets, at the Tullifunny trestle, on the railroad, where other troops, under Lieutenant-Colonel Bacon, will be collected before morning. You will be the ranking officer, and will therefore take command. Colonel Bacon's command, with the cadets, will number about 550 men, with two pieces artillery. At the earliest dawn of day you will move down by a plantation road, which crosses the railroad near the Tullifunny trestle and nearly parallel



to Tullifinny Creek, until it intersects the road from Old Poco to Coosaw, about 150 yards on the Coosaw side. Lieutenant-Colonel Bacon has a guide with him who knows the road, and you will therefore confer with him. Attack the enemy vigorously at that point and drive him off if possible. The Fifth Georgia will attack in front of Coosawhatchie when your fire is heard. Carry out these instructions promptly and with spirit.

Very respectfully,

C. S. STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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DECEMBER 6, 1864.

Major STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

MAJOR: Courier from Mackay's Point reports the enemy as having landed a regiment of about 500 men at the junction of the Coosawhatchie and Tullifinny.

E. H. BACON,  
*Lieutenant-Colonel.*

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POCOTALIGO, December 6, 1864.

Lieutenant-Colonel BACON,  
*Commanding, &c.:*

COLONEL: The major-general commanding has ordered Colonel Edwards, of the Forty-seventh Georgia, to the position near the trestle-work on the railroad now occupied by the State Cadets. Leave the cavalry company (Captain Peeples') to picket the road to Coosawhatchie and watch the position at Tullifinny Bridge, and proceed with the rest of your command to report to Colonel Edwards at the place designated. That officer has been ordered to move at the earliest dawn of day to attack the enemy in flank and rear. The guide Craddock left with you knows the road. Inform Major Jackson that the baggage of his command will be at the crossing of the country road over the railroad by the time you reach that point. Move promptly. If you have or can procure any axes carry them with you to clear out the [sic] should the enemy blockade it; Captain Bachman has perhaps some with his battery. Direct Captain Peeples to keep the major-general commanding fully informed of any movement on the road to Pocotaligo.

Your obedient servant,

C. S. STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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AUGUSTA, December 7, 1864.

(Received 11.52 o'clock.)

General S. COOPER:

General Beauregard reached here last evening from Montgomery, where he received your dispatch, and has gone on this morning to Charleston and Savannah. The enemy's rear crossed Beaver Dam Creek yesterday morning south, our cavalry pressing them closely.

BRAXTON BRAGG.



BRANCHVILLE, *December 7, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I cannot return exchanged prisoners to their commands; they will be kept temporarily for defense of Savannah.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

SAVANNAH, *December 7, 1864.*

(Received 10.45 8th.)

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Considerable fighting at Coosawhatchie to-day without definite results. The enemy hold a position near Coosawhatchie and the railroad. Heavy skirmishing at No. 2, Central railroad, with large force of the enemy, which have crossed the Ogeechee opposite that point. Fighting also at Cannonchee Bridge. Enemy have made their appearance at Hudson's Ferry and Matthews' Point, on the Savannah River. The gunboat Macon is at Sister's Ferry, with orders to patrol the river as high up as Hudson's Ferry. Howard's wing of the Federal army is believed to be on the right bank of the Ogeechee crossing to the left bank.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

AUGUSTA, *December 7, 1864—4 o'clock.*

General WHEELER:

No necessity now for further destruction of bridges over Brier Creek. A steamer with two boats has just been ordered to mouth of Brier Creek. Give her orders.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

CHARLESTON, *December 7, 1864—2.30.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Battery of guns with guard left at 11 a. m. yesterday; train of twenty cars with troops from Augusta left at 10 p. m., and train with Girardey's light battery started at 1 a. m. Train with troops from Wilmington is expected here at 2.30 to-night; also train from Augusta, expected at 4 o'clock, will be sent immediately on. Seventeen cavalry will leave in passenger train to-morrow. Deserters from Morris' Island to-day report that troops are being moved from Morris' Island to Port Royal, where the force is 8,000 strong, mostly black troops.

R. C. GILCHRIST,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

SAVANNAH, *December 7, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

You must send me at once the Augusta battalion, the Georgia battalion, which arrived to-day, and such other troops as you can spare. Bring part of Chesnut's command to Coosawhatchie; the enemy has left his front. The enemy is advancing on Savannah.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*



SAVANNAH, *December 7, 1864.*

General JONES:

I do not know how long I shall be able to hold the railroad between this and Savannah railroad bridge. It is therefore all-important that all the re-enforcements I am to receive should be sent forward immediately.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *December 7, 1864—12.30.*

General JONES:

A train left at 11 last night with troops; Girardey's battery at 1 a. m.; Shober's (North Carolina) regiment about 3 a. m. Young's brigade had not passed Branchville at 9 a. m. Other troops, under Colonel Brown, are behind Young.

H. W. FEILDEN.

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GRAHAMVILLE, *December 7, 1864—11.45.*

General SAM. JONES:

Detachment of cavalry on the road to re-enforce your men at Coosawhatchie.

JAS. CHESNUT, JR.,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

GRAHAMVILLE, *December 7, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

Have the Forty-seventh [Georgia] on the march to you. I am left with the militia only, yet unorganized, and many of them are sick. My reserves relieved the forces at Bee's Creek, who have been sent to Coosawhatchie this afternoon.

JAS. CHESNUT, JR.,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 7, 1864—11.30.*

General JONES:

Colonel Daniel has returned with Fifth Georgia Regiment and reports four regiments of the enemy on both sides of the main road in 400 yards of these works. I have put his regiment on the railroad to protect it, and will open upon the enemy with my guns as soon as position can be ascertained. It is impossible to get re-enforcements to Colonel Edwards.

L. J. GARTRELL.

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COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 7, 1864—12.30 o'clock.*

General JONES:

This place is seriously threatened by force of four regiments, and several pieces of artillery. I am making disposition to repel any attack and save the railroad and works. Send re-enforcements if possible. They are said to be planting batteries to shell us.

L. J. GARTRELL,  
*Brigadier-General.*

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 7, 1864—2.50 p. m.*

General JONES:

Captain Kanapaux states that his vedettes report the enemy still landing troops at Gregory's Point.

L. J. GARTRELL.

CHARLESTON, *December 8, 1864—8 a. m.*

(Received 10.50.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I arrived here last evening. General Hardee reports considerable fighting yesterday at Coosawhatchie, without definite results; enemy holding a position near there and railroad. Heavy skirmishing at No. 2, Central railroad, with large force of enemy, which has crossed Ogeechee opposite that point. Fighting also at Cannouchee bridge. Enemy has made his appearance at Hudson's Ferry and Matthews' Point, on Savannah River. Gun-boat Macon is at Sister's Ferry, with orders to patrol river as high up as Hudson's Ferry. Howard's wing of Federal Army believed, on right bank of Ogeechee, crossing. Generals Hardee and Jones should be supported with all available force.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON, *December 8, 1864—2.30 p. m.*

(Received 9.50 p. m.)

General S. COOPER:

I leave this afternoon for Pocotaligo and Savannah to confer with Generals Jones and Hardee.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON, S. C., *December 8, 1864.*

Lieutenant-General HARDEE,

*Savannah, Ga.:*

Having no army of relief to look to, and your forces being essential to the defense of Georgia and South Carolina, whenever you shall have to select between their safety and that of Savannah, sacrifice the latter, and form a junction with General Jones, holding the left bank of the Savannah River and the railroad to this place as long as possible.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, {  
No. 2. }

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, December 8, 1864.*

\* \* \* \* \*

III. Brooks' foreign battalion is transferred from Cumming's brigade, McLaws' division, to Harrison's brigade, Smith's division.

\* \* \* \* \*

By order of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

D. H. POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*



GRAHAMVILLE, *December 8, 1864.*

[General BRAXTON BRAGG:]

The enemy are still moving on toward Savannah, obstructing the roads in their rear, and resisting warmly this morning. I cannot learn that any force of the enemy have crossed the Savannah River. I hear artillery firing far in my front; do not know what it means. The Fourteenth Corps and Kilpatrick's cavalry are on the river road, Fifteenth on Middle Ground road, and Seventeenth, and probably Twentieth Corps, on Central railroad. I think the force on the right bank of the Ogeechee must be small.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. WHEELER.

(Same sent by General Bragg to Col. John B. Sale, military secretary, December 9, 1864.)

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SISTER'S FERRY, *December 8, 1864—5 p. m.*

Major-General WHEELER:

GENERAL: Your two dispatches of 10 and 12.30 o'clock have been received. Sister's Ferry is the lowest point at which the enemy can cross the river. There is an old ferry about twenty-five miles lower down which has been discontinued for near thirty years, and I have a strong picket there and an engineer throwing up works. No flats or boats there to cross with. A gun-boat which was up here to protect this crossing has gone down to the railroad bridge to protect that point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. J. COLCOCK,  
*Colonel Third South Carolina Cavalry.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 8, 1864—11 a. m.*

Maj. Gen. SAM. JONES:

Have measures been adopted for obstructing with torpedoes all roads leading from Savannah River ferry toward Port Royal? Are services of Mr. Fraser Matthewes and about twenty hands required for that object?

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 8, 1864—10.20 a. m.*

Major STRINGFELLOW,

*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Enemy occupies same position. All quiet this morning. My effective force this morning (infantry, cavalry, and artillery) is 1,683.

L. J. GARTRELL.

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COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 8, 1864—2.35 p. m.*

Major STRINGFELLOW:

I will send morning report by courier. Enemy has constructed works across the main road where it intersects with Gregory's road, one mile

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 7, 1864—2.50 p. m.*

General JONES:

Captain Kanapaux states that his vedettes report the enemy still landing troops at Gregory's Point.

L. J. GARTRELL.

CHARLESTON, *December 8, 1864—8 a. m.*

(Received 10.50.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I arrived here last evening. General Hardee reports considerable fighting yesterday at Coosawhatchie, without definite results; enemy holding a position near there and railroad. Heavy skirmishing at No. 2, Central railroad, with large force of enemy, which has crossed Ogeechee opposite that point. Fighting also at Cannouchee bridge. Enemy has made his appearance at Hudson's Ferry and Matthews' Point, on Savannah River. Gun-boat Macon is at Sister's Ferry, with orders to patrol river as high up as Hudson's Ferry. Howard's wing of Federal Army believed, on right bank of Ogeechee, crossing. Generals Hardee and Jones should be supported with all available force.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON, *December 8, 1864—2.30 p. m.*

(Received 9.50 p. m.)

General S. COOPER:

I leave this afternoon for Pocotaligo and Savannah to confer with Generals Jones and Hardee.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON, S. C., *December 8, 1864.*

Lieutenant-General HARDEE,

*Savannah, Ga.:*

Having no army of relief to look to, and your forces being essential to the defense of Georgia and South Carolina, whenever you shall have to select between their safety and that of Savannah, sacrifice the latter, and form a junction with General Jones, holding the left bank of the Savannah River and the railroad to this place as long as possible.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, }  
No. 2. }

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, December 8, 1864.*

\* \* \* \* \*

III. Brooks' foreign battalion is transferred from Cumming's brigade, McLaws' division, to Harrison's brigade, Smith's division.

\* \* \* \* \*

By order of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

D. H. POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*



GRAHAMVILLE, *December 8, 1864.*

[General BRAXTON BRAGG:]

The enemy are still moving on toward Savannah, obstructing the roads in their rear, and resisting warmly this morning. I cannot learn that any force of the enemy have crossed the Savannah River. I hear artillery firing far in my front; do not know what it means. The Fourteenth Corps and Kilpatrick's cavalry are on the river road, Fifteenth on Middle Ground road, and Seventeenth, and probably Twentieth Corps, on Central railroad. I think the force on the right bank of the Ogeechee must be small.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. WHEELER.

(Same sent by General Bragg to Col. John B. Sale, military secretary, December 9, 1864.)

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SISTER'S FERRY, *December 8, 1864—5 p. m.*

Major-General WHEELER:

GENERAL: Your two dispatches of 10 and 12.30 o'clock have been received. Sister's Ferry is the lowest point at which the enemy can cross the river. There is an old ferry about twenty-five miles lower down which has been discontinued for near thirty years, and I have a strong picket there and an engineer throwing up works. No flats or boats there to cross with. A gun-boat which was up here to protect this crossing has gone down to the railroad bridge to protect that point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. J. COLCOCK,

*Colonel Third South Carolina Cavalry.*CHARLESTON, *December 8, 1864—11 a. m.*

Maj. Gen. SAM. JONES:

Have measures been adopted for obstructing with torpedoes all roads leading from Savannah River ferry toward Port Royal? Are services of Mr. Fraser Matthewes and about twenty hands required for that object?

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 8, 1864—10.20 a. m.*

Major STRINGFELLOW,

*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Enemy occupies same position. All quiet this morning. My effective force this morning (infantry, cavalry, and artillery) is 1,683.

L. J. GARTRELL.

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 8, 1864—2.35 p. m.*

Major STRINGFELLOW:

I will send morning report by courier. Enemy has constructed works across the main road where it intersects with Gregory's road, one mile

distant. We cannot dislodge them with small pieces; it might be done by a movement from the direction of Tullifinny bridge. I have ordered them fired into.

L. J. GARTRELL,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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SAVANNAH, *December 9, 1864.*  
(Received 6.55.)

General S. COOPER:

I arrived here this morning to confer with General Hardee.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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SAVANNAH, *December 9, 1864.*  
(Received 6.45.)

General S. COOPER:

Enemy's forces are reported to be on river road, Middle Ground road, Central railroad, and Louisville road, about ten miles from city.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *December 9, 1864.*  
(Received 10.55.)

General S. COOPER:

Brigadier-General Elliott, being temporarily in the department, has been assigned to command Third Sub-District of South Carolina during the present emergency.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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SAVANNAH, GA., *December 9, 1864.*

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,  
*Commanding, &c.:*

GENERAL: It is my desire, after the consultation that has taken place, that you should hold this city so long as in your judgment it may be advisable to do so, bearing in mind that should you have to decide between a sacrifice of the garrison or city, you will preserve the garrison for operations elsewhere.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

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SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS,  
No. 203. } *In the Field, Savannah, December 9, 1864.*

I. Major-General Ransom is placed temporarily in command of the Second and Third Sub-Districts of South Carolina.

II. Col. Alfred Rhett is placed temporarily in command of Second Sub-District of South Carolina.



III. Brig. Gen. Stephen Elliott is assigned to the temporary command of the Third Sub-District of South Carolina, the western limit of which is extended to Rantowles Creek, as formerly existed.

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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DECEMBER 9, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry Corps:*

GENERAL: Captain Thomas, of Perrin's regiment, has just got in from the other side of Ogeechee. He reports that about two divisions of infantry, 600 cavalry, and 3,000 beef-cattle were passing down the other side that stream. He followed them twelve miles beyond Swainsborough. Captain Thomas also reports that he saw a dispatch from General Bragg to you going toward Augusta to inform you that a steamer and several small boats were at Augusta subject to your orders. In this connection I would call your attention to the fact that not one of your couriers have brought me a dispatch on this campaign until the circular this morning. Even the dispatch sent yesterday morning, when our headquarters were on the same road and only five miles apart, was handed me to-day by one of my own men.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
S. W. FERGUSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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SAVANNAH, December 9, 1864.

Major-General JONES:

Information is that Yankee scouts, in guise of Wheeler's stragglers, have found means to communicate with enemy on the coast. Tell your subordinates to look to it.

W. J. HARDEE.

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CHARLESTON, December 9, 1864—5.15 a. m.

General SAM. JONES:

Will send the cavalry company at once by rail unless you wish it to march. Am attending now to torpedoes; will use every exertion to send some during day.

H. W. FEILDEN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

POCOTALIGO, December 9, 1864—12 m.

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,  
*Savannah:*

About 9 a. m. the enemy opened a heavy fire from ten or twelve guns on the railroad between Tullifinny trestle and Coosawhatchie, and followed it up by an infantry attack. We still hold the road, and the fire

has slackened. General Robertson is commanding there in person. If Generals Chesnut's and Young's [troops] can possibly be spared for a few days I respectfully urge that I be allowed to keep them. They, or some other troops, are absolutely essential to hold this road.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

SAVANNAH, *December 9, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

In addition to General Young's men, which I ordered you to take, apply to General Chesnut to send you the 500 men which I ordered from him to Savannah.

W. J. HARDEE.

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POCOTALIGO, *December 9, 1864—6.45 p. m.*

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,  
*Savannah :*

The enemy kept up heavy artillery fire on railroad from 9 this morning, occasionally engaging with their infantry. About 4.30 this evening they made vigorous attack, and after two hours and a half hard fighting were repulsed. Their effort to get possession of the road seems more determined and persistent, and I apprehend the attack will be renewed to-night or in the morning. Have ordered up a part of Chesnut's force and Young's dismounted men.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

POCOTALIGO, *December 9, 1864—7 p. m.*

Capt. H. W. FEILDEN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Charleston :*

The enemy renewed the attack vigorously near Coosawhatchie about 4.30 o'clock this evening, and after two hours and a half hard fighting were repulsed. Hurry forward any troops coming this way.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 9, 1864—9.25 a. m.*

Major STRINGFELLOW:

The enemy opened their batteries on the railroad about 9 o'clock. Nearly all the shells fall short. I am just starting to that side, leaving General Gartrell in command here.

B. H. ROBERTSON.

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 9, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

Enemy seems to have halted as uncertain in his movement. Nothing but desultory cannonading. There is a large extent of railroad unguarded, and I have not force sufficient to protect it. Enemy reported cutting road parallel to the railroad.

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*



COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 9, 1864—3.45 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

The enemy are pressing my men about one mile from Coosawhatchie. I have nothing to defend it there but the Fifth Georgia and a regiment of reserves. General Young informs me that General Hardee has ordered all the troops from Grahamville to Savannah.

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, [*Décember*] 9, 1864—5 p. m.

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

Our men are fighting splendid; I think we will hold the road.

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 9, 1864—5.40 p. m.*

Major STRINGFELLOW:

The enemy has been signally repulsed in every attempt to get possession of the railroad after two hours and a half hard fighting, in which the enemy lost considerable ground. Everything is again quiet. The extent of casualties not yet known, owing to the inaccessible nature of the ground. Among the wounded is Brigadier-General Gartrell; not dangerously.

B. H. ROBERTSON.

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COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 9, 1864—6.20 p. m.*

Major-General JONES:

One of enemy's guns is still shelling the railroad. Would it not be well to send the 20-pounder Parrott guns to Coosawhatchie? I would like to get together the guns of the different batteries now silenced. Can I take the guns from Grahamville and Bee's Creek which belong to Stuart's battery?

B. H. ROBERTSON.

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 9, 1864—9.40 p. m.*

Major-General JONES:

Send Webb's 20-pounder Parrotts to report before daylight to Brigadier-General Young at the left of my line. The enemy must be driven from his breast-works if possible. Have you any more artillery that you can send?

B. H. ROBERTSON.

---

GRAHAMVILLE, *December 9, 1864—2.10 p. m.*

Major-General JONES:

Eleven vessels of enemy lying off our front. Kirk's squadron cannot be spared without endangering the entire line. Young's command and

500 militia are at depot awaiting a locomotive to move; General Hardee has ordered them to Savannah. Have telegraphed to know if they can be sent to you.

JAS. CHESNUT,  
*Brigadier-General.*

GRAHAMVILLE, *Decemoer 9, 1864—5.20 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

Colonel Griffin with 500 militia has just started for Coosawhatchie. General Young will follow with his command.

JAS. CHESNUT, JR.,  
*Brigadier-General.*

CHARLESTON, *December 10, 1864.*  
(Received 11.30 11th.)

General S. COOPER:

Telegraphic and railroad communication interrupted beyond Savannah River; supposed by enemy's forces.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

SISTER'S FERRY, *December 10, 1864—11 a. m.*

Lieut. M. G. HUDSON,  
*Aide-de-Camp:*

LIEUTENANT: Your dispatch of this morning has been received. Our forces are moving down the river, as the general has directed, leaving a picket at each of the ferries as we pass them. General Anderson's men have been sent lower down this morning. As the rest of the stragglers and detachments from the general's corps are collected, we will send them on to a point lower down and keep opposite to you. Most of the forage below this point has been already consumed, but above there is an abundance. Our forces number about 500 men now. To-morrow we will no doubt have more, as we have heard that there are about 500 of your command at Brown's Ferry, and have sent for them. Colonel Colcock is absent just at this time from headquarters. When he returns will reply more fully.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
THOS. H. COLCOCK,  
*Adjutant.*

The couriers to General Hardee went through from Grahamville, S. C., and would not report to this point, therefore cannot say if they have returned; but as communication was not interrupted up to 10 o'clock yesterday, presume they have.

CIRCULAR.]

IN THE FIELD, *December 10, 1864.*

Soldiers! While you have been engaged gallantly fighting the enemy a band of thieves and stragglers have spread over the country robbing and insulting the wives and children of your brother soldiers who are



opposing the invaders upon other fields. These soldiers expect protection from you, and I appeal to every officer and soldier of this command to assist in arresting and bringing to justice these depredators, who claim to belong to the command, and by their conduct are bringing disgrace upon you and distress upon citizens, the families of comrades in arms.

JOS. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *December 10, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES,  
*Pocotaligo :*

When plans for proposed attack shall have been completed notify me of the fact, as I may be able to send you 500 more troops.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

POCOTALIGO, *December 10, 1864—5.15 p. m.*

Capt. H. W. FEILDEN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General, Charleston:*

There has been very little shelling of the road to-day and some slight picket-firing. In other respects all quiet to-day.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 10, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAM. JONES:

The 20-pounder Parrotts could be very effective from the battery here; can you not send them?

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 10, 1864—12.10.*

Major-General JONES:

Nothing has transpired to-day. The enemy seems to be chiefly occupied in felling trees. I have ordered our skirmishers pushed forward.

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 10, 1864—2.20 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

General Young reports enemy in his intrenchments one mile from railroad. Everything has been quiet to-day. I have ordered a reconnaissance on my left and rear. Will report.

B. H. ROBERTSON,

CHARLESTON, *December 11, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

General Hardee reports yesterday from Savannah enemy have appeared in force along whole of his main line. Skirmishing and artillery firing throughout the day. No serious attack yet. No report received from General Hood since 28th ultimo.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

CHARLESTON, *December 11, 1864.*

(Received 3 a. m. 12th.)

General S. COOPER:

No further reports from General Hardee since this morning's telegram. All quiet to-day near Coosawhatchie. Preparations are being made to dislodge enemy at that point.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CONFIDENTIAL.]

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, December 11, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS,  
*Commanding Division:*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee directs me to say that the supply of ammunition at this place is limited, especially for artillery, and desires that you take measures to prevent the useless waste of it. He wishes you to impress upon your commanding officers the necessity for economy, and to instruct them to prevent any unnecessary firing.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

D. H. POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

DECEMBER 11, 1864—1 p. m.

COLONEL: The enemy have little or no cavalry in my front. As far as can be ascertained they have a considerable force of infantry. They are encamped near a creek and beyond it from us. The creek can only be crossed on the bridge, in consequence of swamps on either side. I dismounted a portion of the command and tried to drive them off, but they are too strong. The camp has the appearance of at least a brigade. It is difficult to obtain accurately their force. Pickets have been exchanging shots with them occasionally during the morning. Small arms can be distinctly heard in direction of Savannah.

I am, colonel, respectfully, &c.,

JOS. H. LEWIS,  
*Commanding.*

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, Ga., December 11, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry Corps:*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee asks your special attention to the matter of picketing the Savannah River from the railroad bridge



to the city. The enemy have captured some flats on the island plantations, and may cross and strike our line of communication between Screven's Ferry and Hardeeville. The general thinks there should be 1,000 men on this service. He has dispatched Brigadier-General Anderson on the subject, but does not know whether his dispatch has been received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, December 11, 1864—6 p. m.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry:*

Lieutenant-General Hardee is apprehensive that the enemy may cross the Savannah River between the railroad bridge and the city on flats captured on the island plantations and get on his line of communication. He considers it important to provide against such a contingency, and desires you to transfer to the left bank of the river a sufficient force to protect his left flank. He also thinks it best that you should cross the river and establish your headquarters at Hardeeville, or some other convenient locality.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

COLUMBIA, *December 11, 1864.*

President DAVIS:

It is to be feared the force at Coosawhatchie is insufficient to save the road. I have ordered out all the State forces that can be spared. Cannot some of the infantry and cavalry from this State be sent to her assistance? The loss of that road will isolate Savannah.

M. L. BONHAM.

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CHARLESTON, *December 11, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

General Hardee applies for two of your Georgia regiments to re-enforce or support him. It is essential that you should dislodge enemy in your front soon as possible.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *December 11, 1864—2.15 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. SAM. JONES:

For [sic] movements additional troops could be withdrawn from General C[hesnut] by having trains ready to carry them to and from G[rahamville]. Beware of deserters, and make use of false rumors to conceal your operations.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

CHARLESTON, *December 11, 1864—6 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. S. JONES:

Should enemy begin to retire from your front send re-enforcements called for by General Hardee and to lines of Fourth and Fifth Sub-Districts, especially the latter; in that event call in time for transportation.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General, Commanding.*

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POCOTALIGO, *December 11, 1864—8 p. m.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*Charleston:*

My engineer officer reports enemy strongly intrenched, both flanks and rear of works protected by thickly wooded swamp. I cannot collect more than 1,200 good infantry for the attack, and I have not yet reliable information of their numerical strength. Chesnut reports transport with troops passed down by Hazzard's Point this morning; thinks they are going to Red Bluff or New River bridge. I have directed him to send guard there. General Young has gone to Hardeeville; says General Hardee ordered him to take command of all cavalry on this side of Savannah River. That interferes with brigade organization here and I have ordered him back.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 11, 1864—1.40 p. m.*

Major-General JONES:

The enemy is reported throwing out skirmishers down the Coosawhatchie River, with his right a few hundred yards below the county bridge. I have made the proper disposition to meet him.

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

[Indorsement.]

A cipher telegram from Charleston needs attention. What you have to do must be executed at once or a considerable part of your means will be taken away.

C. S. S.

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COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 11, 1864.*

Major-General JONES:

The enemy was only establishing a picket along the river. When is General Taliaferro coming?

B. H. ROBERTSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*



POCOTALIGO, *December 11, 1864—10.45 a. m.*

Brig. Gen. JAMES CHESNUT,  
*Grahamville:*

So far as yet known position of enemy same as yesterday evening. Pickets in your front and toward Bluffton must be on alert, and give earliest information of any movement of enemy in that direction. Send without delay by special courier return showing name of each organization and its commander, and the effective strength of each.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

---

GRAHAMVILLE, *December 11, 1864—2.45 p. m.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

My pickets report that a transport with troops passed Hazzard's Point this morning, going down the river. I think it well to look to New River bridge and Red Bluff; will make dispositions to that end, if you approve. Please answer at once.

JAS. CHESNUT, JR.

---

AUGUSTA, *December 12, 1864.*

Col. JOHN B. SALE:

The telegraph having been cut we get nothing from Savannah. A dispatch from Wheeler gives copy of enemy's order for the line of investment around Savannah. It is about eight miles from the city, and was to have been reached on 9th.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

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CHARLESTON, *December 12, 1864—11.30 p. m.*

(Received 9.45 13th.)

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Lieutenant-General Hardee reports enemy developed in strong force along his entire front yesterday, and that he has been compelled to extend his lines. He asks for immediate re-enforcements.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

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HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, Ga., December 12, 1864—10 p. m.*

Major-General MCLAWS,  
*Commanding, &c., Telfair House:*

GENERAL: Yours of 9 p. m., inclosing a dispatch from Brigadier-General Mercer, has been received, and I am directed by Lieutenant-General Hardee to say, in reply, that, in case of an attack on General Mercer's right, he hopes you will be able to give him more assistance than that indicated in your dispatch. His impression is that you have the Eighteenth Georgia Regulars in reserve. The general considers it

unadvisable to withdraw Miller's company from Thunderbolt. Upon consultation with the engineers it has been decided that neither of the canal bridges would bear the weight of the Blakely gun, and Colonel Jones has sent you two field pieces from Hamilton's battalion instead. Four of the rockets required have been sent to you, and the remainder will be taken by the bearer of this dispatch.

Very respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

GENERAL FIELD ORDERS, }  
No. 1. }

HDQRS. McLAWS' DIVISION,  
*Telfair Place, December 12, 1864.*

I. The staff of the major-general commanding is announced as follows: Maj. J. S. Williams, assistant inspector-general; Capt. R. W. B. Elliott, assistant adjutant-general; Capt. M. P. King, assistant inspector-general; Capt. G. B. Lamar, aide-de-camp and acting assistant adjutant-general; Capt. A. Huguenin, aide-de-camp; Capt. J. A. Maxwell, acting chief artillery and ordnance; Surg. John D. Patton, chief surgeon division; Capt. N. B. Brown, chief quartermaster.

II. The headquarters of the division are for the present located at Telfair Place.

By order of Maj. Gen. L. McLaws:

R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

RICHMOND, VA., *December 12, 1864.*

Governor BONHAM,  
*Columbia, S. C.:*

Yours of the 11th instant received. I have for some time realized the importance of adding veteran troops to the force assembled to resist Sherman, and have corresponded with General Lee on the subject. The recent operations of the enemy have increased the previously entertained estimate of the danger of detaching troops from the Army of Virginia. My anxiety will render me prompt to respond to your request should it become practicable to do so, and General Lee will in no degree withhold any further assistance which he can give consistently with the safety of his position.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

POCOTALIGO, *December 12, 1864.*

General B. BRAGG,  
*Augusta:*

General Jones is out inspecting his lines in front. Will deliver your dispatch on his return. General Beauregard is in Charleston. No news from Savannah to-day. Enemy reported to have burned trestle at Savannah River yesterday. Heavy cannonading heard here. The route to Savannah by Hardeeville and Screven's Ferry was open last evening, and I presume is still. Enemy still in our immediate front in force.

Respectfully,

CHAS. S. STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*



CHARLESTON, *December 12, 1864.*

General SAM. JONES:

Have rice fields, as ordered, been overflowed? Send a reliable officer to break and destroy the roads to the Savannah River through the rice fields. He can get negro labor from planters.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *December 12, 1864.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

If the enemy be too strongly fortified in your front to be dislodged complete your own intrenchments, and send at once re-enforcements to New River, Red Bluff, and points east of Screven's Ferry Causeway where enemy might land. Your action relative to General Young must be referred to General Hardee.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *December 12, 1864.*

Major-General JONES:

Lieutenant-Colonel Brown's detachment and battery are sent for attack, if it takes place; otherwise, to replace for forty-eight hours troops you may have sent to protect points on New River.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *December 12, 1864—7 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

The boats are completed only for rowing. No track has even [been] made for pontoon, nor can lumber be had without delay. Will send boats and oars as ferries unless I hear further. If lumber can be had will forward. All well.

W. H. ECHOLS,  
*Major, &c.*

---

HARDEEVILLE, *December 12, 1864.*

(Received 10.55 p. m.)

Major-General JONES:

There is a guard of fifty men at the bridge; the bridge has been destroyed. A party of Yankees from Sherman's army landed at Hayward's plantation to-day; destroyed some houses, and scouts report they have gone. It seems to me that this is the most important place just now. Can you send some troops here, with some artillery? Sherman must be aware that our only communication with Savannah is by Screven's Ferry. He will do all in his power to cut it; I believe he is doing it now. If my opinion is worth anything I should say intrench where you are, and come here with all that can be spared. I hope you

will urge upon the railroad men the necessity of keeping at least two trains this side Coosawhatchie. If I had an engine I would run up and have a talk with you. I will execute your orders at once.

Most respectfully,

P. M. B. YOUNG,  
*Brigadier-General.*

AUGUSTA, *December 13, 1864.*

Col. JOHN B. SALE:

I go to Charleston to-morrow to see General Beauregard, at his request. He has assigned me to duty.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

RICHMOND, VA., *December 13, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*Charleston, S. C.:*

I have anxiously desired to send re-enforcements, but events have rendered it impracticable to add to those forwarded some time since. Should a change of circumstances render it possible to do more no time will be lost in doing so. Should the enemy's fleet be detached for operations against Savannah the opportunity will be presented for our squadron at Charleston to assume the offensive, and perhaps to destroy his depot at Port Royal.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

RICHMOND, VA., *December 13, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*Charleston, S. C.:*

Your last dispatch was communicated to General Lee. He replies as follows:

Every available man at the South should now be sent to Savannah. As long as Grant retains his present force here I do not think this army (Northern Virginia) can be weakened. If he withdraws any part I can detach proportionately. If the Department thinks otherwise I will send whatever it directs.

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

CHARLESTON, *Decemoer 13, 1864—9.15 p. m.*  
(Received 9.20 14th.)

General S. COOPER:

General Hardee reports to-day from Savannah enemy felt his lines sharply Saturday and Sunday, but was comparatively quiet yesterday and has made no serions demonstration to-day. A battery opened yesterday on Fort McAllister, and Major Anderson expected to be attacked to-day by a column along right bank of Ogeechee. General Jones reports notbing new on line of Savannah railroad. No reports from General Hood since the 28th ultimo.

BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*



CHARLESTON, S. C., *December 13, 1864.*Lieutenant-General HARDEE,  
*Savannah, Ga. :*

About 450 men will be sent you to-day with instructions to General Jones to divert them, if necessary, to defenses of New River and those east of Screven's Ferry Causeway. These re-enforcements are the last you and Jones, who is subject to your orders, can hope for. Keep yourself well advised, through staff officers and otherwise, of his ability to hold your communication, for Savannah must be held only so long as is consistent with the safety of its garrison.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*SAVANNAH, *December 13, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. L. McLAWS:

GENERAL: Your dispatch of to-day in regard to communicating with Fort McAllister reached me this evening. Prior to its reception a telegram had been received from Beaulieu announcing the fall of the fort. It was carried by assault near sundown, after severe and continuous fighting throughout the day. A subsequent dispatch from the commanding officer at Rosedew states that a communication by signal had been received from Fort McAllister, without signature, reporting the loss of the work and representing the officers unhurt, with the exception of Captain Morrison, reported wounded.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWARD C. ANDERSON,  
*Colonel, Commanding.*HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, Ga., December 13, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER:

I am instructed by Lieutenant-General Hardee to repeat that he considers it important that a force of your command should be promptly transferred to the vicinity of Hardeeville for the security of that depot and to protect his line of communication, which may be threatened from New River as well as from the Savannah.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*PURYSBURG, *December 13, 1864.*Maj. Gen. J. WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry Corps:*

I have received your request of this day's date to cross troops of your command over the Savannah River at Sister's Ferry. I will proceed promptly and effect the object of your request.

Very respectfully,

W. W. HUNTER,  
*Flag Officer.*

CHARLESTON, *December 13, 1864—1 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

Your attention is specially called again to safety of defenses on New River and east of the Screven's Ferry Causeway; they are as essential to safety of forces in Savannah as the position you now hold. Send in time [to] those points any re-enforcements required to hold them; about 450 men are being sent to-day to General Hardee; you are authorized to divert them to those points if necessary.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 13, 1864.*

Major STRINGFELLOW:

There is no change in immediate front. Enemy is very busy cutting an avenue from his battery on his extreme left to command the railroad just below this point. He was, I think, hauling heavy guns last night, from the noise and the urging on of animals heard all night. It is too foggy to observe the number of vessels.

W. B. TALIAFERRO,  
*Brigadier-General.*

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 13, 1864.*

Major STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

The enemy are shelling the Dawson Bluff battery and the railroad in vicinity of these headquarters from a battery on Gregory's Neck. Send an engineer to strengthen the works at Dawson Bluff at once.

W. B. TALIAFERRO,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

POCOTALIGO, *December 13, 1864—4.30 p. m.*

Brig. Gen. W. B. TALIAFERRO,  
*Coosawhatchie:*

General Young has just telegraphed that the enemy has crossed the river at Taylor's, and are eight miles of Red Bluff. Send the men and the three pieces of artillery to Hardeeville, and notify General Young.

By order:

CHAS. S. STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

GRAHAMVILLE, *December 13, 1864.*

Maj. C. S. STRINGFELLOW,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Fleet report: One ship of the line, one steam frigate, one sloop of war, one cutter, four gun-boats, eight armed vessels, forty-six sail transports, one ocean steamer, five river and tug boats; total transports, fifty-two; grand total, sixty. The river boats actively plying among the fleet off Hilton Head; four schooners going seaward, no troops aboard. No boats passed down Broad River this a. m.

R. J. BROWNFIELD,  
*Lieutenant and Signal Officer.*



GRAHAMVILLE, *December 13, 1864.*

General JONES:

Brigadier-General Young asks for 100 men and a section of artillery to attack some men who have landed on Huger's and Rutledge's plantations, on Savannah River. I earnestly request that you send Captain Heyward's company of cavalry and section of horse artillery now with General Taliaferro. Please answer.

JAS CHESNUT, JR.,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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EIGHT MILES FROM PURYSBURG CROSSING,  
*December 13, 1864—2 p. m.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

The enemy have crossed the river at Taylor's plantation, within eight miles of Red Bluff. Let the troops come at once, with any train you can get, and as many more troops as you can spare. The enemy have cavalry.

P. M. B. YOUNG,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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HARDEEVILLE, *December 13, 1864—10.30 p. m.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

Just returned from Taylor's and Rutledge's plantations. The enemy, with a small force, had crossed to the mainland. We easily drove them off. There is a force, I think small, on Argyle Island yet. I will drive them off to-morrow if I can.

P. M. B. YOUNG,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 13, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

Am trying to get the Napoleons for you.

C. K. HUGER,  
*Major, &c.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 14, 1864.*  
(Received 15th.)

General S. COOPER:

By telegram received to-day Lieutenant-General Hardee reports that enemy carried Fort McAllister by assault yesterday afternoon, and is making preparation to attack Rosedew in reverse. His scouts report an increase in number of steamers and sail vessels about Fort Pulaski and of the force on Tybee Island. All quiet about Coosawhatchie.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

RICHMOND, VA., *December 14, 1864.*

Col. J. C. IVES,  
*Aide-de-Camp:*

SIR: You will proceed to Charleston and report to General Beauregard. Your familiarity with the defenses and localities now threatened by the enemy will be of service to him. You will keep me advised from there, either by telegraph or mail, of what is transpiring in that quarter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JEFF'N DAVIS.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, }  
No. 9.

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, December 14, 1864.*

\* \* \* \* \*

III. Major-General Wheeler is charged with the defense of the line east of Screven's Ferry Causeway and along New River to Hardeeville. Reports connected with the defense of that line will be made to these headquarters, and also to Major-General Jones, commanding on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad.

By order of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

D. H. POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HARDEEVILLE, *December 14, 1864—6.45 p. m.*

General SAMUEL JONES:

There are a good many of the enemy on Argyle Island; several hundred can be seen. They are running all the rice mills on the island. I intended to go down and attack them all along the line with artillery and sharpshooters to-morrow. I will not be able to do much if you take away the section you ordered me to send back; it was six miles off when I got the order, but it is coming back, and will leave here by 10 o'clock, unless you permit me to retain it for two days. We skirmished a little to-day. The enemy were at Chisholm's plantation, two miles from railroad bridge. I could use twelve pieces to great advantage to-morrow if I had them. Answer.

P. M. B. YOUNG,  
*Brigadier-General.*

CHARLESTON, *December 15, 1864.*

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond:*

My services not being longer needed in this department I shall leave this evening for Wilmington and resume my command. Sherman has opened communication with his new base by the Ogeechee. The means to meet him do not exceed one-half the estimate in yours of the 7th instant. Notify Mrs. B. of my return, and wish for her and Major Cuthbert to join me in Wilmington, the latter temporarily.

BRAXTON BRAGG.



CHARLESTON, *December 15, 1864.*

(Received 12 p. m.)

General S. COOPER:

If enemy take Savannah it is evident that by using the river as a base he may cut the Augusta railroad at many points, and Charleston would then become soon after untenable. I have ordered river obstructed at many points.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 15, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Lieutenant-General Hardee has nothing new to report to-day. There are 5,000 prisoners at Thomasville, Ga., that should be removed to Andersonville. Will you please give the necessary orders.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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CHARLESTON, *December 15, 1864.*

General S. COOPER:

General Hardee reports at Savannah, on 9th, his effectives of all arms at about 10,000. General Jones reports from Pocotaligo, on 12th, his effectives of all arms at about 5,500. There is no report from General Wheeler, but his forces must be about 3,000.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 15, 1864.*

General S. COOPER:

General Beauregard has ordered rations for 15,000 men for sixty days to be collected in Charleston. Am informed depot commissary has on hand 500,000 pounds of sugar; large portion ordered to Richmond. In present deficiency of meat rations cannot the sugar be detained here for General Hardee?

H. W. FEILDEN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 15, 1864.*

(Received 12 p. m.)

General S. COOPER:

My instructions to Lieutenant-General Hardee are based on the fact that, having no army of relief to look to, it is more important, after proper resistance, to save our troops and material than to sacrifice all by too protracted defense. I desire being informed if these instructions are approved by the War Department, and are applicable to Charleston as well as Savannah.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

SAVANNAH, *December 15, 1864.*

(Via Hardeeville 16th.)

His Excellency President DAVIS:

Sherman has secured a water base, and Foster, who is already nearly on my communications, can be safely and expeditiously re-enforced. Unless assured that force sufficient to keep open my communications can be sent me, I shall be compelled to evacuate Savannah.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

CHARLESTON, S. C., *December 15, 1864—11.30 a. m.*

Lieutenant-General HARDEE,  
*Savannah, Ga.:*

Under no circumstances must you be cut off from junction of your forces with those of General Jones; the safety of Georgia and South Carolina depends upon the results.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

CHARLESTON, *December 15, 1864.*

Lieutenant-General HARDEE:

Should there be no works at Tunbridge and Mongan's Landings, east of Screven's Ferry Causeway, have them erected forthwith. Rifle pits and batteries for two field pieces might answer for the present. Have creeks leading [to] them obstructed with oak trees or piles and torpedoes. Colonel Clarke, engineer, can inform you.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864—8 p. m.*

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry Corps, Izard's Place, Savannah River:*

GENERAL: Your dispatch of 3.30 p. m. has been received, and I am directed by Lieutenant-General Hardee to say, in reply, that Ferguson's brigade had better be sent over at once. If the need of it should prove to be greater on the left than on the right bank of the river it can be returned to you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

SAVANNAH, GA., *December 15, 1864—10.15 p. m.*

General WHEELER:

GENERAL: The enemy is reported at Verard's plantation in considerable force. It is all important they should be driven from that position without [delay]. For this purpose take any portion of the command you destined for this side of the river.

Respectfully,

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General,*



HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY COMMAND,  
*On North Bank Savannah River, Guerard's House,*  
*December 15, 1864.*

Lieutenant HUDSON,  
*Aide-de-Camp :*

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report to the major-general commanding the state of the forces under my command. I inclose a general order which I issued this afternoon defining the position of each portion of the troops. Colonel Colcock has since come in and reports that but one of his companies has come from the ferries above the railroad bridge; the other companies have remained, owing to an order from a major claiming to belong to General Bragg's staff, who ordered them to remain to keep up a courier line. Thus Colonel Colcock is now commanding thirty men of the South Carolina reserve troops and 165 Kentuckians of Lewis' brigade, under Major Mynheir; Colonel Bird is commanding my brigade, with an effective force of not exceeding 200 men, and Captain Eve commands 130 men of General Young's brigade. With these 500 men I have a river front to guard of thirty miles, every foot of which is accessible to the enemy in the rice flats they are using upon the river. The consequence is that nearly every man is upon picket duty every day, and no force is left to re-enforce the pickets when they are driven in. If the three companies of Colonel Colcock's regiment, the Third South Carolina, and the Eighth and Tenth Confederate Regiments, of my brigade, all of whom are now dismounted and in the trenches around Savannah, could be transferred to this side, the force would be more adequate to the work to be performed. As it is, I dislike very much being responsible for a position such as this, and most earnestly ask to be re-enforced.

I have the honor to be, lieutenant, very respectfully, yours,

R. H. ANDERSON,  
*Brigadier-General, Commanding.*

P. S.—LIEUTENANT: Your dispatch from Beech Hill just received. Please ask the general commanding to bear in mind that the present assignment leaves 130 of General Young's men under my command, which he only let me have by courtesy, and can take away when he pleases. There will be two companies of my command under General Young and one section of artillery—the artillery and one company at Red Bluff, and one company at Bluffton.

[Inclosure.]

GENERAL ORDERS, { HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY FORCES,  
 No. — { *North Bank of the Savannah, Guerard's House,*  
*December 15, 1864.*

I. Colonel Colcock, Third South Carolina Cavalry, will assume command of Major Mynheir's detachment, and, with it and the rest of his command, will perform the following duty: He will, after leaving a small picket at each of the ferries above the railroad, cover the river well and securely from the railroad bridge to and including Heyward's upper place.

II. Colonel Bird will with his command cover the river well and securely from Smith's to and including Moreland's place.

III. Captain Eve will with his command cover well and securely the river from Moreland's to Screven's Ferry.



The above change will be made successively. When Colcock relieves Colonel Bird's pickets, above Heyward's upper place, Colonel Bird will relieve Captain Eve's pickets, now above Moreland's. Commanding officers will instruct their pickets not to waste their ammunition by firing on the enemy across the river, and to keep themselves concealed behind the river-bank, and make every effort to prevent the enemy landing on this side of the river.

Colonel Colcock and Colonel Bird will establish immediately a courier line between these and their headquarters.

By command of Brig. Gen. R. H. Anderson:

W. W. GORDON,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

CHARLESTON, *December 15, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

What is cause of delay in your attack? Increase of tents on Tybee Island may denote reduction of force in your front. Can you not feel enemy's strength without exposing your proposed plans?

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

SAVANNAH, *December 15, 1864.*

(Via Hardeeville 3.30 a. m. 16th.)

Major-General JONES:

Our occupation of Savannah depends on your ability to hold the railroad. Whenever you are unable to hold the road I must evacuate. You must strengthen your position by throwing up works and by making strong abatis. Inform me instantly if Foster is re-enforced by Sherman or otherwise. I feel uneasy about my communications.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

SAVANNAH, *December 16, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER,

*Commanding Cavalry:*

GENERAL: In assigning Colonel Colcock to the defense of New River it would be well to give him all or as large a part of his regiment as possible. Three companies of his regiment are here and cannot be spared; the remainder might be gotten together. If you can get Colonel Colcock's staff with him I would be glad to have you do so. Your command embraces the country between New River and the Savannah River, and, incidentally, all other points which may be attacked in your neighborhood.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

CHEVES' PLACE, *December 16, 1864—1.30 a. m.*

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER,

*Commanding Cavalry Corps, Army of Tennessee:*

MY DEAR GENERAL: I have just left General Hardee and all the other generals in a council of war. My orders are (and to give you the same from General Hardee) to go to work at once and get all the flats



in the river from the rice canals and float them down to Savannah. I told the general it was my intention to attack at daylight, but he says the attack is of no importance when compared with that of getting the flats into the river and down to Savannah. He suggested that probably we had not better draw the attention of the enemy to our position until we get the flats from the canals into the river. I will be with you by 7 a. m., and will be most happy to serve under your command. General Hardee desires that we use every man that we can to getting out these flats.

I am, general, most respectfully, yours, very truly,

P. M. B. YOUNG.

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CHEVES' PLACE, FOUR MILES FROM SCREVEN'S FERRY,  
*December 16, 1864. (Via Hardeeville 7 p. m. 17th.)*

Maj. Gen. SAMUEL JONES:

Did not get your dispatch until early this morning, and as I had to attack to-day, could not come. I was at Savannah last night with a council of war. I will come over to have a talk with you to-morrow, if possible. I think there is about a brigade of the enemy on Argyle Island. They moved up this morning opposite Izard's place, and appeared as if they were going to cross. I attacked with artillery and sharpshooters. They retired after a warm little skirmish. They still occupy the island. I will send up Kanapaux's section early to-morrow morning.

P. M. B. YOUNG.

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CHARLESTON, *December 16, 1864.*

Major-General JONES:

Colonel Brown's command, from Second and Third Sub-Districts, including battery, must return to-day if attack is to take place to-morrow. You will call for them when immediately needed. I will be with you at about 2 p. m. to-day.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

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WILMINGTON, *December 17, 1864.*

His Excellency the PRESIDENT:

After a conference with General Beauregard, I determined, as he had no duty to assign me, to return, under the authority of your dispatch, and resume the command of this department.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

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RICHMOND, *December 17, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*Charleston, S. C.:*

The spirit of your instructions to General Hardee relative to the defense of Savannah is approved. It is hoped Savannah may be successfully defended, but the defense should not be too protracted to the sacrifice of the garrison. The same remark is applicable to Charleston. We must rely upon your judgment to make the fullest possible defense consistent with the safety of the garrison.

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*



RICHMOND, VA., *December 17, 1864.*General W. J. HARDEE,  
*Savannah, Ga.:*

Beyond the force sent sometime since to Augusta, General Lee has not thus far found himself able to detach troops from his command. Should a change of circumstances permit further aid to be sent no time will be lost. Whether General Beauregard can secure the communication between Charleston and Savannah in the contingency referred to by you he can best inform you. Close observation will, I hope, enable you to know when the enemy shall send from your front any considerable force, that you may then provide for the safety of your communications and make the dispositions needful for the preservation of your army.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

DECEMBER 17, 1864—12 m.

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER,  
*Commanding, &c., at Cheves' House:*

I am informed there is a large canal, known as the Lawrence Canal, passing by Cheves' farm and falling into Tunbridge Creek near the landing. This canal should be thoroughly obstructed, and protected by infantry and artillery if necessary. It is possible that the battery and obstructions at Tunbridge's protect the entrance of said canal. There are several bad places in the main road from Hardeeville to your headquarters; they should be drained and corduroyed before another rain.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

*Memorandum for location of Troops.*HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.*

First. Smith's division (about 2,000 men), as soon as it shall reach Hardeeville, to go to Augusta via Charleston (transportation to be provided beforehand).

Second. Wright's division to be sent to Robertson's district as soon as it shall reach Hardeeville, General Robertson to report to Wright temporarily to advise as to dispositions of the troops, and then to be assigned to the command of Gartrell's brigade. Col. G. P. Harrison to be assigned to a brigade wherever his regiment is.

Third. McLaws' division to go, under command of Brigadier-General Taliaferro, to James Island as soon as it can be spared from Hardeeville.

Fourth. Major-General McLaws to relieve General Taliaferro of his present command at Pocotaligo, and to defend the line of the Combahee.

Fifth. Col. E. C. Anderson's brigade to be sent to James Island (Third Sub-District of South Carolina) as soon as it shall reach Hardeeville.

Sixth. Young's brigade to be increased by the Seventh Georgia Cavalry (dismounted), commanded by Col. E. C. Anderson, jr.



Seventh. Wheeler's cavalry corps (that part of it east of the Savannah River) will guard the crossings of the Savannah and New Rivers, also the landings east of Screven's Ferry Causeway, until compelled by the enemy to retire. He will then guard and defend the country between the Savannah and the defensive line in rear of the Combahee. He will also guard the right flank of said line, resting at or near Barnwell, to Augusta.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

SAVANNAH, *December 18, 1864.*

Savannah: To remain two days after our troops have evacuated the city, to protect the evacuation; then to be ready to proceed to sea by the way of Augustine Creek. Lieutenant McAdams to take two boats from the Savannah to remove the torpedoes at Turner's Rocks.

Isandiga: After the evacuation of our troops will proceed up the river, if there are no enemy's batteries to prevent it, and join Flag-Officer Hunter; otherwise, to try the passage to sea by Augustine Creek.

Fire-Fly: Proceed up the river to join Flag-Officer Hunter.

Georgia: The general commanding will give notice of the time of dismantling Forts Jackson and Lee, when the guns will be spiked and shots jammed in the guns. The crew will leave the ship for Screven's Ferry, at the same time scuttling the ship effectually.

Guns on lower end of Hutchinson's Island: Spike the guns and jam shot in them; break the carriages.

The foregoing plan was adopted on the advice and approval of Generals Beauregard and Hardee.

THOS. W. BRENT,  
*Commandant Afloat, pro tem.*

*Morning report.*

Command.	Total effective.	Total present.	Aggregate present.	Remarks.
Lewis' brigade.....	590	641	699	Including First Georgia Regulars.
Baker's brigade.....	1,922	2,048	2,133	
Cumming's brigade.....	608	660	711	
Company E, First South Carolina Artillery.....	80	82	84	
Total.....	3,200	3,431	3,627	Including light artillery.

R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS MCLAWS' DIVISION,  
*Telfair Place, December 18, 1864.*

SAVANNAH, *December 18, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH WHEELER:

General Beauregard directs me to inform you that, instead of to-day, he will meet you at Cheves' house about 6 a. m. to-morrow.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. R. CHISOLM,  
*Aide-de-Camp.*

SAVANNAH, *December 18, 1864.*

(Via Hardeeville 19th.)

General SAM. JONES:

Send back to Florence all that part of Brooks' foreign battalion now at Summerville, under guard, and turn them over to the officer commanding Federal prisoners, to be confined as prisoners of war. Order the officers to rejoin their commands.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

RICHMOND, VA., *December 19, 1864.*

General R. E. LEE,  
*Petersburg, Va.:*

The following dispatch just received from General Beauregard.

SAVANNAH, *December 18, 1864.*  
(Via Hardeeville.)

General Sherman demanded the surrender of Savannah yesterday of General Hardee, which was refused. The loss of Savannah will be followed by that of the railroad from Augusta to Charleston, and soon after of Charleston itself. Cannot Hoke's and Johnson's divisions be spared for the defense of South Carolina and Georgia until part or whole of Hood's army could reach Georgia?

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

I cannot realize the consequences as portrayed. But General Bragg has just returned; if you can have a conference with him you can better judge. Let me have your advice, and, if you choose, communicate with General Beauregard.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA,  
*December 19, 1864.*

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS:

Dispatch of to-day received. Beauregard and Hardee must judge of necessity of evacuating Savannah. If done troops can be saved, and by uniting all in direction of Branchville any column marching on Charleston would be threatened and communication preserved. I cannot find that any troops have left Grant. He has united to him the Sixth and Nineteenth Corps. If Hoke and Johnson are sent south it will necessitate the abandonment of Richmond with the present opposing force.

R. E. LEE.



## CONFIDENTIAL CIRCULAR.]

HEADQUARTERS,

*Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.*

1. The troops in and around Savannah will be transferred to-night to the left bank of the Savannah River, and will proceed thence to Hardeeville.

2. At dark the light batteries will, under the direction of Lieutenant-Colonel Jones, chief of artillery, be withdrawn by hand from their positions in line with as little noise as possible, and will be sent over the pontoon bridge to Hardeeville.

3. The troops at Whitemarsh, Forts Jackson and Bartow, will be assembled at Fort Jackson by 9 p. m., and thence will proceed at once, via Screven's Ferry, to Hardeeville.

4. The troops at Rosedew, Beanlien, &c., will leave their positions at dark, and marching to Savannah, will cross at Screven's Ferry.

5. Major-General Wright's division will be withdrawn from the lines at 8 p. m., and will pass the river on the pontoons.

6. Major-General McLaws' division will be drawn from its position at 10 p. m., and will cross the river on the pontoons.

7. Major-General Smith's division will be withdrawn at 11 o'clock, and will cross on the pontoons.

8. The lines of skirmishers will be left in position as follows: Wright's line until 10.30 o'clock, McLaws' line until 12.30 o'clock, Smith's line until 1 o'clock.

9. The pontoon bridges are placed in charge of Colonel Clarke, chief of engineers, who will destroy the bridges after all the troops shall have crossed; and to enable him to ascertain this the skirmishers of each division will be placed in charge of an intelligent staff officer, who will report to Colonel Clarke, at the pontoon bridge, when the skirmishers of their respective commands shall have passed the river.

10. The chief of artillery will take measures to have the heavy guns in position spiked, or otherwise rendered useless, as follows: On Wright's line at 10 o'clock, on McLaws' line at 11 o'clock, on Smith's line at 12 o'clock.

11. The ammunition will be destroyed by throwing it into the river, or otherwise, and not by blowing it up.

12. The guns on the inner line will be spiked or destroyed, and all powder in the city magazines will be made useless by having water thrown on it.

13. All wagons will be sent into the city in time to cross on the pontoon at dark.

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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SAVANNAH, *December 19, 1864.*

Major-General McLaws:

Have you a light battery you can spare for Wheeler, who is pressed by the enemy on the other side of the river near Izard's?

W. J. HARDEE,

*Lieutenant-General.*



HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, December 19, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS,  
*Commanding Division:*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee directs me to say that the pontoon is completed, and he desires that you will see that your wagons containing cooking utensils and baggage are sent over and on to Hardeeville at daylight in the morning.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

D. H. POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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CONFIDENTIAL.] HEADQUARTERS MERCER'S COMMAND,  
*December 19, 1864.*

Should orders be issued to move to the rear, commandants of batteries are directed to cut the spokes of the cannon carriages, destroy all the implements, such as sponges, rammers, &c., and sink all hand-spikes, ammunition, &c., bringing off their haversacks with the priming wires, friction primers, thumb-stalls, &c.

In doing this no noise must be made that will attract the attention of the enemy or give notice of the movements of our troops.

By order of Brigadier-General Mercer:

W. WHEELER,  
*Captain and Chief of Artillery.*

(Commandants Batteries Aminett, Barnes, Simpkins, Wheeler, Barnwell, Elliott, Acee, Richardson, and Lieut. W. Barnwell, commanding Battery No. 4.)

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HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, Ga., December [19], 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry Corps:*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee has received your dispatch in reference to force at Izard's, and asking for a battery of light artillery. He will send you one, and, if possible, two; they can hardly reach you before night, however, as they have to be brought from distant localities. He says oppose the enemy with your utmost ability, and call upon Major-General Jones for re-enforcements if you need them.

Very respectfully,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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SAVANNAH, GA., *December 19, 1864—6.15 p. m.*

General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry:*

GENERAL: The road to Hardeeville must be kept open at all hazards; it is my only line of retreat. I have sent you about 200 men from Ferguson's brigade and six pieces of artillery. I am about sending in



addition to this force about 200 men of the Seventh Georgia, under Colonel Anderson, and about 250 under Major Howard. I have also instructed General Taliaferro to come in person to Hardeeville with some re-enforcements, to keep in communication with you, and to bring to your assistance additional forces, provided they should be needed. The pontoon bridge is not yet completed, but the engineers hope to have it done by morning. Fight the enemy at every step if he attempts to advance, and keep me informed of everything relating to his movements.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 19, 1864.*

General SAM. JONES:

The following just received from General Bragg, at Wilmington, dated to-day:

A large naval expedition, accompanied by transports and troops, said to have sailed from Hampton Roads on 16th instant; destination reported as Wilmington. As they have had ample time to arrive and we do not hear of them, they may have gone on to Sherman's assistance.

JNO. M. OTEY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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RICHMOND, VA., *December 20, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,

*Charleston, S. C.:*

Dispatch of the 18th received. The enemy is concentrating before Wilmington, and the indications are that it will be speedily attacked. Grant has been re-enforced from Sheridan's army, and, so far as known, has not detached any portion of his troops. This sufficiently shows the impracticability of complying with your request for Hoke's and Johnson's divisions. You will be able to judge better than myself, should the necessity arise for the evacuation of Savannah, or of Charleston, and will realize the propriety of postponing such action as long as the safety of the army will permit. In the meantime it is proper that whatever is not needed for the defense of either should be removed to places of greater safety. Non-combatants and all movable property should be sent away as promptly as possible. Should it be necessary to evacuate Savannah it is suggested that by massing principal part of your force so as to threaten route to Charleston its defense as well as communication with Augusta may be maintained, and the final withdrawal from Charleston secured if it should become necessary.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

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HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE WEST,  
*Pocotaligo, S. C., December 20, 1864.*

Lieutenant-General HARDEE,

*Commanding, &c., Hardeeville:*

GENERAL: I am directed by the general commanding to forward to you the accompanying memorandum of orders, which he wishes you to



issue immediately after the evacuation of Savannah. They are designed to carry out his views as to the best disposition of troops under your command for the defense of Charleston and the State of South Carolina generally, Savannah being in the possession of the enemy.

Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith's command (about 2,000 men) being sent to Augusta, will leave of the troops coming from Savannah about 6,500, which, added to those under the immediate command of Maj. Gen. Sam. Jones, on the line of the Savannah and Charleston Railroad (say about 5,500, exclusive of those in and around Charleston), makes about 12,000 troops. Of these he thinks there should be about 2,500 to guard the left bank of the Combahee, with about 1,000 in reserve at a central point between the Combahee and Ashepoo; about 3,500 in the Fourth Sub-District, with about 1,000 of them in reserve at or near Adams' Run and Green Pond, and about 5,000 in the Second and Third Sub-Districts, in addition to those already there. The cavalry guarding the left (or coast) flank and the front and right flanks may, of course, be used to support the troops to which they are nearest. The orders indicated in the accompanying memorandum will make a distribution approximating as nearly to those numbers as circumstances will permit. In carrying them out it will be necessary that you should send promptly the troops carried to Hardeeville by Brigadier-General Taliaferro to rejoin their respective brigades, and the detached companies or battalions of South Carolina reserves and militia to report to Brigadier-General Chesnut, at Grahamville, and the companies of the Third South Carolina Cavalry, under Colonel Colcock, to unite with those now in front of Grahamville and near Coosawhatchie and Pocoligo and Kirk's squadron, together with the section of horse artillery attached to the Third South Carolina Cavalry. Endeavor to bring and keep together, as far as practicable, the troops of the same organization.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. R. CHISOLM,  
*Aide-de-Camp.*

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE WEST,  
*Charleston, December 24, 1864.*

Respectfully forwarded to the War Department for its information.

Several lines of defense have been selected from the Savannah River toward Charleston, already more or less fortified. The necessary reconnaissances and defensive works to complete the system have been ordered, and should the enemy give us time it is hoped that his advance on Charleston from that direction will be much retarded, if not altogether prevented. Those defensive lines are—first, the Combahee to Barnwell Court-House; second, the Ashepoo; third, the Edisto; fourth, the Edisto and Ashley. It is not considered advisable to adopt the flanking position recommended by the President in his telegram of the 20th instant, as it could not be carried into effect, with our small force, without abandoning entirely the sea-coast line. This would enable the enemy to approach Charleston from John's Island, or even James Island, with a sea base almost immediately in his rear.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*



[Inclosure.]

*Memorandum of orders to be issued by Lieutenant-General Hardee immediately after the evacuation of Savannah.*

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE WEST,  
Pocotaligo, December 20, 1864.

I. Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith will proceed immediately with his command to Charleston, and thence to Augusta, after being relieved by other troops, as hereinafter directed.

II. Major-General McLaws' division (the senior brigadier commanding) and Colonel Anderson's brigade (preceding) will proceed immediately to Charleston and relieve Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith's division.

III. Major-General Wright's division and Brigadier-General Chestnut's command (about 1,500 men), consisting of South Carolina reserves and Second, Third, and Fourth South Carolina Militia, to the Fourth Military Sub-District, a reserve of about 500 men being stationed at Green Pond and another of like number near Adams' Run. Brigadier-General Robertson will report to Major-General Wright for temporary duty, to advise as to disposition of troops, and then to be assigned to duty as circumstances may require.

IV. Col. George P. Harrison's and Col. A. C. Edwards' brigades to be stationed on the left bank of the Combahee, guarding the several passages (about six) across that river, to Barnwell Court-House; Brigadier-General Young's command to be increased by the Seventh Georgia Cavalry (dismounted), Col. E. C. Anderson, jr., commanding, as reserves at or near Blue House, between the Combahee and Ashepoo Rivers.

V. The Third South Carolina Cavalry and Kirk's squadron will cover the left (or coast) flank of the retiring troops. After crossing the Combahee Maj. John Jenkins, with Captains Seabrook's and Peeples' companies Third South Carolina Cavalry, will take post on John's Island, and Captain Kirk's squadron will proceed, via Charleston, to Christ Church Parish and take post near and northeast of Mount Pleasant.

VI. Major-General Wheeler's corps (that part of it east of Savannah River, and the remainder if it should come up) will guard crossings of the Savannah and New Rivers and the landings east of Screven's Causeway until forced by the enemy to retire. He will then guard and defend the country between the Savannah River and the defensive line of the Combahee and the right flank of that line, resting at or near Barnwell Court-House, and extending by the shortest defensible line to the Savannah River, covering Augusta.

VII. Colonel Gonzales will assign the field artillery now in South Carolina to the most appropriate positions for the defense of the Fourth Sub-District and the line of the Combahee, from Salkehatchie bridge to the coast, taking care to assign the batteries to the positions with which their respective commanders are most familiar. He will assign, subject to General Hardee's approval, the field batteries coming from Savannah, as circumstances may indicate, for the best defense of the line of the Combahee, the Fourth Sub-District, and Augusta.

VIII. As soon as the services of Brigadier-General Taliaferro can be spared from the duty on which he is now engaged, he will proceed to James Island and resume his former command, assigning to their appropriate positions the troops of Major-General McLaws' division and Colonel Anderson's brigade, destined for that island.



IX. As soon as Major-General McLaws' division moves from Hardeeville he will immediately proceed to Pocotaligo and relieve Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones, and take the immediate command of the troops on the line of the Combahee.

X. On being relieved by Major-General McLaws, Major-General Jones will proceed to Charleston and resume his command and enter on the duties designated by Special Orders, No. —, from department headquarters.

XI. As the cavalry retires before the enemy it will drive off all cattle, sheep, and hogs not necessary for its consumption, and impress and send to Charleston, to be turned over to the chief engineer, all negroes capable of bearing arms. It will also destroy all mills, boats, buildings (that may be useful to the enemy for military purposes), and all rice, corn, and other provisions not necessary for its own subsistence beyond such as is absolutely necessary for the consumption of the owners and their families and slaves.

XII. All teams and wagons (with their drivers) on plantations about to fall into the hands of the enemy, not required by their owners, shall be impressed for the use of the army.

CONFIDENTIAL, }  
CIRCULAR No. 2. }

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, Ga., December 20, 1864.*

The movement ordered in confidential circular from these headquarters dated December 19, 1864, will be executed to-night at the hours as originally arranged, and not as subsequently amended—that is, Wright's division will move at 8 o'clock, McLaws' division at 10 o'clock, and Smith's division at 11 o'clock, and Wright's skirmishers will be withdrawn at 10.30 o'clock, McLaws' skirmishers at 12.30 o'clock, and Smith's skirmishers at 1 o'clock.

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 8. }

HEADQUARTERS WRIGHT'S DIVISION,  
*In the Field, December 20, 1864.*

\* \* \* \* \*

II. At dark the light batteries under the direction of Capt. John W. Brooks, chief of artillery of division, will be withdrawn by hand from their position in line, with as little noise as possible, and will be sent over the pontoon bridge to Hardeeville.

\* \* \* \* \*

VI. The chief of artillery of this division, Capt. John W. Brooks, will take measures to have the heavy guns in position spiked, or otherwise rendered useless, at 10 p. m. to-night. The ammunition will be destroyed by throwing it into the river, or otherwise, and not by blowing it up.

By order of Maj. Gen. A. R. Wright:

J. V. H. ALLEN,  
*Captain of Artillery.*



[Indorsement.]

DECEMBER 20, 1864.

Respectfully referred to battery commanders, who will execute this order.

The two Napoleons of Lieutenant Richardson's section will immediately move, with their caissons, to the pontoon bridge in Savannah; the other guns will be disabled and ammunition destroyed without noise.

By order of Brigadier-General Mercer:

W. WHEELER,  
*Chief of Artillery.*

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NEAR IZARD'S, December 20, 1864.

(Via Hardeeville. Received 5.30 p. m.)

General G. T. BEAUREGARD:

The enemy fired upon us at various times to-day until dark with artillery from works near Izard's.

J. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS,  
*Savannah, Ga., December 20, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER, *Commanding Cavalry Corps:*

GENERAL: I am directed by Lieutenant-General Hardee to say that the C. S. steamer Savannah, Capt. Thomas W. Brent, C. S. Navy, commanding, will remain at Screven's Ferry, or in vicinity, for forty-eight hours after the evacuation of Savannah. To enable Captain Brent to save his crew, which will pass on the road from Screven's Ferry to Hardeeville, the general directs that you will keep him well advised of the movements of the enemy, and especially to inform him of any movement threatening the line of communication to Hardeeville in time to save his crew.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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POCOTALIGO, December 20, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER:

Enemy reported leaving Tullifinny. Be sharply on the lookout for them on New River line, and inform me promptly if they appear.

SAM. JONES,  
*Major-General.*

(Same to Colonel Colcock.)

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POCOTALIGO, December 20, 1864—3 a. m.

(Received 9.30 a. m.)

General WHEELER:

I am ordered by General Hardee to Hardeeville, and to place myself in communication with you. Please indicate the least force of infantry which will be needed near Izard's; and if you want light artillery how much.

W. B. TALIAFERRO,  
*Brigadier-General.*

COOSAWHATCHIE, *December 20, 1864.*

Major STRINGFELLOW:

The enemy still occupy the Neck in force. I can ascertain no change in his position on my front.

GEO. P. HARRISON, Jr.,  
*Colonel, Commanding.*

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HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA,  
*Cheves' House, December 21, 1864.*

Major-General MCLAWS,  
*Commanding, &c.:*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee directs that you assume command of the three divisions en route for Hardeeville—your own, Smith's, and Wright's—and direct and regulate their march to that place.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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POCOTALIGO, *December 21, 1864.*  
(Received 1 o'clock 22d.)

President JEFFERSON DAVIS:

General Hardee reports to-day from Hardeeville that evacuation of Savannah was successfully accomplished last night. All light artillery and most of the stores and munitions were brought off; the heavy guns were spiked and otherwise disabled. Line of defense behind Combahee River will be taken soon as practicable.

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

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HARDEEVILLE, *December 21, 1864.*  
(Received 22d.)

His Excellency JEFFERSON DAVIS:

On the 19th enemy forced a landing on the South Carolina side, so near my communications that to save the garrison it became necessary to give up the city. Its evacuation was successfully accomplished last night. All the light artillery and most of the stores, munitions, &c., were brought off. I learn indirectly that there is a misapprehension as to the force disposable for the defense of Savannah. It summed up, land side and water side, militia, reserves, dismounted cavalry, local and details, 9,089.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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SPECIAL FIELD } HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. C., GA., AND FLA.,  
ORDERS, No. 17. } *Hardeeville, S. C., December 22, 1864.*

The following disposition of troops will be carried into effect with the least practicable delay:

1. Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith's command, consisting of a division of Georgia militia, and including Pruden's battery, will proceed to Augusta, Ga., via Charleston.



II. Major-General McLaws' division, under command of Brigadier-General Baker, and Col. E. C. Anderson's brigade, the latter taking precedence, will proceed to Charleston and report to Major-General Ransom for duty on James Island.

III. Major-General Wright's division and Brigadier-General Chesnut's command—the latter consisting of South Carolina reserves and the Second, Third, and Fourth South Carolina Militia—will proceed to the Fourth Military Sub-District of South Carolina. Major-General Wright will have command of the district, and will station a reserve force of 500 men at Green Pond, and a like number at Adams' Run Station. Brig. Gen. B. H. Robertson will report to Major-General Wright, to give him such assistance in the disposition of troops as his knowledge of the country will enable him to do, and will afterward be assigned to duty as circumstances may require.

IV. Major-General McLaws, as soon as his division, as heretofore directed, shall move from Hardeeville, will proceed to Pocotaligo and relieve Maj. Gen. S. Jones, and take immediate command of the forces on the line of the Combahee.

V. Maj. Gen. S. Jones, upon being relieved by Major-General McLaws, will proceed to Charleston, assume command of his district, and enter upon the duties designated in ——— from these headquarters.

VI. Major-General Wheeler's cavalry corps (that part of it east of the Savannah River, and the remainder should it come up) will guard the crossing of the Savannah and New Rivers and the landings east of Screven's Causeway until forced by the enemy to retire. General Wheeler will then guard and defend the country between the Savannah River and the defensive line of the Combahee and the right flank of that line, resting at or near Barnwell Court-House.

VII. Cols. G. P. Harrison and A. C. Edwards will report to Major-General McLaws for assignment to brigades, which will be stationed on the left bank of the Combahee, to guard the crossings of that river, to Barnwell Court-House.

VIII. The Seventh Georgia Cavalry (dismounted), Col. E. C. Anderson commanding, is assigned to Young's brigade. The Third South Carolina Cavalry and Kirk's squadron will cover the left (or coast) flank of the retiring troops; and after crossing the Combahee Captains Seabrook's and Peeples' companies Third South Carolina Cavalry, under command of Maj. John Jenkins, will take post on John's Island, and Kirk's squadron will proceed, via Charleston, to Christ Church Parish and take post near and northeast of Mount Pleasant.

IX. The batteries of light artillery will report as follows: Brooks', Barnwell's, and Wagener's batteries to Major-General McLaws, at Hardeeville; Abell's battery for duty at Honey Hill, and Anderson's battery to commanding officer at Coosawhatchie; Daniell's, Hanleiter's, Guerard's, and Maxwell's batteries will report, at Pocotaligo, to Col. A. J. Gonzales, chief of artillery, who will, with the approval of the lieutenant-general commanding, assign them to positions the most appropriate for the defense of the Fourth Military Sub-District and the line of the Combahee, from Salkehatchie bridge to the coast.

X. Brigadier-General Taliaferro will proceed to James Island, resume command of Sub-District No. 3, and will be prepared to put in position the troops of McLaws' division and Anderson's brigade, destined for that island.

XI. As the cavalry retires before the enemy it will drive off all cattle, sheep, and hogs not necessary for its consumption, and impress and send to Charleston, to be turned over to engineer department, all



negroes capable of bearing arms; all mills, boats, buildings that may be used by the enemy for military purposes, and all rice, corn, and other provisions not necessary for the subsistence of the cavalry, and not absolutely needed for the consumption of the owners, their families, and slaves, will also be destroyed.

XII. All wagons and teams (with drivers) on plantations about to fall into the hands of the enemy, and which are not required by the owners for the removal of their own property, will be impressed for the use of the army.

By order of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, }  
No. 18. }

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Hardeeville, December 22, 1861.*

I. Symons' regiment and the Twenty-seventh Battalion Georgia Reserves, and the two companies of Cobb Guards, will not be included in what is known as McLaws' division, but will report to Major-General McLaws for duty on the line to which he has been assigned in Special Field Orders, No. 17, from these headquarters.

By order of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

D. H. POOLE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Major-General McLAWS,  
*Commanding, &c.:*

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Hardeeville, S. C., December 22, 1861.*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee desires you to send a section of artillery and 200 men to protect the Purysburg Landing from a possible visit of the enemy's steamers. A fatigue party will be furnished from this force to unload the Sampson, a steamer expected at Purysburg to-night with a cargo of corn. This detachment should move at daylight to-morrow.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Commanding Cavalry:*

HEADQUARTERS,  
*Hardeeville, S. C., December 22, 1861.*

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Hardee directs that you will send all the companies of the Third South Carolina Cavalry now serving with you, together with the section of the horse artillery serving with the regiment, to report to Major-General Jones, or other officer commanding at Coosawhatchie, for duty with the other companies of the regiment on duty in that vicinity. He also desires that Guerard's battery and Maxwell's section shall move at once, in compliance with Special Orders, No. 17, of this date.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*



HDQRS. GEORGIA RESERVES AND MIL. DIST. OF GEORGIA,  
Macon, Ga., December 22, 1864.

Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War, Richmond, Va. :*

SIR: You will remember that upon the occupation of Atlanta by General Sherman he issued a sweeping order for the removal of men, women, and children from the city. Since the reoccupation of the place by our own people there were found soldiers and citizens who had remained there with the Yankees and had been employed by them in various occupations. When women and children were driven out by the heartless brute Sherman, and were forced to make their way to some place of refuge, those who remained subjected themselves, in my opinion, to the suspicion of treason. Acting upon this opinion I ordered Colonel Glenn, commandant of the post, to arrest all such and send them here. In accordance with these instructions arrests have been made and some eight or ten persons are now here. I deem it important that an example should be made in these cases, not only because they deserve punishment, but as a warning against others tempted hereafter to a similar course. With such as are deserters and absentees from the army I shall deal in the military courts—if I ever get one—and those who are not connected with the army I shall have turned over to the civil authorities. In the absence of the district attorney, who is cut off in Savannah, I have employed Hon. E. A. Nisbet to undertake the prosecution of the cases. I selected Judge Nisbet because of his known ability as a lawyer and his earnest devotion to our cause, and from the fact that he was known to the Department. Judge Nisbet will enter at once upon the duty, and will accept such compensation for his services as the Department shall award him.

I trust that my course in the matter will meet your approval, and that it may result in good to the country.

I am, with sentiments of sincere regard, very truly, yours, &c.,  
HOWELL COBB,  
*Major-General.*

[Indorsement.]

DECEMBER 31, 1864.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL:

Inform General Cobb that his course of proceeding is deemed judicious, and meets the approval of the Department. He can better judge than myself what measure of severity is advisable in the state of feeling prevailing in the country, and his judgment is relied on.

J. A. S.,  
*Secretary.*

HDQRS. GEORGIA RESERVES AND MIL. DIST. OF GEORGIA,  
Macon, Ga., December 22, 1864.

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va. :*

GENERAL: I respectfully return the inclosed paper, and beg leave to remark that the circumstances which led to the appointment and assignment of General Gartrell are as well understood by the Department as myself, and I do not see how I am to relieve him from his present position. I am not surprised at the request of General Winder to that



effect, for he expressed his regret that General Gartrell should be assigned to that command before he ever entered upon the duties of it, and he has been unceasing in his efforts to get clear of him. If General Gartrell had been the equal in every respect of General R. E. Lee, I have no doubt the same complaints would have been made, for General Winder was determined in advance not to be satisfied with the arrangement. I beg to state frankly to you why, in my opinion, General Winder is so querulous in reference both to the reserves and General Gartrell. Unfortunately there is a mutual dislike and distrust between him and these troops, and each party is conscious of the existence of that feeling on the part of the other. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the facts which gave rise to these feelings to pronounce judgment upon their respective opinions. The objection of General Winder to General Gartrell arises from the respect and confidence of the former in Colonel Forno, whom he prefers in command of the troops. Colonel Forno is an excellent officer and deserves this confidence, and I am not surprised that General Winder is anxious to retain in so important a position one so worthy to hold it.

In the foregoing simple statement you have a solution of the various complaints, suggestions, &c., which are being daily forwarded to you from General Winder. I will add that I have repeatedly called upon General Winder to make his charges and specifications against officers or men of the reserves, and I would have them properly and promptly investigated, but to this hour not one has been made to me.

It is due to General Gartrell to say that he is now temporarily relieved from duty by a dangerous wound received at the head of his troops in a late fight near Savannah, and it is equally due to his troops to say that they have shown themselves in the presence of the enemy worthy of the respect and confidence of their country.

With these remarks I beg leave to say that my relationship, both personal and official, with General Winder has been pleasant in every respect. At the same time I am free to say that he is not more anxious to get rid of the reserves than I am to get rid of his complaints against them, and it will therefore be most acceptable and agreeable to me to have any arrangement made by which the reserves shall no longer be in anywise connected with the general and his prisons.

I am, general, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

HOWELL COBB,  
*Major-General.*

[Inclosure.]

CAMP SUMTER, *Andersonville, Ga., October 8, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

GENERAL: Special Orders, No. 108, issued from General Cobb's headquarters, assigns Brig. Gen. L. J. Gartrell to command of the Second Brigade, Georgia Reserves, composed of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Regiments, and directs him to take command of it wherever it may be. This necessarily brings him to me. An officer of this rank will be embarrassing in a command like this. The officer second in command necessarily has duties to perform that a brigadier-general ought not to be expected to perform. Colonel Forno is an excellent officer, and I would be glad to retain him in his present position. The reserves are not suited to the guarding of prisoners, and I would be



glad to change them for other troops. I had some of the militia, and I found them much better suited for the service and much more reliable. Will it be possible to relieve me of the brigadier-general?

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. H. WINDER,  
*Brigadier-General.*

[First indorsement.]

NOVEMBER 7, 1864.

Respectfully submitted to Secretary of War:

I concur in the views of General Winder, as given within, and ask authority to order as requested.

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

[Second indorsement.]

NOVEMBER 10, 1864.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL:

General Gartrell cannot be relieved from command of his brigade. This complaint had better be communicated to General Cobb, and he asked to consider and remove it.

J. A. S.,  
*Secretary.*

[Third indorsement.]

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*November 16, 1864.*

Respectfully referred to Major-General Cobb.

His attention is invited to the preceding indorsement.

By command of the Secretary of War:

H. L. CLAY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 23, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Unless Wheeler's command of twelve so-called brigades can be properly organized into divisions, under good commanders, a large portion of it had better be dismounted forthwith; its conduct in front of the enemy, and its depredations on private property, render it worse than useless. I regret being unable to recommend for promotion any of General Wheeler's brigadiers, but hope that if two or three capable major-generals cannot be had, promotions might be made for the purpose indicated from General Hampton's cavalry. Brigadier-General Dearing, of that command, attracted my attention last summer as a promising officer; I would be glad to have him.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

CHARLESTON, *December 23, 1864.*

(Received 24th.)

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Your attention is respectfully invited to the fact that orders for the collecting of subsistence stores and forage cannot be executed unless the agents of bureau at Richmond be instructed to fill the requisitions of the commissary and quartermaster in this army. Please give this matter your early attention.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

[First indorsement.]

DECEMBER 24, 1864.

Quartermaster-General and Commissary-General, for special attention. Every effort should be made to fill the requisitions.

J. A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*

[Second indorsement.]

DECEMBER 24, 1864.

Respectfully returned.

I do not understand the dispatch, as all officers of this department collecting forage in South Carolina and Georgia are instructed to furnish General Beauregard's command, and no complaint has recently come to me. I think the dispatch is not written out as sent by General Beauregard.

A. R. LAWTON,  
*Quartermaster-General.*

[Third indorsement.]

Respectfully returned.

Organic law, as well as the enactments of this Confederacy, warrant the commanding general of an army defending a country to impress subsistence necessary for his troops, and General Beauregard has the power to enforce the impressments made by his order, and it is to be inferred, under present circumstances, that he has the good will of the people generally to aid him. The country his army is depending on is plentiful compared with Virginia, where General Lee's army is operating, and the latter can get nothing except from the collections of this bureau; but the officers of this bureau can no longer impress, because they have no power to enforce it, and the people will not surrender their stores. Virginia is ravaged and drained, and General Lee's army must be supplied from the Carolinas by what the bureau officers can collect. Recently General Beauregard required the chief commissary of subsistence to furnish 15,000 men with sixty days' rations, and the order to assist in supplying Virginia was stated by the chief commissary of subsistence to be impossible. He was directed to send on what had been ordered for here, which would still have left General Beauregard's army in far better condition than was or is General Lee's. General Beauregard can exercise his legal powers to supply his army. The circumstances have arisen for which the law was made. This bureau has for a great while been stating that, under the existing condition of the



Treasury, the absence of legal sanction or power to enforce impressments by bureau officers, the temper of the people, and legal proceedings on the subject, supplies were being consumed much faster than collected. What is now being gathered by officers of this bureau must be distributed in proportion to general necessities in relation to the facilities of armies in different localities for self support, under the authority by law vested in the general commanding.

L. B. NORTHPROP,  
*Commissary-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,  
*Cheves' House, December 23, 1864.*

Major-General McLaws,  
*Commanding Division, &c.:*

GENERAL: General Anderson has just returned from flag of truce to Savannah. He saw a number of officers, and from all he could learn he is of the opinion that Sherman will not rest long in Savannah, but advance into South Carolina very soon. He was told that the city would be garrisoned by Foster, who arrived in the city yesterday.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

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The State of South Carolina, at a General Assembly, begun and holden at Columbia on the fourth Monday of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and thence continued by divers adjournments to the twenty-third of December, in the same year.

AN ACT to repeal all acts and parts of acts heretofore passed by the Legislature of this State on the subject of furnishing slave labor on the coast and fortifications within this State, and otherwise to provide for furnishing such labor.

SECTION I. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, now met and sitting in General Assembly, and by the authority of the same,* That, in order to furnish the necessary slave labor to work on the coast of this State and the fortifications within the limits of the same, there shall be organized a force consisting of male slaves between the ages of eighteen and fifty years, liable under existing laws to road duty, not exceeding in number at any one time of one-tenth part of said slaves, to serve for the term of twelve months from the date of their impressment, subject however to the right of their respective owners at the expiration of every three months of the said term of service to substitute other slaves so liable to road duty in their place, and who by such substitution shall constitute a portion or the whole of said force, as the case may be, from the respective dates of such substitution; this force shall be raised by general impressment throughout the whole State whenever His Excellency the Governor may order or direct such agent of the State as he may appoint to make such impressment under the provisions of this act. But if the impressment of a less number than one-tenth would produce should be found to be sufficient, then the impressment shall be made on the State at large according to one uniform rule of equality, to be prescribed in the order of the Governor directing such impressment to be made by the



State agent, and whatever number greater than ten shall be so prescribed as a divisor to make the apportionment of no fractions of slaves either below or above such number selected as a divisor shall be considered or taken into the apportionment unless it is at least one-fifth or more of such divisor, and in such case the fraction of one-fifth shall be taken by requiring the party owning it to furnish one hand for two months, with the same right of substitution as in case of whole numbers, and the same rule as to fractions shall be observed when the number ten is used as the divisor in making the apportionment.

SEC. II. It shall be the duty of His Excellency the Governor to appoint a State agent, such agent to be selected from the class of persons not liable to conscription in the Confederate military service, if the services of a suitable agent can be secured from said class, who shall receive for his services the pay of a lieutenant-colonel of infantry, as allowed by the Confederate Government, during his employment, to be paid to him monthly by the State.

SEC. III. That it shall be the duty of the State agent aforesaid, immediately on the reception of any order from His Excellency the Governor, to make impressment of slaves under this act, to extend such order to the sheriffs of the several judicial districts of the State, whose duty it shall be to execute the same in their respective districts, and it shall be the duty of the commissioners of roads and the authorities of incorporated cities, towns, and villages, and such other person or persons as the State agent may appoint, to furnish to the sheriffs of their respective districts within thirty days after the passage of this act a full and correct return of all male slaves liable to road duty within their respective jurisdictions, which returns shall be based on the statements furnished by the owners of such slaves, sworn to in writing, such statements to be returned to the secretary of the board of commissioners of roads, and by them kept on file; and it shall be the duty of the said sheriffs, upon being notified by the said State agent of any order for the impressment of slaves as aforesaid, thirty days before the summons, all owners liable under such order to furnish slaves to have the slaves so liable at the respective depots and at the proper time, giving ten days' notice thereof to the owners for transportation to the place of labor as may be directed by said order; and the said sheriffs shall in their respective districts, with the assistance of a respectable loyal citizen, to be chosen by the owner of each slave, if he will, and if not, by the sheriff, appraise said slaves on their delivery at said depots, and in case of their disagreement they shall select a third citizen of like qualification, whose decision shall be final, and give receipts to the owners for them, specifying in said receipts the names of the slaves, the valuation put upon them, and term of service for which they are impressed, a duplicate of which receipts shall also be furnished by the several sheriffs to the State agent; and if upon the day and at the place so notified any owner of slaves so liable shall fail to have them in readiness, then the sheriffs of the district where such owner resides shall immediately arrest such slaves, and the cost of such arrests, subsistence of slaves, and transportation to be paid by the defaulting owner, and to be taxed and collected as other costs now are by law, and when there is such default, failure, or refusal to send slaves, after due summons to the owners by the sheriff, the slaves of such defaulters shall labor and serve on the military defenses for twice the period of time specified in the call made by the Governor, provided that the slaves thus furnished shall not be detailed for any other service than such work as is intimately connected with the defense of this State.



SEC. IV. That the State agent may, with the consent of the Governor, appoint such other sub-agents as may be found necessary and proper to the execution of the provisions of this act. But in no case shall he appoint any person as such agent who is liable to conscription in the Confederate service and physically able for active service in the army. Such agents shall be paid by the State eight dollars per day for their services at the end of each month.

SEC. V. The respective sheriffs for their services rendered under the provisions of this act shall be paid by the State eight dollars per day whilst actually engaged in the discharge of said duties, besides their costs for arrests and fees for dieting prisoners so arrested in pursuance thereof, which latter shall be paid by the owners of said prisoners.

SEC. VI. That the pay for such slaves shall be eleven dollars per month, and be furnished with sufficient rations and two suits of clothes during the term of one year, or one suit of clothes every six months, including two pairs of shoes and one hat for the year, by the State, or a fair commutation in money for the clothing if furnished by the owner. And that it shall be the duty of the State agent to certify the pay bills for the pay of the said slaves for their respective owners, specifying the number of said slaves, the time they have been employed, and the names of the owners, which bills so certified shall entitle the owners by themselves, or their order indorsed thereon, to receive the same from the State, and the said bills shall be forwarded to the sheriffs of the respective districts where the owners reside, to be delivered by them to the said owners.

SEC. VII. That the commissioners of roads, city, town, and village authorities, for neglect of any of the duties required of them respectively by this act, shall be liable to indictment, and upon conviction fined in a sum not exceeding one hundred dollars. And that any sheriff who shall neglect or refuse to discharge any of the duties required of him by this act, shall, upon conviction as for a misdemeanor, in addition to liability on his official bond to any person who may have been aggrieved by such default.

SEC. VIII. That it shall be the duty of the State agent to visit all the camps of the laborers, to examine their condition, to observe their treatment and discipline, to examine their food both as to quality and quantity, and to see that it is the proper ration for each, as is allowed by law, as well as their clothing, and especially to inform himself as to their medical and surgical attendance and care, and whenever required to report the same to the Governor, and particularly at the conclusion of the term of service of each levy, it shall be his duty to make such report to the Governor, in whose possession it may be open for examination by the owners of the said slaves; and it shall also be his duty to prohibit the infliction of corporal punishment by one slave upon another, and shall require that if a slave is to be punished for any default of his duty, the punishment shall be administered by a white man in authority. And for the neglect or refusal of said agent to discharge faithfully any of his duties as prescribed by this act, he shall be subject to removal from office by the Governor as well as liable to an action for damages by any individual who has been injured by his negligence or default of duty.

SEC. IX. Transportation shall be furnished by the State agent for slaves impressed under this act, at the expense of the State, going to or returning from the place of labor home and in returning, also with sufficient rations to last them home, and transportation shall be furnished in like manner for substitutes in going to and returning from



said place of labor. And an account shall be kept by the said agent of all expenditures incurred and paid by the State in providing the slave labor aforesaid and in carrying this act into full execution, which shall be annually deposited by him in the office of the Governor of the State, to be presented or proffered by him as a claim by this State against the Confederate Government for payment. And that the funds necessary to pay all expenditures incurred under the provisions of this act shall be paid out of the funds of the public treasury, not otherwise appropriated, upon the presentation of the pay bills signed by the State agent.

SEC. X. It shall be the duty of the Governor and the State agent to have all slaves returned to their owners upon the expiration of their term of service for which they were impressed, and the owners of such as may have been killed or died from disease during their term of service shall not be liable to supply their places with other slaves for the unexpired portion of said term of service.

SEC. XI. If the Confederate Government should make any impressment of slave labor over and above what is to be furnished by the provisions of this act, in view of greater emergencies than are contemplated in this act, then and in that event the owners of such slaves shall have credit as for so much labor furnished for coast duty.

SEC. XII. That all acts and parts of acts heretofore passed by the Legislature of this State on the subject of furnishing labor on the coast or fortifications be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

In the Senate and House the twenty-third day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four, and the eighty-ninth year of the sovereignty and independence of the State of South Carolina.

W. D. PORTER.

*President of the Senate.*

R. B. BOYLSTON,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE,

*Columbia, December 26, 1864.*

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of an act entitled "An act to repeal all acts and parts of acts heretofore passed by the Legislature of this State on the subject of furnishing slave labor on the coast and fortifications within this State, and otherwise to provide for furnishing such labor," ratified the twenty-third day of December, Anno Domini 1864, and now on file in this office.

Given under my hand and the seal of the State.

[SEAL.]

WM. R. HUNTT,

*Secretary of State.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 24, 1864.*

(Received 7 p. m.)

President DAVIS:

The following telegram sent to General Hood yesterday is communicated for your information:

I regret to inform you that no re-enforcements can possibly be sent you from any quarter. General Taylor has no troops to spare, and every available man in Georgia and South Carolina is required to oppose Sherman, who is not on a raid but an



important campaign. Should you be unable to gain any material advantage on Tennessee with your present means you must retire at once behind the Tennessee River, and come with or send to Augusta by best and quickest routes all forces not absolutely required to hold defensive line referred to.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

SPECIAL ORDERS, }  
No. 305. }

ADJT. AND INSP. GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Richmond, Va., December 24, 1864.*

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XI. Maj. Gen. D. H. Hill, Provisional Army, C. S., will report without delay to General G. T. Beauregard, commanding, &c., for assignment to duty at or near Charleston, S. C.

\* \* \* \* \*

By command of the Secretary of War:

JNO. WITHERS,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

CHARLESTON, *December 24, 1864.*

Major-General McLaws:

March your command without delay to Pocotaligo, leaving only such guards at Hardeeville as you may deem necessary. At Pocotaligo you will receive further instructions. The forces at Grahamville and Coosawhatchie will remain for the present.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, }  
No. 9. }

HDQRS. MCLAWS' DIVISION,  
*Hardeeville, December 24, 1864.*

I. Col. J. C. Fiser, Provisional Army, C. S., is assigned to the command of a brigade composed of the following troops: First Georgia Regulars, Col. R. A. Wayne commanding; Symons' Regiment of Reserves, Col. W. R. Symons commanding; Twenty-seventh Georgia Battalion and Cobb Guards, Maj. A. L. Hartridge commanding.

The commanding officers of the above-named organizations will report to Col. J. C. Fiser without delay.

By order of Major-General McLaws:

R. W. B. ELLIOTT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

POCOTALIGO, *December 24, 1864.*

Major-General McLaws:

General Jones left this morning for Charleston. I have orders to resume my old district command [dispatch torn] and locate the troops destined for my command. I do not like to leave here until you come. Deserters report this morning that the enemy contemplated transport-

ing last night part of his force from my immediate front for a landing at Boyd's. I have apprised General Chesnut, and ordered him if he needs them to ask for [re-enforcements]. Please inform me of your movements and when you are likely to be here.

W. B. TALLAFERRO,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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NEAR SAVANNAH, *December 24, 1864.*

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,  
*Charleston:*

Cannot the order for burning mills and rice, corn, and other provisions be reconsidered? The threats of enemy to burn and destroy all property in South Carolina are of such a character if we commence burning enemy will feel justified in continuing. Will it not be better to give them no provocation to burn? What we would burn in Beaufort District would be of little value to enemy.

J. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 25, 1864—8 a. m.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

General Hardee reports that a force of enemy—infantry, artillery, and cavalry—number not known, has moved from Savannah toward the Altamaha River. He has ordered some cavalry to watch and check the column. No report from General Hood since November 28.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

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EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
*Columbia, December 25, 1864.*

His Excellency President DAVIS:

MY DEAR SIR: The accidental circumstance of the delay of Colonel Buist's departure for Richmond enables me to send this note by him. General Preston having informed me that you had been unwell, together with the many matters now pressing upon you, induce me to confine myself at this time to a few brief suggestions. The fall of Savannah has, of course, very much affected the people of this State. The question which naturally presents itself is, why the force which penetrated Georgia cannot penetrate South Carolina. And at this moment it is not an unwillingness to oppose the enemy, but a chilling apprehension of the futility of doing so, which affects the people. I am endeavoring, and I will remove that chill and dispel that apprehension; but upon you must I rely for that material aid which will assist the people of the State to make good their determined opposition. As rapidly as it can be done I am reorganizing the militia; its effective force I cannot yet estimate—I hope larger than has been supposed. If you will send us aid (although for the moment it falls short of effectual aid), if it be that aid which now foreshadows other aid to come, that spirit can be vitalized which when aroused to a certain extent supplies the place of numbers, and is of itself strength.



Of any force which you may send I am very anxious that the brigade of General Conner, a part of General Kershaw's division, should be a part of it, and sent as soon as possible. I would be much rejoiced if General Kershaw with his division could be spared to us. But if that is not practicable I greatly desire the brigade of General Conner. The presence of General Conner with his brigade would greatly tend to inspire confidence and excite hope.

You, of course, are much better informed of the number of troops on our coast and in the city of Charleston than I am. You are also aware of the necessities at other points which may control you; but it is considered that the force on the coast is not sufficient to make effectual resistance to General Sherman. If that is so, Charleston falls; if Charleston falls, Richmond follows. Richmond may fall and Charleston be saved, but Richmond cannot be saved if Charleston falls. If now I urge upon you the concentration of all available strength for the defense of Charleston I will be acquitted of all selfish consideration when I venture to remind you that two years ago, when it seemed as if then a necessity was about to arise in which you would be forced to decide between Charleston and Richmond, I gave you then the assurance of my support, however feeble, in sustaining you in the destruction of Charleston if it would accomplish the end we then desired. Now, however, I presume that, as between these places, there is no doubt that, if unable to save both, Charleston is that which from every consideration we must prefer to save. To save it we must have troops. It is in this connection that I must bring also to your attention the vital consequence of attending at once to Branchville as a place to be fortified and to which troops should be sent. Its strategic importance I am sure is too manifest to require from me any urgency in bringing it to your notice. There are no works there which are of the slightest consequence. I understand surveys are now making; it is difficult to understand why they were not made before this time. You will not understand from this that I wish to indulge in censure or criticism, but to indicate to you that a position of the utmost consequence is not prepared for resistance to the attempt which may be reasonably supposed will be made to possess it. If that attempt should be successful our future will be greatly clouded.

In view of these difficulties I must freely confer with you as to the expediency of adding the services of such State officers as are connected with the State government to those which the engineer officers of the Confederate Government may be now endeavoring to render. I am sure that, with the spirit which prompts me and them, there cannot be conflict or confusion, and that great success will be gained which results from united action. In this connection also suffer me to make another suggestion. The number of detailed men in the State is considerable. It has been supposed that they are not liable to militia duty. It matters little how that may be, except in this respect: that their absence from all appearance of military service by so much diminishes the influences with which I am now attempting to quicken and excite our people not only to effective resistance, but to that confidence in the success of that resistance which will assist me in my efforts and sustain them in their conduct. If when the militia was paraded and inspected the detailed men were also to be paraded, I am quite sure of the effect. It would be no interference with the command of them by Confederate officers; it would not interfere with their business, for it would not occur more than once or twice, and then only for a few hours, and the effect would be, I am sure, beneficial.



These suggestions I make to you with the conviction that you will assist me in every way to develop now all of our resources to aid you in the task that is before you and us. There are other matters concerning which I will at an early day communicate with you.

I have the honor to be, &c.,

A. G. MAGRATH.

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CHARLESTON, *December 25, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER:

Suspend the order for burning mills, corn, rice, and other provisions for the present.

H. W. FEILDEN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY DIVISION,  
*Smith's House, December 25, 1864.*

Lieut. M. G. HUDSON,  
*Aide-de-Camp :*

LIEUTENANT: General Wheeler told me verbally two days ago that he wished me to take charge of and picket the line between Union Creek and New River bridge, and that he would send me, in addition to my present force, 400 cavalry to perform the duty. Colonel Pointer's regiment, of Allen's brigade, has reported to me, but not the Second Tennessee. General Allen left without telling me what portion of the line was being picketed by his command. I was under the impression that he was covering the river between Izard's and Screven's Ferry, but I have just received a note from General Young asking me to move the left of my line down to Huger's place, as he was picketing six miles with only fifty men. What force is now picketing the line between Screven's Ferry and New River bridge? Please give me all the information you can relative to the manner in which the line from Izard's to New River bridge is being picketed. I would also respectfully request a written order defining exactly the duty I am to perform and when I am to commence performing it. I would also like to be informed what quartermaster at Hardeeville my division quartermaster is to call on for corn. Colonel Pointer has reported to me, and has not a single wagon. How can he subsist his men and horses? Everything for them must come from Hardeeville, and it is absolutely necessary that he should have wagons. I am depending entirely on the major-general commanding to assist me in getting corn for my animals; without his prompt assistance they must suffer. I have ordered Colonel White to extend his line to Clydesdale Creek, and Colonel Pointer to cover the line from Clydesdale Creek to Screven's Ferry. Beyond this I have and shall do nothing until I hear from the major-general commanding and until the Second Tennessee reports. My horses have had no corn for four or five days. Colonel Pointer told me this morning that several horses had already died from eating rice. Please urge upon the general the urgent necessity of supplying my command immediately with corn.

Respectfully requesting an answer at your earliest convenience, I am, lieutenant, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. ANDERSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*



HDQRS. GEORGIA RESERVES AND MIL. DIST. OF GEORGIA,  
*Macon, Ga., December 25, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD, *Charleston, S. C. :*

GENERAL: The telegraphic wires work so badly between Millen and this point that we shall have to rely for the present upon the courier-line. I am using every effort to remedy the difficulties on the line. This morning I learn through the Augusta papers of the evacuation of Savannah. I had hoped to have received earlier and more reliable information of what was occurring with our forces in and about Savannah, but have so far heard nothing except through the newspapers.

The fall of Savannah thus closing that portion of Sherman's campaign, leads to the inquiry of the enemy's next movement. Of this you are far more able to judge than I am, but I venture to call your attention to the probabilities of a movement upon Southwestern Georgia. The removal of the prisoners back to Andersonville, which has been effected, adds to the inducement for a demonstration in that quarter. Kilpatrick's cavalry, being now relieved from Sherman's army, can go in any direction, and already we have reports of its moving in that direction. You are aware that I have no force to meet even a cavalry raid if made in any force, and hence I call your attention to the subject.

In the upper portion of the State I have some cavalry commands, composed principally of militia and deserters and absentees, organized under the authority of General Hood while that section of the State was in the occupancy of the enemy. The strength of these commands I do not know, as they have not yet reported to me, as I have required them to do. When purged of the men who belong to the Confederate service I suppose the various organizations will be about 1,200 strong, and it was with this force, with such aid as I could give from the reserve artillery, that I proposed to drive the enemy from Dalton. I state these facts, and inclose a copy of my general order in reference to these troops, that you may be informed of the condition the State is in, in a military point of view.

About 1,000 men, composed of Colonel Hood's cavalry and a portion of the militia, under General McKay, were at the Altamaha bridge, on the Savannah and Gulf Railroad, at my last advices, on the 19th instant. All the militia that were fit for field service were sent forward to Savannah from this point, and the remainder, composed of old men unable to do field duty, were organized and furloughed by Governor Brown until further orders.

The information from the Army of Tennessee, which I gather from the papers, and the dispatch I forward to you to-day from Colonel Brent containing the curious inquiry of General S. D. Lee, cause apprehensions of serious disasters in that quarter. I am more and more persuaded of the vital importance of increasing our army by the volunteer principle of which I have spoken so freely to you. The number of men whom it seems impossible to obtain by conscription, but who could be got in the way I have proposed, would greatly increase our army.

I should add that General Hood has called for all the arms and ammunition at this place to be forwarded to him, which has been done, reserving a very small portion of each.

I am, general, very respectfully, yours, &c.,

HOWELL COBB,  
*Major-General.*

P. S.—Your boxes received and stored with the depository here.

H. C.



[Indorsement.]

JANUARY 14, 1865.

Return to the Secretary of War.

Subsequent events answer the main points in this letter.

J. D.

[Inclosure.]

GENERAL ORDERS, { HDQRS. GA. RES. AND MIL. DIST. OF GA.,  
No. 30. } *Macon, Ga., December 7, 1864.*

I. The following military organizations, raised under the authority of Governor Brown, and afterward received into the Confederate service by General J. B. Hood—to wit, the regiment commanded by Colonel Findlay, the battalions commanded by Majors Beall, Murkinson, Graham, McCallum, and Ledford, and the battalion lately commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Glenn, of Pickens County (whose commission was revoked because he was reported to Governor Brown as a deserter), under the person who may have been elected to command it—will be maintained for sixty days from date in discharge of such duties as they may be called upon to perform.

II. After the expiration of the sixty days all men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five subject to conscription will report to the proper enrolling officer for assignment to the army in the field; those liable either to militia duty or to service in the reserves will remain in the present organizations.

III. All persons now in these organizations absent without leave from the Confederate Army will return promptly to their commands with the assurance that their cases will be recommended to the most favorable consideration of their respective commanding generals, in view of the services rendered by them in these organizations; and to carry out this object the officers under whom they have been serving will furnish each one with a statement of his services. After this opportunity further indulgence to absentees will not be granted.

IV. The officers in command of these organizations are enjoined to be vigilant in the arrest of all deserters and absentees, and will forward them without delay to the conscript camp at this place.

By command of Maj. Gen. Howell Cobb:

R. J. HALLETT,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
*Macon, Ga., December 7, 1864.*

I. The above orders of Major-General Cobb have been submitted to my inspection, and I concur in the order that the persons in said organizations who are subject to my command as militiamen remain in the same organization with those subject to his command as Confederate reserves till further orders, and I direct all such organizations to report to General Cobb, and obey his orders in future as they have heretofore obeyed the orders of General Hood, till further directions from these headquarters.

II. All persons in said organizations who belong to the State Line or the company of State scouts who are now absent without leave will report immediately to their respective commands. Those who obey



this order by reporting to their commanding officers, or, if they cannot reach them, to these headquarters, within the next twenty days, will receive a free pardon, except the deduction of their wages for the time they have been absent and one month's additional deduction.

III. All other persons not in said organizations who are so absent without leave will also report to their respective commands within twenty days, and will be excused from any degrading punishment.

JOSEPH E. BROWN.

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HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA,

Charleston, S. C., December 26, 1864.

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond :*

GENERAL: I have the honor to inclose herewith for your information a copy of a communication of the 17th instant from Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, U. S. Army, demanding the surrender of Savannah and its dependent forts, and a copy of my reply to that demand.\*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. J. HARDEE,

*Lieutenant-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, S. C., December 26, 1864.

Major-General MCLAWS,

*Pocotaligo :*

(Through Major-General Jones.)

Hold your command for the present at Pocotaligo. Take immediate command of the line from Hardeeville to Pocotaligo. Gather in all supplies in the country. Have line of Combahee examined by staff officer.

W. J. HARDEE,

*Lieutenant-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, December 26, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER,

*Hardeeville :*

It is intended to hold on to line from Hardeeville to Pocotaligo. It will be necessary for you to hold on to New River.

W. J. HARDEE,

*Lieutenant-General.*

---

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,  
Hardeeville, December 26, 1864—11.30 a. m.

Col. J. W. CALDWELL,

*Commanding Brigade :*

COLONEL: The major-general commanding directs that you will move with your command to some point near Robertsville where forage can be procured. This order is given on account of the scarcity of forage here. You will use the most diligent efforts to keep the men from straggling on the march. On selecting a camp you will establish



and keep constantly a good camp guard. Keep the men closely in camp, enforce the most rigid discipline, use every effort to prevent depredations upon citizens, have regular daily drills, and see that no forage is wasted, requiring your quartermaster to make proper issues regularly. You will draw your subsistence stores from Robertsville.

Respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,

M. G. HUDSON,  
*First Lieutenant and Aide-de-Camp.*

CIRCULAR ORDERS, }  
No. —. }

HEADQUARTERS LEWIS' BRIGADE,  
*Purysburg, S. C., December 26, 1864.*

In obedience to orders from the major-general commanding, the command will be in readiness to move this evening to a point near Robertsville.

Commanding officers are specially enjoined to keep their men in column and allow no straggling whatever. Arriving in camp a good and efficient camp guard will be established and the men required to remain closely in camp, enforcing the most rigid discipline. The regular stated roll-calls will be held in the presence of an officer, and all delinquents faithfully reported.

Depredations of any kind whatever are strictly prohibited, and any one caught committing same will be dealt with accordingly. The commissary will supply subsistence, and the quartermaster make regular issues of forage, and no departure from this order will be made under any circumstances whatever. The colonel commanding feels satisfied that all officers and men will faithfully bear him out in the execution of this order when they are informed that the reputation of themselves and their State is now in question.

It is the wish of the major-general commanding to place us off to ourselves, and see for himself whether it is this brigade that is committing all the depredations reported to him through the country or not.

This order will be read to the command when assembled to move.

By order of John W. Caldwell, colonel commanding brigade:

T. E. STAKE,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

*Report of effective strength of General Taliaferro's command, &c., for December 26, 1864.*

Command.	Effective strength.	Remarks.
Companies I and K, 3d South Carolina Cavalry, Captain Seabrook.	109	Near Pocotaligo.
Companies A and B, Kirk's Squadron, Captain Kirk.	105	Depot.
Total Major Jenkins' command.....	214	
5th Georgia Regiment, Major Hundley.....	222	One mile and a half from Coosaw.
32d Georgia Regiment, Lieutenant-Colonel Bacon.	272	Do.
1st Georgia Reserves, Lieutenant-Colonel Neely	119	Do.
3d Georgia Reserves, Colonel Moore.....	397	Coosawhatchie.
47th Georgia Regiment, Captain Thompson....	232	Tullifinny works.
Detachment 1st South Carolina Cavalry, Captain Trezevant.	131	Do.
7th North Carolina Reserves, Lieutenant-Colonel Hancock.	130	Do.
1st South Carolina Militia, Lieutenant-Colonel Herndon.	403	Do.



*Report of effective strength of General Taliaferro's command, &c.—Continued.*

Command.	Effective strength.	Remarks.
Anderson's battery, Lieutenant Hurst.....	112	Coosawhatchie.
Beaufort Artillery, Lieutenant Rhodes.....	108	Do.
Section De Pass' battery, Lieutenant Manget..	53	Do.
Girardey's battery, Captain Girardey.....	108	Coosawhatchie and Tullifinny.
Detachment 3d South Carolina Cavalry, Captain Campbell.	110	One mile rear of Coosawhatchie.
Detachment Mounted South Carolina Reserves, Captain Kay.	66	Do.
Total Colonel Harrison's command.....	2,463	
Company B, 8th Battalion, South Carolina Reserves, Captain Fishburne.	40	Work on Coosawhatchie road.
2d Regiment South Carolina Militia, Lieutenant-Colonel Duncan.	138	Honey Hill.
3d Regiment South Carolina Militia, Lieutenant-Colonel Harrington.	290	Do.
4th Regiment South Carolina Militia, Colonel Ligon.	185	Do.
Charles' battery, Sergeant Williamson .....	81	Do.
Earle's battery, Lieutenant Graham.....	38	Coosawhatchie and Bolan road.
Companies C and E, 3d South Carolina Cavalry, Lieutenants Farr and Jandon.	110	Courier and picket duty.
1st Battalion South Carolina Reserves, Major Ballinger.	149	Bee's Creek.
6th Battalion South Carolina Reserves, Major Meriwether.	295	Do.
Lafayette Artillery, Captain Kanapaux.....	102	Do.
Detachment of Charles' battery, Lieutenant Jones.	17	Do.
2d Battalion South Carolina Reserves, Major Barnette.	136	Dawson's Bluff.
Detachment Lafayette Artillery.....	12	Do.
Total General Chesnut's command .....	1,593	

## RECAPITULATION.

Major Jenkins' command.....	214
Colonel Harrison's command.....	2,463
General Chesnut's command .....	1,593
Grand total.....	4,270

CHARLESTON, *December 27, 1861.*

General S. COOPER:

General Hood desires me to visit Army of Tennessee. Colonel Brent, my chief of staff, at Montgomery, says my presence is required west, owing to some confusion in various matters and want of supplies and ammunition. Unless otherwise instructed I will leave here as soon as I can make definite arrangements for future operations in this State.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

*General.*CHARLESTON, S. C., *December 27, 1861—11.30 a. m.*

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General, Richmond, Va.:*

In event of having to abandon the coast, and enemy's movements will permit a choice of base of operations, shall it be toward North Carolina or Georgia? Latter is true base for forces of this department, but views of War Department may require otherwise.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,

*General.*



## HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE WEST,

December 27, 1864.

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,

*Comdg. Dept. of S. C., Ga., and Fla., Charleston, S. C.:*

GENERAL: I am instructed by the commanding general to direct as follows:

First. That you make silently and cautiously all necessary preparations for the evacuation of Charleston should it become necessary, taking at the same time the proper steps to save the garrisons of the different works. Detailed and confidential instructions should be given as to the spiking, by means of rat-tail files, all heavy guns and such others as cannot be moved; for disabling carriages, chassis, and batteries.

Second. That the infantry and cavalry of your command be organized forthwith into brigades and divisions, under good commanders; that all the troops be supplied with knapsacks, haversacks, canteens, blankets, and shoes, and that ample transportation be supplied, as also ammunition for small-arms and light batteries.

Third. That all light batteries be organized into battalions of three batteries each, one battalion being attached to each division, the others in reserve, under the chief of artillery.

The battalions attached to divisions, although under the orders of the division commanders in battle and on the march, will nevertheless make all their returns and reports to the chief of artillery, and all correspondence relative to the organization, equipment, and interior management of battalions will pass through the same channel. Such batteries will only be under the orders of the chief of artillery when in permanent camp or winter quarters. The commanding general also directs that should field officers be needed for the battalions you will apply by telegraph to the War Department and request immediate attention.

I have the honor to be, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. M. OTEY,

*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

CHARLESTON, December 27, 1864.

Hon. J. A. SEDDON,

*Secretary of War:*

Florida has been cut off in great part from these headquarters, and needs an officer of experience to command there. General Jones can be spared for this purpose. Will you order him?

W. J. HARDEE,

*Lieutenant-General.*

---

POCOTALIGO, December 27, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER,

*Hardeeville:*

Direct a detachment from your command, consisting of four commissioned officers and forty men, to proceed at once to Ferebee's place, between Great Swamp and Grahamville, there to meet S. F. O'Neill, of commissary department, to assist in collecting cattle.

L. McLAWS,

*Major-General, Commanding.*



POCOTALIGO, *December 27, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Hardeeville:*

I am directed by General Hardee to assume command of all the troops between the Savannah River and this point. Order General P. M. B. Young to proceed forthwith to Grahamville with his brigade and take command at that point.

L. McLAWS,  
*Major-General, Commanding.*

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HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,  
*Hardeeville, December 27, 1864.*

Col. T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General:*

COLONEL: I dispatched to Lieutenant-General Hardee a day or two past to know if he would permit me to withdraw my picket-line to or near this place. Yesterday I received a dispatch (which suppose was an answer) to hold on to New River, as it was intended to hold the line from Hardeeville to Pocotaligo. I wish to know if it would not answer for my line to extend from New River bridge to Pringle Smith's plantation, on Savannah River? This would shorten my line and enable me to blockade the roads below that line. Please answer by telegraph.

Very respectfully, colonel, your obedient servant,

J. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA,  
*Charleston, December 29, 1864.*

Respectfully returned to Major-General Wheeler:

The authority to shorten his line, within asked for, has been given him by telegraph.

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

---

CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY,  
*Macon, Ga., December 27, 1864.*

The president reached Macon yesterday. To-day he had a meeting with Mr. Purse, the only director of the company now in Macon. After full conversation with Mr. Adams, superintendent, it was

*Resolved*, First, in relation to the railroad, that it is expedient and proper that the road be repaired down to Gordon, and thence to Midway, on the Milledgeville Branch, and then that the Eatonton Branch be repaired up to Eatonton. By this means two passages across the State can be secured, viz, one of thirty-five miles, from Midway to Mayfield, and one of twenty-two miles, from Eatonton to Madison. It is expedient to repair the Augusta and Savannah Railroad down to or a little below Thomas' Station. Such portion as above specified to be worked with engines and cars.



Such is the damaged condition of the road below Gordón that it is considered inexpedient at present to attempt the repair of it. In view also of the fact that the enemy with a very large army holds Savaunah, it is considered very unsafe to attempt any further repairs of the road.

*Resolved*, That painful as it is, the employés in the road department must be discharged on the 31st instant, except so many as are indispensably necessary to do the work hereinbefore set forth, and the superintendent is directed to be particular in keeping down the force to the lowest possible point. He is to report to-morrow, or as soon thereafter (before the 31st instant) as he can, the employés who are to be retained.

In relation to the banks:

*Resolved*, That the only officer to be retained in the service besides the Cooks is Mr. T. M. Cunningham.

Considering the necessary curtailments of expense indicated by the preceding, the president voluntarily relinquishes part of his salary to \$8,000 per annum, to begin on the 1st day of January, 1865.

R. R. CUYLER.

RICHMOND, VA., *December 28, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*Charleston, S. C.:*

The Secretary of the Navy represents the value as such, in the Government work-shops at Columbus, Ga., of the naval battalion now at Green Pond, and their rapidly diminishing numbers, that it is suggested the remainder be returned as soon as possible to their former employment at Columbus.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

CHARLESTON, *December 28, 1864.*

(Received 10.30 29th.)

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

General Cobb reports railroad from Macon to Milledgeville will be completed to-morrow. He urges completion of telegraph line from Augusta to Atlanta, the one via Millen being unreliable.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

CHARLESTON, *December 28, 1864.*

(Received 10.30 29th.)

General S. COOPER:

My presence being required immediately in western part of my present command, I respectfully request, on account of interruption in railroad communication, that the order extending the limits of said command to Atlantic coast be recalled. The Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida might be annexed to General Bragg's department.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*



CHARLESTON, *December 28, 1864.*

(Received 10.15 29th.)

General S. COOPER:

The light artillery of this department has been organized into eight battalions of three batteries each, and the following-named artillery officers, the majority of whom are the senior captains in their respective battalions, are recommended for promotion to majors and command the battalions: Capts. G. H. Walter, E. L. Parker, W. K. Bachman, W. E. Earle, H. M. Stuart, J. W. Brooks, J. A. Maxwell, and Lieut. W. H. Kemper. All available artillery officers of rank in this department have been assigned to heavy artillery commands, and will be required with these commands, should they take the field as infantry, except Lieutenant-Colonels Kemper and Jones, to each of whom it is proposed to give two of the above-mentioned battalions as reserves.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. C., GA., AND FLA.,  
No. 311. } *Charleston, S. C., December 28, 1864.*

\* \* \* \* \*

IV. Taliaferro's division, Brigadier-General Taliaferro commanding, is hereby constituted as follows:

Rhett's brigade, Col. Alfred Rhett commanding, consisting of First South Carolina Artillery, Colonel Rhett; Second South Carolina Artillery, Colonel Frederick; First South Carolina Infantry, Colonel Butler.

Anderson's brigade, Col. Edward C. Anderson commanding, composed as follows: Regiment consisting of Twenty-second Georgia Battalion (six companies), Cobb Guard (two companies), Mercer Artillery (one company), Hanleiter's battery (one company); Lucas' battalion, Maj. J. J. Lucas, consisting of three companies; Buist's battalion, Maj. G. L. Buist commanding, consisting of Gilchrist's, Melchers', Mathewes', and Johnson's companies; Manigault's battalion, Major Manigault commanding, consisting of Bonaud's battalion (Companies A, B, C, D, E), Smith's company siege train, Zimmerman's company siege train, and Bridges' company siege train.

The several above-named commands will remain as at present assigned, and make their reports as heretofore, until further orders, but commanders will require such reports and returns from their respective commands as may be necessary to acquaint them with their number, condition, &c.

V. The light batteries of this department will be organized into battalions for field service as follows, the senior officers taking command of the battalions for the present; orders for the assembling of the batteries of each battalion will be issued hereafter:

First Battalion—Walter's battery, Kanapaux's battery, Schulz's battery; Second Battalion—Parker's battery, Wheaton's battery, Le Gardeur's battery; Third Battalion—Bachman's battery, Kanapaux's battery, De Pass' battery; Fourth Battalion—Earle's battery, Girardey's battery, Anderson's battery; Fifth Battalion—Stuart's battery, Wagner's battery, Gaillard's battery; Sixth Battalion—Brooks' battery, Barnwell's battery, Abell's battery; Seventh Battalion—Maxwell's battery, Daniell's battery, Guerard's battery; Eighth Battalion—Dunham's battery, Gamble's battery, Villepigne's battery.



CHARLESTON, *December 28, 1864.*

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The Second Battalion will be assigned to Brigadier-General Taliaferro's division, the Sixth to Major-General McLaws' division, the Seventh to Major-General Wright's division. The First, Third, Fourth, and Fifth Battalions will be the reserve, under command of Lieut. Col. Del. Kemper.

\* \* \* \* \*

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

H. W. FEILDEN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HARDEEVILLE, S. C., December 28, 1864.

General BRAXTON BRAGG,

*Headquarters Armies of the Confederate States:*

DEAR GENERAL: The loss of Savannah I presume you anticipated. I felt convinced myself it could not be held, immediately upon my arrival and learning that no re-enforcements could be expected.

I presume you have been mortified to hear the complaints and charges which have been made against my command. The first charge was that my command straggled. This is partially true, but the great cause was the issuing of an illegal order by General Taylor directing General Clanton to organize all absentees from the army into ninety-days' regiments. This order was, of course, abused, as all illegal orders generally are, and his officers enlisted men directly from my ranks, and this nearly ruined one brigade and had a bad effect upon my entire command. After such action on his part he was so unkind as to heap upon me abuse for the very thing which he (General Taylor) has caused. Of course there was other apparent straggling, always incident to rapid movement while watching or engaging an enemy.

With regard to horse stealing, all was charged to me, while the facts are as follows: My command captured a great number of horses from the enemy which were the property of citizens. All of these horses are being restored to their owners as rapidly as possible. As the enemy advanced I sent officers on in advance to advise citizens to take off their horses and mules. When this duty was neglected I had details drive them off and thus saved them from the enemy. This stock has been or is being returned to the owners when it is possible to do so.

You have no doubt heard that I burnt mills after the enemy had passed. This is false. In my anxiety to save property I placed guards at mills, directing them to remain until the enemy drove them off, and only to fire the mill when they saw it was impossible to remain any longer.

I have positive proof that the country swarmed with organized parties who do not and never did belong to my command. Most of these parties were acting under orders from Governor Brown, but in all their stealing they claimed to belong to Wheeler's cavalry. I now have the names of sixteen organized parties who steal on my credit. I have now run them off, and the difficulty has ceased. Captain Conway, who acted so badly, is not and never was in my command. He was acting under orders from Maj. Norman W. Smith.

I make all these explanations to you as I feel grateful for the kindness you have shown me on so many occasions, and I knew you would regret to see me neglectful. I have made two written applications for a board of officers of rank and standing to investigate the entire matter



and report the facts. The world is getting worse and worse every day. It is astonishing what false representations are made by some parties. I beg, if any representations are made regarding my command, they will be referred to me and not allowed to rest until I am held accountable or am able to prove the charges incorrect.

We were all much shocked at hearing of the President's death, but were much relieved this morning to hear that the report was incorrect.

I hope Hood will meet with success in Tennessee, but reports indicate that we may be disappointed.

With high regard, your obedient servant and friend,

J. WHEELER.

*Field returns showing effective total, total present, and aggregate present, including the troops between Grahamville and the Combahee River.*

Command.	Effective total.	Total present.	Aggregate present.	Remarks.
Fiser's brigade.....				Stationed near Old Pocotaligo.
1st Georgia Regulars.....	199	209	231	
Symons' regiment reserves.....	217	219	244	Not numbered.
27th Georgia Battalion.....	401	447	466	
Total.....	817	875	941	
Chesnut's brigade.....				The total present and aggregate present of this command were not reported; this will be rectified. Stationed at Grahamville.
1st Battalion South Carolina Reserves.....	141			
2d Battalion South Carolina Reserves.....	136			
6th Battalion South Carolina Reserves.....	295			
2d Regiment South Carolina Militia.....	138			
3d Regiment South Carolina Militia.....	290			
4th Regiment South Carolina Militia.....	185			
Company B, 8th South Carolina Reserves.....	40			
Total.....	1,233			
Harrison's brigade.....				Stationed at Coosawhat-chie.
5th Georgia Regiment.....	263	313	341	
32d Georgia Regiment.....	292	304	319	
1st Georgia Reserves.....	166	175	189	
3d Georgia Reserves.....	451	519	559	
47th Georgia Regiment.....	266	304	328	
7th North Carolina Reserves.....	132	240	263	
1st South Carolina Militia.....	402	532	585	
1st South Carolina Cavalry.....	121	140	145	
Detachment South Carolina Cavalry Reserves.....	76	85	91	
Total.....	2,169	2,612	2,820	
Cumming's brigade.....				Stationed at Pocotaligo.
5th Regiment Georgia Reserves.....	394	425	452	
2d Battalion Georgia Reserves.....	46	52	58	
Detachment Athens Battalion.....	28	28	30	
Total.....	468	505	540	
Hardy's brigade.....				Stationed at Pocotaligo.
50th North Carolina Regiment.....	550	627	659	
10th North Carolina Battalion.....	305	320	332	
Total.....	855	947	991	
Total infantry.....	5,542			



Field returns showing effective total, total present, and aggregate present, &c.—Continued.

Command.	Effective total.	Total present.	Aggregate present.	Remarks.
Light artillery:				
Charles' battery .....	98			Grahamville.
Section Lafayette Artillery .....	74			Do.
Section Earle's battery .....	38			Do.
Anderson's battery .....	119	119	122	Coosawhatchie.
Girardey's battery .....	112	112	116	Do.
Beaufort artillery .....	107	121	125	Do.
Section DePass' battery .....	53	59	60	Do.
'Brooks' battery .....	82	87	100	Pocotaligo.
Barnwell's battery .....	74	79	83	Do.
Abell's battery .....	87	88	91	Do.
Section Wagener's battery .....	45	45	47	Do.
Section Earle's battery .....	54	72	74	Do.
Section Kanapaux's battery .....	33	38	39	Do.
Total light artillery .....	976			
Cavalry:				
Companies C and E, 3d South Carolina Cavalry.	110			Grahamville.
Company H and detachments of F, D, and G, 3d South Carolina Cavalry.	110			Coosawhatchie.
Kirk's squadron .....	113	137	143	Pocotaligo.
Company I, 3d South Carolina Cavalry .....	48	60	63	Do.
Company K, 3d South Carolina Cavalry .....	71	78	81	Do.
Company D, 3d South Carolina Cavalry .....	60	65	68	Pocotaligo, and employed as couriers to George's Station.
Total cavalry .....	512			
Grand total .....	7,030			

# HEADQUARTERS,

Pocotaligo, December 28, 1864.

CHARLESTON, December 29, 1864.

His Excellency President DAVIS:

If you will send us aid we can, with the force here, arrest the progress of invasion. General Beauregard tells me he desires the commands of General Hoke and General Johnson. With these, if no others can be spared, we may hold the lower portion of the State, which is threatened. I write more fully by mail, but time is of the first consequence to us of that we have left to spare.

A. G. MAGRATH.

CHARLESTON, December 29, 1864.

General S. COOPER,

Adjutant and Inspector General:

Wheeler's cavalry, I regret to say, is more or less scattered over the country from Alabama to South Carolina. No definite returns can be had. He reports now about 5,000 effective. The number I sent was furnished approximately when [*sic*] I sent to Savannah. Major-



General Martin is in Mississippi in arrest by General Wheeler. Brigadier-General Kelly was killed in Tennessee; Humes is with Wheeler; Jackson's division is with Hood. I will write more fully soon as practicable.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

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RICHMOND, VA., *December 29, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*Charleston, S. C.:*

A telegram just received from Augusta states that General Wright has called for all able-bodied men in the cotton factories. The Secretary of War directs that the artisans shall not be disturbed; they must be kept at work to meet the necessities of the service.

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 29, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

Column of enemy which moved a few days since toward Altamaha bridge, on Gulf railroad, is reported to have returned to Savannah, where Kilpatrick is said to be. Nothing of importance reported from that direction. No report of operations from General Hood since 3d instant.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

WILMINGTON, *December 29, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*Charleston:*

The two battalions I desired to be returned were taken from the regular garrisons of our forts, and their absence embarrasses us much in working the heavy guns. You will observe I do not ask for the infantry. It will be better to send the artillery back, and I have already asked authority to send you other re-enforcements in case you should need them. The fleet has entirely disappeared, and all is quiet here.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

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CHARLESTON, *December 29, 1864.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Hardeeville:*

Lientenant-General Hardee approves your proposition to have your advance line run from New River bridge to Iizard's, and to blockade the roads below that line.

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*



CHARLESTON, *December 29, 1864.*Major-General WHEELER,  
*Hardeeville, S. C.:*

Lose no time in blockading the roads suggested in your telegram of this morning, particularly the road from Screven's Ferry to New River bridge.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*CHARLESTON, *December 29, 1864.*Major-General WHEELER,  
*Hardeeville:*

By direction of General Beauregard you will transfer to the Georgia side of the Savannah River as much of your command as can be dispensed with on Carolina side—say from one-third to one-half.

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

GENERAL ORDERS, }	HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,
No. 7. }	<i>Beaufort District, S. C., December 29, 1864.</i>

I. The continued and grave complaints made by citizens against this command require that the most stringent efforts be used by all officers to prevent the slightest depredations of any character in future.

II. The requirements of General Orders, Nos. 18 and 21, from army headquarters, and all general orders from these headquarters relating to discipline and depredating upon the property of citizens, will be rigidly enforced.

III. No officer or soldier will be permitted to enter a dwelling under any pretense whatever, unless invited by the occupant. Division, brigade, and regimental commanders will bivouac with their troops, and with assistance of their staff officers will see, by close supervision, that no rails are burned, or depredations of any character whatever committed. They will see that proper and regular issues of forage and subsistence are made and no waste allowed. To this end they will require the most vigorous and energetic efforts on the part of commissaries and quartermasters for the procurement of necessary supplies. When the command is without wagons every detail sent out to procure supplies will be under the command of a commissioned officer, who will be held strictly responsible for depredations committed by the detail.

IV. 1. Each division commander will select a regiment, under a strict officer, which shall be used as a provost guard of the division. This regiment will be selected for its general good conduct, and will be retained on this duty only while its conduct is exemplary. Division commanders may at their option detail men from other regiments for this duty whom they deem specially appropriate for that purpose.

2. When on the march the provost guard shall be kept in advance and will leave a guard at every house on the line of march, under a good officer, which guard will not suffer any soldier of this or any other command to take any species of property whatever from the premises. These guards will be relieved by the provost guard of the division next in rear. The guard of the rear division will remain on duty till the rear guard of the command has passed.



3. When in camp guards from this regiment will be stationed at every house within the lines of the division, of sufficient strength to protect the premises.

V. Each division commander will detail two or more officers to serve upon his staff, whose duty shall be to follow in rear of the command and visit every house on the line of march and every house from which forage or rations are procured. They will examine the vouchers given, see that they are of the proper character, and take a note of every complaint made by citizens. These officers will be required to certify in writing every Sunday morning that this duty has been fully complied with. A complete record of all complaints made by citizens will be kept at division headquarters.

VI. 1. The brave officers and men who for three years have fought with me in this sacred cause, facing every danger and enduring every hardship, are not guilty of horse-stealing and destroying property. Foul aspersions have been thrown upon you by the conduct of a few bad men, some of whom may belong in our ranks, but many of whom, falsely claiming identity with this command, hover around your line of march committing depredations in your name, thus throwing the odium of their bad conduct upon you.

2. Besides being my duty to protect citizens and the families of your fellow soldiers, it is also my duty to protect your honor and your fair names, and I am determined at any cost to accomplish these objects.

3. If the base conduct of a few straggling robbers or the vile tongue of slander has clouded your otherwise bright fame, a course of the most scrupulous and irreproachable conduct on your part can alone relieve you. I therefore appeal to every one of my officers and soldiers to aid to their utmost ability in bringing all offenders to justice.

4. Citizens must also assist in this work. If their property is trespassed upon or their horses stolen, they must follow the culprit until means are acquired to secure his arrest, either by procuring aid or by tracing him to the camp. Their complaint should be promptly made to his commanding officer. If full redress is not given, appeal should be made to the next commander, and so on until justice is obtained.

VII. 1. By rigidly enforcing this and other orders from these headquarters on the subject of discipline and depredations, division commanders can render the discipline of their commands perfect. A general court-martial is established in each division, and ample means furnished to relieve the army of disqualified and neglectful officers. Their places can be supplied by meritorious men whom the law admits of being appointed for valor and skill.

2. In holding division commanders strictly responsible for the conduct of their commands, the corps commanders will lend them every aid by assuming the responsibility of ordering any punishment which circumstances may demand. Division will hold brigade commanders strictly responsible; brigade must look to regimental commanders, and they must hold captains to strict account for the conduct of their men. For every breach of discipline some one must be punished. If the officers whose duty it is to punish the offender neglects that duty, his immediate commander must take action against him. Without certain and prompt punishment for every offense or neglect, proper discipline cannot be maintained.

VIII. The spirit of this order will be carried out in all commands less than a division.

J. WHEELER,  
*Major-General.*



## HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

*Hardeeville, December 29, 1864.*

General JOSEPH H. LEWIS,

*Commanding Brigade Cavalry:*

GENERAL: Inclosed is an order for you to move with your command across the river at Sister's Ferry. General Fry has been requested by telegraph to send a boat from Augusta to assist in crossing your command. Major-General Wheeler desires me to say that the order emanates from General Beauregard, and he presumes has some urgency in it.

Respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

M. G. HUDSON,

*First Lieutenant and Aide-de-Camp.*

[Inclosure.]

SPECIAL ORDERS, }  
No. 110. }

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,

*Hardeeville, S. C., December 29, 1864—4 p. m.*

\* \* \* \* \*

III. Brigadier-General Lewis, commanding brigade, will move at once with his command across the Savannah River at Sister's Ferry and report to Brigadier-General Iverson.

\* \* \* \* \*

By order of Maj. Gen. Joseph Wheeler:

M. G. HUDSON,

*First Lieut., Aide-de-Camp, and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*RICHMOND, VA., *December 30, 1864.*

Governor A. G. MAGRATH,

*Columbia, S. C.:*

Yours of the 25th and 29th received. I have long realized the importance of such action as you suggest, but necessities elsewhere have prevented action in accordance with our wish. I have held several conferences with General Lee on the subject, and will have another, showing him your letter and telegram. The co-operation of the State officers with the engineers of the Confederate States is accepted as proposed. Will write you more fully by mail.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

WAR DEPARTMENT, C. S. A.,

*Richmond, Va., December 30, 1864.*

General W. J. HARDIE,

*Charleston, S. C.:*

I have ordered Lieutenant-Colonel Tucker, commanding a battalion, not yet fully organized, of recruits from Federal prisoners, to report to you immediately. The organization not being yet recognized by the Department, but simply formed under an authority, is subject to be modified, divided, or arranged in any way that the interests of the service may require. The existing officers may have some claim to selection, but have not commissions. Will you have special attention given to the battalion, and communicate your conclusions respecting it.

J. A. SEDDON,

*Secretary of War.*



CHARLESTON, *December 30, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General :*

Your telegram ordering all artisans to be returned to their employments has been received. The Naval and Arsenal Battalions had already been returned. Your order will take away all of Wright's division except four small companies. That division is holding an important position. I earnestly urge that you send 1,400 men to replace it. I have already been weakened by the return of the heavy artilleryists to Wilmington.

W. J. HARDEE,  
*Lieutenant-General.*

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WILMINGTON, *December 30, 1864.*

Brig. Gen. L. S. BAKER,  
*Goldsborough, N. C. :*

If nothing active in your district prevents, proceed to Richmond and report to Colonel Sale, my private secretary. After a full conference with the President on the condition in Georgia and South Carolina return and resume your command.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

WILMINGTON, *December 30, 1864.*

Col. JOHN B. SALE,  
*Military Secretary, Richmond :*

Believing the President will be gratified to know the exact state of affairs in Georgia and South Carolina, I have ordered Brig. Gen. L. S. Baker, who has returned from there disabled for the field by his old wound, to proceed to Richmond and report to you. Obtain an early interview for him. He passed through all the scenes from Augusta to the evacuation of Savannah, and can report fully; and it is very important the exact state of affairs now should be known.

BRAXTON BRAGG.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. C., GA., AND FLA.,  
No. 92. } *Charleston, S. C., December 30, 1864.*

1. The allowance of field transportation for the troops in this department will be as follows:

1. Division headquarters: For general and all staff officers, two four-horse wagons for baggage, one four-horse wagon for forage, one four-horse forge, one two-horse ambulance.

2. Brigade transportation: For general and staff officers at brigade headquarters, one four-horse wagon for baggage, &c., and one two-horse ambulance; brigade forage, one four-horse wagon; brigade, one four-horse forge; commissary scales and implements for butchering for brigade, one four-horse wagon; field, staff, and company officers of each regiment, one four-horse wagon; cooking utensils for every 300 men, one four-horse wagon; every 300 men, one two-horse ambulance; brigade medical supplies, one four-horse wagon; brigade intrenching tools, one four-horse wagon.



3. To each brigade there will be attached an ordnance train of four-horse wagons sufficient to carry sixty extra rounds of ammunition per man, each wagon carrying fifteen boxes of ammunition. This ordnance train will be in the immediate charge of the brigade ordnance officer, and all the brigade trains of each division in charge of the division ordnance officer.

4. Battalion of light artillery: Battalion headquarters, one two-horse wagon; each battalion, one four-horse forge; officers and men of each battery of light artillery, one four-horse wagon; forage for each battery, two four-horse wagons; extra ammunition for battery, one four-horse wagon; battalion medical supplies, one two-horse wagon; each battery, one two-horse ambulance.

II. This order shall apply to the cavalry of this department, with the following modification: Two four-horse wagons will be allowed to every 100 effective men for forage.

III. The load of a four-horse wagon will not exceed 1,700 pounds.

IV. All transportation and ambulances in excess of the above allowance will be at once turned in to the chief quartermaster.

Requisitions will be made to supply deficiencies.

By order of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

T. B. ROY,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. C., GA., AND FLA.,  
No. 313. } *Charleston, S. C., December 30, 1864.*

\* \* \* \* \*

IX. Maj. Gen. G. W. Smith will have command of a geographical district which will include Augusta and Millen, in Georgia, and Branchville, in South Carolina. He will proceed at once to construct defenses at Branchville.

By command of Lieutenant-General Hardee:

H. W. FEILDEN,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

HEADQUARTERS FISER'S BRIGADE,  
*Frampton Farm, December 30, 1864.*

Major-General MCLAWS,  
*Commanding, &c.:*

GENERAL: I sent a regiment at daylight this morning near Tullifinny bridge, and I sent an officer in the direction of the railroad trestle. Found the left of Harrison's line about three-quarters of a mile above Tullifinny bridge. I have connected with the line on my right. Have seen nor heard nothing of the regiment commanded by Colonel Cumming. I suppose you do not intend me to consider myself in command of any line beyond the Tullifinny. If you deem it at all probable that the enemy will advance either by way of Mackay's Point road or the various roads crossing the Tullifinny and leading to the railroad, I would respectfully suggest that you send a regiment or so to occupy from Old Pocotaligo to Frampton farm, and allow me to extend my right, so as to more effectually protect the railroad and Colonel Harri-



son's rear. Captain Barnwell opened on the enemy this morning from Lawton's farm, but was compelled to withdraw with the loss of 1 man mortally wounded, himself and 2 men slightly. I wish you would ride over, if convenient.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JNO. C. FISER,  
*Colonel, Commanding Brigade.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 30, 1861.*

Major-General WHEELER,  
*Hardeeville:*

General Hardee desires the two rifled 24-pounders from Red Bluff sent to Adams' Run Station.

A. J. GONZALES,  
*Colonel and Chief of Artillery, Department.*

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GENERAL ORDERS, }  
No. 8. }

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY CORPS,  
*Hardeeville, S. C., December 30, 1861.*

I. Until further orders the following will be the allowance of transportation of this corps:

For corps headquarters: For baggage, two four-horse wagons; quartermaster and commissary of subsistence stores, two four-horse wagons; forage, one four-horse wagon; forge, one four-horse wagon; medical supplies, one four-horse wagon; ambulance, one two-horse wagon.

Division headquarters: Baggage, one four-horse wagon; quartermaster and commissary of subsistence stores, one four-horse wagon; forage, one four-horse wagon; transportation for three days' rations for every 600 men, one six-horse wagon; medical supplies, one two-horse wagon.

Brigade headquarters: Baggage, one four-horse wagon; quartermaster and commissary of subsistence stores, one four-horse wagon; medical supplies, one two-horse wagon; forage, one four-horse wagon; ordnance for each 400 muskets, one four-horse wagon.

Regiments: Officers' baggage, including desks, money boxes, and medical supplies, one four-horse wagon; each 400 men present for duty for cooking utensils, one four-horse wagon; each 100 animals for forage, one four-horse wagon; ambulance, one two-horse wagon.

Artillery with cavalry: Each battery, baggage for officers, cooking utensils, and extra harness, one four-horse wagon; forage, one four-horse wagon; forge, one four-horse wagon.

Ordnance: 12-pounder howitzer battery, four guns, two four-horse wagons; Napoleon, three four-horse wagons; battery of rifled guns (four), one four-horse wagon.

Batteries artillery: Extra harness, instead of battery wagons, with wagons, one four-horse wagon; forge, two four-horse wagons; ambulance, two two-horse wagons.

II. All mules and wagons in excess of the above allowance will be immediately turned in to Capt. S. E. Norton, chief quartermaster of this corps.

III. Captain Norton, chief quartermaster, will immediately form the mules and wagons thus turned in with a general supply train, and place



the train thus formed in charge of one or more assistant quartermasters as the number of wagons may require to be used as the major-general commanding may direct.

By order of Major-General Wheeler:

HENRY CHAPMAN,  
*Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY DIVISION,  
*December 30, 1864.*

[Lieut. M. G. HUDSON:]

LIEUTENANT: I will move to-morrow morning back to the Statesborough and Hudson's Ferry road. I intend making my headquarters at Doctor Longstreet's. My picket-line will extend from Ebenezer to No. 3, Central railroad. I can forage the command here no longer. Every exertion has been made to keep as close up as possible. No news from the enemy. They are making no movement in this direction. My scouts go within six miles of Savannah.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALFRED IVERSON,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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RICHMOND, VA., *December 30, 1864.*

Lieut. Col. J. G. TUCKER,

*Commanding First Foreign Battalion, Columbia, S. C.:*

Report immediately with your command to Lieutenant-General Hardee for duty.

S. COOPER,  
*Adjutant and Inspector General.*

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CHARLESTON, *December 31, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I respectfully suggest that Augusta be placed in General Hardee's department, owing to breaks in railroad and its immediate connection with defense of South Carolina. I am unable to leave before to-morrow morning.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

---

CHARLESTON, *December 31, 1864.*

General S. COOPER,

*Adjutant and Inspector General:*

I should have stated in telegram of this a. m., in relation to status of Augusta, that General Hardee has now under his command nearly all available forces in Georgia, which he requires also for defense of South Carolina.

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*



SPECIAL ORDERS, }  
No. 310. }

ADJT. AND INSP. GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Richmond, Va., December 31, 1861.*

\* \* \* \* \*

XXVIII. Maj. Gen. Samuel Jones, Provisional Army, C. S., is assigned to the command of the District of Florida, in the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida.

\* \* \* \* \*

By command of Secretary of War.

JNO. WITHERS,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

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CHARLESTON, S. C., *December 31, 1864.*

Lieut. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,

*Comdg. Dept. of S. C., Ga., and Fla., Charleston, S. C.:*

GENERAL: I inclose herewith a copy of a telegram received to-day from the President, relieving me, at my request, of the general command of the Department of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. My presence is absolutely required at this moment at Montgomery and with the Army of Tennessee, and I am unable to inform you when I will be able to return in this direction. The interruption of railroad communication might render it impracticable to get back in time to be of assistance to you, should you require my aid suddenly. The telegram of the President not being explicit as to the status of Augusta, I have requested that it should be included in your department, as you now have under you the whole of Wheeler's cavalry and nearly all the available forces of Georgia, which are also required by you for the defense of South Carolina. The defense of this city is so intimately connected with that of the western portion of this State that you will consider it within the limits of your department until further orders from the War Department.

I have already given you all the verbal instructions possible for the defense of Charleston and this State. The answer of the War Department, not yet received, to my telegram of the 27th instant will determine whether, in the event of evacuating this city, you will retire toward Georgia or North Carolina as a base. The first is your natural base; but should you have reason to expect large re-enforcements from the latter State, you should of course retire in that direction. You will apply to the defense of Charleston the same principle applied to that of Savannah—that is, defend it as long as compatible with the safety of your forces. Having no reason at present to expect succor from an army of relief, you must save your troops for the defense of South Carolina and Georgia.

The fall of Charleston would necessarily be a terrible blow to the Confederacy, but its fall with the loss of its brave garrison would be still more fatal to our cause. You will, however, make all the preparation necessary for the possible evacuation of the city and “clear your decks for action.” Should it not take place, the trouble and expense of transportation will amount to little; but should you be compelled to evacuate the city when unprepared, the loss of public property would be incalculable. All the cotton in the city should be removed, and if any be in the city at the time of its evacuation it must be destroyed.

As already instructed, you should organize all your troops for the field, collecting sufficient transportation, ammunition, and provisions for an



active campaign. You must have depots of provisions and forage at several points in the interior of the State. Columbia would be a very suitable point; Florence also, if you expect to move in the direction of North Carolina. Augusta, Mayfield, and Milledgeville must be depots for future operations. Your defensive lines from the Savannah River would be, as already explained to you: First, the Combahee and Salkehatchie to Barnwell Court-House, thence to the Savannah River; second, the Ashepoo and Salkehatchie to Barnwell Court-House, thence to Savannah River; third, Edisto to Branchville, thence across toward Barnwell Court-House; fourth, Edisto and Caw Caw Swamp, or Rantowles Creek; fifth, Edisto and Ashley. Wheeler's cavalry must protect your front toward Savannah River, and your right flank from Barnwell Court-House toward Augusta. At least, the larger portion of his cavalry must be south of that river, to watch the movements and check the progress of any force moving toward Augusta or the interior of Georgia, until the rest of the cavalry and other forces could be sent to give battle to the enemy.

Please keep General Cobb and myself advised of your movements and those of the enemy, in order that we may give you in time any assistance in our power.

Hoping that you may be successful in holding Charleston and repelling any advance of the enemy, I remain, respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. T. BEAUREGARD,  
*General.*

[Inclosure.]

RICHMOND, *December 30, 1864.*

General G. T. BEAUREGARD:

Your dispatch of this day received; also a copy of that to General Cooper in relation to assignment of General Bragg. You will leave with General Hardee orders and instructions in regard to the department east of Augusta, and will resume the command of the district west of Augusta as heretofore defined. The change will be more formally announced from the Adjutant-General's Office.

JEFF'N DAVIS.

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HARDEEVILLE, *December 31, 1864.*

General McLAWS:

Will send picks and shovels by first train. Brigadier-General Young had been ordered to Georgia side of Savannah River, but orders were countermanded, and he was ordered to you, at Grahamville, on 25th. I earnestly request that company from Eighth Texas ordered to you for temporary duty be returned.

W. Y. C. HUMES,  
*Brigadier-General.*

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HARDEEVILLE, *December 31, 1864.*

Major-General McLAWS:

The pickets at Cheves' place report the enemy shelling them from Hutchinson's Island. The enemy attempted to cross the river at same



place in three rice boats, but were repulsed. The pickets at Screven's Ferry report five or six transports leaving Savannah this morning heavily loaded with soldiers. Rice boats passing from Savannah side to island loaded with plank.

W. Y. C. HUMES,  
*Brigadier-General.*

COLUMBIA, S. C., December —, 1864.

HON. JAMES A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War:*

SIR: The undersigned citizens of South Carolina respectfully request that at least one corps of the army be sent from Virginia to save the States of Georgia and South Carolina from being laid waste by the enemy. There is no force here to prevent it, and it is absolutely necessary to have at least one well-organized corps besides Hardee's on the coast, about which the half-trained citizens may rally. Otherwise, however brave and determined, their efforts will amount to nothing. These two States have, to a large extent, furnished the Army of Virginia with supplies. If they are wasted by raids and their railroads cut, this source of supply is lost. We are sensible of the pressure upon Richmond, and the importance of saving the capital, but it is manifest that its defense must at this moment be made here.

A just regard for the safety of these States and of the common cause in which we are all embarked induces us to press this appeal with great earnestness upon your consideration.

We have the honor to be, with high respect, your obedient servants,  
W. F. De Saussure, Andr. Crawford, W. H. Scarborough,  
Daniel Ravenel, R. S. Bryan, J. L. Clark, James D.  
Tradewell, James Rose, Edwin I. Scott, J. F. Gourdin,  
Robt. Bryce, J. W. Hayne, J. S. Guignard, Edward Hope,  
J. C. Lyons, H. Muller, J. A. Crawford, Campbell R.  
Bryce, D. W. Ray, Rufus M. Johnston, J. P. Surtlime, J.  
McKenzie, J. H. Wells, Jacob Levin, Alex. Laughlin,  
Wm. E. Martin, J. E. Dent, W. B. Johnston, Thos. H.  
Wade, Wm. Martin, Peter J. Shand, Wm. B. Yates, E.  
L. Kenison, Alfred Wallace, Jno. Banskett.

[First indorsement.]

JANUARY 5, 1865.

Respectfully submitted, from respect to the signers, to the consideration of the President.

J. A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War.*

[Second indorsement.]

SECRETARY OF WAR:

The question presented is one of which General Lee can best judge. I suggest a reference to him.

J. D.



[Third indorsement.]

WAR OFFICE,  
*February 7, 1865.*

ADJUTANT-GENERAL:

Please note the President's suggestion, and refer to General Lee accordingly.

By order of the Secretary of War:

R. G. H. KEAN,  
*Chief of Bureau of War.*

[Fourth indorsement.]

ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*February 9, 1865.*

Respectfully referred to General R. E. Lee.

By order of Adjutant and Inspector General:

JNO. WITHERS,  
*Assistant Adjutant-General.*

[Fifth indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS,  
*February 11, 1865.*

Respectfully returned.

I have sent all the troops from this army that can be spared. The Army of Tennessee is ordered to South Carolina, and a part of it arrived. If the citizens of Georgia and South Carolina will fill up its ranks it will be able to protect the country.

R. E. LEE,  
*General.*WAR DEPARTMENT. C. S. A., ENGINEER BUREAU,  
*Richmond, Va., January 3, 1865.*Hon. JAMES A. SEDDON,  
*Secretary of War:*

SIR: I have the honor to report the following injuries to the main railroads in Georgia done by the enemy in General Sherman's advance from Kingston to Savannah, viz:

First. Western and Atlantic road (Georgia State road): Track and bridges from Atlanta to Etowah River, inclusive, are destroyed. Beyond Etowah no injury of moment is reported. Length of track destroyed, about 46 miles; length of bridges at Chattahoochee and Etowah, 1,200 feet. The Governor of Georgia has sent his agents to examine and report as to the extent of injury to this road, the property of the State, but at the time of Captain Grant's report, 16th of December, no portion of the repairs had been made. All the labor and materials that can be obtained by the Government will be first applied to the reconstruction of the Georgia road (from Augusta to Atlanta), and to the Atlanta and West Point road, with a view to get one connection as soon as possible.

Second. Georgia road: The work to be done on this road is comprised in three important bridges—one over the Oconee River, the other two over smaller streams—and thirty-eight miles of track. Of the



latter, fifteen miles will require iron rails from other sources. About twenty-three miles of bent rails can be straightened. Cross-ties will be needed for twenty-five to thirty miles. The most favorable estimate as to time for finishing the repairs of this road is the middle of February. All the labor that can be had by temporary impressments and by impressments for twelve months has been assigned to this work, and to,

Third. Atlanta and West Point road: This road at last report was repaired to Palmetto from West Point; it will be finished as soon or sooner than the Georgia road.

Fourth. The Central Railroad of Georgia: This road, which connects Macon with Augusta via Millen, has been repaired to Gordon, where the branch to Milledgeville has its junction with the main road. Cars now run from Macon to Milledgeville. The Central road from Gordon to Millen is very seriously destroyed. Every effort is being made to induce the company to renew the road, but there are about 100 miles seriously injured; they cannot be repaired as soon as the roads leading through Atlanta. The best engineers that could be furnished from the command of General Beauregard are employed in rebuilding the roads; and General Beauregard has assured this bureau that he will give them every support, and that all that is possible will be done to hasten their completion. With every exertion and with all the assistance that can be brought to bear, we can hardly expect the first through line can be repaired before the middle of February next.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. F. GILMER,

*Major-General and Chief of Bureau.*