

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Springfield, December 8, 1864—7 a. m.

[General DAVIS]:

GENERAL: General Sherman has information that the line of defense around Savannah is about four miles from the city. He desires to take the road extending from Cherokee Hill, through Silk Hope, to Litchfield, as our first position. Your corps should be at or near Cherokee Hill; the Twentieth will be to the left of Pooler; Seventeenth on right of Twentieth; and Fifteenth near Litchfield. The Twentieth Corps will be at Monteith to-night.*

Yours, very respectfully,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Ebenezer Creek, Ga., December 8, 1864—8 a. m.

Lieut. Col. H. C. RODGERS,
Chief of Staff, Left Wing:

I have the honor to report my arrival at this point last night. Ebenezer is a large stream and requires bridging, and considerable to be cut out of the road. Our road was obstructed by timber at many points yesterday; notwithstanding, we made twenty miles. Kilpatrick reports his rear attacked yesterday afternoon; number of force not reported. We heard some artillery and small-arms yesterday evening in rear of the Twentieth Corps. The bridge in my front will be done by 10 a. m.; I will then commence crossing. It will take all day to get on the other side of Ebenezer. I sent you a messenger yesterday morning, who has not returned.

JEF. C. DAVIS,
Brevet Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Near Ebenezer Creek, Ga., December 8, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BAIRD,
Commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps:

General Carlin has just begun to advance toward the crossing. The general commanding directs you to take charge of the cavalry, dispose it as you may deem best to cover your crossing, and cross your division over the creek to-night. He desires that you give orders to the commanders of the cavalry to hold possession of the causeway on this side of the bridge until to-morrow noon at least. Having crossed his animals, he will thoroughly obstruct the road with fallen timber and will destroy the bridge as completely as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. C. MCCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

* This dispatch was captured by General Joseph Wheeler.

DECEMBER 8, 1864—11 a. m.

General WILLIAMS:

GENERAL: General Slocum wants to have all the trains and the Third Division started on this road as soon as possible, and have them get as far forward to-night as they can.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Heim's Mills, Ga., December 8, 1864.

Brigadier-General GEARY,
Commanding Second Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that your command be in readiness to move at 7 o'clock to-morrow morning. He directs that all the pioneers of your division report at daybreak to-morrow to Lieutenant Ludlow, at General Slocum's headquarters.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
On the March, December 8, 1864—12 m.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,
Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that you move all the trains of the corps at once on the road the troops have taken to-day. He wishes you to push forward as far as possible to-day, and to report your position this evening.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
Forks of the Road, December 8, 1864.

Capt. R. P. DECHERT,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Twentieth Army Corps:

CAPTAIN: I am using every effort to get the trains forward. The roads have all given out, and need repair. My train will not get in until after midnight, maybe not until morning. Wagons are scattered from here to Springfield. The train started from there after dark.

Very respectfully,

W. T. WARD,
Brigadier-General.
Per SPEED,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Heim's Mills, Ga., December 8, 1864—5.30 p. m.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,
Commanding Third Division :

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that you have a strong guard (at least two or three regiments) at the house where you turn to the right to reach this point, to remain there until the rear of the wagon train shall have passed. He directs that the roads at that point be blockaded sufficiently to prevent a sudden attack by a cavalry force. He wishes to know whether you need any further assistance, and he directs that you report to him frequently.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
Mrs. Jadaun's House, December 8, 1864—6 p. m.

Lieut. Col. H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Twentieth Army Corps :

COLONEL: My command is encamping at this point (forks of road). The road has been extremely bad, wheels cutting through to the hub. Nearly two miles and a half to work; have large details at it, and hope to get the rear in by 12 o'clock. Pontoon train is just in.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. WARD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Eden, Ga., December 8, 1864.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,
Commanding Third Division :

GENERAL: The general commanding the corps desires to have you push on at daybreak to-morrow to this point with your train. The corps pioneers will be sent from here early in the morning to repair the roads that you will have to pass over. The major-general commanding the Left Wing is anxious to have the trains hurried up as fast as possible. Please do the best with them that you can.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 8, 1864.
(Received 8.15 p. m. 12th.)

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff, Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C. :

GENERAL: Have been demonstrating strongly against the Charles-town and Savannah road. Had obstinate fight near Grahamville on the 30th; result, a drawn battle. Have kept a large force of the enemy

sharply employed. Now hold a position within three-quarters of a mile of the railroad between the Coosawhatchie and Tullifinny Rivers. Deserters' reports are conflicting, but agree that Sherman is nearing Savannah.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 8, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff, Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential letter of the 13th ultimo.* The instructions contained therein will be carried out in every particular. I had already commenced a demonstration against the enemy, the particulars of which I have sent in another communication.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 8, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff, Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 23d ultimo, in which Lieutenant-General Grant directs that the expenditure of ammunition upon Fort Sumter and Charleston be discontinued, except so far as may be necessary. I have accordingly sent the necessary instructions to the commanding officer of the Northern District of this department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 8, 1864.

Maj. Gen. M. C. MEIGS,
Chief Quartermaster U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your confidential communication of the 28th ultimo in regard to supplies sent to this department for General Sherman's army should he make for this coast.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

* See Vol. XXXV, Part II, p. 328.

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
Morris Island, S. C., December 8, 1864.

Lieut. W. B. DEAN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General:

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report, for the information of the major-general commanding, that I have not been able to comply fully with his instructions regarding the immediate shipment of 500 troops from this district, owing to the fact of my not finding here available transportation for more than 400 men. The remaining 100 are here in readiness, awaiting the first means of transportation which shall present. I have also the honor to report that I find here some 400 men of the Twenty-first U. S. Colored Troops, who are wholly unarmed, with the exception of a few who are doing provost-guard duty. They are consequently entirely ineffective for defensive purposes. I am informed that the requisite arms have been already drawn for these men upon the proper requisitions, and that they are now at the arsenal awaiting transportation. I have, therefore, ordered Ordnance Sergeant Scherer to that post, for the purpose of taking charge of their shipment, and I request that they may be placed under his care at the earliest opportunity, and that every facility may be rendered him for their immediate transshipment.

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

A. SCHIMMELFENNIG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

ONE MILE AND A HALF FROM No. 1,
December 9, 1864.

Major-General SHERMAN,
Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: The dirt road runs to the left of the railroad. The troops continue to advance. General Blair thinks there is only cavalry in front. You can safely come to this point. The train has been ordered to follow the Fourth Division, which is second in advance.

Respectfully,

JOS. C. AUDENRIED,
Captain and Aide-de-Camp.

SPECIAL
 FIELD ORDERS, }
 No. 129.

HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Pooler Station, Ga.,
December 9, 1864.

I. Especial attention is called to paragraph V, Special Field Orders, No. 17,* and all persons unauthorized riding horses should at once be dismounted and the animals turned over for cavalry use.

II. Brigadier-General Kilpatrick is authorized to organize a patrol to seize all horses and mules ridden by any persons without authority of law, or who may be away from their proper command, appropriating such animals for the use of his cavalry command.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

* See Vol. XXXVIII, Part IV, p. 406.

manding Second Brigade, will follow the artillery; fourth, ambulances and ordnance train, all the wagons will follow in rear of the corps in same order of march as their respective commands; fifth, each brigade commander will detail one company for train guard, to report at wagon corral, at 7 a. m. to-morrow, to Lieut. George W. Porter, aide-de-camp, for further instructions.

By order of Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett:

J. C. DOUGLASS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Pooler (No. 1), December 9, 1864.

Major-General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing:

GENERAL: As yet we have heard nothing from you to-day except your guns, nearly due north, from 3 to 5 p. m. General Howard has reported, and is in possession of the Gulf railroad; captured one piece of artillery, some prisoners, and a train of cars; both corps have met opposition, but have overcome it; and Howard will move the Fifteenth via the plank road, and the Seventeenth via this the main road, on Savannah, in the morning.

The general wishes you to continue along the Savannah River in your movement on the city, making as much progress as you can until the enemy's main line is developed.

I am, general, respectfully, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Two Miles South of Ebenezer Creek, December 9, 1864—9 a. m.

Col. H. C. RODGERS,
Chief of Staff, Left Wing:

COLONEL: My rear only completed the crossing of the creek at daylight. I am now moving for Saint Augustine Creek, and if the obstructions or opposition is not too great will reach there to-day. One of the enemy's gun-boats made several demonstrations against our bridge yesterday, but a few shells satisfied them they could accomplish nothing, and it gave up the project. My troops skirmished all day. Fewer attacks in rear. I have destroyed the bridge behind me, and do not think I shall be troubled from the rear to-day. I can hear nothing of the Twentieth Corps. Heavy cannonading is now progressing in the direction of Savannah or Coosawhatchie.

I am, very respectfully,

JEF. C. DAVIS,
Brevet Major-General, Commanding.

ORDERS.]

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Monteith, Ga., December 9, 1864.

The movements of this corps to-morrow will be as follows: The First Division will break camp at 6.30 a. m., and push forward toward the Savannah and Charleston Railroad. The cavalry of Colonel Hughes

will precede the infantry, starting at 6 a. m. The Third Division will follow the First Division, starting from their present camp at 6 a. m. The Second Division will remain in charge of the trains. General Geary will send one of his brigades to guard the rear of the train, and hold his other two brigades in their present camps, but be in readiness to move at short notice. The train will remain in its present park until further orders. All pack-animals of the First and Third Divisions, except the animals that carry the pioneers' tools, will be left with the trains. Fifteen wagons from the ammunition train of the First Division and five from the ammunition train of the Third Division will accompany the advanced forces. These wagons, with the headquarters wagons and ambulances, will march in rear of the center brigade of the Third Division.

By command of Brig. Gen. A. S. Williams:

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

ORDERS.]

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Monteith, Ga., December 9, 1864.

This division will move to-morrow at 6.30 a. m., in the following order: Second Brigade in advance, followed by a battery; Third brigade next, and First in rear. The trains will remain in their present park, under General Geary, until further orders. All pack-animals, except those that carry pioneer tools, will be left with the trains. Captain Augustine, ordnance officer, will send fifteen wagons of ammunition, which will have a position in the column with the different headquarters wagons and ambulances, in rear of the center brigade of the Third Division, which immediately follows the First Division.

By command of Brig. Gen. N. J. Jackson:

GEO. ROBINSON,
First Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
December 9, 1864—6 a. m.

Lieut. Col. H. W. PERKINS,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Twentieth Army Corps:

COLONEL: The Third Division train (rear) is not nearly all in. The ground will not even hold corduroy. I will push on as soon as possible, but my movements will necessarily be very slow, as I hear that most of the road ahead has to be worked.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. WARD,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Zion Church, Ga., December 9, 1864.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,

Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs me to inform you that one mile from where he encamped last night, at Zion Church, you take

the road to the left; it is a road not laid down on the map. He directs that you place two regiments to hold the road leading to the right, at this church.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,

Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,

Near Mount Zion Church, Ga., December 9, 1864—10.15 a. m.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,

Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The First and Third Divisions are halted here awaiting the train. The enemy are in front of us, and the general deems it imprudent to push the troops farther until the arrival of the train, as it would be too much exposed. The general commanding the corps desires to have you report every two hours the location and state of affairs along the train, where your rear is, &c. In dating your notes, please state the hour and place.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,

Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE 'TENNESSEE,

Near Savannah Canal, Ga., December 9, 1864.

COMMANDING OFFICER U. S. NAVAL FORCE,

IN THE VICINITY OF SAVANNAH, GA.:

SIR: We have met with perfect success thus far. Troops in fine spirits, and near by.

Respectfully,

O. O. HOWARD,

Major-General, Commanding Right Wing of Army.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS,
No. 130.

HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, near Savannah, Ga.,
December 10, 1864.

The army having arrived before Savannah, will proceed to invest the place, and to open up communication with our fleet in Ossabaw and Wassaw Sounds.

I. The Left Wing, Major-General Slocum, will make a left flank near the Savannah River above the city, and extend round to a point near the plank road. He is also charged with the utter destruction of the Savannah and Charleston Railroad back to and including the Savannah River bridge, as also the Central Georgia road from his line back to Pooler (No. 1). One battalion of the First Regiment Michigan Engineers and Mechanics will be ordered to report to General Slocum, to twist the rails.

II. The Right Wing, Major-General Howard, will extend from General Slocum's right to the Savannah River below the city, or to the Shell road. General Howard is also charged with opening communication with the fleet and the destruction of the Gulf railroad back to and including the Ogeechee River bridge.

III. Capt. O. M. Poe, chief engineer, will forthwith cause thorough reconnaissances to be made, so as to compile an approximate map for the use of army commanders, and will also cause roads to be examined and opened, to facilitate communication with the different parts of it.

IV. Brigadier-General Kilpatrick, commanding cavalry, will watch all roads to the rear, and also assist General Howard in opening communication with the fleet; and army and corps commanders will at once overhaul their trains, and be prepared, on short notice, to send to the fleet everything not absolutely required for our success.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Little Ogeechee, near Savannah, December 10, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

I have directed that to-morrow Major-General Blair so place his command that his right flank will rest on King's Bridge and Savannah road; that General Osterhaus will push his corps to the right, his left flank resting on the same road. I find that on this side of the Ogeechee every inlet to the sea to which access can be had is commanded either by a fort or battery. I think, however, that on the other side of the river access can be had to Ossabaw Sound; and, with a view to this, I have directed Captain Reese, of my staff, to repair King's Bridge, and shall throw over a reconnaissance for the purpose of ascertaining whether it is practicable to communicate with the west side of the river. The party I sent last night down the river for that purpose has not yet returned. I have not yet received any further orders from you than what you gave me verbally to-day.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General.

SPECIAL } HDQRS. DEPT. AND ARMY OF THE TENN.,
FIELD ORDERS, } *Savannah Canal, near Dillon's Bridge, Ga.,*
No. 191. } *December 10, 1864.*

Major-General Osterhaus, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps, will not at present take up his pontoon bridge over the Ogeechee, but leave the same, with one strong regiment well disposed for guard, until further orders.

LITTLE OGEECHEE, NEAR SAVANNAH, GA.,
December 10, 1864.

The following are the orders for the operations of this army to-morrow: First, Major-General Osterhaus, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps, will move his entire corps around to the right of the King's Bridge and Savannah road, placing one division in reserve on that road, from which will be furnished the pioneer corps, and such other details of men, teams, &c., as may be required by Captain Reese, chief engineer, in the reconstruction of King's Bridge. Second, Major-General Blair, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps, will move his command

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
December 10, 1864.

Brig. Gen. M. D. LEGGETT,
Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The major-general commanding directs me to say to you that you will move third in the order of march to-day, following the First Division, which follows the Fourth Division.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. CADLE, JR.,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 170.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION,
SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864.

I. This command will be held in readiness to move at 7 a. m. to-morrow, on being relieved by the Fourteenth Corps. The Second Brigade, Col. R. K. Scott commanding, will have the advance. Artillery and trains as heretofore.

By order of Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett:

J. C. DOUGLASS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Four Miles from Savannah and Charleston Railroad,
December 10, 1864—4.30 a. m.

Capt. L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp:

CAPTAIN: At this point my column found our road very badly obstructed and the enemy on opposite side with two small works. We drove him from the works, and have removed all obstructions, and I do not anticipate much difficulty between here and the railroad. We move at daylight. Davis is moving, but his road is a difficult one. I think I shall meet him near Cherokee Hill to-day.

Very respectfully, &c.,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Five Miles from Savannah, December 10, 1864—2 p. m.

Maj. Gen. J. C. DAVIS,
Commanding Fourteenth Corps:

The major-general commanding directs that you put your command in camp where you now are. He intends to develop the enemy's line with the Twentieth Corps this p. m., and as soon as we can find out something about the country here a position will be found for your corps. The Seventeenth Corps are well up on our right, and have been feeling of the enemy a little this forenoon. You had better send a staff officer forward to find a place to park your train near here.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Five Miles from Savannah, December 10, 1864—7.30 p. m.

Maj. Gen. J. C. DAVIS,
Commanding Fourteenth Corps:

The major-general commanding directs that you move your corps to-morrow morning and occupy the line now held by the Seventeenth Corps on the right of the Twentieth Corps. Please send the division you intend to occupy the left of your line first, and have it leave camp at 7 a. m. The pioneers should accompany this division to repair the roads from here to the position you are to occupy. The other two divisions to follow with your entire train about 11 a. m., and on the way they are to burn thoroughly all the bridges and trestle-work on the railroad up to this point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Ten Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864—10.30 p. m.

Brig. Gen. A. BAIRD,
Commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps:

The general commanding has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your note to him, and to say to you that you will not probably move from your present position before 11 a. m. to-morrow. He desires you, if possible, meanwhile, to reach and destroy the railroad bridge and to destroy the trestle-work as completely as practicable.

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

A. C. MCCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Five Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864.

Brig. Gen. N. J. JACKSON,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that your command be in readiness to move to-morrow morning at about 9 o'clock.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Same to Brig. Gen. W. T. Ward, commanding Third Division.)

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Five Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864.

Brigadier-General GEARY,
Commanding Second Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding the corps directs that you send at 7 a. m. to-morrow one of your brigades to reconnoiter the country between this road and the Savannah River. He wishes to ascertain the

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
December 10, 1864.

Brig. Gen. M. D. LEGGETT,
Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The major-general commanding directs me to say to you that you will move third in the order of march to-day, following the First Division, which follows the Fourth Division.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. CADLE, JR.,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 170.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION,
SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864.

I. This command will be held in readiness to move at 7 a. m. to-morrow, on being relieved by the Fourteenth Corps. The Second Brigade, Col. R. K. Scott commanding, will have the advance. Artillery and trains as heretofore.

By order of Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett:

J. C. DOUGLASS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Four Miles from Savannah and Charleston Railroad,
December 10, 1864—4.30 a. m.

Capt. L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp:

CAPTAIN: At this point my column found our road very badly obstructed and the enemy on opposite side with two small works. We drove him from the works, and have removed all obstructions, and I do not anticipate much difficulty between here and the railroad. We move at daylight. Davis is moving, but his road is a difficult one. I think I shall meet him near Cherokee Hill to-day.

Very respectfully, &c.,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Five Miles from Savannah, December 10, 1864—2 p. m.

Maj. Gen. J. C. DAVIS,
Commanding Fourteenth Corps:

The major-general commanding directs that you put your command in camp where you now are. He intends to develop the enemy's line with the Twentieth Corps this p. m., and as soon as we can find out something about the country here a position will be found for your corps. The Seventeenth Corps are well up on our right, and have been feeling of the enemy a little this forenoon. You had better send a staff officer forward to find a place to park your train near here.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Five Miles from Savannah, December 10, 1864—7.30 p. m.

Maj. Gen. J. C. DAVIS,
Commanding Fourteenth Corps:

The major-general commanding directs that you move your corps to-morrow morning and occupy the line now held by the Seventeenth Corps on the right of the Twentieth Corps. Please send the division you intend to occupy the left of your line first, and have it leave camp at 7 a. m. The pioneers should accompany this division to repair the roads from here to the position you are to occupy. The other two divisions to follow with your entire train about 11 a. m., and on the way they are to burn thoroughly all the bridges and trestle-work on the railroad up to this point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Ten Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864—10.30 p. m.

Brig. Gen. A. BAIRD,
Commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps:

The general commanding has directed me to acknowledge the receipt of your note to him, and to say to you that you will not probably move from your present position before 11 a. m. to-morrow. He desires you, if possible, meanwhile, to reach and destroy the railroad bridge and to destroy the trestle-work as completely as practicable.

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

A. C. McCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Five Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864.

Brig. Gen. N. J. JACKSON,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that your command be in readiness to move to-morrow morning at about 9 o'clock.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Same to Brig. Gen. W. T. Ward, commanding Third Division.)

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Five Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864.

Brigadier-General GEARY,
Commanding Second Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding the corps directs that you send at 7 a. m. to-morrow one of your brigades to reconnoiter the country between this road and the Savannah River. He wishes to ascertain the

nature of the country and the enemy's position. Captain McDowell, chief topographical engineer of the corps, will accompany the brigade; he has been over a portion of the road. The general desires that you will have the balance of your command in readiness to move at 9 a. m. to-morrow.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
December 10, 1864.

Col. H. A. BARNUM,
Commanding Third Brigade:

COLONEL: The general commanding division directs that you take your brigade, at 7 a. m. to-morrow, and reconnoiter the country between Augusta road and the railroad to ascertain the nature of the country and the enemy's position. Captain McDowell, chief topographical engineer of the corps, and Captain Schilling, topographical engineer of division, will accompany you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. FORBES,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. THIRD DIV., 20TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 8. } *Near Savannah, Ga., December 10, 1864.*

The following-named staff officers are hereby announced on the staff of the general commanding, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly: Capt. F. C. Crawford, Eighty-fifty Indiana Volunteers, aide-de-camp; Capt. E. W. Ward, Third Kentucky Volunteer Cavalry, aide-de-camp.

By command of Brig. Gen. W. T. Ward:

JOHN SPEED,
Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HEADQUARTERS COAST DIVISION,
No. 4. } *December 10, 1864.*

I. The Thirty-fourth U. S. Colored Troops is hereby transferred from the First to the Second Brigade. The commanding officer will report to Col. E. N. Hallowell, commanding Second Brigade.

II. The Seventy-fifth and One hundred and seventh Regiments Ohio Volunteers are hereby assigned to the First Brigade. The commanding officers will report to Brig. Gen. E. E. Potter, commanding.

By order of Brig. Gen. J. P. Hatch:

LEONARD B. PERRY,
*First Lieutenant, Fifty-fifth Massachusetts Volunteers,
and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.*

second, artillery, Fifteenth Ohio Battery; third, Col. R. K. Scott, commanding Second Brigade, will follow the artillery; fourth, ambulance and ordnance trains; all other wagons will follow in rear of First Division in same order of march as their respective commands.

By order of Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett:

J. C. DOUGLASS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,

December 11, 1864—7 p. m.

Capt. L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp:

Some of Wheeler's cavalry were at Monteith, the residence of General Harrison, when the party sent to arrest him (Harrison) arrived there. I have sent a brigade of infantry to cover my rear and protect trains. The left of my line is now established in very close proximity to the line of the enemy. I have sent a regiment across the river to scout the country, and am throwing up two redoubts on the river-bank.

Very respectfully, &c.,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, near Savannah, December 11, 1864.

Major-General SLOCUM,
Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: It is reported to the general-in-chief by Colonel Atkins, commanding cavalry brigade, that his scouts saw a brigade of the enemy's cavalry to-day on Louisville and Savannah road, opposite Springfield, and that they were moving north to the Augusta road, and I am directed by the general to give you the information.

I am, general, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

In Front of Savannah, Ga., December 11, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BAIRD,
Commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps:

The general commanding the corps has directed me to say to you that he wishes you to take position for to-night upon Saint Augustine Creek (the first creek this side of the Ten-Mile Station). He wishes you to destroy all the trestle-works on this side of the bridge toward this point, and desires a report of your operations this morning and of your success in destroying the railroad bridge. He also wishes to know if you deem it practicable to construct a boom above the bridge which will obstruct the passage of boats upon the river.

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

A. C. McCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

December 11, 1864—6.15 p. m.

Colonel RODGERS, *Chief of Staff*:

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that by this time two divisions of my corps are in position, having relieved the Seventeenth Corps entirely. Baird's division is still at Saint Augustine Creek. The inclosed report of General Baird will show the general commanding the state of affairs at the railroad crossing. My trains are stuck in the mud for the balance of the night on the road Colonel Asmussen advised me to take; it will be corduroyed by morning. My headquarters are on the Georgia Central road, about a mile west of General Sherman's. The bearer can stay at the headquarters of the Left Wing and bring any communications desired.

Very respectfully,

JEF. C. DAVIS,

Brevet Major-General, Commanding.

[Inclosure.]

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

December 11, 1864—2 p. m.

Col. A. C. McCLURG, *Assistant Adjutant-General*:

SIR: I have received your note directing me to encamp on Saint Augustine Creek, and asking a report of my operations this morning. I found the trestle-work about fifteen feet high, built upon piles and through a swamp not passable except upon bridges, which it would take days to build if we had the material. The farther end was occupied by the rebels with a battery, which was so remote that their shot barely reached us; our Napoleons would not have reached them. It was utterly impossible to get near the battery, as the only approach was along the railroad track, under fire of the battery. There was a locomotive and platform-car near the rebel battery, and perhaps it had a gun on it. The bridge over the river was not visible, and unless a way can be found through the swamp, which I am assured there is not, it is not possible to get near the river on this side at this point. A small train of cars was seen on the South Carolina side, not in motion. My men went out on the trestle-work and burned it for considerable distance from this end; they also tore up and destroyed about three-quarters of a mile of track. To use the railroad bridge for foot passengers they will have to build over the portion of the burned trestle-work on top of the piles, which can be done, but the track [can] not be repaired in some time. I find rebels now on my flank, on the Monteith road, I presume.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

A. BAIRD,

Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,

*Five miles from Savannah, Ga., December 11, 1864.*Brig. Gen. J. W. GEARY, *Commanding Second Division*:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that if you can find any boats in the river you send fifty or sixty men to Hutchinson's Island to ascertain what they can.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,

Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Little Ogeechee, near Savannah, Ga., December 12, 1864.

Maj. Gen. F. P. BLAIR,
Commanding Seventeenth Army Corps:

As we shall probably have occasion to make much use of King's Bridge and Savannah road, the major-general commanding directs that you cause it to be placed and kept in good condition from Little Ogeechee Church to King's Bridge. Bring dry sand from convenient points to fill up and smooth over the lesser ruts and bad places, and corduroying the worse ones. General Osterhaus has been directed to repair it also.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 SAM'L. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

KING'S BRIDGE, *December 12, 1864—4.30 p. m.*

General SLOCUM:

The Ogeechee here is a large navigable stream. Fort McAllister is six miles below, on the west bank, and to-morrow early I will send Hazen's division to attack it. Kilpatrick is over already, and will examine Saint Catherine's Sound and Sunbery; but if we can get Ossabaw we are all right. I want you to be active to-morrow, and to get two or more of your (largest range guns) batteries at the point south of the canal where Mower was and where Carlin went in last night. That is the only point I know of where guns will reach the heart of Savannah. Your line need not reach the plank road, but the causeway about two miles this side the canal, the point where the enemy has the range of the road; there Blair will connect with you. Keep rather thin lines, and your troops massed ready for action. I want to connect with the fleet before doing anything positive. Send me word of anything of interest on that flank to-morrow. The fleet can be seen, or is reported, but as yet has answered none of our signals, but I think to-morrow I will make them notice us.

Yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
December 12, 1864—8 p. m.

Major-General SHERMAN,
General-in-Chief:

GENERAL: Your dispatch of 4[.30] p. m. has been received. I have carefully examined the left of our lines and the right of the rebel lines to-day. I fully believe I can turn their line and sweep them away. I have given my views to Captain Poe and asked him to present them to you. Your instructions for to-morrow shall be obeyed. We captured the steamer *Resolute* this morning, with seven naval officers and a crew of twenty men; she will be repaired to-morrow. We drove back two gun-boats that were with her. Commodore Lovell was on board one of them.

Yours, very respectfully,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, December 12, 1864.

General SLOCUM,
Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: A flag of truce to-day brought in letters from Wheeler to Kilpatrick. One was headed Waynesborough, 6th, and the other seventeen miles from Savannah, 11th December. The officer bringing it said he belonged to Wheeler's staff. The men of his escort said they or he were from Ross. The flag came to our picket on Louisville and Savannah road, and I give you all I know, from which you may judge Wheeler's position. He may be concocting devilment for us, or it might be a blind to cover up. The general, you know, is at King's Bridge. I will send word to General Davis.

I am, general, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
 No. 2. } *Before Savannah, Ga., December 12, 1864.*

While the army remains in its present position all regular foraging parties from either corps will be permitted to forage upon both banks of the Savannah River and upon the islands in the river. All guards will respect the passes of any corps or division commander for this purpose.

By command of Maj. Gen. H. W. Slocum:

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 12, 1864.

Lieut. Col. H. C. RODGERS,
Chief of Staff, Left Wing, Army of Georgia:

COLONEL: A number of different foraging parties sent from this command to-day report to me that they had attempted to cross to the island in the Savannah River opposite this point (the only region accessible where it is possible to obtain forage), and all unite in saying that they were prevented from crossing by guards from the Twentieth Corps. Guards also from the same command were found posted upon all the rice fodder upon this bank of the river, of which I am informed there is a very large quantity. The animals of my command are entirely out of food, and the men soon will be if this state of things continues. I would respectfully suggest that the major-general commanding will take such measures as will allow my men to forage in the region mentioned, and that they be permitted to procure a portion of the rice fodder upon this side of the river. I desire to send out parties in the morning

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, &c.,

JEF. C. DAVIS,
Brevet Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,

December 12, 1864—10 p. m.

Maj. Gen. J. C. DAVIS,

Commanding Fourteenth Corps :

The following dispatch* has just been received from General Sherman, and the major-general commanding desires you to carry out the instructions so far as they relate to your portion of the line.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. RODGERS,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

Weekly effective force report of Fourteenth Army Corps for Monday, December 12, 1864.

Command.	Headquarters.			Infantry.			Artillery.			Total.			Horses.	Guns.
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Aggregate.		
Fourteenth Army Corps	25	766	791	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	25	766	791	.....	.....
First Division	9	61	70	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9	61	70	.....	.....
First Brigade	5	27	32	68	1,427	1,495	.....	.....	.....	73	1,454	1,527	.....	.....
Second Brigade	6	40	46	60	1,448	1,508	.....	.....	.....	66	1,488	1,554	.....	.....
Third Brigade	7	75	82	45	922	967	.....	.....	.....	52	997	1,049	.....	.....
Battery C, 1st Illinois .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	118	123	5	118	123	80	4
Total First Division	27	203	230	173	3,797	3,970	5	118	123	205	4,118	4,323	80	4
Second Division	15	76	91	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	15	76	91	.....	.....
First Brigade	7	71	78	85	1,947	2,032	.....	.....	.....	92	2,018	2,110	.....	.....
Second Brigade	8	30	38	78	1,488	1,566	.....	.....	.....	86	1,518	1,604	.....	.....
Third Brigade	7	9	16	78	1,603	1,681	.....	.....	.....	85	1,612	1,697	.....	.....
Battery I, 2d Illinois .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	113	114	1	113	114	100	4
Total Second Division	37	186	223	241	5,038	5,279	1	113	114	279	5,337	5,616	100	4
Third Division	10	76	86	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10	76	86	.....	.....
First Brigade	10	77	87	79	1,749	1,828	.....	.....	.....	89	1,826	1,915	.....	.....
Second Brigade	4	34	38	87	1,615	1,702	.....	.....	.....	91	1,649	1,740	.....	.....
Third Brigade	7	44	51	62	1,275	1,337	.....	.....	.....	69	1,319	1,388	.....	.....
5th Wisconsin Battery .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	133	136	3	133	136	75	4
Total Third Division	31	231	262	228	4,639	4,867	3	133	136	262	5,003	5,265	75	4
19th Indiana Battery .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3	119	122	3	119	122	90	4
Grand total	120	1,386	1,506	642	13,474	14,116	12	483	495	774	15,343	16,117	345	16

JEF. C. DAVIS,

Brevet Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

Before Savannah, Ga., December 12, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BAIRD,

Commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps :

The general commanding the corps directs that you move the two remaining brigades of your division toward this point at an early hour

* See Sherman to Slocum, 4.30 p. m., p. 694.

to-morrow morning, pursuing the route taken by the wagon trains, and reporting your arrival when the head of your column has reached the crossing of the Georgia Central Railroad, when further instructions will be given you.

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

A. C. McCLURG,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,

December 12, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. S. WILLIAMS,
Commanding Twentieth Corps :

The major-general commanding desires you to have the steamer *Resolute* (captured this morning) turned over to Captain Whittelsey at once, and the commissary stores on board of her turned over to Colonel Balloch, chief commissary of subsistence.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,

Five Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 12, 1864.

Capt. H. M. WHITTELSEY,
Acting Chief Quartermaster :

CAPTAIN: General Jackson has been directed to detail fifteen engineers and mechanics to repair the steamer *Resolute*. They will report to you to-morrow morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST DIV., 20TH ARMY CORPS,

December 12, 1864.

Lieut. Col. H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Twentieth Army Corps :

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL: In compliance with orders from headquarters First Division, I detailed last evening one regiment (Third Wisconsin Volunteers) to proceed across the river upon the island for duty. I ordered my acting commissary of subsistence to accompany the regiment and to take possession of whatever supplies he might find for the use of the brigade. He found upon the boat captured this p. m. a small quantity of flour, &c., which he took possession of. Colonel Hawley, commanding Third Wisconsin Volunteers, was ordered by General Williams to turn over the stores to the corps commissary. I would respectfully request that these stores be issued to my brigade.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. A. CARMAN,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

[First indorsement.]

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
December 12, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded approved, as there is neither flour nor hard bread in this brigade.

N. J. JACKSON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

[Second indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Five Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 13, 1864.

Respectfully returned.

Instructions have been given to the chief commissary of the corps as to the disposition of the stores.

By command of Brig. Gen. A. S. Williams:

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
 MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
McAllister's Plantation, December 12, 1864.

Major-General SHERMAN:

GENERAL: Your dispatch* has just been received. I met the enemy's picket near the railroad, and chased Major Anderson, the commanding officer at Fort McAllister, back to his fort. From one of his escort captured, I learn that the fort is garrisoned by five companies, two of artillery and three militia; in all, about 200 men none of whom, however, have ever been under fire. There is a deep broad ditch to cross on entering the fort, and considerable opposition, no doubt, will be met with. There is a low swamp about one mile this side the fort; a battery of four guns covers the road leading through this swamp; by forcing this battery to retire, a charging party could follow it directly into the fort, and the affair would be over. I did not intend, general, to attempt the capture of the fort by a sudden dash, but I intended to deliberately storm the works. I have old infantry regiments, armed with Spencer rifles, who could work their way up to within easy range and force every man to keep his head beneath the parapet, and, finally, force my way into the fort—of course, I intended to maneuver my troops as infantry. I will march in the morning to accomplish the objects set forth in your communication. I cannot understand why our gun-boats do not move up, and make us aware of their presence by throwing a few shells into Fort McAllister. My headquarters are to-night four miles from the fort; my advance is within one mile and a half. A few hundred mounted men, under Colonel Ross, are guarding the country on this side the river; his is the only force I can hear of. I find over here many rich plantations, and can subsist my command for a month.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. KILPATRICK,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry.

* Not found.

ford in the morning. If your available force be not sufficient for that purpose, you will make use of all the civilians at this post, whether in the service of the Government or otherwise.

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

J. W. DICKINSON,
*Capt., 21st U. S. Colored Troops, and Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen.,
 Northern District, Department of the South.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 12, 1864.

Col. P. P. BROWN, Jr.,
Commanding 157th New York Volunteers, Fort Pulaski, Ga.:

COLONEL: The attention of the major-general commanding has been called to the publication in the Charleston Courier of a complimentary letter to you, signed by a number of exchanged rebel prisoners of war that had been confined in Fort Pulaski under your charge. Praise from the enemy is the last thing that an officer should seek, or permit to be bestowed upon him. These officers were sent to this department for the purpose of retaliation, and your instructions were to treat them in precisely the same manner that our prisoners of war in the hands of the enemy are treated. If these instructions had been faithfully carried out on your part, as they should have been, very few compliments would have been extended to you by the prisoners. The major-general commanding regrets exceedingly to be obliged to censure an officer for such conduct.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
Fort Pulaski, Ga., December 12, 1864.

Capt. W. L. M. BURGER, *Assistant Adjutant-General:*

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of to-day censuring me for failing to carry out the instructions given me with reference to the treatment of the prisoners of war placed under my charge. The instructions mentioned in your communication have failed to reach me, and until the censure reached me to-day I was not aware of their existence. I would therefore respectfully request that another copy be sent me, that I may know in what particulars I have erred, and be able to make the necessary changes.

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

P. P. BROWN, JR.,
Colonel, Commanding Post.

ON BOARD DANDELION,
Ossabaw Sound, December 13, 1864—11.50 p. m.

(Received 15th.)

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War, Washington, D. C.:

To-day, at 5 p. m., General Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps carried Fort McAllister by assault, capturing its entire garrison and

stores. This opened to us Ossabaw Sound, and I pushed down to this gun-boat to communicate with the fleet. Before opening communication we had completely destroyed all the railroads leading into Savannah and invested the city. The left of the army is on the Savannah River, three miles above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee, at King's Bridge. The army is in splendid order, and equal to anything. The weather has been fine, and supplies were abundant. Our march was most agreeable, and we were not at all molested by guerrillas. We reached Savannah three days ago, but owing to Fort McAllister could not communicate; but now that we have McAllister we can go ahead. We have already captured two boats on the Savannah River, and prevented their gun-boats from coming down. I estimate the population of Savannah at 25,000 and the garrison at 15,000; General Hardee commands. We have not lost a wagon on the trip, but have gathered a large supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our teams are in far better condition than when we started. My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules, and horses. We have utterly destroyed over 200 miles of rails, and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies. The quick work made with McAllister, the opening of communication with our fleet, and our consequent independence as to supplies, dissipate all their boasted threats to head us off and starve the army. I regard Savannah as already gained.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

ON BOARD DANDELION,
Ossabaw Sound, December 13, 1864—11.50 p. m.
(Received 15th.)

General H. W. HALLECK, *Washington:*

To-day, at 5 p. m., General Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps carried Fort McAllister by assault, capturing its entire garrison and stores. This opened to us the Ossabaw Sound, and I pulled down to this gun-boat to communicate with the fleet. Before opening communication we had completely destroyed all the railroads leading into Savannah and invested the city. The left is on the Savannah River, three miles above the city, and right on the Ogeechee, at King's Bridge. Were it not for the swamps we could march into the city, but as it is I would have to assault at one or two places over narrow causeways, leading to much loss; whereas in a day or two, with my communications restored and the batteries in position within short range of the city, I will demand its surrender. The army is in splendid order, and equal to anything. Weather has been fine, and supplies abundant. Our march was most agreeable, and we were not at all molested by guerrillas. We reached Savannah three days ago, but owing to Fort McAllister we could not communicate; but now we have McAllister we can go ahead. We have already captured two boats in the Savannah River, and prevented their gun-boats from coming down, and, if General Foster will prevent the escape of the garrison of Savannah and its people by land across South Carolina, we will capture all. I estimate the population at 25,000 and the garrison at 15,000; General Hardee commands. We have on hand plenty of meat, salt, and potatoes; all we need is bread, and I have sent to Port Royal for that. We have not lost a wagon on the trip, but have gathered in a large

supply of negroes, mules, horses, &c., and our teams are in far better condition than when we started. My first duty will be to clear the army of surplus negroes, mules, and horses, and suppose General Saxton can relieve me of these.

I am writing on board a dispatch-boat, down Ossabaw, at midnight, and have to go back to where I left my horse, eight miles up, in a row-boat, and thence fifteen miles over to our lines by daylight, so that I hope this will be accepted as an excuse for this informal letter; but I know you are anxious to hear of our safety and good condition. Full and detailed reports of the events of the past month will be prepared at a more leisure moment, and in the meantime I can only say that I hope by Christmas to be in possession of Savannah, and by the new year to be ready to resume our journey to Raleigh. The whole army is crazy to be turned loose in Carolina; and with the experience of the past thirty days I judge that a month's sojourn in South Carolina would make her less bellicose.

The editors in Georgia profess to be indignant at the horrible barbarities of Sherman's army, but I know the people don't want our visit repeated. We have utterly destroyed over 200 miles of railroad, and consumed stores and provisions that were essential to Lee's and Hood's armies. A similar destruction of roads and resources hence to Raleigh would compel General Lee to come out of his intrenched camp. I hope General Thomas has held Hood. My last accounts are of the fight at Franklin, but rebel papers state that Decatur, Ala., has been evacuated. This I regret, though it is not essential to the future. If Hood is making any real progress I would not hesitate to march hence, after taking Savannah, for Montgomery, which would bring him out of Tennessee; but it seems to me that winter is a bad time for him. I will try and see Admiral Dahlgren and General Foster before demanding the surrender of Savannah, which I do not propose to make till my batteries are able to open. The quick work made with McAllister, and the opening communication with our fleet, and consequent independence for supplies, dissipated all their boasted threats to head me off and starve the army. The efforts thus far have been puerile, and I regard Savannah as already gained.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
No. 198. } *Anderson's Plantation, Ga., December 13, 1864.*

I. Brigadier-General Woods, commanding First Division, will cause a rifle-pit to be thrown up along the ridge in the open field on the right and left of the Cemetery battery for at least three regiments of infantry. Brigadier-General Corse, commanding Fourth Division, will continue this line of works to the right for a similar number of troops, selecting for a position the edge of the belt of timber on the right of the buildings in front of his left wing. In case of an attack these works will be occupied at once by the troops of the above-mentioned divisions, the commanders of which will keep the troops necessary for this purpose under daily orders.

* * * * *

By order of Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus:

F. F. WHITEHEAD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Anderson's Plantation, Ga., December 13, 1864.

Brig. Gen. C. R. WOODS,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: In order to employ the enemy's attention in our front, and at the same time draw it from Fort McAllister, which Brigadier-General Hazen is about attacking, you will push your skirmishers, supported by some regiments, toward the enemy's line as soon as the tide commences to run out. The artillery will open a brisk fire at the same time. The demonstration will assume a menacing attitude during the day by brisk firing, &c.

By order of Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus:

F. F. WHITEHEAD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Same to General Corse, commanding Fourth Division.)

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Little Ogeechee, near Savannah, Ga., December 13, 1864.

Maj. Gen. F. P. BLAIR,
Commanding Seventeenth Army Corps:

The major-general commanding directs me to say that, at General Sherman's request, he has gone with him to-day down to Cheves' Mill, to witness the attack of General Hazen's division on Fort McAllister. He desires you to occupy the attention of the enemy as much as possible during the day.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Same to Major-General Osterhaus.)

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 13, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BAIRD,
Commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps:

The general commanding directs that you detail a brigade as guard and escort to a foraging train, which is ordered to start at 7 a. m. to-morrow, from a point on the Milledgeville road near your headquarters, for the purpose of procuring subsistence for the animals of the corps. The train will go out about eight miles, but it will not be necessary for the whole brigade to march more than four miles, a smaller guard being dispatched to guard the trains the whole distance, the remainder being held as a support.

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

A. C. McCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

KING'S BRIDGE, December 13, 1864—8 a. m.

General SLOCUM:

I have your report, or note, of last night 8 p. m., and think you can make good use of that boat. Don't attempt too much, for a failure of any kind will lead to a reaction; but if the people of Savannah discover us gaining little by little, but surely, it will have a strong effect. The bridge here is now done and is a considerable affair, and Hazen is passing over. I think Fort McAllister, too, will be found a strong work, and, therefore, I depend on another point which is being examined. Forage, &c., is more plentiful over here, but still it is limited. I cannot imagine what the fleet is about; they may be off on some special errand, or may be expecting us elsewhere. I will go to a point where I can see all the Ogeechee country and Ossabaw Sound. I will be home to-night, or in the course of the night.

Yours, truly,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, December 13, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM,
Commanding, &c.:

DEAR GENERAL: Take a good big drink, a long breath, and then yell like the devil. The fort was carried at 4.30 p. m., the assault lasting but fifteen minutes. The general signaled from this side to the fleet and got answers, and vessels were seen coming up the sound when Colonel Ewing left.

I am, general, yours, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 13, 1864.

Col. WILLIAM HAWLEY,
Commanding Third Wisconsin:

COLONEL: The general commanding the corps directs that you have all the boats in your charge, or in that of Colonel Bloodgood, on this side of the river by 8 a. m. to-morrow, and in readiness to cross troops. The whole of Colonel Carman's brigade will cross. The general will be there in person.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 13, 1864.

Brig. Gen. J. W. GEARY,
Commanding Second Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that you seize all the boats in the river near your line, and not allow any persons to cross to the island except under your direction.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

CIRCULAR ORDERS, } HDQRS. SECOND DIV., 20TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 141. } *In the Field, Ga., December 13, 1864.*

Until further orders, no parties will be allowed to cross the river to the island, or to the other shore, except with passes approved at division headquarters, or by higher authority. Colonel Jones, commanding Second Brigade, will detail a guard, under an officer, to collect all boats, scows, &c., in the vicinity of our lines and keep them constantly under guard, allowing no one to use them except properly authorized parties.

By command of Brig. Gen. John W. Geary:

W. T. FORBES,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
In the Field, Ga., December 13, 1864.

Col. ARIO PARDEE, Jr.,
Commanding First Brigade:

COLONEL: The general commanding division desires you to organize for your brigade a company of sharpshooters, by selecting from your regiments twenty-five or thirty marksmen, and placing them under command of one of your best skirmish officers. During such operations as the present this company will not be subject to other detail than for sharpshooting.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. T. FORBES,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 13, 1864.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,
Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding the corps directs that you detail from your command two regiments of infantry, to accompany an expedition to-morrow morning. They will report to these headquarters at 8 a. m. to-morrow. They are to accompany a wagon train, and will return to-morrow night.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
H. W. PERKINS,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION, CAVALRY CORPS,
MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
Kilkenny Bluff, Ga., December 13, 1864—1.30 p. m.

Major-General SHERMAN:

GENERAL: I am at Kilkenny. The Octorara, one of our gun-boats, is in sight. Captain Estes has gone out to communicate with her. I expect to see the officer at this place inside of three hours. I have directed my troops under Colonel Murray to encamp to-night at Midway, one regiment at Sunbery. With two regiments I have been

the people of the Confederate States, and especially those of South Carolina, ever known and felt what the people of Georgia know and feel now, no hostile shot would ever have struck the sacred walls of Sumter. I am willing and ready now, as I know my Government always has been, to enter at once into any fair exchange of prisoners. I will consult with Major-General Sherman on the subject, and give you his decision at the earliest possible moment.

Thanking you, general, for your kind attention to one of my officers, and for returning to me a book high prized,

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. KILPATRICK,
Brigadier-General, U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS CAVALRY COMMAND,
December 13, 1864.

Major-General SHERMAN:

GENERAL: Lieut. B. H. Chadwick, of the ———, is with me. He says this is the best possible point to land our stores. We have here at all times twelve feet of water, and eighteen feet at most points. He will send any message to our fleet you may desire. Our gun-boats are all up with Foster. I can have a dispatch sent to Admiral Dahlgren by daylight to-morrow morning.

J. KILPATRICK,
Brigadier-General, Commanding Cavalry.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIGADE, THIRD CAVALRY DIVISION,
In the Field, December 13, 1864.

ASSISTANT ADJUTANT-GENERAL, 14TH ARMY CORPS:

By command of General Kilpatrick my brigade of cavalry will march at 9 a. m., to cross the Ogeechee River at King's Bridge.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

SMITH D. ATKINS,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Steamer Nemaha, Savannah River, December 13, 1864.

Major-General SHERMAN:

GENERAL: I am rejoiced to hear from Captain Duncan of your successful march. I hope you will wipe out Savannah, which, I think, you can readily do. The enemy's force is about 15,000, about one-third veterans. Only a few scattering regiments have come from Virginia; none, I believe, from Lee's army. It has been gathered from Wilmington, Charleston, and Augusta. The enemy's forts on this coast are Fort Jackson, Batteries Lee, Savannah, Lamar, and Maine, guarding the Savannah River in the vicinity of Fort Jackson. The batteries are believed to be open at the gorge, with the exception of Fort Jackson. Fort Bartow, thirty guns, inclosed, is three miles east of Savannah, guarding both Saint Augustine Creek and Savannah River. Thunderbolt Battery, strong, nine guns, is situated near Wassaw, guarding the

Wilmington River. Turner's Rocks Battery is on the same river, opposite side, and two miles farther down. Some light batteries are at Isle of Hope. Beaulieu Battery, nine guns, open gorge, guards the Vernon River; shell road from it to Savannah. Rosedew Battery guards the Little Ogeechee River, open gorge, two guns; good road to Savannah. All these roads are well furnished with batteries at favorable points. Fort McAllister guards the Great Ogeechee River, fourteen guns, strong, inclosed. Communication with the fleet may be opened by taking Fort McAllister, or Batteries Rosedew or Beaulieu. I think the two latter are preferable, and easier taken. My own force is strongly posted between the Coosawhatchie and Tullifinny Rivers, and commands with its batteries the railroad, which is within 1,200 yards.

Ample supplies are here awaiting your orders. Communications may be sent to any river sound in this vicinity, and find a vessel of the fleet ready to receive them. I hold Boyd's Neck on the south side of Broad River, where couriers in that direction may come in better than at Coosawhatchie, where we are confronted by 5,000 men, veterans and militia. I inclose a traced map of this immediate coast.

Respectfully, yours,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

P. S.—An officer of General Grant's staff has arrived with dispatches for you; also a mail for your army of nearly twenty tons weight.

J. G. F.

SAVANNAH RIVER, *December 13, 1864.*

[General SHERMAN:]

GENERAL: Captain Duncan reached me on the morning of the 12th at 8 a. m. I have two iron-clads at Wassaw and a force of gun-boats at Ossabaw and Savannah River; will await your movements to establish a communication; the best may be by the Ogeechee; this is guarded by Fort McAllister, which has always resisted attack by water, but would be easily reduced from the rear. The rebels have no force of consequence south of McAllister. The Vernon is guarded by Battery Beaulieu, the Little Ogeechee by Rosedew, both able to keep vessels from passing the narrow channels, but of no force landward. The island formed by the Coosawhatchie and Tullifinny (head of Broad River) is crossed by the railroad, and is now occupied by General Foster south of the railroad, whose batteries will reach it. I think you will find the rivers going into Ossabaw convenient for communication.

Very respectfully,

J. A. DAHLGREN,
Rear-Admiral, Comdg. South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

U. S. STEAMER FLAG,
Ossabaw Sound, December 13, 1864—7 p. m.

Maj. Gen. J. G. FOSTER,

Commanding Department of the South:

GENERAL: I have succeeded in communicating by signals to the signal officer of General Sherman's army, stationed on a fort about three miles northwest of Fort McAllister, on the north side of the

Ogeechee River. I was unable to open full communication by flags with them, as it was most dark, but could see large numbers of troops arriving at that point. I shall return immediately to open communication by torch and rockets.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. A. FISHER,
First Lieutenant, Signal Corps, U. S. Army.

U. S. BARK FERNANDINA,
Saint Catherine's, Ga., December 13, 1864.

[General JOHN G. FOSTER:]

SIR: I have just communicated with our army at Kilkenny. General Kilpatrick and his staff are there. His forces hold the coast between here and Sapello. He wishes to make this place a base for supplies. One of my officers is now at Kilkenny waiting for dispatches from General Sherman, which I will forward as soon as received. I have only this moment received the above intelligence by one of my scouts.

Very respectfully,

LEWIS WESS.

General Sherman's headquarters are at Henry Munger's plantation, on the right hand of the Ogeechee, going up about northwest from Fort McAllister, distance three miles.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 13, 1864.

Brig. Gen. JOHN P. HATCH,
Commanding Coast Division, Tullifinny Point:

GENERAL: I am instructed by the major-general commanding to state that Admiral Dahlgren intends making a demonstration somewhere in the vicinity of Savannah, and will probably have to call upon you for the Naval Brigade. You are therefore directed, in case these men are sent for by the admiral, to send all excepting a sufficient number to man the navy guns. Nothing from Sherman since his scouts arrived yesterday morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
Morris Island, S. C., December 13, 1864.

Lieut. W. B. DEAN,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Dept. of the South:

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report most respectfully that nothing of importance has occurred since I assumed command. No deserters or refugees have entered our lines. The camps and outposts of the enemy are the same as they have been for several months back. The only information which I have received with regard to the enemy's

strength has been series of intercepted dispatches of which I have the honor to annex copies.* It gives the strength of the enemy in Charleston and to the northern part of the harbor. I am not of opinion that these dispatches were intended as a ruse to mislead us. The only method by which I can ascertain with any degree of certainty the strength of the enemy will be by attacking his outposts, which I consider myself sufficiently strong to do. Troops left Charleston yesterday, one light battery from Mount Pleasant, and 3 officers and 100 men from Sullivan's Island; further is not known. The flag of truce is still in operation.

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

A. SCHIMMELFENNIG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

P. S.—At this moment the Hancox has arrived bringing dead bodies from the flag-of-truce boat. Her captain reports that prisoners exchanged to-day have informed him that it was reported in Charleston that Savannah surrendered to-day with 10,000 prisoners after a fight of eight hours. Nothing official from Colonel Mulford.

Respectfully,

A. SCHIMMELFENNIG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

GENERAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 33.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 14, 1864.

The major-general commanding the Army of the Tennessee publishes the following order of the general-in-chief with great satisfaction. The thanks of the army are due to Brigadier-General Hazen and his command for the distinguished service they have rendered.†

By order of Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard:

SAML. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 194.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Little Ogeechee, near Savannah, Ga., Dec. 14, 1864.

First, corps commanders will hold their reserve troops, without artillery, in readiness to be moved around to the right by transports. Second, Major-General Osterhaus, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps, is charged with the holding of Fort McAllister and King's Bridge. The attention of corps commanders is again called to the necessity of keeping the road to King's Bridge in good hauling condition.

By order of Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard:

SAML. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

* Not found.

† See Special Field Orders, No. 131, p. 111.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 14, 1864.

Col. JOHN FLYNN, *Division Officer of the Day*:

COLONEL: I am directed by the general commanding division to say that there is some probability that the enemy will evacuate their position. The general desires you to direct the pickets to keep a special watch for any movement of the kind by throwing forward vedettes for close observation, and if any such movement takes place occupy their works at once and send notice to these headquarters.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. FORBES,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 14, 1864.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT, *Comdg. Armies of the United States*:

GENERAL: I have the honor to inform you that I have just returned from meeting General Sherman, whom I met at Fort McAllister at daylight this morning. Fort McAllister was taken by assault at 4.30 last evening by Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps. The garrison, numbering 250 men, were all made prisoners, and the armament of 21 guns, with stores, ammunition, &c., fell into our hands. This important capture opens the Great Ogeechee River to supplies of all kinds, which can be safely landed immediately in the rear of General Sherman's army. This army now holds Savannah closely besieged, having driven in the enemy from all his advanced positions until the left wing rests on the Savannah River three miles and a half above the city, and the right on the Ogeechee River. General Slocum, on the left wing, holds Argyle Island, and has a captured steamer in use on the river at that point. A second captured steamer was burned. The Central railroad is thoroughly destroyed; also the Savannah and Charleston Railroad from the Savannah River to within three miles and a half of the city. The Gulf road is also destroyed for a long distance, and the bridge over the Ogeechee burned. General Sherman is perfectly sure of capturing Savannah; and I am now forwarding a siege battery of 30-pounder Parrotts to be placed in position. In two days he will summon the city to surrender, and if not yielded will open his batteries. To prevent the escape of Hardee and the garrison, General Sherman intends to throw one division across the Savannah River at Argyle Island, to hold the river-bank opposite the city. I am also to hold the railroad and stage road in my present position between the Coosawhatchie and Tullifinny Rivers. Admiral Dahlgren is to demonstrate against the water defenses of Savannah to keep the garrisons in those works. Everything now seems extremely favorable to the entire success of General Sherman's expectations. His army is in splendid condition, having lived on its march on the turkeys, chickens, sweet potatoes, and other good things of the richest part of Georgia. The opposition to his march has been feeble. I am supplying everything needed and aiding in every way within my power.

I will send another dispatch as soon as Savannah falls.

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

J. G. FOSTER,

Major-General, Commanding.

(Same to General Halleck.)

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 14, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,

Chief of Staff of Armies of United States, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that I opened communication with General Sherman in the Ogeechee River at daylight this morning. Fort McAllister, with its garrison and armament of twenty-one guns, was taken by assault at 4.30 p. m. yesterday by Hazen's division of the Fifteenth Corps. This important capture opens the Ogeechee River to General Sherman as a base of supplies, which, with a siege train of 30-pounder Parrotts, are being rapidly forwarded. His army closely invests Savannah on the south side of the Savannah River, and a force which will take position on the north side of that river will prevent the escape of Hardee or the garrison. Argyle Island, in the Savannah River, is held by our troops, who have captured two steamers on the river at that point, one of which is in running order; the other was burnt. The Central railroad is completely destroyed; also the Charleston and Savannah Railroad to within three and a half miles of the city. A long distance on the Gulf road is also destroyed, together with the bridge over the Ogeechee. General Sherman will without doubt capture Savannah and all its garrison and armament. His army is in splendid condition and morale.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,

Major-General, Commanding.

HILTON HEAD, S. C., *December 14, 1864.*

Bvt. Maj. Gen. M. C. MEIGS,

Quartermaster-General:

General Sherman has arrived near here, and at least six large steamers, drawing not more than seven or eight feet, in addition to those already in the department, will be required to transport supplies to his army. The sailing vessels now here with supplies for him draw so much water that they cannot go up the Ogeechee River as far as required.

C. W. THOMAS,

Major and Chief Quartermaster Department of the South.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE JAMES,
December 14, 1864—2.50 p. m.

Lieutenant-General GRANT:

A Richmond paper of to-day says:

Up to yesterday morning no fighting had taken place between Sherman's army and the Confederate troops in the defense of Savannah. An official dispatch of yesterday mentioned that Sherman had developed his army near the town.

The Whig says:

So far as we can learn Sherman's army has invested Savannah; beyond the usual skirmishing no fight had taken place. A press telegram dated yesterday, 13th, from Augusta, says in the fight at Coosawhatchie, Friday, General Gartrell was badly wounded in the side by a shell. Notwithstanding his severe wound he remained on the field until the fight closed.

None of the papers contain particulars of the Coosawhatchie. No information of any conflict at that point since the 30th has been received at the War Department.

E. O. C. ORD,
Major-General.

(Copy to Secretary of War.)

WASHINGTON, *December 15, 1864—11.10 a. m.*

Lieutenant-General GRANT,
City Point, Va.:

You are aware that a large amount of supplies were collected at Pensacola for General Sherman, and that Canby held troops there and at Mobile, to open communication with him if necessary. Should not General Canby now be instructed to use these troops and supplies for other purposes? Will General Sherman, after taking Savannah, base himself on that place and operate against Charleston, Branchville, or Augusta? I do not know what instructions have been given him on this subject; but if he is to base himself on the coast, recruits, convalescents, &c., as well as future supplies, should be sent there for his army.

H. W. HALLECK,
Major-General and Chief of Staff.

WASHINGTON CITY, *December 15, 1864.*

Major-General HALLECK,
Chief of Staff of the Army:

GENERAL: Please communicate with Sherman, and direct him to send no troops from his army to Virginia until plan of campaign is fully agreed upon. My last instructions to Sherman contemplated his sending troops to operate against Richmond, retaining all his artillery, cavalry, and infantry sufficient to hold our base on the Atlantic secured by his campaign and to compel the enemy to retain there at least the force he now has against us. Also, that artillery can be sent from here to supply his wants.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,

Washington, D. C., December 15, 1864. (Via Port Royal, S. C.)

Major Gen. W. T. SHERMAN:

MY DEAR GENERAL: We have to-day official advices of your position, and that you have communicated, or that General Howard has communicated, with General Foster. I congratulate you on your successful march. You have made the greatest and most remarkable marches of the war, and have demonstrated several times that an army can move more than twenty-five miles from a navigable river or railroad without perishing. We have been shipping supplies for you, and I hope that you will have abundance of all necessities, though I have been somewhat uncertain as to your numbers. The first orders required

200,000 rations of grain and 500,000 of provisions and 100 rounds of ammunition to be shipped to meet you. They were at first ordered to rendezvous at Port Royal; subsequently, orders were given to send one-half of these supplies to Pensacola. I added a supply of clothing, some wagons, harness, and quartermaster's stores. These estimates and orders appear to have been based upon a column of 30,000 men. As soon as your movements, as reported by the rebel papers, showed that you would probably strike the Atlantic coast, orders were given to send further supplies to Hilton Head, and having ascertained that your force was probably much greater than that noted above, I ordered more clothing and quartermaster's stores, and directed forage, hay, and grain for 30,000 animals to be shipped daily. Of course I have sent forward all subsistence and ammunition turned over to the Quartermaster's Department for shipment.

I presume that you have more animals now than when you started, and I desire to call your attention to the difficulty, as well as the expense, of furnishing a large army with forage on the Atlantic coast. With all the exertions of the forage officer of this department, with a practically unlimited command of money, he has not been able to accumulate at Washington and at City Point enough long forage for the armies in Virginia to meet a few days' interruption by storm or ice. We can supply grain enough, but there is always a short supply of hay. He has agents in all the hay districts, and buys all that he can in the great markets. Still the armies complain of short allowance of hay. If you have more animals than you need for intended operations they should be sent off to some point where the country can subsist them, or else you will, I fear, lose many by the diseases resulting from constant feeding on grain without enough long forage. If you reduce the number of animals to the lowest point consistent with safety and efficiency the hay we can procure will subsist them in better condition. The expense and difficulty of maintaining a large army stationary is enormous. The wonderful resources of the Northern States have enabled us thus far to keep the Army of the Potomac fully supplied, except with hay, and of the want of that it complains bitterly. Should you rest upon the coast, as the Army of the Potomac has done, this hay question will be a great difficulty. I presume, however, that your army will be actively employed, and live, as it has heretofore, to some extent, upon the enemy. I hope so, and I believe that if there be a general officer in the service who can effect this, it is yourself.

Congratulating you again upon your brilliant and successful operation, I am, most sincerely, your friend and servant,

M. C. MEIGS,

Quartermaster-General, Brevet Major-General, U. S. Army.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 195.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

* * * * *

IV. 1. The reserve troops of Major-General Blair's command, Seventeenth Corps, will not be moved to the right by transports, as intimated in Special Field Orders, No. 194.

2. Major-General Blair is charged with constructing a wharf, suitable for landing supplies for this army, at such point on the river near King's Bridge as General Easton, chief quartermaster Military Divis-

ing directs that you make the necessary details from your command to assist your pioneer corps in throwing up the work for the siege guns. Captain Robinson, Company C, First Michigan Artillery, will superintend the work, and will be at your headquarters in a short time.

Very respectfully,

C. CADLE, JR.,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, near Savannah, Ga.

(Major-General Howard's Headquarters), December 15, 1864—2 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM, *Commanding Left Wing:*

GENERAL: The general has just returned from a visit to Ossabaw and Wassaw Sounds, and directs me to inform you in full terms of the result. After having opened communication by signal with the gun-boats and got possession of Fort McAllister, he went in person to the gun-boat below Fort McAllister, which proved to be a messenger-boat from the flag-ship lying at the mouth of Ossabaw Sound. After making communications to Washington, &c., he returned to Fort McAllister, and was overtaken by a messenger from General Foster, just from Port Royal. The general went on board General Foster's boat, and proceeded with him down the bay in hopes to meet the admiral, but did not find him till after running around to Wassaw Sound. General Foster then proceeded to Port Royal at 12 m. yesterday, to return with a fleet of transports loaded with 600,000 rations and ten days' forage for 40,000 animals, and promised to be here by to-night. He will also bring with him six 20-pounder Parrott guns and six 30-pounder Parrotts, with 300 rounds of ammunition per gun. The general then transferred to the admiral's vessel and returned to Fort McAllister, whence the admiral accompanied him as far up as the rice mill, where he had left his horse. He is now at General Howard's headquarters, and has sent for his camp to be transferred to a point near this, which is not far from the Seven-Mile Post on the main road leading west from Savannah to the Ogeechee, marked on our maps as a plank road. This point is about five miles from his present headquarters, on the Louisville road. General Foster has 5,000 men near the Charleston railroad, north of Broad River, and near enough to the railroad to command it, so that he feels sure that cars cannot pass either way; but he has been unable to reach the railroad itself with his men, on account of the enemy's force. The gun-boats and General Howard occupy all other avenues of approach to Savannah connecting with your right. Now, if you can close the Savannah River to navigation, and also get a force over the Savannah River to threaten in flank any dirt road leading out of Savannah, between the city and Coosawhatchie, the investment of the city will be complete and the enemy will have no escape.

The general wants to place the batteries expected from General Foster in position as near the heart of Savannah as possible, ready to bombard it as soon as possible. You may, therefore, send horses to the Ogeechee River, at King's Bridge, ready to haul those guns to your right front, and, as soon as they are well in position, ready to open on the city, he proposes to demand its surrender. In the meantime our stores of all kinds will come up Ossabaw Sound and the Ogeechee to King's Bridge, and thence be hauled to the camps. The canal is admirably adapted to your use, and the general suggests that you send

some competent staff officer over to the Ogeechee, and, in concert with General Easton, chief quartermaster, collect as many boats as possible to transport your stores from King's Bridge, through the canal, up to your very camp. At Doctor Cheves' plantation, ten miles from King's Bridge, the general himself saw at least half a dozen fine, large flats, built expressly to transport rice through the canal to Savannah, the very things wanted, and he has no doubt on other plantations at least twenty or twenty-five boats could be collected, each capable of transporting twenty tons. In dry weather the wagons will be best, but in case of rainy weather these boats would be admirable. As soon as possible the general wants your batteries, which are nearest the city, prepared to execute the foregoing plans, and he wants you to write him in full to-night any ideas that may have been suggested by your closer observation of the ground in your immediate front; and you may at once give orders for hauling provisions and forage from King's Bridge, as Admiral Dahlgren assured him this morning that he would have all torpedoes and obstructions removed in the course of to-day. There is also a steam-boat load of mail for your army, Col. A. H. Markland in charge, which will be at King's Bridge the instant the torpedoes are removed. Captain Merritt brings this to you, and can satisfy all your inquiries, as he has been with the general.

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

HENRY HITCHCOCK,
Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
December 15, 1864—5 p. m.

Maj. HENRY HITCHCOCK, *Assistant Adjutant-General:*

MAJOR: Your communication of 2 p. m. has just come to hand. The heavy guns can be used to advantage in my front. From my extreme left I can shell the city with the 3-inch gun. I think I can safely place a force on the Carolina side of the river and gradually work my way opposite the city. I shall send team for stores at once.

I will write fully to-morrow.

Very respectfully, &c.,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
December 15, 1864—9 p. m.

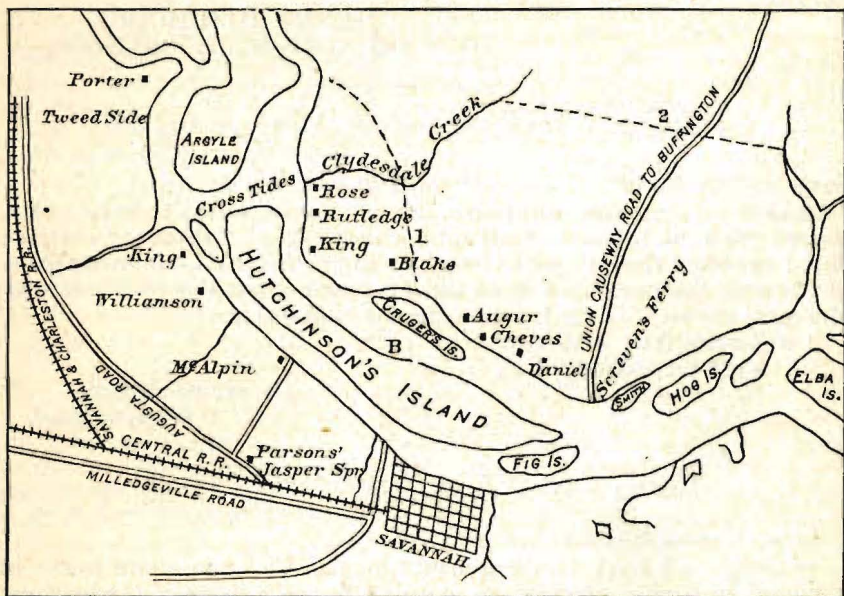
[Major-General SHERMAN:]

GENERAL: I have two regiments on the Carolina shore north of Clydesdale Creek. To-morrow morning the remainder of the brigade, three additional regiments, will endeavor to take the line from Clydesdale Creek to a point on the Savannah River opposite to Cruger's Island, with orders to intrench on that line and feel forward toward the causeway road. With your consent I will try to place a division on the line marked 2 on the inclosed diagram. It will be necessary to move with some caution on that side; and, to render the position entirely safe, it may be necessary to throw an entire corps over, with instructions to intrench strongly. There are many points in front of our present position that can be guarded by a good picket-line. If a portion of the line now held by Davis can be held by General Howard,

or by the troops under General Foster, the Twentieth Corps can be spared, and will seal up that side of the city and be in a position to shell every portion of it. I shall go no further than to send a brigade over to take the line marked 1 until I hear from you; but I have no fear of placing a corps on that side; and this done the fate of the city is sealed. I think Foster's command might be of use in the swamps on this side if placed behind the line already established. I think there are points on the left of my line from which the city can be shelled with those heavy guns to more advantage than on the right of the line. The point held by Carlin, where Mower was, is within three miles and a half of the city, but there are points nearer the river quite as close, and from which the city can be seen. Please give me your views as to the propriety of attempting to throw one entire corps over. We can send supplies via Argyle Island, which is held by us. The enemy hold the lower part of Hutchinson's Island, and command the whole island, with their batteries on this side. They also send a small gun-boat up to a point between Cruger's Island and Hutchinson's, at a point marked B. She has one heavy gun and gives us some annoyance. She is just out of range of our field guns.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.



HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, near Savannah, Ga.,

(Major-General Howard's Headquarters), Dec. 15, 1864—11.30 p. m.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM, Comdg. Left Wing, Army of Georgia :

GENERAL: The general-in-chief directs me to write you as follows:

"Your note of 9 p. m. is just received. For the present do not send more than one brigade, and instead of threatening south toward the Union Causeway, rather let it threaten eastward toward the road marked as running up toward Augusta on the east side of the Savan-

nah River, seemingly threatening in flank the movement of troops attempting to escape from Savannah. There are some points which I will explain in person as soon as I can ride over to see you. A messenger is just arrived from General Grant with dispatches of importance. Prepare for the rifled guns and get them into position as soon as possible. Let the engineer regiment continue to destroy the railroad, and cover their work up as far as the bridge, including it if possible. After making some letters to-morrow I will come over to see you. Also get from the island in the river all the rice you can as forage for your horses."

I have the honor to be, &c.,

HENRY HITCHCOCK,
Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

Brig. Gens. W. P. CARLIN and J. D. MORGAN,
Comdg. First and Second Divisions, Fourteenth Army Corps :

A brigade from General Baird's division has been ordered to start from near General Baird's headquarters to-morrow, at 7 a. m., as guard and escort to foraging trains and parties from the different divisions. The expedition will proceed toward the Ogeechee River, and division commanders are authorized to make details of wagons and foragers to accompany it.

By order of Bvt. Maj. Gen. J. C. Davis:

A. C. McCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BAIRD,
Commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps :

The general commanding the corps directs that you detail one brigade to escort and guard foraging trains from the different divisions on a foraging expedition toward the Ogeechee River, the expedition to start from near your headquarters to-morrow at 7 a. m.

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

A. C. McCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

Brigadier-General JACKSON, *Commanding First Division :*

GENERAL: The general commanding the corps desires to have you watch well the enemy's batteries in your front, and report at once any movement of their artillery. It is possible that they may take away some of the pieces.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Same to General Geary, commanding Second Division.)

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

Brig. Gen. N. J. JACKSON,
Commanding First Division :

GENERAL: The brigadier-general commanding the corps directs that you send the Second Massachusetts Volunteers, Colonel Cogswell commanding, to report at once to Colonel Hawley, commanding on Argyle Island, for temporary duty. It is necessary that the regiment should start at once.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

Brigadier-General JACKSON,
Commanding First Division :

GENERAL: The general commanding the corps directs that you order the balance of Colonel Carman's brigade (now in the line) to march to-morrow morning to the landing where the captured steamboat is, starting from camp in time to reach there at 7 a. m. The interval that will be left in your line by taking out these troops will have to be filled by putting in the reserve regiments of the other brigades, and, if necessary, increase the intervals between the regiments. The general will go over the river in the morning and would like to have you accompany him. He will start from here about 8 a. m.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Five Miles from Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

Brig. Gen. N. J. JACKSON,
Commanding First Division :

GENERAL: I am directed by the general commanding to say that Colonel Carman's brigade, of your division, will start for the river as soon as relieved to-morrow morning. That brigade will be relieved at daybreak by a brigade of General Ward's division.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

Brigadier-General JACKSON,
Commanding First Division :

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that you have all the pioneers now with your division and the tool wagons of the whole division accompany Colonel Carman's brigade to-morrow morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 15, 1864.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,
Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that the brigade of your division now in reserve relieve Colonel Carman's brigade, of the First Division, to-morrow morning at daybreak.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD BRIGADE,
In the Field, December 15, 1864.

Colonel ASMUSSEN:

SIR: The officer that I sent this morning to see about the connection between the Fourteenth Corps and the left of the Thirty-first Wisconsin has just returned, and reports that the connection heretofore was not fully made, but the evil has been remedied and the connection is now complete. Lieutenant-Colonel Rogers, brigade officer of the day, reported to Captain Reynolds on yesterday that the connection had been made, and Captain Reynolds so reported to me yesterday. I gave positive instructions to the brigade officers of the day upon the subject. It seems that the Thirty-first picketed to the swamp, refusing their left, and the Fourteenth to the swamp on the other side, refusing their right. The officer has measured the distance, and reports that the Fourteenth Corps cover this portion of the ground. I shall increase the detail from my brigade to-day in order to strengthen the entire line; it will in the future be 250 men. I have built breast-works in front of the Thirty-first Wisconsin, Sixty-first Ohio, One hundred and first Illinois, and Eighty-second Illinois. The two pieces of artillery are also protected by works on railroad and main wagon road.

Very truly,

J. S. ROBINSON,
Colonel, &c.

HDQRS. COAST DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Deveau's Neck, S. C., December 15, 1864—1.30 p. m.

Major-General FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South:

GENERAL: I have just received your letter.* We will be ready to move as soon as possible, but you are aware that we cannot get off this strip of land in less than two days with the transportation we have. I do not think the enemy intend sending more re-enforcements to Savannah. One train got down yesterday and one to-day; no train has gone north either yesterday or to-day. A train came from toward Savannah last night and discharged at Coosawhatchie; it then returned. Night before last we killed the engineer and one fireman and disabled a train. We keep up a slow fire on the road, and fire briskly when a train attempts to pass. The force in front of me is small, not over 2,000, if the stories told by deserters are true. I think the road might be cut toward Pocotaligo without any serious mishap. Major Thomas is sending for all the launches and scows; I have directed Colonel Ransom to

*Not found.

send them. The 30-pounder Parrotts have, I think, got the range of the road. Our battery that is to open at 800 yards on the railroad is, I find, commanded by a battery 400 yards from it. I dare not open until I get a slashing cut through the wood, to enable my batteries in camp to play on that of the enemy; I intend then to capture it. The whole command turned out and cheered General Sherman last night about 9 o'clock. One of our scouts heard one of the rebels say, "Uncle Abe must have issued a new proclamation." Not bad. We will shut up the railroad by day after to-morrow, if not earlier. Kind regards to the madam.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. HATCH,
Brigadier-General.

Our right battery, deserters tell me, cut the rails in three places. The scouts, who can hear talk on the railroad, assure me that the employees are dissatisfied at having to pass us. I shall send Lieutenant Harrold, New York Engineers, down in arrest. He is worse than useless, as he fills a place that a decent sergeant might occupy to advantage.

J. P. H.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 15, 1864.

Lieut. Col. JOHN E. MULFORD,
Assistant Agent of Exchange:

COLONEL: I am directed by the major-general commanding to acknowledge the receipt of your dispatches and rebel papers, and to return you his thanks for the same. General Foster desires me to state that he is ready at any time for you to declare the truce at an end, and requests that you will inform Brigadier-General Schimmelfennig, commanding the Northern District, of the fact that hostilities may recommence at once. General Sherman has arrived. He called on General Foster on board the steamer Nemaha in the Ogeechee River about daylight yesterday morning. Fort McAllister, on the Ogeechee River, was assaulted by Hazen's division, of the Fifteenth Corps, and captured, with about 250 prisoners and 21 guns, with ammunition and stores. The Ogeechee River is now open to supplies for General Sherman's army. The railroads leading to Savannah are cut and the city invested, excepting the north side. General Sherman's army is in fine condition and in excellent spirits. They have lived on the country almost entirely during their march from Atlanta.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 15, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. SCHIMMELFENNIG,
Commanding Northern District, Morris Island, S. C.:

GENERAL: The major-general commanding directs that as soon as Lieut. Col. John E. Mulford, assistant agent of exchange, notifies you

that the truce is declared at an end, you may recommence hostilities, in accordance with a letter of instructions delivered to you when you retook command of the district. Those instructions were to fire only occasionally, as the War Department wishes to economize ammunition as much as possible.

W. L. M. BURGER,
Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 15, 1864.

Col. P. P. BROWN, Jr.,
Fort Pulaski, Ga.:

COLONEL: Escaped Union prisoners just arrived from Columbia, S. C., report the following as the ration issued to our prisoners by the rebel authorities: Six (one pint) cups unbolted corn-meal every five days, one-half pint molasses per day, one-half pint rice occasionally for five days, three tablespoonfuls salt every five days, and no meat or grease whatever. You are, therefore, directed by the major-general commanding to furnish the prisoners now in your custody with rations in accordance with the above, giving them half a pound of bread in lieu of the rice, and issuing to them no meat or grease. You will acknowledge the receipt of this letter immediately upon its being received.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Same letter, excepting the last sentence, sent to Capt. Joseph T. Pratt, provost-marshal, Hilton Head District.)

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 15, 1864.

Col. P. P. BROWN, Jr.,
Fort Pulaski, Ga.:

COLONEL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 12th instant in answer to the letter of censure sent you by direction of the major-general commanding. You state that the instructions mentioned in the letter failed to reach you, and request a copy to be sent that you may know in what particular you have erred. It is perfectly well understood by every officer in this department that these prisoners were sent here for the purpose of retaliation, to be treated in precisely the same manner that our prisoners are treated that are in the hands of the enemy, and for no other reasons whatever. Full instructions were sent you on the 4th ultimo for the care and management of these prisoners, and a corrected copy of your General Order, No. 11, which you were directed to issue and strictly enforce in place of the one you published. This letter alone contained sufficient instructions for your guidance in their management, and was thought to cover all the points. Duplicate copies of the letter and order are herewith inclosed. Instructions have been sent to you repeatedly, through the commanding officer of the district, in regard to the ration to be issued, &c. The letter was sent you, not only

because you did not treat those prisoners in accordance with your instructions, but because you permitted yourself to be complimented by our enemies for conduct that that same enemy would scorn to bestow on our prisoners in their hands. The major-general commanding directs that you immediately acknowledge the receipt of this letter, and state whether you received the letter of instructions of November 4, with the corrected copy of your General Order, No. 11.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, near Savannah, December 16, 1864.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commander-in-Chief, City Point, Va.

GENERAL: I received day before yesterday, at the hands of Lieutenant Dunn, your letter of December 3, and last night, at the hands of Colonel Babcock, that of December 6. I had previously made you a hasty scrawl from the tug-boat Dandelion, in Ogeechee River, advising you that the army had reached the sea-coast, destroying all railroads across the State of Georgia and investing closely the city of Savannah, and had made connection with the fleet. Since writing that note I have in person met and conferred with General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren, and made all the arrangements which I deemed essential to reducing the city of Savannah to our possession. But since the receipt of yours of the 6th I have initiated measures looking principally to coming to you with 50,000 or 60,000 infantry, and, incidentally, to take Savannah, if time will allow. At the time we carried Fort McAllister by assault so handsomely, with its 22 guns and entire garrison, I was hardly aware of its importance; but since passing down the river with General Foster and up with Admiral Dahlgren I realize how admirably adapted are Ossabaw Sound and Ogeechee River to supply an army operating against Savannah. Sea-going vessels can easily come to King's Bridge, a point on Ogeechee River fourteen and a half miles west of Savannah, from which point we have roads leading to all our camps. The country is low and sandy, and cut up with marshes, which, in wet weather, will be very bad; but we have been so favored with weather that they are all now comparatively good, and heavy details are constantly employed in double corduroying the marshes, so that I have no fears even of a bad spell of weather. Fortunately, also, by liberal and judicious foraging, we reached the sea-coast abundantly supplied with forage and provisions, needing nothing on arrival except bread; of this, we started from Atlanta provided with from eight to twenty days' supply per corps, and some of the troops only had one days' issue of bread during the trip of thirty days; and yet they did not want, for sweet potatoes were very abundant, as well as corn meal, and our soldiers took to them naturally.

We started with about 5,000 head of cattle and arrived with over 10,000; of course, consuming mostly turkeys, chickens, sheep, hogs, and the cattle of the country. As to our mules and horses, we left Atlanta with about 2,500 wagons, many of which were drawn by mules, which had not recovered from the Chattanooga starvation, all of which were replaced, the poor mules shot, and our transportation is now in superb condition. I have no doubt the State of Georgia has lost by our operations 15,000 first rate mules. As to horses, Kilpatrick collected all his

remounts, and it looks to me, in riding along our columns, as though every officer had three or four led horses, and each regiment seems to be followed by at least fifty negroes and foot-sore soldiers riding on horses and mules. The custom was for each brigade to send out daily a foraging party of about fifty men, on foot, who invariably returned mounted, with several wagons loaded with poultry, potatoes, &c.; and as the army is composed of about forty brigades you can estimate approximately the quantity of horses collected. Great numbers of these were shot by my order, because of the disorganizing effect on our infantry of having too many idlers mounted. General Easton is now engaged in collecting statistics in this line; but I know the Government will never receive full accounts of our captures, although the result aimed at was fully attained, viz., to deprive our enemy of them. All these animals I will have sent to Port Royal, or collected behind Fort McAllister, to be used by General Saxton in his farming operations, or by the quartermaster's department, after they are systematically accounted for. Whilst General Easton is collecting transportation for my troops to James River I will throw to Port Royal Island all our means of transportation I can, and collect the balance near Fort McAllister, covered by the Ogeechee River and intrenchments to be erected, and for which Captain Poe, my chief engineer, is now reconnoitering the ground; but in the meantime will act as I have begun, as though Savannah City was my objective, namely: the troops will continue to invest Savannah closely, making attacks and feints wherever we have firm ground to stand upon; and I will place some 30-pounder Parrotts, which I have got from General Foster, in position near enough to reach the center of the city, and then will demand its surrender. If General Hardee is alarmed or fears starvation he may surrender; otherwise, I will bombard the city, but not risk the lives of my men by assaults across the narrow causeways by which alone I can now reach it. If I had time, Savannah, with all its dependent fortifications, is already in our possession, for we hold all its avenues of supply. The enemy has made two desperate efforts to get boats from above to the city, in both of which he has been foiled—General Slocum, whose left flank rests on the river, capturing and burning the first boat, and in the second instance driving back two gun-boats and capturing the steamer *Resolute*, with seven naval officers and a crew of twenty-five seamen.

General Slocum occupies Argyle Island and the upper end of Hutchinson's Island, and has a brigade on the South Carolina shore opposite, and he is very urgent to pass one of his corps over to that shore; but, in view of the change of plans made necessary by your order of the 6th, I will maintain things in statu quo till I have got all my transportation to the rear and out of the way, and until I have sea transportation for the troops you require at James River, which I will accompany and command in person. Of course I will leave Kilpatrick with his cavalry, say 5,300, and it may be a division of the Fifteenth Corps; but before determining this I must see General Foster, and may arrange to shift his force (now over above the Charleston railroad, at the head of Broad River) to the Ogeechee, where, in co-operation with Kilpatrick's cavalry, he can better threaten the State of Georgia than from the direction of Port Royal. Besides, I would much prefer not to detach from my regular corps any of its veteran divisions, and would even prefer that other less valuable troops should be sent to re-enforce Foster from some other quarter. My four corps, full of experience and full of ardor, coming to you en masse, equal to 60,000 fighting men, will be a re-enforcement that Lee cannot disregard. Indeed, with my present

command, I had expected upon reducing Savannah instantly to march to Columbia, S. C., thence to Raleigh, and thence to report to you; but this would consume, it may be, six weeks time after the fall of Savannah, whereas by sea I can probably reach you with my men and arms before the middle of January.

I myself am somewhat astonished at the attitude of things in Tennessee. I purposely delayed at Kingston until General Thomas assured me that he was "all ready," and my last dispatch from him, of the 12th of November, was full of confidence, in which he promised me that he would "ruin Hood," if he dared to advance from Florence, urging me to go ahead and give myself no concern about Hood's army in Tennessee. Why he did not turn on Hood at Franklin, after checking and discomfiting him, surpasses my understanding. Indeed, I do not approve of his evacuating Decatur, but think he should have assumed the offensive against Hood from Pulaski in the direction of Waynesburg [Waynesborough]. I know full well that General Thomas is slow in mind and in action, but he is judicious and brave, and the troops feel great confidence in him. I still hope he will out-manuever and destroy Hood.

As to matters in the Southeast, I think Hardee, in Savannah, has good artillerists, some 5,000 or 6,000 infantry, and it may be a mongrel mass of 8,000 to 10,000 militia and fragments. In all our marching through Georgia he has not forced me to use anything but a skirmish line, though at several points he had erected fortifications and tried to alarm us by bombastic threats. In Savannah he has taken refuge behind a line constructed behind swamps and overflowed rice fields, extending from a point on the Savannah River about three miles above the city around by a branch of the Little Ogeechee, which stream is impassable from its salt marshes and boggy swamps, crossed only by narrow causeways or common corduroy roads. There must be 25,000 citizens—men, women, and children—in Savannah that must also be fed, and how he is to feed them beyond a few days I cannot imagine, as I know that his requisitions for corn on the interior counties were not filled, and we are in possession of the rice fields and mills which could alone be of service to him in this neighborhood. He can draw nothing from South Carolina, save from a small corner down in the southeast, and that by a disused wagon road. I could easily get possession of this, but hardly deem it worth the risk of making a detachment, which would be in danger by its isolation from the main army.

Our whole army is in fine condition as to health, and the weather is splendid; for that reason alone, I feel a personal dislike to turning northward. I will keep Lieutenant Dunn here until I know the result of my demand for the surrender of Savannah; but, whether successful or not, ~~will~~ not delay my execution of your order of the 6th, which will depend alone upon the time it will require to obtain transportation by sea.

I am, with respect, &c., your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, U. S. Army.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, December 16, 1864. (Via Hilton Head.)

Major-General SHERMAN:

GENERAL: Lieutenant-General Grant informs me that in his last dispatch sent to you he suggested the transfer of your infantry to Rich-

mond. He now wishes me to say that you will retain your entire force, at least for the present, and with such assistance as may be given you by General Foster and Admiral Dahlgren, operate from such base as you may establish on the coast. General Foster will obey such instructions as may be given by you. Should you have captured Savannah, it is thought that by transferring the water batteries to the land side, that place may be made a good depot and base for operations on Augusta, Branchville, or Charleston. If Savannah should not be captured, or if captured and not deemed suitable for this purpose, perhaps Beaufort would serve as a depot. As the rebels have probably removed their most valuable property from Augusta, perhaps Branchville would be the most important point at which to strike, in order to sever all connection between Virginia and the Southwestern Railroad. General Grant's wishes, however, are that this whole matter of your future action should be entirely left to your discretion. We can send you from here a number of complete batteries of field artillery, with or without horses, as you may desire. Also, as soon as General Thomas can spare them, all the fragments, convalescents, and furloughed men of your army. It is reported that Thomas defeated Hood yesterday near Nashville, but we have no particulars nor official reports, telegraphic communication being interrupted by a heavy storm. Our last advices from you was General Howard's note announcing his approach to Savannah.

Yours, truly,

H. W. HALLECK,
Major-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
King's Bridge, December 16, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN:

GENERAL: The mail-boat and General Foster's steamer, neither capable of carrying any freight, are the only vessels that have arrived here as yet. These boats report only six feet water on the bars below this place at low tide. I fear the steamers and other vessels below, which contain our supplies, draw too much water to get up. I will go down the river in the morning and lighten up the transports, and do everything else that can be done to get supplies to this point.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. C. EASTON,
Chief Quartermaster.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, } HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
No. 133. } *In the Field, near Savannah, Ga.,
December 16, 1864.*

I. Capt. O. M. Poe, chief engineer, will cause all the railroads leading out of Savannah to be most thoroughly destroyed—the Charleston road as far as and, if possible, including the bridge over Savannah River; the Macon road as far as Station 1½; and the Gulf road as far as and including the Ogeechee River bridge.

II. Major-General Howard will dispatch two divisions, without wagons, to destroy the Gulf road as far as the Altamaha River bridge, and exhaust the country in that direction of supplies. General Kilpatrick with his cavalry will cover this working force, and co-operate with it.

ion to destroy the Gulf road from Station 3 to the Altamaha River, and one brigade of General Smith's division to King's Bridge to unload transports.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK P. BLAIR, JR.,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 308. }

HDQRS. SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 16, 1864.

I. Brig. Gen. G. A. Smith, commanding Fourth Division, will send the First Brigade of his command, Col. B. F. Potts commanding, to encamp at King's Bridge. They will proceed there forthwith, and report to General Easton, chief quartermaster Military Division of the Mississippi.

II. Lieut. Col. A. Hickenlooper, assistant inspector-general, Seventeenth Army Corps, is hereby placed in charge of the building of the wharf at King's Bridge. The First Missouri Engineers, Lieutenant-Colonel Tweeddale commanding, will report to him for orders.

III. In compliance with Special Field Orders, No. 196, department headquarters (copy inclosed),* Major-General Mower, commanding First Division, will move the two brigades of his command now in camp to a point twenty miles west of the Ogeechee River, on the Gulf road, and will, in concert with General Kilpatrick, destroy the road from there to and including the bridge over the Altamaha River. He will take with him one section of artillery, and will leave in camp his transportation, moving as lightly as possible. He will take three days' rations, and will live as far as possible off the country.

* * * * *
V. Col. George E. Spencer, commanding First Alabama Cavalry, will, at 7 a. m. to-morrow, move out on the road to Station 3, on the Gulf railroad, and on overtaking Maj. Gen. J. A. Mower, commanding First Division, will report to him, and be subject to his orders during the time General Mower is absent destroying the road.

* * * * *
By command of Maj. Gen. F. P. Blair:

C. CADLE, JR.,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 16, 1864.

Maj. Gen. J. A. MOWER,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: The major-general commanding directs me to say to you that you will have to proceed without rations. You will be able to procure plenty in the section to which you are going. You may take six wagons of infantry ammunition. It will be necessary to return within the time limited, and to expedite the destruction of the road you can send the First Alabama Cavalry to the other end to do the work.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. CADLE, JR.,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. FIRST DIV., 17TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 170. } *Near Savannah, Ga., December 16, 1864.*

I. In accordance with Special Orders, No. 308, headquarters Seventeenth Army Corps, of this date, the First Brigade, Brig. Gen. J. W. Fuller commanding, and the Third Brigade, Col. John Tillson commanding, and one section of Battery C, First Michigan Artillery, of this command, will be prepared to march immediately. The troops will move light. One ambulance and one wagon will be taken by each regiment. The artillery will take one wagon-load of ammunition. No other wagons allowed. Three days' rations will be drawn upon the arrival of the troops at the river.

* * * * *

III. Lieut. William E. Ells, acting commissary of subsistence of this division, will remain back in his present camp; but should supplies arrive here for the troops within five days from this date he will bring the necessary supplies forward to this command wherever it may be on the Gulf railroad.

By order of Maj. Gen. Joseph A. Mower:

CHAS. CHRISTENSEN,
Lieut., Aide-de-Camp, and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 16, 1864.

Col. THOMAS CURLY,
Commanding at Cheves' Mill:

The major-general commanding directs me to instruct you to cause to be procured from the Cheves' and all other plantations on the river between Fort McAllister and King's Bridge all the small boats of whatsoever description you can find, and send them to King's Bridge, to report to Lieutenant-Colonel Hickenlooper, of General Blair's staff, or officer in charge of construction of wharves at that point, with as little delay as possible. Should there be more boats at Fort McAllister than are necessary for use at that place you will take them also.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
December 16, 1864.

Brigadier-General MORGAN,
Commanding Second Division, Fourteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: General Carlin reports that the enemy is working to establish a battery within range of the right of your picket-line, and that your pickets report that they could dislodge the working party if they had not orders to hold their fire. Please give orders to your pickets to stop this work, if it prove true that the work being erected is within range.

Yours, very respectfully,

JEF. C. DAVIS,
Brevet Major-General, Commanding.

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SECOND DIV., 14TH ARMY CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 16, 1864.

Respectfully returned to Brig. Gen. James D. Morgan, with the statement that the pickets of this brigade have at no time been ordered to hold their fire at all times, but, on the contrary, to fire upon the enemy whenever, in their judgment, their fire could be made effective and good accomplished.

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

JOHN S. PEARCE,
Lieutenant-Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 16, 1864.

Col. E. A. CARMAN,
Commanding Brigade:

COLONEL: The brigadier-general commanding the corps directs that you cross your command to the South Carolina side of the Savannah River to-morrow morning. You will commence the movement before daylight. He directs that you use at first, until a sufficient number of troops have been crossed to drive away or silence the battery, only the small boats; as soon as it is safe to do so, you will use the flat-boats and barges. He further directs that you have the second piece of artillery crossed to-night and put in position near where the one is that was crossed to-day. He also directs that you have all the flat-boats, barges, &c., taken around to the north side of the island to-night, so that they may be in readiness to cross the troops. He also directs that, after you have crossed, you occupy and hold a position near the river, not attempting to advance far into the country.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 16, 1864.

Brigadier-General JACKSON,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: In accordance with directions from the brigadier-general commanding the corps, the order for Colonel Carman to cross his brigade to the South Carolina side of the Savannah River to-morrow morning is hereby countermanded. The general commanding directs that you have him send over a force of 90 or 100 men, in small boats, to effect a lodgment, if possible, and feel the enemy's position. He wishes him to take only such force as can be readily brought back in case the enemy is too strong for them. He also desires that Colonel Carman will send reconnoitering parties up the island, to examine the country and channel, and see if a crossing can be effected farther up the river; it may, perhaps, be well to send a small boat or two with this party. The two pieces of artillery will be put in position near the mill, as directed in the former order. The general desires to have one-half of

the flat-boats brought to this side of the island, the other half to be kept on the north side, in the vicinity of the mill, where they can be sheltered as much as possible.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST DIV., TWENTIETH CORPS,
Argyle Island, Ga., December 16, 1864.

Lieut. GEORGE ROBINSON,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General:

SIR: I have the honor to report, that I have made my arrangements to cross my brigade to the main South Carolina shore, if deemed advisable. General Jackson desired me to advance my skirmishers on the enemy at daybreak; and, I understood him to say, to support it with two or three regiments, if deemed advisable. I would respectfully ask, if I succeed in getting a lodgment with my skirmishers and two regiments, if I am to cross my whole brigade without further orders, or act on my judgment?

I am, very respectfully,

E. A. CARMAN,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

CIRCULAR.] HDQRS. 2D BRIG., 1ST DIV., 20TH ARMY CORPS,
Argyle Island, Ga., December 16, 1864.

This command will be in readiness to move at 4.30 a. m. to-morrow. Col. William Hawley, Third Wisconsin Volunteers, and Col. William Cogswell, Second Massachusetts Volunteers, will each detail one commissioned officer and fifty enlisted men, under command of a competent officer from the Third Wisconsin Volunteers who is acquainted with the country on the north side of the river, to cross in small boats at 5 a. m. precisely; they will act as skirmishers. The Third Wisconsin Volunteers, Second Massachusetts Volunteers, One hundred and fiftieth New York Volunteers, One hundred and seventh New York Volunteers, and Thirteenth New Jersey Volunteers will follow in barges in the order named. Each regiment will carry two axes and twenty shovels. Regiments that are not already supplied can procure the tools by sending to these headquarters early in the morning. Col. William Hawley, Third Wisconsin Volunteers, will report to the commanding officer of the brigade, at 5 a. m. to-morrow, as commanding officer of the advance.

By command of Col. E. A. Carman, commanding brigade:

J. R. LINDSAY,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Steamer Nemaha, Ogeechee River, Ga., December 16, 1864.

Major-General SHERMAN,
Commanding:

GENERAL: On my way up to-day I sounded the river, obtained two good pilots, one of whom is on the Island City, and removed a pier and the burnt rubbish of the railroad bridge so as to permit vessels to pass. Between that bridge and this point there is only seven feet of water at

high water; up to the railroad bridge from the mouth of the river there is ten feet of water at low water. All the vessels with supplies may come to the railroad bridge, but from there to this point lighters must be used, except at high water, when the light-draught steamers may come up. The siege battery of 30-pounder Parrotts is in the river, three pieces on the steamer Sylph and three more on another steamer. Forage is also here on vessels, both steam and sailing. Two large steamers and one schooner with commissary stores are also in the river coming up. In going down I will endeavor to pick up on the plantations pilots enough to place one on each vessel, if possible, and hurry them up. All of them should arrive at the railroad bridge at noon to-morrow. The Sylph is of light-draught, and can come directly here and land the 30-pounder Parrotts at the landing. I shall leave as soon as the water rises sufficiently to proceed directly to Hilton Head, to send a steamer to Fortress Monroe with Lieutenant-Colonel Babcock. After that I shall return at once.

Respectfully, yours,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

CITY POINT, VA., *December 17, 1864.*

Lieutenant-General GRANT:

The Richmond papers of to-day contain the following:

FROM GEORGIA—SHERMAN'S MOVEMENTS.

The Augusta Register, received this morning, says that it was stated in that city on the 13th that the Federals have possession of the Savannah, Albany and Gulf Railroad. It is also said that they captured a passenger train on the same. Among the persons taken was R. R. Cuyler, esq., the president of the road. It is also reported that the Yankees have possession of the Charleston and Savannah Railroad bridge over the Savannah River. The Charleston Mercury of the day before says that, meantime, Sherman has been pressing steadily toward the city; our forces had fallen back to the junction of the Georgia Central and Charleston and Savannah Railroad, about three miles from the city. At this important point, which commands both roads, General Hardee took his stand. It was confidently reported yesterday, and we think, that Sherman's forces were in Hardee's front, and that a demand for the surrender of the city having been refused, heavy fighting ensued, and was going on yesterday. Of the result, however, if any, no news whatever has reached us. We may hear something to-day. The community of Savannah seem firm and quiet. For the present, the trains will cease to run through between the two cities. General Gartrell states that for several days he observed frequent signals between the Federal forces toward Port Royal and Sherman's forces in the direction of Sister's Ferry, on the Savannah railroad. The impression of the South was that Sherman was crossing at the ferry, and would co-operate with Foster's forces in opening the way to Port Royal.

The Dispatch, speaking of the raid into Southwest Virginia, says that:

Information was received here yesterday that the main body had left the railroad at Glade's Spring and started toward the salt-works, six miles distant; and that the smaller party, previously mentioned, had passed Marion and were advancing on Wytheville, which is fifty-five miles this side of Abingdon. The object of this party is doubtless to break up the railroad, and thereby prevent re-enforcements from being sent from the east to our troops at the salt-works. They will, of course, destroy as much property as possible along their route.

JNO. A. RAWLINS,
Brigadier-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, near Savannah, Ga., December 17, 1864.

General WILLIAM J. HARDEE,

Commanding Confederate Forces in Savannah:

GENERAL: You have doubtless observed from your station at Rose-dew that sea-going vessels now come through Ossabaw Sound and up Ogeechee to the rear of my army, giving me abundant supplies of all kinds, and more especially heavy ordnance necessary to the reduction of Savannah. I have already received guns that can cast heavy and destructive shot as far as the heart of your city; also, I have for some days held and controlled every avenue by which the people and garrison of Savannah can be supplied; and I am therefore justified in demanding the surrender of the city of Savannah and its dependent forts, and shall await a reasonable time your answer before opening with heavy ordnance. Should you entertain the proposition I am prepared to grant liberal terms to the inhabitants and garrison; but should I be forced to resort to assault, and the slower and surer process of starvation, I shall then feel justified in resorting to the harshest measures, and shall make little effort to restrain my army—burning to avenge a great national wrong they attach to Savannah and other large cities which have been so prominent in dragging our country into civil war. I inclose you a copy of General Hood's demand for the surrender of the town of Resaca, to be used by you for what it is worth.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

[Inclosure.]

HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF TENNESSEE,

In the Field, October 12, 1864.

TO THE OFFICER COMMANDING U. S. FORCES AT RESACA, GA.:

SIR: I demand the immediate and unconditional surrender of the post and garrison under your command, and should this be acceded to, all white officers and soldiers will be paroled in a few days. If the place is carried by assault no prisoners will be taken.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. B. HOOD,
General.

HDQRS. DEPT. OF S. CAROLINA, GEORGIA, AND FLORIDA,

Savannah, Ga., December 17, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,

Commanding Federal Forces, near Savannah, Ga.:

GENERAL: I have to acknowledge receipt of a communication from you of this date, in which you demand "the surrender of Savannah and its dependent forts," on the ground that you have "received guns that can cast heavy and destructive shot into the heart of the city," and for the further reason that you "have for some days held and controlled every avenue by which the people and garrison can be supplied." You add that should you be "forced to resort to assault, or to the slower and surer process of starvation, you will then feel justified in resorting to the harshest measures, and will make little effort to restrain

your army," &c. The position of your forces, a half a mile beyond the outer line for the land defenses of Savannah, is, at the nearest point, at least four miles from the heart of the city. That and the interior line are both intact. Your statement that you "have for some days held and controlled every avenue by which the people and garrison can be supplied" is incorrect. I am in free and constant communication with my department. Your demand for the surrender of Savannah and its dependent forts is refused. With respect to the threats conveyed in the closing paragraphs of your letter, of what may be expected in case your demand is not complied with, I have to say that I have hitherto conducted the military operations intrusted to my direction in strict accordance with the rules of civilized warfare, and I should deeply regret the adoption of any course by you that may force me to deviate from them in future.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 W. J. HARDEE,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Anderson's Plantation, Ga., December 17, 1864.

Brig. Gen. C. R. WOODS,
Commanding First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: You will cause a detail to be made from your command for the purpose of covering that portion of the Savannah road corduroyed by pioneer corps with at least six inches of sand, &c. The road being a double one, the task of the several divisions will be as follows: To the First Division will be assigned the north side of the road as far as the bridge; to the Fourth Division the south side to the bridge; and to the Third Division that portion of the road corduroyed beyond the bridge; and also an officer of pioneer corps to superintend the extra working detail.

• By order of Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus:

F. F. WHITEHEAD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 17, 1864.

Brig. Gen. A. BAIRD,
Commanding Third Division, Fourteenth Army Corps:

The general commanding directs that you detail a large regiment from your command, with instructions to support and protect the First Michigan Engineers while engaged in tearing up the railroad above Station No. 1 (or Pooler), on the Georgia Central Railroad. Major Yates, the commanding officer of the First Michigan Engineers, will be found at or near Pooler. The commanding officer of the regiment detailed will see and consult with him in regard to position.

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

A. C. McCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

FORT MONROE, VA., *December 17, 1864—7.30 a. m.*

(Received 10.40 a. m.)

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
Chief of Staff:

I have the honor to report my arrival here this morning at 5 o'clock, with dispatches from Sherman and Foster. I send you in cipher a telegram from Foster. I will be in Washington this p. m. with full and detailed dispatches from General Sherman.

JNO. F. ANDERSON,
Major and Additional Aide-de-Camp, Staff of General Foster.

HDQRS. COAST DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Deveau's Neck, S. C., December 17, 1864.

[Major-General FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South:]

GENERAL: One train passed up yesterday morning; it consisted of two passenger and one freight car. We got a battery into position last night bearing on the bridge; have not opened with it, as we hope to catch a train crossing this morning. The enemy have but four regiments opposite me; they have also one at Pocotaligo. A train was lying all day yesterday below Coosawhatchie, but out of sight; it would move when we threw shells into the woods. No deserters this morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. P. HATCH,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
FIRST SEPARATE BRIGADE,
Morris Island, S. C., December 17, 1864.

Capt. W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the South:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to inform you that the truce existing in Charleston Harbor, for the purpose of exchange of prisoners, terminated to-day at 10 a. m. by mutual agreement. Instructions to that effect were furnished me by Lieutenant-Colonel Mulford, a copy of which I have the honor to annex. There is nothing further of importance to communicate. The enemy remain quiet, as well as myself, not a shot having been fired on either side since I assumed command. A small regiment returned on the 14th, passing from John's Island over the bridge to James Island. They are probably the Forty-seventh Georgia, as the men were heard conversing in loud tones during the following night in the camp of that regiment. The only quarter in which the enemy exhibits increased activity is in the vicinity of the batteries on John's Island, which have been erected for the purpose of covering the bridge which crosses to Fort Pringle. About 200 men, infantry, four heavy pieces of artillery, and a wagon train were observed yesterday crossing Stono River from James to John's Island, marching in a westerly direction. The guard at Charleston proper has been re-enforced by one company of infantry and one company of cavalry, which latter is doing outpost duty north of Charleston at the distance of several miles (inter-

cepted dispatch). I have found the forts in good condition and the guns fully provided with ammunition, having from 100 to 200 rounds per gun on hand; but the position has been weakened to a certain extent, from the fact that all the booms in Light-House Inlet, as well as in Secessionville Creek, have been carried away, and have not been replaced. With regard to offensive operations, I have to state that the planking intended for the completion of the plankway across the marsh on Morris Island, and that which was provided for the flooring of the bridge to cross from Cole's to James Island, have been used for other purposes.

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your two communications dated December 14 and 15; the former with regard to the arrival of General Sherman, and the latter touching the commencement of hostilities at the expiration of the truce.

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

A. SCHIMMELFENNIG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

CONFIDENTIAL.] HDQRS. ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
Washington, D. C., December 18, 1864.

Maj. Gen. WILLIAM T. SHERMAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

MY DEAR GENERAL: I have just received and read, I need not tell you with how much gratification, your letter to General Halleck. I congratulate you and the brave officers and men under your command on the successful termination of your most brilliant campaign. I never had a doubt of the result. When apprehensions for your safety were expressed by the President, I assured him, with the army you had, and you in command of it, there was no danger but you would strike bottom on salt water some place; that I would not feel the same security—in fact, would not have entrusted the expedition to any other living commander. It has been very hard work to get Thomas to attack Hood. I gave him the most peremptory order, and had started to go there myself before he got off. He has done magnificently, however, since he started. Up to last night 5,000 prisoners and 49 pieces of captured artillery, besides many wagons and innumerable small arms, had been received in Nashville. This is exclusive of the enemy's loss at Franklin, which amounted to 13 general officers killed, wounded, and captured. The enemy probably lost 5,000 men at Franklin, and 10,000 in the last three days' operations. Breckinridge is said to be making for Murfreesborough; if so, he is in a most excellent place. Stoneman has nearly wiped out John Morgan's old command, and five days ago entered Bristol. I did think the best thing to do was to bring the greater part of your army here and wipe out Lee. The turn affairs now seem to be taking has shaken me in that opinion. I doubt whether you may not accomplish more toward that result where you are than if brought here, especially as I am informed since my arrival in the city that it would take about two months to get you here, with all the other calls there are for ocean transportation. I want to get your views about what ought to be done and what can be done. If you capture the garrison of Savannah it certainly will compel Lee to detach from Richmond, or give us nearly the whole South. My own opinion is that Lee is averse to going out

of Virginia, and if the cause of the South is lost he wants Richmond to be the last place surrendered. If he has such views it may be well to indulge him until everything else is in our hands.

Congratulating you and the army again upon the splendid result of your campaign, the like of which is not read of in past history, I subscribe myself, more than ever, if possible,

Your friend,

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, December 18, 1864. (Via Hilton Head.)

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
Savannah:

MY DEAR GENERAL: Yours of the 13th, by Major Anderson, is just received. I congratulate you on your splendid success, and shall very soon expect to hear of the crowning work of your new campaign in the capture of Savannah. Your march will stand out prominently as the great one of this great war. When Savannah falls, then for another raid south through the center of the Confederacy. But I will not anticipate. General Grant is expected here this morning, and will probably write you his own views. I do not learn from your letter or from Major Anderson that you are in want of anything which we have not provided at Hilton Head. Thinking it possible that you might want more field artillery, I had prepared several batteries, but the great difficulty of foraging horses on the coast will prevent our sending any unless you actually need them. The hay crop this year is short, and the Quartermaster's Department has great difficulty in procuring a supply for our animals. General Thomas has defeated Hood near Nashville, and it is hoped that he will completely crush his army. Breckinridge, at last accounts, was trying to form a junction near Murfreesborough; but as Thomas is between them Breckinridge must either retreat or be defeated. General Rosecrans made very bad work of it in Missouri, allowing Price with a small force to overrun the State and destroy millions of property. Orders have been issued for all officers and detachments having three months or more to serve to rejoin your army via Savannah; those having less than three months to serve will be retained by General Thomas. Should you capture Charleston, I hope that by some accident the place may be destroyed, and if a little salt should be sown upon its site it may prevent the growth of future crops of nullification and secession.

Yours, truly,

H. W. HALLECK,
Major-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864—8 p. m.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
City Point, Va.:

GENERAL: I wrote you at length by Colonel Babcock on the 16th instant. As I therein explained my purpose, yesterday I made a demand on General Hardee for the surrender of the city of Savannah, and

to-day received his answer, refusing. Copies of both letters are herewith inclosed.* You will notice that I claim that my lines are within easy cannon range of the heart of Savannah, but General Hardee claims we are four miles and a half distant. But I, myself, have been to the intersection of the Charleston and Georgia Central railroads, and the three-mile post is but a few yards beyond, within the line of our pickets. The enemy has no pickets outside of his fortified line, which is a full quarter of a mile within the three-mile post, and I have the evidence of Mr. R. R. Cuyler, president of the Georgia Central Railroad, who was a prisoner in our hands, that the mile posts are measured from the Exchange, which is but two squares back from the river. But by to-morrow morning I will have six 30-pounder Parrotts in position, and General Hardee will learn whether I am right or not. From the left of our line, which is on the Savannah River, the spires can be plainly seen, but the country is so densely wooded with pine and live oak, and lies so flat, that we can see nothing from any other part of our lines. General Slocum feels confident that he can make a successful assault at one or two points in front of the Twentieth Corps, and one or two in front of General Davis' (Fourteenth) Corps. But all of General Howard's troops, the Right Wing, lie behind the Little Ogeechee, and I doubt if it can be passed by troops in the face of an enemy; still, we can make strong feints, and if I can get a sufficient number of boats I shall make a co-operative demonstration up Vernon River or Wassaw Sound. I should like very much indeed to take Savannah before coming to you; but, as I wrote to you before, I will do nothing rash or hasty, and will embark for the James River as soon as General Easton, who has gone to Port Royal for that purpose, reports to me that he has an approximate number of vessels for the transportation of the contemplated force. I fear even this will cost more delay than you anticipate, for already the movement of our transports and the gun-boats has required more time than I had expected. We have had dense fogs, and there are more mud banks in the Ogeechee than were reported, and there are no pilots whatever. Admiral Dahlgren promised to have the channel bouyed and staked, but it is not done yet. We find only six feet water up to King's Bridge at low tide, about ten up to the rice mill, and sixteen to Fort McAllister. All these points may be used by us, and we have a good strong bridge across Ogeechee at King's, by which our wagons can go to Fort McAllister, to which point I am sending the wagons not absolutely necessary for daily use, the negroes, prisoners of war, sick, &c., en route for Port Royal.

In relation to Savannah, you will remark that General Hardee refers to his still being in communication with his War Department. This language he thought would deceive me, but I am confirmed in the belief that the route to which he refers—namely, the Union plank road, on the South Carolina shore—is inadequate to feed his army and the people of Savannah; for General Foster assures me that he has his force on that very road near the head of Broad River, and that his guns command the railroad, so that cars no longer run between Charleston and Savannah. We hold this end of the Charleston railroad, and have destroyed it from the three-mile post back to the bridge—about twelve miles. In anticipation of leaving this country I am continuing the destruction of their railroads, and at this moment have two divisions and the cavalry at work breaking up the Gulf railroad from the Ogeechee to the Altamaha; so that even if I do not take Savannah, I will leave it in a bad

* See p. 737.

way. But I still hope that events will give me time to take Savannah, even if I have to assault with some loss. I am satisfied that unless we take it the gun-boats never will, for they can make no impression upon the batteries which guard every approach from the sea; and I have a faint belief that when Colonel Babcock reaches you you will delay operations long enough to enable me to succeed. With Savannah in our possession at some future time, if not now, we can punish South Carolina as she deserves, and as thousands of people in Georgia hoped we would do. I do sincerely believe that the whole United States, North and South, would rejoice to have this army turned loose on South Carolina to devastate that State, in the manner we have done in Georgia, and it would have a direct and immediate bearing on your campaign in Virginia.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.

Maj. Gen. O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding Army of the Tennessee:

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has just returned from General Slocum's, where he made a demand for the surrender of Savannah, &c., which was denied. He wishes you to make the necessary preparations at once for assaulting the place. He wishes to know if the crossing of the creek is practicable, and if you can make a diversion about Rosedew. General Slocum has received his orders, and General Davis and General Williams are ready, or nearly so.

I am, general, with respect, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

GENERAL: Your letter of date just received. Major-General Blair thinks he can make a lodgment in his front, and has been directed to proceed as rapidly as possible with the preparations. In the other fronts I can at least make strong demonstrations. If I can get the water transportation from General Foster in time I believe the diversion just beyond Beaulieu to be practicable—that is, with one division.

Respectfully,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 198.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.

I. The prisoners of war taken by this army, now in charge of the several provost-marshals, will immediately be turned over to Maj. F. C. Gillette, provost-marshal Fifteenth Army Corps, who, with a suit-

Pine Point battery, and the plank-road battery should all be charged simultaneously. The greatest obstacle to overcome prior to reaching the enemy's works is the canal, which is represented by the negroes as being about four feet deep in front of Lawton's battery, but from five to six feet deep in front of the other two.

Very respectfully,

M. D. LEGGETT,
Brigadier-General.

P. S.—Lieutenant Hasler, Twentieth Ohio, now on picket, represents just this moment that the enemy moved a considerable body of troops to the vicinity of the plank-road battery just before sundown. I have sent for him, and if I find his statements of account I will forward them. I have not seen him myself.

M. D. L.

HDQRS. THIRD DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
In the Field, December 18, 1864.

Captain CADLE,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

CAPTAIN: I have just had a talk with Lieutenant Hasler, Twentieth Ohio. He says that he distinctly saw a large column of rebel troops move down the big road and file into the rear of their works in this front and the front of General Woods. He thinks there was nearly or quite a division of them. He says he could see but one point in the road, and they were about one hour passing that point, and seemed well clothed, and all dressed in dark clothing, black or blue. This took place from 4 to 5 this p. m. He says that several soldiers who were at the rifle-pit with him saw the same. Lieutenant Hasler sustains the reputation of a good officer and reliable man. I can hardly think they intend a demonstration upon us, neither do I believe they can afford so many troops to garrison our front. I have just sent my picket officer out to put the pickets and reserves on the alert.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. D. LEGGETT,
Brigadier-General.

P. S.—The same officer says there was considerable commotion in the rebel camp last night, and he thinks they moved away a portion of their artillery.

M. D. L.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
December 18, 1864.

Maj. Gen. J. C. DAVIS,
Commanding Fourteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: I presume General Sherman called on you to-day, and informed you of his intention to attempt to carry the first line in our front as soon as our artillery can be placed in position. I think everything will be in readiness within two days. The assault will be made simultaneously at every accessible point on the line. There are several points in front of the Twentieth Corps which I think can be carried. We are making fascines of straw and canebrakes; also practicing with

the pontoon bridge materials. Perhaps it would be well for you to send two or three officers over to examine these fascines, as they may be useful on your line. I hope every brigade commander on your front will make a most careful examination of the lines in his front, and be prepared for the work. I shall order Williams to bring to the front all of the brigade now guarding our rear, except one regiment. About one-third of his command will be held in reserve at our present line. Works have already been constructed for all his artillery, and I intend he shall use all of it for fifteen or twenty minutes before he advances his infantry. I will try to see you to-morrow or next day.

Yours, &c.,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
No. 208. } LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.

* * * * *

III. First Lieut. Stephen G. Grubb, Battery C, First Illinois Artillery, is hereby appointed ordnance officer of the corps (vice Capt. George Estep, who is about to be mustered out of the service), and will report to Maj. Charles Houghtaling, chief of artillery, Fourteenth Army Corps.

By command of Bvt. Maj. Gen. J. C. Davis:

A. C. MCCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

ORDERS.] HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, 14TH ARMY CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.

Col. D. Miles, commanding Third Brigade, will relieve Col. J. H. Brigham's (Second Brigade) quietly and without attracting the notice of the enemy at daylight to-morrow morning, the 19th instant.

Col. J. H. Brigham, upon being relieved by Colonel Miles' command, will encamp his brigade on the ground now occupied by Colonel Miles' command, withdrawing his troops cautiously.

By order of Brig. Gen. W. P. Carlin:

G. W. SMITH,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

CIRCULAR.] HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.

Commanders of divisions will reconnoiter by day and night all roads and approaches to their lines from the enemy's position, using for this purpose general and field officers of the day and staff officers. The object of these examinations is to ascertain every avenue to the line of the enemy's defenses. They will send to these headquarters daily reports of their investigations.

By command of Brig. Gen. A. S. Williams:

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

CIRCULAR.] HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST DIV., 20TH CORPS,
Argyle Island, Ga., December 18, 1864.

This command will be in readiness to move at 5.30 a. m. to-morrow. The Third Wisconsin Volunteers and Second Massachusetts Volunteers will cross the river to the South Carolina shore at 6 a. m.; the Thirteenth New Jersey Volunteers will follow as support. Col. William Hawley, Third Wisconsin Volunteers, will take command of the three regiments above-named, and will receive detailed instructions from the brigadier-general commanding the division to-night. The above-named regiments will leave their knapsacks upon this side. They will carry the extra twenty rounds of ammunition upon their persons. The One hundred and seventh New York and One hundred and fiftieth New York Volunteers will relieve the three regiments above-named in their present work at 6 a. m. Lieutenant-Colonel Sill, One hundred and seventh New York Volunteers, will leave one company in his present camp.

By command of Col. E. A. Carman, commanding brigade:

J. R. LINDSAY,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864.

Brig. Gen. J. W. GEARY,
Commanding Second Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding desires to meet yourself and your brigade commanders at these headquarters to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Copy to Brig. Gen. W. T. Ward, commanding Third Division.)

CONFIDENTIAL.] HDQRS. MILITARY DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, near Savannah, Ga., December 18, 1864—8 p. m.

Maj. Gen. J. G. FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South:

GENERAL: In compliance with the plan I indicated to you some days since, I made a demand during yesterday on General Hardee for the surrender of the city of Savannah and its dependent forts, and to-day received his answer declining to accede. You are aware that I am ordered to carry this army to Virginia by sea, but I hope still to be able to get possession of Savannah before sufficient transportation can be had to enable me to comply with General Grant's orders. The 30-pounder Parrotts which you sent me are now being hauled to batteries prepared for them, and in about two days' time, if we can possibly get the ground to stand upon, we shall assault the enemy's lines at four or more points. It is all important that the railroad and telegraph wire should be broken between the Savannah River and Charleston, and the very best point is where your force is represented to be, near the Tullifunny. It seems to me that our operations here, espe-

cially along the Savannah River, must have drawn away every man from that quarter that they could possibly spare, and a bold rush on the railroad would probably develop a weaker force there than is supposed to be; or it may be that you could diminish that force and use the balance in a small, handy detachment east of the Tullifinny over about Old Pocotaligo. I merely throw out these ideas, and merely reiterate that it would aid us very much in this quarter if that force of yours be kept most active, more especially if you succeed in breaking the railroad and the telegraph wire—the farther toward Charleston the better. Even if nothing better can be done let them whale away with their 30-pounder Parrotts and break the road with cannon balls. It is possible, as a part of the general movement, that I may send a force, in co-operation with the navy, toward the Union plank-road, in the direction of Bluffton. I will go over and see the admiral again to-morrow, and it may be that I will see you, as in your last note you said that you would return again.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 18, 1864.

Lieut. Col. JOHN E. MULFORD,
Assistant Agent of Exchange, Charleston Harbor:

COLONEL: General Sherman requires for immediate and pressing use all the vessels that he can possibly procure. He therefore requests me to require of you, as a military necessity, all the vessels of every description that you can possibly spare, and that you order them to report to General Easton, at Fort McAllister, in the Ogeechee River, as soon as possible.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 18, 1864.

Brigadier-General HATCH,
Commanding Coast Division, Devereaux's Neck:

GENERAL: I received your letters, and am pleased that you have pushed up your batteries and, in a measure, stopped the running of the trains. I am not, however, fully satisfied with the damage we are doing them, and therefore want you to take the railroad, if you can, and destroy it; if you cannot do this, be sure and secure such an artillery fire as will destroy any train that attempts to pass. I think you can best destroy the road by crossing the Tullifinny with a portion of your force and striking the road near the Pocotaligo River.

Yours, in haste,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

HDQRS. SIGNAL DETACHMENT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 18, 1864.

Capt. JESSE MERRILL,
Chief Signal Officer, Department of the South:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to make the following special report of duty performed by me, which resulted in opening communication with General Sherman, in Ogeechee River:

On the morning of the 12th instant I was ordered by you to accompany you on board the U. S. revenue cutter Nemaha, to proceed with General Foster down the coast, to endeavor to open communication with General Sherman's army if it approached the coast. We left Hilton Head at 10.30 a. m., and proceeded through the inland passage to Fort Pulaski. Here I obtained twelve signal rockets from the ordnance officer of the fort by order of General Foster. Not being able to obtain any information here we proceeded through Lazaretto Creek into Wassaw Sound. I closely examined the shore as we passed along for some indications of General Sherman's approach to the coast. Arrived at Wassaw Sound at 3 p. m. and proceeded outside. We arrived at Ossabaw Sound, where the U. S. steamer Flag was doing blockading duty at mouths of Ogeechee, Vernon, and Little Ogeechee Rivers. Here I was ordered by you to go on the Flag, and received instructions from General Foster to use every means in my power to find General Sherman, and to reconnoiter those different rivers closely, and to go up on the picket-boat, if one was sent out. I then proceeded on board the Flag with Sergeant Hardy and Private Smedes, and was introduced to Captain Williamson, commanding, by Maj. J. F. Anderson, chief of staff to General Foster. Captain Williamson promised to render me every assistance in his power, but had no picket-boats to send out, but as soon as the tug Dandelion returned would let me have her to proceed up the Ogeechee and Vernon Rivers. Finding I could do nothing that night in reconnoitering, I induced the captain to fire his heavy guns six times in rapid succession, after which I threw up several rockets in rapid succession, and closely scanned the horizon inland for some answering signal. After waiting some time a faint shoot of light was seen to arise in the direction of the Ogeechee River, but not being satisfied, I threw up two more at once, and again saw the response, but at so great a distance as to be almost indiscernible. It was then about 3 a. m. of the 13th instant.

The tug having returned, I desired Captain Williamson to send me up, but as Admiral Dahlgren desired the pilot to go out over the bar, he wished me to wait until daylight. At 8 a. m. I went on board the tug Dandelion and proceeded up the Ogeechee River, looking closely in every direction with my glass for some signal or sign of General Sherman's army. We proceeded up the river to a point just out of range of the rebel fort McAllister and the batteries on the opposite side of the Little Ogeechee River. Here the captain was afraid to proceed any farther on account of the cross-fire which the different forts could bring upon him; but desiring to reconnoiter their position, I obtained the use of a small row-boat, and, accompanied by Sergeant Hardy and Private Smedes, and four men to row, I proceeded up along the shore until I arrived nearly opposite Fort McAllister's guns, and had passed the forts on the Little Ogeechee. Here I put the boat into a small creek, where we were concealed from the enemy by the high grass of the marsh. I then made a careful and close reconnaissance of the forts and the surrounding country. While so engaged I was very much surprised to find that we were not discovered by the enemy; but I soon

Sound into Wassaw Sound, where we arrived about 11 o'clock 14th instant, and found Admiral Dahlgren, who came aboard and remained for an hour or more; and then General Sherman went aboard the Harvest Moon, the admiral's flag-ship, and returned with him to Ossabaw Sound and to his army, while we returned to Hilton Head, where we arrived at about 6 p. m.

In concluding my report I take great pleasure in making honorable mention of the gallant conduct of both Sergeant Hardy and Private Smedes, who accompanied me upon the reconnaissance, and who I would recommend to your favorable consideration.

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

GEORGE A. FISHER,
First Lieutenant, Signal Corps, U. S. Army.

CITY POINT, VA., December 19, 1864—3.30 p. m.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War, Washington:

On reflection, I think it would have a good effect to allow Sherman's letter to General Halleck, except such facts as refer to future movements, to be published. It is refreshing to see a commander after a campaign of more than seven months' duration ready for still further operations, and without wanting any outfit or rest.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 19, 1864—3.50 p. m.

Lieutenant-General GRANT,
Fort Monroe, or City Point:

The steamer Louise, about to leave here for Hilton Head, has orders to touch at Fort Monroe for dispatches. As this vessel will probably reach Sherman several days before Major Anderson from New York, I suggest the propriety of sending a copy of your dispatch of yesterday by her. Could you not telegraph it to Fort Monroe in cipher?

H. W. HALLECK,
Major-General and Chief of Staff.

CITY POINT, VA., December 19, 1864.

Maj. Gen. WILLIAM T. SHERMAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

While North I met a number of our officers who had just been paroled from Columbia, S. C. They informed me that they understood before leaving that our prisoners who were in the line of your march had generally been removed to Florida. If this is the case Foster might send an expedition to rescue them. Jeff. Davis is said to be very sick; in fact, deserters report his death. The people had a rumor that he took poison in a fit of despondency over the military situation. Of course I credit no part of this, except that Davis is very sick, and do not suppose his reflections on military matters soothe him any.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

WASHINGTON, December 19 1864—12 m.

Lieutenant-General GRANT,
Commanding Armies of the United States:

GENERAL: Hilton Head some days since called for at least six light steamers to ply between the ocean fleet of steamers and supply vessels and Sherman's army, on the Ogeechee. I ordered the steamers to be selected from among those in the Chesapeake waters as the quickest way of supplying this necessity. I am told that yesterday verbal orders, by your authority, were given forbidding the detachment of the steamers. What shall be done? The forage and supply vessels rendezvoused at Port Royal cannot ascend the Ogeechee.

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General.

CITY POINT, VA., December 19, 1864—3.30 p. m.

(Received 4 p. m.)

Bvt. Maj. Gen. M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General:

My order against sending vessels to Savannah was given with the understanding that vessels were being sent to move Sherman's army. I soon learned the facts, and directed General Ingalls to go on.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

QUARTERMASTER-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington City, December 19, 1864

Major-General SHERMAN,
Commanding, at Savannah:

GENERAL: I wrote you fully a day or two since in regard to supplies. As it is reported that you will not find light steamers enough on the coast to supply you up the Ogeechee, I have ordered six of the most suitable to be sent from the Chesapeake. The Louise, a very fine iron steamer, goes this morning, and I write by her unless my other dispatch may miscarry. I see you are aware of the importance of stripping your army of all useless mouths. The only supply about which I have any anxiety is hay; this we have not been able to procure in sufficient quantities. There is no difficulty, so long as the credit of the Government holds out, in sending on everything else in abundance. But I hope that you will get rid of every mule and horse not absolutely needed about Savannah.

Wishing you continued success, I am, very truly, your friend.

M. C. MEIGS,
Quartermaster-General, Brevet Major-General.

P. S.—Donaldson telegraphs that his organized quartermaster's volunteers were assigned an important position in the lines at Nashville, which they held until Hood was driven off, and that this enabled Thomas to put a considerable number of troops into the assault, who, but for the organization of these 7,000 quartermaster's employés, would have been required to hold the lines. They also defended Johnsonville, on the Tennessee, when attacked by Forrest last month.

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HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

Maj. Gen. O. O. HOWARD,

Commanding Army of the Tennessee:

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has gone to the Bay. He wishes you to push the preparations for attacking Savannah with all possible speed, but to await orders for the attack. He will see General Foster and the admiral before returning, and will get co-operation from both if possible. Should anything occur that you would like to communicate to the general I will forward for you.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, King's Bridge, Ga., December 19, 1864—12 m.

Major-General HOWARD,

Commanding Right Wing,

Major-General SLOCUM,

Commanding Left Wing:

GENERAL: The general-in-chief directs me to address you the following note for your joint information and direction:

On arrival at the bridge I found Colonel Potts' brigade relieved by two regiments of General Sprague's, containing less than 600 men. These are insufficient. I have ordered General Sprague back to his important post between Big and Little Ogeechee, and Colonel Potts' brigade to remain for the present. As a permanent working party at King's Bridge, the fairest way will be for each corps to send a regiment, of an average strength of 350 men, and each wing a working party of negroes, 100 each, to report to Colonel Beckwith, chief commissary. Please make your orders accordingly, and when they have arrived Colonel Potts' brigade will be returned to its proper division. I may be absent, say, one or two days. You had better let General Sprague have a battery of four guns.

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

HENRY HITCHCOCK,

Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 199.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

* * * * *

II. Lieutenant-Colonel Tweeddale, commanding First Regiment Missouri Engineers, will forthwith send one company to Fort McAllister, to report to Capt. C. B. Reese, chief engineer.

* * * * *

IV. The major-generals commanding Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps will each cause to be immediately sent from their command one regiment, of an average strength of 350 men, and a working party of fifty negroes, to report to Colonel Beckwith, chief commissary, at the landing at King's Bridge. A similar detail from the Left Wing has

son directed General Sprague, who had arrived here to relieve you, to return with his command. You will, therefore, adhere to the order of Major-General Sherman given you this morning in writing.

By command of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

A. BECKWITH,
Col., Aide-de-Camp and Actg. Chief Qrmr. Mil. Div. of the Miss.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

Major-General SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing:

GENERAL: The general-in-chief has gone to the Bay. He directs me to further instruct you to push the preparations for the attack of the defenses of Savannah as rapidly as possible, and then await further directions before doing more. He will endeavor to get co-operation from Admiral Dahlgren and General Foster, with whom he will confer before returning. If, in the meantime, anything should occur that you would wish to communicate to him, please send to me and I will forward.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS' LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

Maj. Gen. J. C. DAVIS,
Commanding Fourteenth Corps:

The major-general commanding desires you to detail one regiment, of at least 350 men, to report to Colonel Beckwith, chief commissary, at King's Bridge, for fatigue duty, and, if possible, send fifty negroes with them, the whole to constitute a permanent fatigue party. General Williams will furnish a like detail.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

CIRCULAR.] HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

In view of active operations against the city of Savannah which will probably be inaugurated, division commanders will at once prepare their commands and hold them in readiness for an attack. Generals Carlin and Morgan will make thorough reconnaissances of the grounds in their front; examine the approaches of the enemy's works which give the greatest promise of successful assault, and make full reports to these headquarters by 12 m. to-morrow. Fascines, planks, &c., and whatever may assist in the passage of swamps, ditches, and other intervening obstacles, will be immediately prepared.

By order of Bvt. Maj. Gen. J. C. Davis:

A. C. MCCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

Col. E. A. CARMAN,

Commanding Second Brigade, First Division:

COLONEL: The general commanding directs me to say that the pioneer corps of your brigade, with their wagon, has been ordered to report to you at once. He directs that in your defense you may make use of the dikes wherever you can.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., FIRST DIV., TWENTIETH CORPS,
December 19, 1864.

Lieut. GEORGE ROBINSON,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, First Division, 20th Corps:

LIEUTENANT: I have the honor to report that the enemy have again opened upon our force across the river with artillery; and Colonel Hawley reporting that it was impossible to hold his position without more troops, I have moved the remainder of my brigade over, with the exception of three companies of the One hundred and fiftieth New York Volunteers, and have established my headquarters upon the South Carolina shore. I would also say that I need some intrenching tools if I am to remain there.

Very respectfully,

E. A. CARMAN,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

[Indorsement.]

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
December 19, 1864.

Respectfully forwarded for the information of the brigadier-general commanding the corps, with the request that a portion at least of the tools loaned to General Geary be returned to Colonel Carman, commanding Second Brigade, on Argyle Island.

N. J. JACKSON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS 101ST ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

Capt. A. E. LEE,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General, Third Brigade:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to make the following report of the expedition under my command to-day, in accordance with the order issued yesterday from your headquarters:

The expedition, consisting of two companies from each regiment of the brigade, with one wagon from each regiment and one wagon from each brigade and division headquarters, numbering in all about 200 men, started from the camp of the One hundred and first Illinois Volunteers about 7 a. m. this morning, and proceeded to Monteith, where I

detached a lieutenant and fifteen men to come back on the road with a wagon sent for that purpose and gather up telegraph wire. The expedition then proceeded toward Redoubt No. 1, on the route traveled by the Fourteenth Corps, and about 400 yards beyond the redoubt encountered a rebel outpost, who fired into the advance and retreated, and fired into them again as we advanced still farther. Making inquiries near mile post 16 I learned that the sweet potatoes had been carried away on the preceding Friday by the rebels, and learned that the rebels were encamped in considerable force between mile posts 17 and 18. I then turned off to the left, in the direction of the Middle Ground road, designing to strike the road formerly traveled by the Twentieth Corps, but was encountered by a rebel picket on the first road that I come to, at Mrs. Davis' plantation, and upon inquiring of her I learned that there was a body of 600 rebels within a mile of her house. I then turned to the left and reached the road we had gone out on, at Redoubt No. 1, where, finding no prospect of forage, I returned to camp without further molestation. I am glad to report that no one of the expedition was injured, and that one prisoner was captured, whom I have delivered to the provost-marshal.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN B. LE SAGE,

Lieutenant-Colonel 101st Illinois Vols., Commanding Expedition.

HEADQUARTERS SECOND DIVISION, TWENTIETH CORPS,

Near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

Lieut. Col. H. W. PERKINS,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Twentieth Corps :

COLONEL: In accordance with orders received yesterday, I have the honor to report that after careful investigation, I do not discover anything not known before respecting the enemy's position in my front and the roads or avenues of approach leading from my line to theirs.

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

JNO. W. GEARY,

Brigadier-General, Commanding Division.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,

Near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

Col. ARIO PARDEE, Jr.,

Commanding First Brigade :

COLONEL: The general commanding division directs that you take charge of the work on Fort No. 2, and push it if possible to completion by morning, keeping as many men as can be worked constantly busy. He wishes the working parties thoroughly organized in the most efficient manner before dark, and the officers in charge of them to be held responsible that they do not neglect their work, as was the case last night. The working detail he wishes to be under command of an energetic field officer who understands the work.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. T. FORBES,

Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 19, 1864.

Col. H. A. BARNUM,
Commanding Third Brigade:

COLONEL: The general commanding division directs that you take charge of the construction of Fort No. 3, and push it as far toward completion to-night as possible. He wishes the working parties thoroughly organized in the most efficient manner before dark, the whole to be under command of an energetic field officer who understands how the work should be done. The officers in charge of them he wishes you to hold responsible for every man under their command, that they will not neglect their work, as was done last night.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

W. T. FORBES,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 19, 1864.

Capt. C. R. SUTER,
Chief Engineer Dept. of the South, Hilton Head, S. C.:

CAPTAIN: The major-general commanding directs that you proceed immediately to the front, and remain with the Coast Division during its operations.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

DECEMBER 19, 1864.

[General JOHN G. FOSTER:]

GENERAL: The lady who makes the inclosed statement is the most observing person I have found, and I think that her statement is more likely to be true. It seems probable that the people of Savannah may be able to hold out for thirty days. I think this an outside calculation.

Respectfully,

JAMES F. HALL,
Lieut. Col. 1st New York Engrs., Pro. Mar. Gen., Dept. of the South.

[Inclosure.]

Mrs. Hodges states that there was a large quantity of provisions in Savannah when she left on the 3d of November. She knew of two Government stores on Broughton street, one over 150 feet and one 75 feet; the lower floor was filled with rice, hominy, meal, and bacon; there was a great quantity. There was another store on Bay street, where provisions were sold to the people. There were a number of private stores filled with provisions. She estimates that there is rice, hominy, and bacon enough to supply the present army and inhabitants at least two weeks. The people depended principally on the markets. The chief supply came from the Albany and Gulf Railroad. The citizens have mostly private supplies to a considerable amount. It might be that they could hold out for a month.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. COAST DIV., DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
 No. 11. } *Deveaux's Neck, S. C., December 19, 1864.*

* * * * *

II. Col. E. N. Hallowell, commanding Second Brigade, will dispatch the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers and the Thirty-third U. S. Colored Troops to the lower landing, to embark to-night, and will himself report at these headquarters for instructions.

III. Brig. Gen. E. E. Potter will place a regiment of his command, to replace the Thirty-third U. S. Colored Troops, in the rifle-pit to the left of the right battery, and one, to replace the Fifty-fourth Massachusetts Volunteers, on the right of the same battery. This disposition will be made at once.

By order of Brigadier-General Hatch:

LEONARD B. PERRY,
Lieutenant and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

CITY POINT, VA., *December 20, 1864—2 p. m.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON, *Secretary of War:*

Colonel Babcock, of my staff, has just returned from bearing dispatches to Sherman. As he visited and saw all the army with Sherman I have thought it might prove interesting to you to see him. He will leave in the mail-boat in the morning with a copy of Sherman's letter.*

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
City Point, Va., December 20, 1864.

Col. A. H. MARKLAND,
*Special Agent Post-Office Department, Eutaw House,
 Baltimore, Md.:*

I would be pleased to have you obtain the authority from the Postmaster-General to go to Savannah and arrange for the regular transmission and distribution of the mails for General Sherman's army. I understand Mrs. Markland desires to accompany you; if so, she has permission to go.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

[DECEMBER 20, 1864.—For the "effective strength" of General Sherman's army, see p. 16.]

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 20, 1864.

Col. A. BECKWITH,
Military Division of the Mississippi:

General Giles A. Smith has but two brigades (Colonel Potts' included), and his division has been selected for making a lodgment on the enemy's works; therefore I wish to have Colonel Potts' brigade rejoin

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,

December 20, 1864—8 a. m.

Capt. L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp, Military Division of the Mississippi:

CAPTAIN: I am now fully prepared to execute any orders the general-in-chief may issue. All our batteries are finished, but the six 20-pounder guns have not yet come. As soon as they are received I think I can silence the enemy's guns and make a successful assault. If you have any information as to the 20-pounder guns I wish you would give it to me. I have teams waiting for them. I have a brigade on the South Carolina shore.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. SLOCUM,

Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, December 20, 1864—12 m.

Major-General SLOCUM,

Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: Yours of 8 a. m. is just to hand. The general-in-chief has not yet returned from the Bay. I expect him this p. m., when yours shall be placed before him. Being five miles from the dock, and all the staff with the general, I am unable to give you any information as regards the 20-pounders, but will try to find out, and will write you promptly all I can learn. There is no news, and no later papers than you have seen.

I am, general, with respect, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, December 20, 1864—5 p. m.

Major-General SLOCUM,

Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: General Howard reports being ready; but the general-in-chief has not returned, and has not, to my knowledge, authorized any orders. We are therefore in a respectable condition to remain quiet until he gives orders of execution. Word from King's Bridge says plenty of rations there; also oats, &c.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

Before Savannah, Ga., December 20, 1864.

Lieut. Col. H. C. RODGERS,

A. A. G. and Chief of Staff, Left Wing, Army of Georgia:

I have the honor to state for the information of the general commanding that the regiment required was ordered to report to Colonel Beckwith, at King's Bridge, for fatigue duty this morning. Efforts

have been made to find fifty negroes in the corps who could be sent with the regiment, but without effect as all the unemployed negroes had already been sent, 544 in number, and a large proportion of them able-bodied men.

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

JEF. C. DAVIS,

Breret Major-General, Commanding.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 20, 1864.

Lieutenant-Colonel McCLURG,

Asst. Adjt. Gen. and Chief of Staff, 11th Army Corps:

SIR: In compliance with circular from corps headquarters, dated December 19, 1864, I have the honor to report that I made a personal examination of my lines with reference to finding some point from which an assault could be made upon the enemy's works. I am sorry to say that I have no place from which one could be made with any reasonable hope of success. Inclosed herewith please find map* of my position. Running diagonally across my entire front is a deep and, to an army, impenetrable swamp; on my left is the Milledgeville road, running nearly perpendicular to my front; the road is commanded by a well-constructed fort, with abatis and other obstructions in front, the water of the swamp over and across the road for some eighty yards, depth not known. To advance a column by the flank upon this road without any ground for deployment, under a heavy fire, would be a useless destruction of life, without a corresponding advantage. On my left is the canal; the only approach by this flank is the tow-path, with undoubled files, and advance under heavy fire from more than one battery. I have ordered a section of Lieutenant Rich's battery to be placed in position on Milledgeville road, about 300 yards from rebel battery. Fascines are being constructed as ordered, also foot bridges across the canal.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, colonel, your obedient servant,

JAMES D. MORGAN,

Brigadier-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 20, 1864.

Colonel BUELL,

Commanding Pontoon Train:

COLONEL: I am directed by the brigadier-general commanding the corps to request you to send two wagon-loads of balks to Brigadier-General Geary, commanding Second Division.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,

Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

* Not found.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Capt. L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp, Military Division of the Mississippi:

It was reported at sunrise by Brigadier-General Leggett that the enemy had evacuated his works; subsequently, by Brig. Gen. G. A. Smith, that the large fort was in his possession and that the enemy was reported to have gone to Hardeeville, S. C. I have directed an immediate pursuit.

Very respectfully,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 201.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

I. Colonel Woods, commanding Seventy-sixth Ohio Infantry, First Brigade, First Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, is appointed provost-marshal of that portion of the city of Savannah east of Bull street (a continuation of the White Bluff road), and will enter at once upon his duties as such, reporting without delay for further instructions to Brig. Gen. John W. Geary, Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, commandant of the post of Savannah.

* * * * *

III. Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps, will picket all roads from the plank road around to his left (facing to the rear), former right. Major-General Blair, commanding Seventeenth Army Corps, will cause the brigade of Brigadier-General Sprague to remain in its present position on the canal until further orders, and will give instructions for it to picket all roads in its vicinity as far east as the Darien road.

By order of Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard:

SAML. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Capt. SAMUEL L. TAGGART,

Asst. Adj. Gen., Department and Army of the Tennessee:

CAPTAIN: In reply to your communication of date, I have the honor to report the capture by my command of 13 pieces of artillery, 8 pieces in front of First Division and 5 pieces in front of Fourth Division. The troops are disposed of as follows: The First Division on the right of Savannah road, inside and parallel to works; the Third Division in prolongation of First Division line, reaching across Gulf railroad; the Fourth Division inside the lines of First and Third Divisions, with a brigade thrown across Gulf railroad at the crossing of Fort Jackson

HDQRS. FOURTH DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Lieut. Col. A. HICKENLOOPER,

Inspector-General, Seventeenth Army Corps:

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Fourth Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, captured in their front this morning two 32, one 12, and two 6-pounder smooth-bore guns. We are now encamped on the plank road, about one mile out on the right-hand side; our left joining the Third Division near the cemetery; our line running nearly parallel to the road. Please show this to the assistant adjutant-general, as that officer has just called for a similar report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. ALLISON,

Major and Division-Inspector-General.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM,

Commanding Left Wing, Army of Georgia:

GENERAL: The enemy evacuated my front between 12 m. and morning. General Sherman is not back. I presume you are by this time in possession of the city. If you are you had better place a division as guard and throw a bridge as soon as possible where Hardee had his. I will join you and co-operate. If Hardee makes a stand at the inner line we will close in on him as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,

O. O. HOWARD,

Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864—7 a. m.

Capt. L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp:

I have just arrived here. General Geary occupied the town at 5 o'clock this a. m. with his division. I have for the present placed guards over all public and private property, and await orders from the general-in-chief.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. SLOCUM,

Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, December 21, 1864—7 a. m.

General SLOCUM,

Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: Yours 4 a. m. just received. The general-in-chief has not returned. I will notify General Howard at once of your progress, and if you wish to do anything more than what you propose General Howard will make orders for you.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

December 21, 1864—7.15 a. m.

General SLOCUM,

Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: Coming to General Howard, he informs me that about sunrise it was reported to him the enemy had left his front. He at once gave orders to push on and follow up, which is now being done. I will telegraph General Sherman, who may be coming up.

I am, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM,

Commanding Left Wing:

GENERAL: An officer of General Howard has been to Fort Beaulieu and communicated with the Sonoma from which he learned the general-in-chief has gone to Hilton Head, though it is not sure. However, the fleet is fully aware of our position here, and I will make dispatch to the admiral, requesting him to at once commence on the obstructions in the channel. To have a complete understanding about pickets and road guards it seems to be best that you should take charge of that section from the Savannah on the west around to the plank road, and General Howard from there around to the Savannah on the east. This is his suggestion. He will also guard the plank road back to King's Bridge. Some of his troops are now properly stationed about it and will obviate moving troops especially. The King's Bridge will be necessarily our base for several days, and should be well secured against cavalry from the west. General Howard will retain a division at the Ogeechee for that purpose. General Howard wishes you to reconnoiter and if practicable throw a bridge from Hutchinson's Island to the main land in South Carolina.

I am, general, very respectfully, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,

No. 7. }

Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

I. Brig. Gen. John W. Geary, U. S. Volunteers, is hereby assigned to the command of the city of Savannah.

II. Corps commanders will furnish, upon the application of General Geary, the necessary details for guards, &c., for that portion of the city lying west of Bull street, being the prolongation of White Bluff road as laid down in the city map.

By command of Major-General Slocum:

H. C. RODGERS,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. FOURTH DIVISION, SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Lieut. Col. A. HICKENLOOPER,
Inspector-General, Seventeenth Army Corps:

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Fourth Division, Seventeenth Army Corps, captured in their front this morning two 32, one 12, and two 6-pounder smooth-bore guns. We are now encamped on the plank road, about one mile out on the right-hand side; our left joining the Third Division near the cemetery; our line running nearly parallel to the road. Please show this to the assistant adjutant-general, as that officer has just called for a similar report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. H. ALLISON,
Major and Division-Inspector-General.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing, Army of Georgia:

GENERAL: The enemy evacuated my front between 12 m. and morning. General Sherman is not back. I presume you are by this time in possession of the city. If you are you had better place a division as guard and throw a bridge as soon as possible where Hardee had his. I will join you and co-operate. If Hardee makes a stand at the inner line we will close in on him as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864—7 a. m.

Capt. L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp:

I have just arrived here. General Geary occupied the town at 5 o'clock this a. m. with his division. I have for the present placed guards over all public and private property, and await orders from the general-in-chief.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, December 21, 1864—7 a. m.

General SLOCUM,
Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: Yours 4 a. m. just received. The general-in-chief has not returned. I will notify General Howard at once of your progress, and if you wish to do anything more than what you propose General Howard will make orders for you.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

December 21, 1864—7.15 a. m.

General SLOCUM,

Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: Coming to General Howard, he informs me that about sunrise it was reported to him the enemy had left his front. He at once gave orders to push on and follow up, which is now being done. I will telegraph General Sherman, who may be coming up.

I am, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,

Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM,

Commanding Left Wing:

GENERAL: An officer of General Howard has been to Fort Beaulieu and communicated with the Sonoma from which he learned the general-in-chief has gone to Hilton Head, though it is not sure. However, the fleet is fully aware of our position here, and I will make dispatch to the admiral, requesting him to at once commence on the obstructions in the channel. To have a complete understanding about pickets and road guards it seems to be best that you should take charge of that section from the Savannah on the west around to the plank road, and General Howard from there around to the Savannah on the east. This is his suggestion. He will also guard the plank road back to King's Bridge. Some of his troops are now properly stationed about it and will obviate moving troops especially. The King's Bridge will be necessarily our base for several days, and should be well secured against cavalry from the west. General Howard will retain a division at the Ogeechee for that purpose. General Howard wishes you to reconnoiter and if practicable throw a bridge from Hutchinson's Island to the main land in South Carolina.

I am, general, very respectfully, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,

*Aide-de-Camp.*SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
No. 7. }*Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.*

I. Brig. Gen. John W. Geary, U. S. Volunteers, is hereby assigned to the command of the city of Savannah.

II. Corps commanders will furnish, upon the application of General Geary, the necessary details for guards, &c., for that portion of the city lying west of Bull street, being the prolongation of White Bluff road as laid down in the city map.

By command of Major-General Slocum:

H. C. RODGERS,

Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,

December 21, 1864—4 a. m.

General J. C. DAVIS,

Commanding Fourteenth Army Corps:

GENERAL: The enemy has abandoned his exterior line in front of the Twentieth Corps, and has probably evacuated the city, as he left eight guns in one of the works in our front. Move your command forward and see if there is anything in your front.

Yours, very respectfully,

H. W. SLOCUM,
Major-General.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 28.

HDQRS. FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga.,
December 21, 1864.

The corps will move to-morrow, to go into camp near Savannah, in the following order:

General Carlin will march at 7.30 a. m., move down the canal on the south bank until he reaches the road crossing the canal about three miles from Savannah; he will then take the right-hand road, move to the next crossing, and there take the road leading east, and will go into camp on the south of this road. A staff officer will be prepared to show him the position more definitely.

General Morgan will move at 7.30 a. m. upon the main Savannah road to the cross-road about three miles from Savannah; he will there take the right-hand road, cross the canal, and go into camp between General Carlin and the canal.

General Baird will march east upon the main Savannah road as soon as General Morgan's trains have cleared the road, and will go into camp in line with Generals Carlin and Morgan between the Savannah and Louisville road and the canal.

The corps will be arranged in as perfect order, in accordance with prescribed regulations, as the ground will admit of, and will be faced west and southwest. The picket-lines will be formed in the old rebel works under the supervision of the corps inspector, Lieutenant Litchfield.

The trains and artillery will be parked in the rear of their respective divisions as compactly as possible, and Generals Carlin and Morgan will thoroughly repair the roads upon which their respective divisions move.

By order of Bvt. Maj. Gen. J. C. Davis:

A. C. McCLURG,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief of Staff.

HDQRS. FIRST DIVISION, FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

December 21, 1864.

Colonel MILES, *Commanding Third Brigade:*

COLONEL: Advance your skirmish line in the direction of the city of Savannah, going as far as it can, supported by a regiment of your brigade. Direct the commanding officer to send you reports of our own or the enemy's troops when necessary.

By order of General Carlin:

G. W. SMITH,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864—5.30 a. m.

Brig. Gen. J. D. MORGAN,
Commanding Second Division, Fourteenth Army Corps:

General Slocum reports the enemy gone from the front of the Twentieth Corps, or at least from the exterior works, leaving eight guns, and probably the city evacuated. The general commanding directs that you move your picket-line forward at once and hold your entire command in readiness.

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

A. C. McCLURG,
Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864—5 a. m.

Brig. Gen. N. J. JACKSON,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: I am directed by the general commanding to inform you that General Geary is in possession of the enemy's advance forts on the left, and that the enemy has evacuated. He directs that you move forward your pickets to the town and hold your command in readiness to move.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Same to Brig. Gen. W. T. Ward, commanding Third Division.)

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864—5.30 a. m.

Brig. Gen. N. J. JACKSON,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that you move forward your brigade now in the line of works and occupy the enemy's works.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Before Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Brig. Gen. N. J. JACKSON,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that Colonel Carman's brigade be moved to this side of the river, leaving one regiment on the island for the present. He wishes the brigade encamped on this side so that they will protect the two rice mills.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Brigadier-General GEARY,
Commanding Second Division :

GENERAL: By direction of Major-General Slocum, commanding Left Wing, Army of Georgia, you are hereby placed in temporary command of the city of Savannah. You will at once establish such regulations as are necessary to preserve order throughout the city.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SECOND DIVISION, TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Lieut. Col. H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Twentieth Corps :

COLONEL: I have the honor to report that a detachment of my troops occupy Fort Jackson. It was found evacuated and is occupied by two regiments from my First Brigade. The captures there are fifteen heavy guns, and considerable ammunition and other material, the amounts of which have not yet been reported to me.

I am, colonel, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. W. GEARY,
Brigadier-General, U. S. Volunteers, Commanding Division.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Brig. Gen. J. W. GEARY,
Commanding Second Division :

GENERAL: The general commanding directs me to say that the troops of your command now at the rice mills on the river will be relieved to-morrow morning by other troops. The mill is still running.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES,
Fort Jackson, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Capt. WILLIAM T. FORBES,
Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen., Second Division, 20th Army Corps :

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that, in compliance with orders received from Col. Ario Pardee, commanding First Brigade, Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, the Twenty-eighth Regiment Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteer Infantry and Twenty-ninth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry, in all numbering 572 enlisted men and 16 commissioned officers, took possession of Fort Jackson at 7 a. m., this 21st of December, 1864. The fort was found to have been fired by

the enemy, burning the quarters of the officers and men, and blowing up one of the magazines. A large amount of ordnance and ordnance stores were found, an inventory of which is herewith inclosed. There is now in the fort a magazine, the contents of which it is deemed advisable not to handle, as the doors are fastened in such a manner as indicate that an explosion would occur upon entering them. The fire in the fort was extinguished immediately upon my arrival.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN FLYNN,
Colonel, Commanding Detachment.

[Inclosure.]

Inventory of ordnance and ordnance stores taken possession of by Col. John Flynn, commander detachment of First Brigade, Second Division, Twentieth Army Corps, at Fort Jackson and vicinity, December 21, 1864.

64-pounders	4
32-pounders	44
10-inch columbiads	2
8-inch columbiads	20
Rifled 32-pounders	2
24-pound howitzers	12
10-inch mortars	3
8-inch mortar	1
3-inch rifled field pieces	3
10-inch solid shot	400
8-inch solid shot	587
7-inch solid shot	149
6-inch solid shot	2,272
10-inch shell	411
8-inch shell	320
6-inch shell	120
8-inch grape	15
7-inch grape	27
6-inch grape	13
8-inch canister	32
7-inch canister	41
6-inch canister	60
6½-inch canister	32
6½-inch shell, fixed	224
8-inch shell, fixed	130
6½-inch conical shell, fixed	48
Rifled musket powder	50

The principal implements of the guns were destroyed, the wheels of the gun carriages were broken, rendering them temporarily unserviceable. The powder, except 50 pounds, was all destroyed by being thrown into the water. The guns were found to be in good order, fourteen of the ninety-one only being spiked and shotted. For the want of lanterns and time I have been unable to examine all the magazines, therefore there must be a large amount of ammunition not included in this inventory.

JOHN FLYNN,
Colonel, Commanding Detachment.

SPECIAL } HDQRS. THIRD BRIGADE, SECOND DIVISION,
FIELD ORDERS, } TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
No. 9. } Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

I. That portion of the city of Savannah bounded as follows, viz, east by Bull street, south by Jones street, west by the canal, and north by

the Savannah River, having been assigned to the command for quarters and government, it is hereby subdivided as follows: Sub-District No. 1, bounded east by Bull street, south by South Broad street, west by West Broad street, north by the Savannah River, is assigned to the One hundred and second New York Volunteers, Lieut. Col. H. S. Chatfield commanding; Sub-District No. 2, bounded east by Bull street, south by Jones street, west by West Broad street, north by South Broad street, is assigned to the One hundred and eleventh Pennsylvania Veteran Volunteers, Lieut. Col. Thomas M. Walker commanding; Sub-District No. 3, bounded east by West Broad street, south by Jones street, west by the canal and city limits, north by Margaret street, is assigned to the Sixtieth New York Volunteers, Maj. Thomas Elliott commanding; Sub-District No. 4, bounded east by West Broad street, south by Margaret street, west by the canal, north by Bryan street, is assigned to the One hundred and forty-ninth New York Volunteers, Maj. N. Grumbach commanding; Sub-District No. 5, bounded east by West Broad street, south by Bryan street, west by the canal, and north by the Savannah River, is assigned to the Twenty-ninth Pennsylvania Volunteers, Lieut. Col. S. M. Zulich commanding. Commanders of these sub-districts will at once place their commands within their prescribed limits and establish thorough patrols through all the principal streets and protect all peaceable persons and public and private property, quell all disturbances, arresting all disorderly persons and turning them over to the brigade provost guard. Unoccupied buildings may be taken as quarters for officers and men. Regimental commanders will quarter their different companies throughout their district and at the best and most convenient points for guarding and protecting the same buildings, as their company and regimental commanders will locate their headquarters as near the center of their district as practicable. Lieut. Col. K. S. Van Voorhis, commanding One hundred and thirty-seventh New York Volunteers, will receive separate instructions, for his existing orders in regard to passes will be rigidly enforced. Every officer of the command is enjoined to put forth the most strenuous efforts to establish and maintain perfect order and subordination. All breaches of discipline on the part of either officers or men will be punished to the severest extent. All men found within or prowling about the houses of citizens will be arrested and turned over to the provost guard.

By command of Col. H. A. Barnum:

O. T. MAY,

Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,

Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,

Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that the Twenty-second Wisconsin Volunteers relieve the guard of 100 men of General Geary's command at the rice mills on the river to-morrow morning.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,

Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 21, 1864.

Maj. C. W. THOMAS,

Chief Quartermaster Dept. of the South, Hilton Head, S. C.:

MAJOR: The propellers Monterey and Ashland were sent from here on the 14th instant laden with subsistence stores, with instructions to proceed to the Ogeechee River with said stores for Major-General Sherman's army. Instead of obeying their instructions they dropped anchor at the mouth of the river, much to the detriment of the service and the annoyance of General Sherman's army, who were suffering for some of the provisions on board these vessels. These vessels remained at anchor until ordered up the river by Major-General Foster. For this dereliction of duty on the part of the captains of the above-named propellers, the major-general commanding directs that you deduct \$1,000 from the charter party of each of these propellers unless the captains can show good cause for such neglect of duty.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

VERNON RIVER, December 21, 1864.

Major-General FOSTER:

SIR: Savannah is ours. General Hardee has gone with his forces to Hardeeville. I heard General Sherman express some anxiety about your position on the Tullifinny, hence this note. Tatnall intends passing out of the Savannah River to-night with the iron-clad Savannah; at least this is reported by Generals Sherman and Howard. We will try and head him off. Please to notify Captain Reynolds and the senior naval officer off Charleston, in case the latter port should be the Savannah's destination. We have Beaulieu, Rosedew, &c.

I am, general, your obedient servant,

J. M. BRADFORD,
Fleet Captain, South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.

SAVANNAH, GA., December 22, 1864.

(Via Fort Monroe 6.45 p. m. 25th.)

His Excellency President LINCOLN:

I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Savannah, Ga., December 22, 1864.

Maj. Gen. P. JOS. OSTERHAUS, *Comdg. Fifteenth Army Corps:*

GENERAL: The major-general commanding directs me to notify you that General Sherman desires to review the Army of the Tennessee as soon as it may be ready therefor, and names Saturday, day after to-morrow, as the day on which he will review your command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAML. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

STEAMER GOLDEN GATE,
Savannah River, December 22, 1864—7 p. m.
 (Received 7 p. m. 25th.)

Lieutenant-General GRANT:

I have the honor to report that I have just returned from General Sherman's headquarters in Savannah. I send Major Gray, of my staff, as bearer of dispatches from General Sherman to you, and also a message to the President. The city of Savannah was occupied on the morning of the 21st. General Hardee, anticipating the contemplated assault, escaped with the main body of his infantry and light artillery on the afternoon and night of the 20th by crossing the river to the Union Causeway opposite the city. The rebel iron-clads were blown up and the navy-yard burned. All the rest of the city is intact and contains 20,000 citizens, quiet and well disposed. The captures include 800 prisoners, 150 guns, 13 locomotives in good order, 190 cars, a large supply of ammunition and material of war, 3 steamers, and 32,000 bales of cotton safely stored in warehouses. All these valuable fruits of an almost bloodless victory have been, like Atlanta, fairly won. I opened communication with the city with my steamers to-day, taking up what torpedoes we could see, and passing safely over others. Arrangements are made to clear the channel of all obstructions.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
 J. G. FOSTER,

Major-General, Commanding Department of the South.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 22, 1864.

Major-General FOSTER,
Commanding Department of the South:

GENERAL: We are now in full possession of Savannah and all its dependencies. Hardee is supposed to be about Hardeeville, and General Sherman directs me to say that he suggest you take a strong defensive position about the head of Broad River, and if you need any help he will furnish you all assistance speedily. Hardee has from 15,000 to 20,000 men. As we are in possession, the proposed co-operation will not be required or necessary, but if you need help it will be at once sent you on notice. Please forward to the lieutenant-general the accompanying dispatch,* by request of General Sherman.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HDQRS. FIRST BRIG., COAST DIV., DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
Talbird's, December 22, 1864.

General J. P. HATCH:

GENERAL: The officer in command of the guard at the marsh battery reports that the enemy's troops were marching on the railroad toward Charleston at 3 p. m. this day. He thought that three regiments passed; he saw that number of colors. He also reports that a train passed at 4 a. m. this morning; saw the light of the locomotive.

Very respectfully,

EDWARD E. POTTER,
Brigadier-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 13. }

HEADQUARTERS COAST DIVISION,
Deveaux's Neck, S. C., December 22, 1864.

* * * * *

II. The Seventy-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteers is hereby ordered to proceed to Hilton Head, S. C., and report to department headquarters for orders. Transportation will be furnished by some boat returning to Hilton Head, S. C.

* * * * *

By order of Brig. Gen. J. P. Hatch:

LEONARD B. PERRY,
First Lieut., 55th Mass. Vols., and Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. FORCES, DISTRICT OF BEAUFORT,
Beaufort, S. C., December 22, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN, U. S. Army,
Commanding Army of Occupation, Savannah, Ga.:

GENERAL: I would respectfully suggest that a large number of contrabands might be sent to Saint Simon's Island, Ga., and Edisto, S. C. There are a large number of vacant houses on each of these islands and a regiment of colored troops could hold them securely. These islands have both been occupied by our troops, but were vacated in 1863 by order of General Hunter, then commanding this department. I presume there are no rebels on either of them, and it would require but a small force to hold them securely. If one of the colored regiments now at our front in the vicinity of the railroad could be sent to occupy these islands, they perhaps might aid your operations as much as they are now doing. I very much regret, general, that my power to relieve you of the burden of these people is not equal to my inclination, but I have no means at all under my control. Even a small steamer sent to me by the War Department for special service, the control of which is absolutely essential to this service, has been taken from me by General Foster. I greatly fear that if these contrabands are sent to this post there will be much suffering among them, as I have neither men nor means at my command to provide them with shelter. With this statement of my situation and of facts as they exist at present, which I deem it my duty to make, I beg to assure you, general, that I am prepared to do all that you may desire me to do in this matter, and am ready to report to you at Savannah for the purpose, or anywhere else you may desire. Every cabin and house on these islands is filled to overflowing—I have some 15,000. It has occurred to me that I might render you more service by coming to Savannah. I shall be governed entirely by your wishes or orders in the case.

I am, very respectfully,

R. SAXTON,
Brigadier-General of Volunteers.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 23, 1864.

General J. D. WEBSTER,
Nashville, Tenn.:

DEAR GENERAL: Major Dickson arrived last night, bringing your letter* of the 10th of December, for which I am very much obliged, as it

* Not found.

gives me a clear and distinct view of the situation of affairs at Nashville up to that date. I have also from the War Department a copy of General Thomas' dispatch, giving account of the attack on Hood on the 15th, which was successful, but not complete. I await further accounts with anxiety, as Thomas' complete success is necessary to vindicate my plans for this campaign; and I have no doubt that my calculations that Thomas had in hand (including A. J. Smith's troops) a force large enough to whip Hood in a fair fight was correct. I approve of Thomas' allowing Hood to come north far enough to enable him to concentrate his own men, though I would have preferred that Hood should have been checked about Columbia. Still, if Thomas followed up his success of the 15th and gave Hood a good whaling, and is at this moment following him closely, the whole campaign in my division, will be even more perfect than the Atlanta campaign; for at this end of the line I have realized all I had reason to hope for, except in the release of our prisoners, which was simply an impossibility. I know you all must await with deep anxiety the full details of the movements of my immediate command, and in time I will give them with full official minutia; and, in order that you may answer all inquiries, I will now endeavor to give you a brief outline.

On the 10th of November I was at Kingston, and, having sent to Thomas at Nashville the Fourth and Twenty-third Corps, learned that A. J. Smith had reached Paducah with his two divisions; and, having also learned from General Thomas that he felt perfectly able to contend with Hood, then lying about Florence and Tusculumbia, I gave the final signal to begin the work. Corse, at Rome, burned the bridges and all property that could be used by an enemy to our disadvantage and marched to Kingston.

On the 12th we moved to Allatoona, leaving the railroad north of the Etowah untouched, on the theory that in a very short while it would be to our interest to reoccupy the country as far as the Etowah. On the 13th, 14th, and 15th we broke up the railroad from the Etowah to Atlanta, and by the night of the 15th, the whole army was in or around Atlanta, ready for the forward movement. Marietta, Cassville, and Atlanta are destroyed in all respects, save mere dwelling houses, and cannot be used to our prejudice for three years. On the 16th all our columns were in motion. Howard, with the Fifteenth and Seventeenth Corps, moved southeast, by Jonesborough and McDonough, in the direction of Forsyth, crossing the Ocmulgee at Planters' Mills, or the Seven Islands; thence by Clinton to Gordon, the first objective point. He met with no opposition whatever, and reached it on the seventh day, the one appointed. In the meantime Kilpatrick, leaving Atlanta when Howard did, swept round by Griffin and Forsyth, and made a feint on Macon, at that point driving the rebels inside their works and recapturing two rifled guns, with equipments complete, taken by them from Stoneman last summer. He then came up with Howard at Gordon, covering his rear. Howard broke up the railroad a short distance west of Gordon (ten or fifteen miles); and while doing this posted Walcutt's brigade at Griswoldville, on the railroad, with a regiment of cavalry on either flank. The enemy sent out three brigades from Macon and attacked this force on the 22d of November, but were repulsed and severely punished. We buried 300 of their dead on the field, and the total rebel loss is stated at over 1,000, while our loss was less than 100 killed, wounded, and missing. The Left Wing, under Slocum, moved out from Atlanta to Decatur and along the Georgia railroad, destroying it as far as Madison, also

destroying the important railroad bridge over Oconee River, east of that, and turned down to Milledgeville, the Twentieth Corps via Eatonton, the Fourteenth Corps via Shady Dale and Eatonton Factory, the two columns reaching Milledgeville by the 23d [22d], also the appointed time, without resistance or impediment. The penitentiary at Milledgeville was burned by convicts before our arrival. I burned the railroad buildings and the arsenal; the State House and Governor's mansion I left unharmed. On the 24th the Left Wing crossed the Oconee and burned the bridge at Milledgeville, moving thence to Sandersville, six or eight miles west of which the Twentieth Corps was delayed three or four hours to rebuild the bridges across Buffalo Creek, destroyed to impede us. Just outside of Sandersville, on the 26th, Wheeler, with 2,000 cavalry, attempted resistance; but a single line of infantry skirmishers drove him at double-quick into and through Sandersville. From this point the Fourteenth Corps went direct to Louisville, crossing the Ogeechee there, above their intended point of defense, without opposition; while the Twentieth Corps followed and destroyed the Central railroad from Tenuille (or Station 13) to and across the Ogeechee at Station 10. Kilpatrick, with his division of cavalry, came up to Milledgeville from Gordon on the 24th, and at once started out on and around our left flank in the direction of Sparta, Gibson, and Sylvan Grove, with instructions to cut the railroad leading to Augusta at or near Waynesborough, and thence, if our prisoners were still at Millen, to make a dash to release them, and, returning, to join Davis at Louisville. He did cut the railroad at Waynesborough, partially burning the railroad bridge over Brier Creek (four miles north of that), but learned that our prisoners had already been removed from Millen, and returned to Louisville, joining the Fourteenth Corps there as ordered. During this march Wheeler hung around and attacked him in flank and rear, and gave him some trouble but no real injury. From Gordon Howard followed the Central railroad, crossing the river at Oconee bridge, thence to Irwin's Cross-Roads, destroying the railroad to Tenuille (No. 13), including nearly three miles of trestle-work on both sides of and over the Oconee, some of it eighteen to twenty feet high. The attempt to resist at this crossing collapsed when the Left Wing reached Sandersville and amounted to nothing; hence Howard marched in two columns parallel to and south of the railroad, Blair's (Seventeenth) corps turning north and crossing the Oconee, without opposition, at Barton (or Station 9½). Hardee had announced at Tenuille the day before I was there his purpose to dispute our passage at No. 10; but the movement on Louisville turned the line of the Ogeechee, and he at once fell back down the railroad and river. The next day, December 3, the Seventeenth Corps entered Millen without opposition. At this point, which was no town, but an important railroad center, the very handsome depot, railroad hotel, and three or four large storehouses were burned. From Louisville the Fourteenth Corps moved on an outer line eastward across the railroad between Millen and Augusta by Sharpe's, about where Brier Creek turns eastward to the Savannah River, and Buck Head Post Office to the Savannah River, at Halley's Ferry; thence down along or near the right bank of the Savannah to the Charleston railroad opposite Monteith. The Twentieth Corps at the same time followed a nearly parallel route next west of this, through Birdville and Sylvania, down to Springfield and Monteith; the Seventeenth Corps worked down along the Central railroad all the way from Station 9½ to the outskirts of this city, while the Fifteenth Corps remained on and marched down the west

bank of the Ogeechee until opposite Eden (or Station No. 2). The complete destruction of the Central railroad was continued by the Seventeenth Corps, with which I was, after leaving Sandersville, as far as Station 4½, but from that point to Savannah, so confident was I of taking the city, I allowed it to remain undisturbed, with the view of using it to that distance ourselves. Kilpatrick left Louisville with instructions to cover the rear of the columns moving down the peninsula, and also, if he got an opportunity, to attack and punish Wheeler, who had falsely claimed to have whipped and driven him back on his former expedition to Waynesborough. On the 4th of December Kilpatrick attacked Wheeler's whole force, amounting, as we know, to over 6,000 men, with five guns, at Thomas' Station, on the railroad, four miles south of Waynesborough, and whipped him completely and well, broke his center, and drove him back in confusion through and beyond Waynesborough and across Brier Creek, four miles north of it, again and completely burned the railroad bridge across Brier Creek, and then returned leisurely to Alexander, and down the peninsula, covering our rear. It was evident that the only point on the peninsula between Ogeechee and Savannah Rivers where the rebels could attempt to make a stand was at its narrowest point—from Ogeechee Church (or Station 4½) on the railroad to Sister's Ferry on the Savannah River, some twelve miles across. Here the railroad crosses the Little Ogeechee Creek, on whose east bank were thrown up some earthworks commanding the bridge over the creek, and they had also at considerable labor built more substantial works across the railroad. But, on the morning of December 5, when the skirmishers of the Seventeenth Corps advanced to cross the creek, they found the works deserted save by a few pickets, who fled at one volley. The movement of the Fifteenth Corps, down the west side of the Ogeechee, already below this point, had left the rebels at Ogeechee Church no alternative but to run or be cut off in rear. From this point there was no further opposition until within twelve or fourteen miles of Savannah, save ineffectual attempts to delay us by felling trees where our road crossed creeks or swamps; but in no case did the obstructions cause serious delay—the Seventeenth Corps losing but thirty minutes in all in waiting for their removal, and the Fourteenth Corps, having the most creeks, &c., to cross, and being most annoyed in this way, making, nevertheless, sixty miles in three days; the Fifteenth Corps, on the west side of Ogeechee, met no opposition or difficulty.

On the 7th of December our four heads of column were nearly on an east and west line—General Howard's headquarters being at Eden (or Station 2), nineteen miles from Savannah, on the railroad; the Seventeenth Corps two miles east of that; and the Twentieth and Fourteenth nearly as far down. At this point (Eden) Howard crossed part of the Fifteenth Corps to east bank of the Ogeechee, with which Corse pushed down along the river, crossed the canal, and had a smart little encounter at a cross-roads east of the mouth of the Cannouchee, capturing one piece of artillery and driving back the rebels to the Little Ogeechee River, northeast of Station 1, on the Gulf railroad, where he brought up against the outer defense of the city in that direction. Meanwhile the remainder of the Fifteenth Corps, still west of the Ogeechee River, moved down toward the Gulf railroad on two roads, feinted to cross the Cannouchee near its mouth, crossed it higher up, and cut the Gulf railroad at Way's Station and another point west of that. The Gulf road was also cut east of the Ogeechee, at or near Station 1, and a train of cars captured, on which was taken Mr. R. R. Cuyler,

president of the Georgia Central Railroad, whom I treated kindly, and sent on his way to Macon; and between the several breaks of this railroad, as above, three locomotives and sundry cars were caught. The divisions of the Fifteenth Corps west of the Ogeechee River then crossed it at or near Fort Argyle (abandoned), and supported the other divisions already along the Little Ogeechee. The Seventeenth Corps on the 9th of December pushed on down the main (or Louisville dirt) road, on the upper (east) and north side of the Central railroad, and, driving back with a line of skirmishers some artillery stationed on the causeway, through a swamp between Station 2 and Station 1 (or Pooler), camped that night at the latter point. We lost two or three men, wounded by the explosion of two torpedoes buried in the road, before entering the swamp; seven were dug up by prisoners we held. On the 10th of December the Seventeenth Corps advanced to a point five miles from the city, and developed, in part, the rebel defenses in that quarter. On our left the Twentieth and Fourteenth Corps had continued to advance as rapidly as the swamps and narrow roads would permit; and by the 11th of December all the army corps were close up to the rebel outer line from the Savannah to the Little Ogeechee River—the Twentieth Corps on our extreme left, on the river-bank, and crossing the Charleston railroad three miles from the city; the Fourteenth Corps on its right, to the canal; the Seventeenth and Fifteenth forming our right; the whole an irregular line some fifteen miles long. The next day or two was occupied in tracing the rebel line, irregular and re-entrant in correspondence with the extensive swamps lying all round the rear of the city, crossed only by narrow causeways commanded by batteries of heavy guns. During this time a river boat was brought to on her way up, run aground, and burned by our infantry; and we captured a tender to two gun-boats which attempted to pass Winegar's battery (3-inch rifled guns) on the river-bank, but were driven back up the river, leaving their tender (a New York Harbor tug) in our hands almost uninjured. On Monday, 12th instant, I went over to our right and ordered for next day the assault by Hazen's division, of Fifteenth Corps, on Fort McAllister, the obstacle to our communication with the fleet in Ossabaw Sound. You will have already received, no doubt, through the papers [an account] of this very gallant and handsome affair, which lasted just fifteen minutes from the time the signal to charge was given till the old flag waved over the fort which has so long defied attack by sea. Our total loss was 11 killed, 80 wounded, largely caused by the torpedoes buried thickly around the line of abatis. I witnessed the assault from a rice mill on the river, about three miles distant across the salt marshes, though the troops marched ten miles around to reach the fort before attacking it, and immediately went down in a boat to the fort the same evening, thence on down to the fleet, where I met Admiral Dahlgren and General Foster. After arranging with them for bringing supplies from Hilton Head, especially bread and forage, which were beginning to be needed, and also for 30-pounder Parrotts to bombard the city, I returned on the 15th to my camp. That night Colonel Babcock arrived with dispatches of importance from General Grant bearing upon my plans here. The length of my lines (nearly fifteen miles) and the nature of the soil, even on the causeways made through the swamps, made necessary a large amount of corduroying to pass my trains to and from the depot of supplies which I directed General Easton to establish at King's Bridge (over the Ogeechee), which the continued development of the rebel lines occupied last week. On the 17th I sent in to General Hardee, by flag of truce, on our left, a summons to

surrender, the 30-pounder Parrotts ordered from Hilton Head having arrived at King's Bridge, to which, on the 18th, he returned a refusal. I had now for some days held the three railroads leading out of Savannah, and all other avenues of approach west of the Savannah River, the only other avenue being the Union Causeway, an old wagon road running from the east bank of the Savannah River from the city up toward Hardeeville. To attempt to close this by extending our left across the river would have involved the risk of isolating the troops across a deep river too wide for my pontoon train, and upon which the rebels had two gun-boats (one iron-clad) at the city wharf, with boats to throw their whole force across against them. I determined rather to close this avenue from my right flank; and on the 19th again went down to the fleet and up with the admiral to Port Royal, where, on the 20th, I arranged with General Foster and the admiral for immediately bringing round a sufficient force from the Ogeechee to unite with General Foster's troops, then lying at the head of Broad River for this purpose. High winds and rough weather delayed my return from Port Royal, and before I had reached Fort McAllister, on the way back, a message met me from General Howard that Hardee had evacuated the city in haste, and our troops had marched in without resistance that morning, the 21st. Two days more and the garrison would have been hemmed in completely; as it is, the campaign ends with the capture of this important city and numerous dependent forts, including, as reported to me, 25,000 bales of cotton, at least 150 guns, many of them 10-inch, immense ordnance stores, 13 locomotives, 190 cars, a pontoon train (boats), &c., and a population of about 20,000, including any quantity of negroes. We have also captured three more boats, one of them a wooden gun-boat, the rebels having blown up their iron-clad Savannah, just below the city, on the night of the 21st.

The Savannah River, though obstructed for the present to large vessels, is open for those drawing six or seven feet, and will, as soon as possible, be cleared for large vessels, thus opening the way for our gun-boats almost, if not quite, to Augusta, and insuring the permanent subdivision of the Confederacy by this line, with a new base for operations against Lee's rear.

I forbore to destroy the Georgia Central Railroad below Station 4½ (say, forty-five miles from Savannah) on my way down, with a view to use the road ourselves that far after taking the city. After receiving General Grant's dispatches, however, it appeared not impossible that this army might be ordered to the James River by sea, without giving time to insure the fall of Savannah, and I therefore destroyed the railroad for fifteen miles back from the city. The whole number of miles of railroad I have destroyed is about 265—about 60 miles on the Georgia road, from Atlanta to Madison, and 140 miles on the Georgia Central Railroad, from a point, say, ten miles west of Gordon to Savannah, as above, and about 50 miles out from Savannah on the Gulf railroad, and about 15 miles on the Charleston railroad. It would be some time before Jeff. Davis could restore the communications so rudely interrupted, across the heart of his empire, even if we had no objections to make.

You may have shared the concern on our account which the newspapers and our friends on the coast tell us was felt in the States; you know by this time that any such anxieties were groundless. The weather through our march was perfect, only two days of rain from Atlanta to the outskirts of Savannah; the roads in fine order; forage, pigs, poultry, and sweet potatoes first rate, and abundant; and the men and animals in better order when they reached here than when they started.

As to the "lion" in our path, we never met him. The affair at Griswoldville, where one brigade of infantry was engaged, and Kilpatrick's punishment of Wheeler, were the only things on the march like a fight.

The city is perfectly quiet ever since we came in. The first thing our troops had to do was to stop the riots and plundering which the lower classes begun as soon as Hardee's rear crossed the river. The white people here are the worst whipped and subjugated you ever saw, and the negroes are having their "jubilee" and calling in crowds to see "Mr. Sherman."

December 24.—I have just received a letter from General Grant, giving a detail of General Thomas' operations up to the 18th, and I am gratified beyond measure at the result. Show this letter to General Thomas, and tell him to consider it addressed to him, as I have not time to write more now. I want General Thomas to follow Hood to and beyond the Tennessee, and not to hesitate to go on as far as Columbus, Miss., or Selma, Ala., as I know that he will have no trouble whatever in subsisting his army anywhere below Sand Mountain and along the Black Warrior. In the poorest part of Georgia I found no trouble in subsisting my army and animals, some of my corps not issuing but one day's bread from Atlanta to Savannah. Keep me fully advised by telegraph, via New York, of the situation of affairs in Tennessee. I will be here probably for ten days longer, and in communication for a longer time.

I am, very truly, yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

SPECIAL } HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
FIELD ORDERS, } *In the Field, Savannah, Ga.,*
No. 139. } *December 23, 1864.*

Savannah, being now in our possession, and the river partially cleared out, and measures having been taken to remove all obstructions, will at once be made a grand depot for future operations.

I. The chief quartermaster, General Easton, will, after giving the necessary orders touching the transports in Ogeechee River and Ossabaw Sound, come in person to Savannah and take possession of all public buildings, all vacant store-rooms, warehouses, &c., that may be now or hereafter needed for any department of the army. No rents will be paid by the Government of the United States during the war, and all buildings must be distributed according to the accustomed rules of the quartermaster's department, as though they were public property.

II. The chief commissary of subsistence, Col. A. Beckwith, will transfer the grand depot of the army to the city of Savannah, secure possession of the needful buildings and offices, and give the necessary orders, to the end that the army may be supplied abundantly and well.

III. The chief engineer, Captain Poe, will at once direct which of the enemy's forts are to be retained for our use and which dismantled and destroyed; and the chief ordnance officer, Captain Baylor, will, in like manner, take possession of all property pertaining to his department captured from the enemy and cause the same to be collected and carried to points of security. All the heavy sea-coast guns will be dismounted and carried to Fort Pulaski.

IV. The troops, for the present, will be grouped about the city of Savannah, looking to the convenience of camps, General Slocum taking from the Savannah around to about the seven-mile post, on the canal, and General Howard thence to the sea. General Kilpatrick will hold King's Bridge until Fort McAllister is dismantled and the troops withdrawn from the south side of the Ogeechee, when he will take post about Anderson's plantation, on the plank road, and picket all the roads leading from the north and west.

V. General Howard will keep a small guard at Forts Rosedew, Beaulieu, Wimberly, Thunderbolt, and Bonaventure, and he will cause that shore and Skidaway Island to be examined very closely, with a view to finding many and convenient points for the embarkation of troops and wagons on sea-going vessels.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 203.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Savannah, Ga., December 23, 1864.

* * * * *

V. In accordance with Special Field Orders, No. 139, Military Division of the Mississippi, Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus, commanding Fifteenth Army Corps, will send and keep a small guard, in charge of a good officer, at Forts Rosedew, Beaulieu, Wimberly, Thunderbolt, and Bonaventure. Second, Col. J. T. Conklin, chief quartermaster, will closely examine the shores in the vicinity of these forts and Skidaway Island, with the view of finding many and convenient points for the embarkation of troops and wagons in sea-going vessels, and will as soon as possible report thereon in writing to these headquarters.

By order of Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard:

SAML. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

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SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 205.

HDQRS. FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 23, 1864.

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III. The commanding officer of Second Division will cause to be detailed one regiment of an average strength of 350 men, and a working party of fifty negroes, to report forthwith to Colonel Beckwith, chief commissary, at the landing, King's Bridge. The First, Third, and Fourth Divisions of the Fifteenth Army Corps will be ready for review to-morrow at 9.30 a. m., and drawn up in line in the following order: General Charles R. Woods, commanding First Division, will deploy his line, the right resting on the park, fronting north, and running west to the corner of West Broad street, and thence down that street. General John E. Smith, commanding Third Division, takes up the alignment of the First Division, extending his line down West Broad, and then at right angles into South Broad street. General John M. Corse deploys the Fourth Division in South Broad street, on the left, and on alignment with General Smith's division. The Artillery Brigade forms on the extreme left, under special instructions from these headquarters.

fourth, ambulance corps; fifth, ordnance train; sixth, supply train. Col. John Tillson will detail five companies of his command to march in rear of the train.

By order of Maj. Gen. J. A. Mower:

CHAS. CHRISTENSEN,
Lieut., Aide-de-Camp, and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

CIRCULAR.] HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 23, 1864.

The corps will be prepared for review by Major-General Sherman on Tuesday or Wednesday next in the streets of Savannah, the men without knapsacks and marching by platoons. Division commanders will, in the short time which intervenes, place their respective commands in the best possible state of drill, discipline, and soldierly appearance, and will see that every available man is under arms.

By order of Bvt. Maj. Gen. J. C. Davis:

A. C. MCCLURG,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief of Staff.

GENERAL ORDERS,) HEADQUARTERS CITY OF SAVANNAH,
No. 1. } *Savannah, Ga., December 23, 1864.*

In accordance with orders received, the undersigned has assumed command of the city. The following staff officers are announced: Capt. W. T. Forbes, assistant adjutant-general and chief of staff; Capt. S. B. Wheelock, acting assistant adjutant-general; Lieut. Col. A. H. Jackson, inspector; Capt. Moses Veale, aide-de-camp; Capt. John J. Cantine, aide-de-camp; Lieut. William C. Armor, aide-de-camp; Capt. Ira B. Seymour, provost-marshal; Capt. G. L. Parker, assistant quartermaster, post quartermaster; Capt. James Gillette, commissary of subsistence, post commissary. They will be obeyed and respected accordingly. The offices of the general commanding and of the adjutant-general's and inspector's departments will be in the Central Railroad Bank Building, next to the U. S. Custom House. Office hours for ordinary business from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. The offices of the other staff departments will be in the Exchange Building and vicinity.

JNO. W. GEARY,
Brigadier-General, U. S. Volunteers.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT, APPOINTMENT OFFICE,
Washington, December 23, 1864.

Col. A. H. MARKLAND,
Special Agent Post-Office Department, Present:.

SIR: You will proceed immediately to the headquarters of General Sherman, near Savannah, Ga., and report to him as the agent of this department, to arrange for the regular transmission and distribution of the mails for his army. You will have the entire and exclusive control of these mails, subject only to the orders and directions of General Sherman.

I am, respectfully, &c.,

ALEX. W. RANDALL,
Acting Postmaster-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

Savannah, Ga., December 24, 1864.

Lient. Gen. U. S. GRANT,

City Point, Va.:

GENERAL: Your letter of December 18 is just received. I feel very much gratified at receiving the handsome commendation you pay my army. I will, in general orders, convey to the officers and men the substance of your note. I am also gratified that you have modified your former orders, as I feared that the transportation by sea would very much disturb the unity and morale of my army, now so perfect. The occupation of Savannah, which I have heretofore reported, completes the first part of our game, and fulfills a great part of your instructions, and I am now engaged in dismantling the rebel forts which bear upon the sea channels, and transferring the heavy ordnance and ammunition to Fort Pulaski, where they can be more easily guarded than if left in the city. The rebel inner lines are well adapted to our purpose, and, with slight modifications, can be held by a comparatively small force, and in about ten days I expect to be ready to sally forth again. I feel no doubt whatever as to our future plans; I have thought them over so long and well that they appear as clear as daylight. I left Augusta untouched on purpose, because now the enemy will be in doubt as to my objective point after crossing the Savannah River, whether it be Augusta or Charleston, and will naturally divide his forces. I will then move either on Branchville or Columbia, on any curved line that gives me the best supplies, breaking up in my course as much railroad as possible; then, ignoring Charleston and Augusta both, occupy Columbia and Camden; pausing there long enough to observe the effect I would strike for the Charleston and Wilmington Railroad, somewhere between the Santee and the Cape Fear River, and, if possible, communicate with the fleet under Admiral Dahlgren (whom I find a most agreeable gentleman, in every way accommodating himself to our wishes and plans); then I would favor Wilmington, in the belief that Porter and Butler will fail in their present undertaking. Charleston is now a mere desolated wreck, and is hardly worthy the time it would take to starve it out; still, I am aware that, historically and politically, much importance is attached to the place, and it may be that, apart from its military importance, both you and the administration would prefer I should give it more attention, and it would be well for you to give me some general idea on that subject, as otherwise I would treat it as I have expressed, as a point of little importance after all its railroads leading into the interior are destroyed or occupied by us. But, on the hypothesis of ignoring Charleston and taking Wilmington, I would then favor a movement direct on Raleigh. The game is then up with Lee, unless he comes out of Richmond, avoids you, and fights me, in which event I should reckon on your being on his heels.

Now that Hood is used up by Thomas, I feel disposed to bring the matter to an issue just as quick as possible. I feel confident that I can break up the whole railroad system of South Carolina and North Carolina, and be on the Roanoke, either at Raleigh or Weldon, by the time the spring fairly opens. And if you feel confident that you can whip Lee outside of his intrenchments, I feel equally confident that I can handle him in the open country. One reason why I would ignore Charleston is this, that I believe they will reduce the garrison to a small force, with plenty of provisions, and I know that the neck back of Charleston can be made impregnable to assault, and we will hardly have time for siege operations. I will have to leave in Savannah a garrison, and, if

Thomas can spare them, I would like to have all detachments, convalescents, &c., belonging to these four corps sent forward at once. I don't want to cripple Thomas, because I regard his operations as all important, and I have ordered him to pursue Hood down into Alabama, trusting to the country for supplies. I reviewed one of my corps to-day, and shall continue to review the whole army. I don't like to boast, but I believe this army has a confidence in itself that makes it almost invincible. I wish you would run down and see us; it would have a good effect, and would show to both armies that they are acting on a common plan. The weather is now cool and pleasant, and the general health very good.

Your true friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 21, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
Chief of Staff, Washington City, D. C.:

GENERAL: I had the pleasure to receive your two letters of the 16th and 18th instant to-day, and I feel more than usually flattered by the high encomiums you have passed on our recent campaign, which is now complete by the occupation of Savannah. I am also very glad that General Grant has changed his mind about embarking my troops for James River, leaving me free to make the broad swath you describe through South and North Carolina, and still more gratified at the news from Thomas in Tennessee, because it fulfills my plan, which contemplated his being fully able to dispose of Hood in case he ventured north of the Tennessee River; so I think, on the whole, I can chuckle over Jeff. Davis' disappointment in not turning my Atlanta campaign into a Moscow disaster. I have just finished a long letter to General Grant, and have explained to him that we are engaged in shifting our base from the Ogeechee over to the Savannah River, dismantling all the forts made by the enemy to bear upon the salt-water channels, and transferring the heavy ordnance, &c., to Fort Pulaski and Hilton Head, and in remodelling the enemy's interior lines to suit our future plans and purposes. I have also laid down the programme of a campaign which I can make this winter, and put me in the spring on the Roanoke, in direct communication with him on the James River. In general terms, my plan is to turn over to General Foster the city of Savannah, and to sally forth, with my army resupplied, cross the Savannah, feign on Charleston and Augusta, but strike between, breaking en route the Charleston and Augusta Railroad, also a large part of that from Branchville and Camden toward North Carolina, and then rapidly moving to some point of the railroad from Charleston to Wilmington, between the Santee and Cape Fear Rivers; then, communicating with the fleet in the neighborhood of Georgetown, I would turn upon Wilmington or Charleston according to the importance of either. I rather prefer Wilmington, as a live place, over Charleston, which is dead and unimportant when its railroad communications are broken. I take it for granted the present movement on Wilmington will fail, because I know that gun-boats cannot take a fort, and Butler has not the force or the ability to take it. If I should determine to take Charleston I would turn across the country, which I have hunted over many a time, from Santee to Mount Pleasant, throwing one wing

on the peninsula between Ashley and Cooper. After accomplishing one or other of these ends I would make a bee-line for Raleigh, or Weldon, when Lee would be forced to come out of Richmond or acknowledge himself beaten. He would, I think, by the use of the Danville railroad, throw himself rapidly between me and Grant, leaving Richmond in the hands of the latter. This would not alarm me, for I have an army which I think can maneuver, and I would force him to attack me at a disadvantage, always under the supposition that Grant would be on his heels; and if the worst came to the worst I could fight my way down to Albemarle Sound or New Berne.

I think the time has come now when we should attempt the boldest moves, and my experience is that they are easier of execution than more timid ones, because the enemy is disconcerted by them—as for instance, my recent campaign. I also doubt the wisdom of concentration beyond a certain point, as the roads of this country limit the amount of men that can be brought to bear in any one battle; and I don't believe any one general can handle more than 60,000 men in battle. I think my campaign of the last month, as well as every step I take from this point northward, is as much a direct attack upon Lee's army as though I were operating within the sound of his artillery. I am very anxious that Thomas should follow up his successes to the very uttermost point. My orders to him before I left Kingston were, after beating Hood, to follow him as far as Columbus, Miss., or Selma, Ala., both of which lie in districts of country which I know to be rich in corn and meat. I attach more importance to these deep incursions into the enemy's country, because this war differs from European wars in this particular. We are not only fighting hostile armies, but a hostile people, and must make old and young, rich and poor, feel the hard hand of war, as well as their organized armies. I know that this recent movement of mine through Georgia has had a wonderful effect in this respect. Thousands who had been deceived by their lying papers into the belief that we were being whipped all the time, realized the truth, and have no appetite for a repetition of the same experience. To be sure, Jeff. Davis has his people under a pretty good state of discipline, but I think faith in him is much shaken in Georgia; and I think before we are done, South Carolina will not be quite so tempestuous. I will bear in mind your hint as to Charleston, and don't think salt will be necessary. When I move the Fifteenth Corps will be on the right of the Right Wing, and their position will bring them, naturally, into Charleston first; and if you have watched the history of that corps you will have remarked that they generally do their work up pretty well. The truth is the whole army is burning with an insatiable desire to wreak vengeance upon South Carolina. I almost tremble at her fate, but feel that she deserves all that seems in store for her. Many and many a person in Georgia asked me why we did not go to South Carolina, and when I answered that I was en route for that State the invariable reply was, "Well, if you will make those people feel the severities of war, we will pardon you for your desolation of Georgia." I look upon Columbia as quite as bad as Charleston, and I doubt if we shall spare the public buildings there, as we did at Milledgeville. I have been so busy lately that I have not yet made my official report, and think I had better wait until I get my subordinate reports before attempting it, as I am anxious to explain clearly, not only the reasons for every step, but the amount of execution done, and this I cannot do until I get the subordinate reports; for we marched the whole distance in four or more columns, and, of course, I could only be

present with one, and generally that one engaged in destroying railroads. This work of destruction was performed better than usual, because I had an engineer regiment provided with claws to twist the bars after being heated. Such bars can never be used again, and the only way in which a railroad line can be reconstructed across Georgia will be to make a new road from Fairburn Station, twenty-four miles southwest of Atlanta, to Madison, a distance of 100 miles; and before that can be done I propose to be on the road from Augusta to Charleston, which is a continuation of the same. I felt somewhat disappointed at Hardee's escape from me, but really am not to blame. I moved as quick as possible to close up the "Union Causeway," but intervening obstacles were such that before I could get my troops on the road Hardee had slipped out. Still, I know that the men that were in Savannah will be lost, in a measure, to Jeff. Davis; for the Georgia troops, under G. W. Smith, declared they would not fight in South Carolina, and have gone north en route for Augusta, and I have reason to believe the North Carolina troops have gone to Wilmington—in other words, they are scattered. I have reason to believe that Beauregard was present in Savannah at the time of its evacuation, and I think he and Hardee are now in Charleston, doubtless making preparations for what they know will be my next step.

Please say to the President that I received his kind message through Colonel Markland, and feel thankful for his high favor. If I disappoint him in the future, it shall not be from want of zeal or love to the cause. Of you I expect a full and frank criticism of my plans for the future, which may enable me to correct errors before it is too late. I do not wish to be rash, but want to give my rebel friends no chance to accuse us of want of enterprise or courage.

Assuring you of my high personal respect, I remain, as ever, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

[Indorsement.]

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
Chief of Staff of the Army:

GENERAL: This letter was brought by Lieutenant Dunn, of my staff, with the request that I would open and read it, as it contained one or two points which his letter addressed to me does not contain.

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
Savannah, Ga., December 24, 1864.

Major-General WHEELER, Confederate Army,
Seavey's Ferry, South Carolina:

GENERAL: Yours of this date is received. I will let that lady land, but no more. No provision has been made for the families in Savannah, and many of them will suffer from want—and I will not undertake to feed them. I will give notice that all families who wish to leave can do

so, and will provide the means of getting them to General Hardee's headquarters. You need not send in for small parties, and I will not permit any more flags of truce by subordinate commanders.

I am, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

P. S.—If your pickets fire on our boats, I will clear Savannah and river of all unfriendly parties.

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

THUNDERBOLT BATTERY,
Saturday, December 24, 1864—12.30 p. m.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN, U. S. Army,
Comdg. Army of the Military Division of the Mississippi:

GENERAL: Vessels drawing fifteen feet and under can come up to this place now, entering at Wassaw Sound. The river has been dragged for torpedoes, and none have yet been discovered. The monitor Sangamon, Captain Young, and the Passaic, Captain Fillebrown, are now close beside the work at Turner's Rocks, and will be at anchor at this place in a few hours. I have my vessel at work sounding and putting up marks for navigation, and will anchor here to-night. I respectfully recommend making this place your present depot for large vessels. A short wharf, 100 feet long, will suffice for vessels of deep draft, and materials for its construction are near at hand.

Respectfully,

CHAS. O. BOUTELLE,
Assistant, Coast Survey, Commanding U. S. Steamer Bibb.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 141.	}	HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI, <i>In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 24, 1864.</i>
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I. General Easton, chief quartermaster, is charged with the general responsibility of public property in the city. He will take possession of all cotton and other quartermaster's stores. He will also assign quarters to officers and troops, and designate such buildings, lots, &c., for public use, and have full control thereof. Officers serving with troops will not be allowed to occupy buildings in the city unless the troops are also doing duty in the city, and corps, division, and brigade quartermasters and commissaries will not be allowed to establish themselves at any depot in the city or elsewhere except upon consultation with the chief quartermaster or chief commissary of subsistence. The occupation and use of buildings or rooms for amusement will be regulated by General Easton, and no private property will be removed from buildings, or made use of, by officers or troops except by consent of him.

II. The chief commissary of subsistence, Colonel Beckwith, will take possession of all subsistence stores and be charged with their distribution, as also the supplying of destitute families, conferring with the mayor of the city as regards the necessities, &c., and army commanders will not make issues directly.

participated, and has distinguished himself for his coolness and valor. He is a man of strictly temperate and correct habits, and I recommend that he be promoted to the rank of major and assistant adjutant-general.

Very respectfully,

M. D. LEGGETT,
Brigadier-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. FOURTH DIV., 17TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 164. } *Savannah, December 24, 1864.*

The Third Brigade, Brig. Gen. W. W. Belknap commanding, will move to a new camp near Bonaventure Cemetery promptly at 7 a. m. to-morrow morning. The column will move by these headquarters, from which point they will be conducted by Captain Gurley to their camp.

By order of Brig. Gen. Giles A. Smith:

CHAS. H. BRUSH,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. CITY OF SAVANNAH, GA.,
No. 2. } *December 24, 1864.*

I. For convenience in military government all that portion of the city lying east of Bull street is designated as the eastern district; that lying west of Bull street, as the western district. Col. William B. Woods, Seventy-sixth Ohio Volunteers, is announced as provost-marshal of the eastern district; his headquarters will be in the U. S. barracks on Bull street. Col. H. A. Barnum, One hundred and forty-ninth New York Volunteers, is announced as provost-marshal of the western district; his headquarters will be near the corner of Barnard and South Broad streets. All applications for protection of persons and private property, or for redress of grievances, will be made to the provost-marshal of the district or to the nearest officer of the guard.

II. Each regiment on provost duty will have assigned to it definite limits within which to perform guard and patrol duty, and the regimental commanders will be held responsible for the peace and good order of their respective sections. The provost-marshals of districts will number the sections assigned to these regiments.

III. All public and private property will be protected, and whenever necessary for such purpose special guards will be assigned. No private property will be taken or used against the consent of the owners, except upon an order from proper authority.

IV. Officers and others entitled to quarters for private or public use will make application to Brigadier-General Easton, chief quartermaster.

V. All persons within the city who have been in any way connected with the rebel army will report, without delay, to Capt. Ira B. Seymour, provost-marshal (office in Exchange Building), and there register their names.

VI. No citizen will be arrested except for misdemeanor, or upon written orders from these headquarters or from a provost-marshal.

VII. The fire department of this city has been represented by the civil authorities as highly efficient. Mr. Casey, acting chief of the fire

department, is authorized to continue operations, and will be held responsible for the faithful performance of his duties. All members of the different fire companies will continue subject to his orders, and neglect of duty on their part will be duly punished. In case of fire, the provost-marshal of the district will send immediately strong detachments of guards to preserve order in the vicinity.

VIII. Those persons connected with the water-works and gas-works of the city will continue to perform their duties as usual. The manager of these works will apply to the provost-marshal of the district in which they are located for sufficient guards for the protection of the works, together with the fuel and other material pertaining to them.

IX. All soldiers found within the city limits, absent from their camps without passes from their respective commanders, will be arrested and sent to their commands.

X. Capt. Silas Spicer is announced as harbor master of this port, and is invested with full authority for the transaction of business in his department. Office, on Bay, opposite Dayton street.

XI. Citizens desirous of leaving the city to go within the rebel lines will make application at these headquarters. They will be transported to our exterior picket-line.

XII. Citizens destitute of provisions can make application at the city store, where they will be supplied upon the order of Doctor Arnold, mayor of the city.

XIII. Tattoo will be beaten throughout the city at 8 p. m.; taps at 9. After taps all enlisted men found on the streets who are not on duty, and who have not proper passes, will be arrested by the patrol. Suspicious or disorderly characters will also be arrested after that hour. Care must be taken in carrying out this order not to make improper arrests of citizens who may be attending to their lawful business in an orderly manner.

By command of Brig. Gen. John W. Geary, commanding:

W. T. FORBES,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Savannah, Ga., December 24, 1864.

Brig. Gen. J. KILPATRICK,
Commanding Cavalry Division:

GENERAL: I am very pleased to be able to certify to the eminent services you have performed as a cavalry commander during the present campaign, particularly when operating with my wing of the army. The assistance of deceiving the enemy as to my intention before and after crossing the Ocmulgee River; the bold engagements near Lovejoy's and Macon; the disposition of your forces so as to cover our trains and protect our flanks—in fact, all the duties appertaining to a cavalry officer have during the campaign been completely performed. My gratitude, or rather that of the Government, is due to yourself and your officers for their untiring energy and faithful service. Be pleased so to express it. You have my best wishes for your promotion and other personal interests, and must call upon me ever as a friend without stint.

Respectfully and truly, yours,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
 No. 416. } *Hilton Head, S. C., December 24, 1864.*

I. Bvt. Brig. Gen. M. S. Littlefield, U. S. Volunteers, is hereby temporarily assigned to the command of the District of Hilton Head, Fort Pulaski, Saint Helena, and Tybee Islands, during the absence of Brig. Gen. E. E. Potter.

By command of Maj. Gen. J. G. Foster:

W. L. M. BURGER,
Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
 FIRST SEPARATE BRIGADE,
Morris Island, S. C., December 24, 1864.

Capt. W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Dept. of the South:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor most respectfully to report that nothing of importance has occurred in this district since my last communication. Troops have evidently returned to James Island, and to other parts of the enemy's lines. It is not known in what numbers, as no refugees or deserters have come to our outposts. The enemy has employed during the past week large fatigue parties in completing and repairing his fortifications in our front; he has been particularly busy on James and John's Islands at those points upon which we advanced against them in July last. They are to be seen at work clearing the space in front of their works of brush and undergrowth, and are also repairing the roads in their rear. The last official information which I have received in regard to the operations of our forces in other districts of the department is to the effect that Savannah was evacuated by the enemy on the 20th instant, and that the iron-clad Savannah intended to attempt to make her escape on the following night. I have given the necessary orders for her reception should she succeed in running out and attempt to enter Charleston Harbor.

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

A. SCHIMMELFENNIG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

CITY POINT, VA., *December 25, 1864—8 p. m.*

SECRETARY OF WAR,
Washington:

I have just received General Foster's dispatch announcing the capture of Savannah, with artillery, munitions of war, railroad cars, and cotton. I wish Hardee's 15,000 to 18,000 of a garrison could have been added to the other captures. It is a good thing the way it stands, and the country may well rejoice over it.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, December 25, 1864.

Maj. Gen. M. C. MEIGS,

Quartermaster-General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: In reply to your letter of the 16th [15th] instant I beg to inform you that I have referred the same to Brig. Gen. L. C. Easton, my chief quartermaster, who will report fully to you in respect to all matters within his department connected with our recent march. As you say, my marches have demonstrated the great truth that armies, even of vast magnitude, are not tied down to bases. In almost any quarter of the South armies of from 30,000 to 50,000 may safely march, sure to find near their route forage of some kind or other for their animals. It is a physical impossibility to supply an army with forage, and you do perfectly right in demanding that each army should provide itself with long forage and a large proportion of its grain. In the interior of Georgia we found an abundance of the best kind of corn and fodder, and even here on the sea-board we find an abundance of rice in the straw, which our animals eat with avidity and seem to like. It will not be long before I shall sally forth again, and I feel no uneasiness whatever on the score of forage. You may use my name in any circular addressed to the quartermasters of the army to the effect that every part of the southern country will support their animals by a judicious system of foraging. More animals are lost to your department whilst standing idle, hitched to their wagons, than during the long and seemingly hard marches into the interior. I beg to assure you that all my armies have been abundantly supplied by your department, and I am sometimes amazed at the magnitude of its operations. I think I have personally aided your department more than any general officer in the service, by drawing liberally from the enemy, thereby injuring him financially, and to the same extent helping ourselves, and you may always rely upon my cordially co-operating with any system you may establish. General Easton is now endeavoring to reduce to a system of accountability our captures; but so long as we keep our trains and animals well up, and prevent as far as possible the appropriation of public property to private use, I take it for granted you will pardon any mere departure from the established rules of accountability. I want nothing in the way of horses or transportation, and would merely ask from time to time some few artillery horses of a size and weight which cannot be found in this country; at present we need none, as I do not propose to increase my artillery arm; but as I have 400 or 500 miles more to march before spring, it might be prudent to reserve for us 400 or 500 good artillery horses. If my cavalry cannot remount itself in the country it may go afoot.

Thanking you for your many expressions of confidence and respect,
I am, as ever, your friend and servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

SAVANNAH, GA., *December 25, 1864.*

Rev. Mr. WYNN, *Methodist Clergyman:*

SIR: Have the kindness to receive and aid your Christian brother George W. Pepper, chaplain Eightieth Ohio Infantry, giving him such facilities for services in your church as will not interrupt your own.

Respectfully, yours,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 207. }

HDQRS. FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 25, 1864.

* * * * *

II. In accordance with Special Field Orders, No. 139, Military Division of the Mississippi, and 203, current series, from department headquarters, the Fifteenth Army Corps garrisons the forts at Rose-dew, Beaulieu, Wimberly, Thunderbolt, and Bonaventure. Division commanders will therefore detach from their commands as follows: Brigadier-General Woods, 75 men to Rosedew and 100 men to Beau-lieu; Brigadier-General Smith, 100 men to Wimberly; Brigadier-General Corse, 80 men to Thunderbolt and 80 men to Bonaventure. Great care is recommended in the selection of commanding officers for these detachments; they must be zealous and energetic. All assistance that can be rendered by these garrisons will be given to Colonel Conklin, chief quartermaster, who is ordered to explore the waters in the vicinity of the above forts, or to officers who may be authorized to dismantle the fortifications.

* * * * *

By order of Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus:

F. F. WHITEHEAD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 3. }

HDQRS. LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
Savannah, Ga., December 25, 1864.

I. Corps commanders will at once make all necessary preparations for another campaign. All officers who, by intemperance, inefficiency, or ignorance of their duties, have shown themselves unqualified for the positions they hold should at once be recommended for dismissal.

II. No leaves of absence or furloughs will be granted except upon the surgeon's certificate of disability.

III. The interest of the service at this time requires that at least one commissioned officer shall be present with each company, and one field officer with each regiment; and no officer will be mustered out of service in violation of this rule, until the completion of the ensuing campaign.

By command of Maj. Gen. H. W. Slocum:

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

U. S. STEAMER BIBB, THUNDERBOLT BATTERY,
Wilmington River, Ga., Sunday, December 25, 1864.

Maj. Gen. J. G. FOSTER, U. S. Army,
Commanding Department of the South, Hilton Head, S. C.:

MY DEAR SIR: I have marked this river up to this point, four miles and a half from Savannah, with a good road between the two places. There is a good passage through the obstructions between this place and the battery below here at Turner's Rocks. Vessels drawing fifteen feet can come directly here; least water at low water ten feet (near the obstructions); rise and fall of tide seven feet. All large vessels can come here without difficulty or danger, so far as we can discover. I

have recommended to General Sherman to use this place as a transportation depot, and in an interview with him last night understood him to say that he would do so. What glorious news all round!

Yours, respectfully and truly,

CHAS. O. BOUTELLE.

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
Washington, December 26, 1864.

MY DEAR GENERAL SHERMAN: Many, many thanks for your Christmas gift, the capture of Savannah. When you were about leaving Atlanta for the Atlantic coast, I was anxious, if not fearful; but feeling that you were the better judge, and remembering that "nothing risked, nothing gained," I did not interfere. Now, the undertaking being a success, the honor is all yours; for I believe none of us went further than to acquiesce. And taking the work of General Thomas into the count, as it should be taken, it is indeed a great success. Not only does it afford the obvious and immediate military advantages, but, in showing to the world that your army could be divided, putting the stronger part to an important new service, and yet leaving enough to vanquish the old opposing force of the whole—Hood's army—it brings those who sat in darkness to see a great light. But what next? I suppose it will be safer if I leave General Grant and yourself to decide. Please make my grateful acknowledgments to your whole army, officers and men.*

Yours, very truly,

A. LINCOLN.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
December 26, 1864.

Lieutenant-General GRANT,
City Point:

I wish you a merry Christmas, if not too late, and thank you for the Savannah news. It is a sore disappointment that Hardee was able to get off his 15,000 from Sherman's 60,000. It looks like protracting the war while their armies continue to escape. I hope you will give immediate instructions to seize and hold the cotton. All sorts of schemes will be got up to hold it under sham titles of British and other private claimants; they should all be disregarded; and it ought not to be turned over to any Treasury agent, but held by military authority until a special order of the Department is given for the transfer. Sherman has been nominated for major-general.

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
City Point, Va., December 26, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
Savannah, Ga.:

GENERAL: Your very interesting letter of the 22d instant, brought by the hands of Major Gray, of General Foster's staff, is just at hand.

* See Special Field Orders, No. 6, p. 16.

As the major starts back at once, I can do no more at present than simply acknowledge its receipt. The capture of Savannah, with all its immense stores, must tell upon the people of the South. All well here.

Yours, truly,

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT,

City Point:

GENERAL: Your letter of the 19th instant is received. I have already written you fully since arriving here, in answer to your previous letters. I am very glad to learn that Jeff. Davis is in the condition reported to you, and hope that before this time he is dead and out of the way. From my intercourse with the people of Georgia I think it would give great satisfaction to them generally to know that this was so. Still I shall, of course, go on with my preparations without reference to anything of the kind, and as though the Southern Confederacy possessed all the vitality which they boast of.

Very truly, your friend, and obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864—1 p. m.

Lieutenant-General GRANT,

City Point:

GENERAL: In my letter to you of this morning I omitted to answer your inquiry in relation to our prisoners held by the rebels. I have reason to know that they were hurried down from Millen to Savannah, and from here, on our approach, were sent down the Gulf railroad to its termination at Thomasville, and have since been taken back to the old place at Andersonville. I have had my cavalry down to the Altamaha, some fifty miles down the Gulf road, and do not think this is the point from whence they could be reached; but if an expedition were sent up the Apalachicola River, and the Apalachicola Arsenal taken, I think they could be reached from that direction.

Very truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, December 26, 1864.

Admiral JOHN A. DAHLGREN,

Commanding South Atlantic Squadron, near Savannah, Ga.:

ADMIRAL: Your note of this date is received. Captain Boutelle and Captain Fillebrown had already reported to me, night before last, to the same effect, that the Wilmington River was the best channel, and navigable up to Thunderbolt for vessels of fifteen feet draught; but I had not heard further from them. I will refer your letter to General Easton,

who is instructed to arrange so as to get sea-going vessels up to the city wharves, which, if possible, I am very anxious to do, even at considerable expense of labor and money, as I desire to avoid lightering and trans-shipment if possible. I am informed by the Quartermaster-General, from Washington, that six light-draft steamers are now en route to us from the Chesapeake. We had a very pleasant Christmas; I trust you had the same.

Very truly, yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, December 26, 1864.

Maj. Gen. M. C. MEIGS,

Quartermaster-General U. S. Army, Washington City, D. C.:

GENERAL: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 19th instant, before receiving which, however, I had already written you fully. General Easton is busily engaged in reducing to order and system all matters pertaining to his department, and your letters are referred to him to act in accordance with them. You may rely upon my drawing from this country everything it affords for our wants, and adding as little as possible to the burdens of the Government. I am much pleased to hear of the efficient service rendered by the quartermaster's employés in Tennessee. I shall always favor their organization for such purposes, and furnish them with anything subject to my order.

Very truly, your friend and obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HDQRS. MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
CHIEF ENGINEER'S OFFICE,
Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,

Commanding:

GENERAL: In accordance with your instructions, I have the honor to submit the accompanying rough sketch* of plan for the defense of this city. I have reduced the garrison to the lowest probable limit; a smaller one would render it difficult to use any part of it for such offensive operations as might be desirable. The proposed line will be so close to the city that some of the buildings will have to be torn down, and in case of attack all parts of the city will be under artillery fire. Still, the presence of the women and children of the enemy within our lines will render such a fire extremely improbable; and should it be decided by the enemy that they ought to bombard the city, all stores and other valuable property will be quite secure at or near the levee. It is proposed to hold Fort Jackson only because a temporary occupation of it by the enemy would cause us serious inconvenience; to destroy it would require much labor, and even then its site would remain, which would be as detrimental to our interests as the fort itself. Fort Boggs

* Not found.

should be dismantled, and so much of it as can give a fire upon the city should be destroyed, because, being an inclosed work, an enemy might effect a lodgment and hold it for a limited time, much to our annoyance. All the remainder of the enemy's old line, being open to the rear, can do us no injury, and can therefore stand as it is. It is a good line, but too extensive for any garrison that will probably be left in the city; it would require 15,000 men to man it completely. The accompanying sketch does not show the character of the works proposed, but merely the approximate position of the line. The line of works should consist of a system of detached redoubts, in defensive relations, which could be connected by infantry parapet at our leisure.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

O. M. POE,
Captain and Chief of Engineers.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 143.	}	HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI, <i>In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.</i>
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The city of Savannah and surrounding country will be held as a military post and adapted to future military uses; but as it contains a population of some 20,000 people who must be provided for, and as other citizens may come, it is proper to lay down certain general principles that all within its military jurisdiction may understand their relative duties and obligations.

I. During war the military is superior to civil authority, and where interests clash the civil must give way, yet where there is no conflict every encouragement should be given to well-disposed and peaceful inhabitants to resume their usual pursuits; families should be disturbed as little as possible in their residences, and tradesmen allowed the free use of their shops, tools, &c.; churches, schools, and all places of amusement and recreation should be encouraged, and streets and roads made perfectly safe to persons in their pursuits. Passes should not be exacted within the line of outer pickets, but if any person shall abuse these privileges by communicating with the enemy, or doing any act of hostility to the Government of the United States, he or she will be punished with the utmost rigor of the law. Commerce with the outer world will be resumed to an extent commensurate with the interests of the citizens, governed by the restrictions and rules of the Treasury Department.

II. The chief quartermaster and commissary of the army may give suitable employment to the people, white and black, or transport them to such points as they may choose where employment can be had, and may extend temporary relief, in the way of provisions and vacant houses, to the worthy and needy, until such time as they can help themselves; they will select, first, the buildings for the necessary uses of the army, next, a sufficient number of stores to be turned over to the Treasury agent for trade stores; all vacant store-houses or dwellings and all buildings belonging to absent rebels will be construed and used as belonging to the United States until such times as their titles can be settled by the courts of the United States.

III. The mayor and city council of Savannah will continue, and exercise their functions as such, and will, in concert with the commanding officer of the post and the chief quartermaster, see that the fire companies are kept in organization, the streets cleaned and lighted, and

keep up a good understanding between the citizens and soldiers; they will ascertain, and report to the chief commissary of subsistence as soon as possible, the names and number of worthy families that need assistance and support. The mayor will forthwith give public notice that the time has come when all must choose their course, viz., to remain within our lines and conduct themselves as good citizens, or depart in peace. He will ascertain the names of all who choose to leave Savannah, and report their names and residence to the chief quartermaster, that measures may be taken to transport them beyond the lines.

IV. Not more than two newspapers will be published in Savannah, and their editors and proprietors will be held to the strictest accountability, and will be punished severely in person and property for any libelous publications, mischievous matter, premature news, exaggerated statements, or any comments whatever upon the acts of the constituted authorities; they will be held accountable even for such articles though copied from other papers.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 205.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.

* * * * *

V. Maj. T. W. Osborn, chief of artillery, Department and Army of the Tennessee, is intrusted with the dismantling of all the forts on the coast and river. He will consult with the engineer and ordnance departments in reference thereto, and make arrangements to remove the guns and material to Fort Pulaski or other points.

By order of Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard:

SAML. L. TAGGART,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 208.

HDQRS. FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.

* * * * *

II. It is probable that our stay here will be of several weeks' duration, therefore immediate steps must be taken to put the command again in the most perfect condition. First, the troops must be thoroughly refitted in clothing and armament. All requisitions must be made out in full, and the officers having charge of these departments must see that every effort is made to procure the necessary stores. Not only the outfit of the men is to be looked to, but the discipline, bearing, and drill of the soldier must be improved. Division commanders will at once make the necessary regulations regarding drills and theoretical instruction (which must embrace all the different branches of garrison and field duties), the daily guard mounts, dress parade, and Sunday inspections. These regulations must be enforced rigidly, with a view to make every man familiar with his various duties, and at the same time rid the corps of a slovenness of appearance which is hardly becoming to a soldier. Second, a recitation course for, principally, com-

missioned officers and non-commissioned officers is absolutely necessary, and must be instituted in every regiment, battalion, and battery. Camp guards will be placed around the camp of this corps, and the men will not be permitted to go beyond these guards without authority from their company officers. Whenever allowed to visit the city or other camps, the men must be as neat in their appearance as possible, and always wear their waist-belts and side-arms. Third, division commanders alone have authority to grant passes to go beyond the pickets. They will also take measures to stop all foraging hereafter, as the Government is amply prepared to furnish full supplies. Fourth, only the regularly appointed officers of the respective administrative departments are authorized to collect horses, mules, or subsistence stores; all others are forbidden to indulge in such operations.

* * * * *

By order of Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus:

F. F. WHITEHEAD,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. FOURTH DIV., 15TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 50. } *Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.*

I. Maj. E. S. Johnson, Seventh Illinois Infantry Volunteers, will immediately proceed with the dismounted portion of his regiment to Fort Bonaventure, and garrison the same. Such assistance as can be rendered will be given to officers who may be authorized to dismantle the fortifications.

II. In compliance with orders from corps headquarters, Brig. Gen. E. W. Rice, commanding First Brigade, will assign eighty men to garrison Fort Thunderbolt. Great care is recommended in selecting commanding officers for this detachment. They must be zealous and energetic. All assistance that can be rendered by this garrison will be given to Colonel Conklin, chief quartermaster, who is authorized to explore the waters in the vicinity of the above fort, or to officers who may be authorized to dismantle the fortifications.

* * * * *

By order of Brig. Gen. J. M. Corse:

A. W. EDWARDS,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.

Capt. S. L. TAGGART,

Assistant Adjutant-General, Dept. and Army of the Tennessee:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to renew my recommendation, made at the close of the Atlanta campaign, for the promotion of Brig. Gen. Giles A. Smith, commanding Fourth Division of this corps, and Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett, commanding Third Division, to the rank of major-general. They served with great gallantry and efficiency on the Atlanta campaign, and on the campaign just ended served equally well; they are justly entitled to promotion, and I earnestly recommend that they receive it at once. I desire to recommend Col. B. F. Potts, Thirty-second Ohio, commanding First Brigade, Fourth Division, and Col. R.

K. Scott, Sixty-eighth Ohio Volunteers, commanding Second Brigade, Third Division, for promotion to the rank of brigadier-general. These officers have commanded brigades for about one year, with credit to themselves and the country, and are justly entitled to promotion; they are brave and gallant officers. I cordially recommend Brig. Gen. M. F. Force, commanding First Brigade, Third Division, for promotion to the brevet rank of major-general. General Force was severely wounded on the 22d of July, before Atlanta, while gallantly defending his position against the assaults of the enemy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANK P. BLAIR, JR.,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
No. 317. } *Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.*

* * * * *

III. The review of this corps by General Sherman will take place to-morrow. The following are the orders for the movement:

1. The right of the command will rest on Gaston street, extending along Whitaker street to Hall, westwardly along Hall to West Broad street, northwardly along West Broad to Bay street, eastwardly along Bay to East Broad street, southwardly along East Broad to Liberty street, and westwardly along Liberty as far as necessary.

2. The First Alabama Cavalry will take up position on the right at 9 a. m.

3. Maj. Gen. J. A. Mower, commanding First Division, will take up his position at 9 a. m., with his right resting on the First Alabama Cavalry.

4. Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett, commanding Third Division, will take his position at 9.30 o'clock, his right resting on the First Division.

5. Brig. Gen. G. A. Smith, commanding Fourth Division, will take his position at 10 a. m., his right resting on the Third Division.

6. Maj. A. C. Waterhouse will form the artillery of the corps on the left of the Fourth Division.

* * * * *

By command of Maj. Gen. F. P. Blair:

C. CADLE, JR.,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, December 26, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. SLOCUM,
Commanding Left Wing, Army of Georgia:

GENERAL: The general-in-chief requests that you will, as early as practicable, detail some competent engineer officer of your command, with instructions to report to Brigadier-General Easton, chief quartermaster, with a party, for the purpose of examining and removing the obstructions in the Savannah River.

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

HENRY HITCHCOCK,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. LEFT WING, ARMY OF GEORGIA,
No. 4. } *Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.*

The following officers are announced on the staff of the major-general commanding; they will be obeyed and respected accordingly: Lieut. Col. S. H. Sturdevant, chief commissary of subsistence; First Lieut. William Ludlow, chief engineer.

By command of Maj. Gen. H. W. Slocum:

H. C. RODGERS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, } HDQRS. 14TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 29. } *Savannah, Ga., December 26, 1864.*

The order of review for to-morrow, December 27, will be as follows:

The different divisions will be drawn up in open order on the south side of three parallel streets, as follows, the right of each resting on Price street: The First Division, General Carlin, upon Jones or Taylor street; the Second Division, General Morgan, upon Liberty street; the Third Division, General Baird, upon South Broad street. After the reviewing officer has passed around the lines, the troops of the corps—in the following order: Third Division, Second Division, First Division—will march down Price street to Bay, and up Bay, passing in review before the reviewing officer, upon the latter street, in columns of companies; after which they will turn south upon West Broad and return to their respective camps. The reserve artillery will march in the rear of the First Division. The divisions will march into position as follows: General Baird down the Louisville road, General Morgan down the canal, and General Carlin by the nearest road south of the canal, to the position indicated.

By order of Bvt. Maj. Gen. J. C. Davis:

A. C. McCLURG,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 26, 1864.

Lieut. Gen. U. S. GRANT,
Commanding Armies of the United States:

GENERAL: I have the honor to inclose a copy* of my usual report by each steamer to General Halleck, by the hands of Captain Dunn, of your staff. Captain Dunn bears full dispatches from General Sherman, and will be able to explain to you fully the highly encouraging character of the situation in this department. General Sherman is in excellent spirits, and his troops in splendid condition. His army, with its present morale and condition, is, in my humble opinion, more than a match for any army the rebels can concentrate against it on this continent. Should it please you to give this department a visit you will, it is needless to assure you, receive the most cordial welcome.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

* See next, post.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 26, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, U. S. Army,
Chief of Staff, Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to inform you that everything in this department and at Savannah is progressing favorably. General Sherman is clearing his army of incumbrances, and getting ready for another move, which, with his present army, actuated by its sanguine spirit, will be resistless by any force that the rebels can collect this side of Richmond. I am now having the guns at Fort McAllister dismounted and brought, with the carriages, &c., to Hilton Head; those in Forts Beaulieu and Rosedew, and perhaps one or two other batteries, will likewise be removed. General Sherman proposes to leave the city in my charge, with a division of his troops for present emergencies. As soon as possible I am to arrange the different works necessary to be held to secure Savannah, so as to be able to hold the city with my present force, with one or perhaps two brigades, the remainder of the division to rejoin his column as soon as arrangements to that effect can be completed. At the request of General Sherman I have notified the Treasury agent that he can take possession of the cotton and forward it to New York. The negroes are being removed—those that are not able-bodied—as also women and children, to Beaufort, to be put on the plantations in that district. Of the able-bodied men, all, except a few hundred absolutely necessary in the quartermaster's department, will be sent, agreeably to General Grant's order, to City Point. I do not, however, expect this transfer of able-bodied men can be made before General Sherman's army leaves, inasmuch as they are all now actively employed in loading and unloading steamers, and in other necessary work in Savannah.

The people of Savannah are, in a measure, destitute, and will have to be supported, to a certain extent, until such time as the ordinary course of labor and of supplies is resumed in the city. General Sherman has made excellent arrangements by which the mayor, receiving captured rice and other rebel stores, can so distribute them as to meet all the immediate demands of the destitute. In a very short time the supplies which I can allow to enter the city by the inland route will meet the wants of the people. Such products as they have may also be exported by the same route without any new change in the Treasury regulations. Having this supply and trade under my own control I can restrict it to proper and safe limits.

As far as can be judged the people feel a sense of relief in having their city occupied by the Union troops and being freed from rebel rule. As an evidence of this it is known that the mayor and council protested against General Hardee's attempting to defend the city. Most of the citizens remain, and show no alarm, but, on the contrary, the utmost confidence in General Sherman and his troops. Several general officers left their wives in the city, Mrs. General G. W. Smith and Mrs. General Robert H. Anderson among the number. Yesterday the different churches were opened and filled with people as usual. Ladies walk the streets without alarm.

As to the enemy and his movements, it is reported by deserters that the few regiments of old troops, only five or six in number, have gone toward Charleston or Wilmington. All the militia, which constituted the main body of General Hardee's force, have gone back into Georgia, and, it is reported, to concentrate at Augusta. The Georgia troops,

on leaving Savannah, evinced a determined reluctance to fight for South Carolina, or to remain within the borders of that State. My force is still posted, controlling the railroad, but will shortly be moved, a portion being returned to their original stations and the balance to Savannah. I would respectfully suggest that if there are any new regiments or colored regiments disposable at the North I can make them effective by placing them in garrisons, and by that means be enabled to relieve all of General Sherman's veteran regiments.

The facilities in the way of transportation, &c., are now ample, and I apprehend no difficulty in supplying General Sherman's army up any of the rivers in South Carolina, should he, during the course of his march, require supplies of any kind.

The health of the troops here is good, and all the wounded are doing well.

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

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 26, 1864.

ALBERT G. BROWNE, Esq.,
Supervising Special Agent of the Treasury, Beaufort, S. C.:

SIR: At General Sherman's request I have the honor to inform you that he will turn over to you the cotton recently captured by him in the city of Savannah.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
No. 417. } *Hilton Head, S. C., December 26, 1864.*

* * * * *

III. Lieut. Col. S. L. Woodford, One hundred and twenty-seventh New York Volunteers, having been mentioned with commendation by his brigade and division commanders for gallant conduct during the recent operations upon November 30 and December 6 and 9, near the Charleston and Savannah Railroad, and having been recommended, on account of such service, by Brig. Gen. J. P. Hatch, commanding Coast Division, for promotion to the colonelcy of the Twenty-sixth U. S. Colored Troops (vice Colonel Silliman, deceased, from wounds received in action December 9, 1864), he is hereby appointed acting colonel of the Twenty-sixth U. S. Colored Troops, subject to the approval of His Excellency the President.

* * * * *

By command of Maj. Gen. J. G. Foster:

W. L. M. BURGER,
Captain and Assistant Adjutant-General.

Field report of Coast Division, Department of the South, December 26, 1864.

Troops.	Effective.		Present.		Aggregate.
	Officers.	Men.	Officers.	Men.	
First Brigade	122	2,447	130	2,973	3,103
Second Brigade	89	1,877	89	2,246	2,335
Artillery	8	235	8	235	243
Naval Brigade	19	405	21	457	478
Engineers	1	54	1	57	58
Cavalry	3	32	3	32	35
Total	242	5,050	252	6,000	6,252

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
FIRST SEPARATE BRIGADE,
Morris Island, S. C., December 26, 1864.

Lieut. Col. A. G. BENNETT,
Commanding Post, Morris Island, S. C. :

COLONEL: The brigadier-general commanding directs that you cause dry brush to be piled in front of the forts and batteries on this island where the ground admits, at a distance of from 200 to 300 yards, and at those points where it might be supposed that the enemy would make an attack. This is intended, in the latter case, to be fired, so as to throw a strong light on the space in front, thus enabling the garrison of the works to see the enemy.

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

J. W. DICKINSON,
Captain, 21st U. S. Colored Troops, and Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, December 26, 1864.

Brig. Gen. R. SAXTON,
Commanding District of Beaufort, S. C. :

GENERAL: I am directed by the general-in-chief to acknowledge your communication to him under date of 22d instant, and to express his appreciation of your readiness to aid him in respect to the disposition of the contrabands. He regards your suggestions as to the islands you mention as well worthy of consideration, especially with reference to the women and children. For the able-bodied men, General Easton, chief quartermaster, to whom the subject is referred, seems to think he can find employment for most, if not all, of them, and Lieutenant-General Grant has also signified his wish that a number shall be sent to him, including a due proportion of women and children. The general would be pleased to see you here to confer with himself and General Easton on the subject.

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,

HENRY HITCHCOCK,
Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
December 27, 1864—1 p. m.

Lieutenant-General GRANT:

Is there any objection, on military grounds, to the President removing the blockade of Savannah by proclamation, and opening it to public trade, except contraband of war?

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

CITY POINT, VA., December 27, 1864—3.30 p. m.

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

I think it would be better to defer the removal of the blockade of Savannah by proclamation until military operations in that quarter are ended.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE UNITED STATES,
City Point, Va., December 27, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

GENERAL: Before writing you definite instructions for the next campaign, I wanted to receive your answer to my letter written from Washington. Your confidence in being able to march up and join this army pleases me, and I believe it can be done. The effect of such a campaign will be to disorganize the South, and prevent the organization of new armies from their broken fragments. Hood is now retreating, with his army broken and demoralized. His loss in men has probably not been far from 20,000, besides deserters. If time is given the fragments may be collected together and many of the deserters reassembled; if we can we should act to prevent this. Your spare army, as it were, moving as proposed, will do this. In addition to holding Savannah, it looks to me that an intrenched camp ought to be held on the railroad between Savannah and Charleston. Your movement toward Branchville will probably enable Foster to reach this with his own force. This will give us a position in the South from which we can threaten the interior, without marching over long narrow causeways easily defended, as we have heretofore been compelled to do. Could not such a camp be established about Pocotaligo, or Coosawhatchie? I have thought that Hood being so completely wiped out for present harm, I might bring A. J. Smith here with from 10,000 to 15,000 men. With this increase I could hold my lines and move out with a greater force than Lee has. It would compel Lee to retain all his present force in the defenses of Richmond, or abandon them entirely. This latter contingency is probably the only danger to the easy success of your expedition. In the event you should meet Lee's army, you would be compelled to beat it, or find the sea-coast. Of course I shall not let Lee's army escape if I can help it, and will not let it go without following to the best of my ability. Without waiting further directions, then, you may make preparations to start on your northern expedition without delay. Break up the railroads in South and North Carolina, and join the armies operating against Richmond as soon as you can. I will leave out all suggestions

about the route you should take, knowing that your information, gained daily in the progress of events, will be better than any that can be obtained now. It may not be possible for you to march to the rear of Petersburg, but failing in this you could strike either of the sea-coast ports in North Carolina held by us; from there you could take shipping. It would be decidedly preferable, however, if you could march the whole distance. From the best information I have, you will find no difficulty in supplying your army until you cross the Roanoke. From there here is but a few days' march, and supplies could be collected south of the river to bring you through. I shall establish communication with you there by steam-boat and gun-boat. By this means your wants can be partially supplied. I shall hope to hear from you soon, and to hear your plan and about the time of starting. Please instruct Foster to hold on to all the property captured in Savannah, and especially the cotton. Do not turn it over to citizens or Treasury agents without orders of the War Department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 27, 1864.

Captain BOUTELLE,
U. S. Coast Survey:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to request that you will, at the earliest practicable moment, take the necessary steps to have the Tybee Light-House rebuilt, put in good order, and relighted; and also that the channels leading up to Savannah be buoyed and lighted as soon as possible.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPT. AND ARMY OF THE TENN.,
No. 291. } *Louisville, Ky., December 27, 1864.*

* * * * *

III. Col. M. C. Garber, senior chief quartermaster of this department, will at once proceed to New York City and procure transportation to Savannah, Ga., for the headquarters Department and Army of the Tennessee and the headquarters Fifteenth Army Corps, with the officers and men attached thereto.

* * * * *

By order of Maj. Gen. O. O. Howard:

WM. T. CLARK,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL } HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
FIELD ORDERS, } ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
No. 206. } *Savannah, Ga., December 27, 1864.*

* * * * *

V. The several pioneer corps of this army will report to Lieutenant Stickney, Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, for work on the line of for-

2. The First Division, Maj. Gen. J. A. Mower commanding, will form on South Broad street, with the right resting on Price street.
3. The Third Division will form on Liberty street, with its right resting on Price street.
4. The Fourth Division will form on Jones street, with its right resting on Price street.
5. Maj. A. C. Waterhouse, chief of artillery, will form the artillery on the open ground on the corner of Price and Liberty streets.
6. The position of the reviewing officer will be at the Exchange, on Bay street.
7. The hour for the formation will be the same as formerly designated.

* * * * *

By command of Maj. Gen. F. P. Blair:

C. CADLE, JR.,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 184.

HEADQUARTERS THIRD DIVISION,
SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 27, 1864.

I. Col. R. K. Scott, Sixty-eighth Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, having been ordered North, Col. G. F. Wiles, Seventy-eighth Ohio Veteran Volunteer Infantry, is hereby detached from his regiment and assigned to the command of the Second Brigade, this division.

* * * * *

By order of Brig. Gen. M. D. Leggett:

J. C. DOUGLASS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 27, 1864.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,
Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding the corps directs that you hold your division in readiness to cross to-morrow morning to the north side of Savannah River. The movement will not be made, however, until you receive further orders.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Lieutenant-Colonel and Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SIGNAL DETACHMENT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 27, 1864.

Capt. W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the South:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report, for the information of the general commanding, that communication is now open from Hilton Head to Fort Pulaski.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. A. FISHER,
First Lieutenant, Signal Corps, U. S. Army.

were captured by three of the enemy's scouts while en route from this place to Saint Augustine. Colonel Noble was here as a witness before a general court-martial, and was to have returned before Monday 9 a. m. When I gave Colonel Noble permission to go to Saint Augustine I cautioned him especially in reference to the necessity of being always armed, of not traveling without escort, &c. As far as I can learn neither of the parties captured had arms with them. Captain Young was permitted to go at large on the ground of ill-health and retirement from service about to be consummated. Every practicable effort is being made to rescue these officers, but I have very little expectation, notwithstanding the hopes held out by scouts, &c., that they will be successful. I trust that the cavalry force destined for this district may be sent as soon as practicable, and that the infantry, temporarily withdrawn, may be also returned.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, &c.,

E. P. SCAMMON,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

CITY POINT, VA., *December 28, 1864.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON,
Secretary of War:

The Richmond papers contain the following items from Georgia:

The latest official advices from Georgia indicate that Sherman has already followed up the occupation of Savannah by sending a force of cavalry, artillery, and infantry upon an expedition, whose destination can only be guessed at from the direction in which it has moved. These troops are reported to have gone toward the Altamaha river, and we shall no doubt next hear that they have crossed that stream and are moving to Southwestern Georgia, in quest of the prisoners of war who were supposed to be at Andersonville. Sherman's programme for his grand campaign northward seems to be no secret. He will start from Port Royal and move straight on Branchville, the point of junction between the Georgian and Carolinian railroads; he then proposes to follow the main lines of railroad toward Virginia, stealing and murdering as much as he can by the way. All very fine; but if Sherman proposes, Lee disposes.

From Wilmington, the following official dispatch was received last night:

"WILMINGTON, *December 27, 3 p. m.*

"His Excellency the PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES:

"The enemy has embarked under cover of his fleet. His movement is not developed. I have visited Fort Fisher and find the damage slight, except the buildings not necessary for defense; only two guns disabled. The marks remaining indicate that the bombardment was very heavy. Major-General Whiting, commanding the defenses at the mouth of the river, Colonel Lamb, commanding the fort, and the officers and men composing the garrison deserve especial commendation for the gallantry, efficiency, and fortitude displayed under very trying circumstances.

"BRAXTON BRAGG."

From Southwestern Virginia:

The Lynchburg Virginian has the following additional in relation to the capture of the salt-works, announced officially on yesterday:

We had been led to hope that these important works were safe, but the sources from which their reported capture comes leave us no room to doubt its correctness. They were occupied by the enemy on Tuesday the 20th, and held by them, as is stated, until Thursday, when they retreated towards Bristol. We learn that the place was held by about 200 reserves, under Colonel Preston, the most of whom escaped capture. The works are reported to be but little damaged, and we understand that persons who have visited them since the occupation by the enemy think they can be put in working order again by the first of February. A large quantity of salt, already gotten out, was destroyed, and all the buildings at the place were burned; several pieces of artillery were also captured by them, but they got but little else of any kind. General Breckinridge, at the last accounts, was at Saltville,

preparing to follow the enemy on his retreat. Beyond continued skirmishing with their rear guard, no further fighting has taken place than that already reported. A gentleman who passed over the railroad from Bristol to Glade Spring after the enemy advanced says the bridges between these places are all burned, but that the track is uninjured.

U. S. GRANT,
Lieutenant-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, December 28, 1864.

General J. D. WEBSTER,
Nashville, Tenn.:

GENERAL: Inclosed please find an order for removal of headquarters to this place; and I will further explain General Sherman's wishes, as he has given me the directions. The officers to be transferred are General Webster, Colonel Sawyer, Captain Rochester, Captain Coverdale, and Lieutenant Towner, of General Barry's staff; also Captain Jenney, with Captain Poe's office. All the other officers on duty at headquarters will be relieved and returned to their commands, as also all clerks, orderlies, and messengers not belonging to organizations in this part of the command. All public property at headquarters will be properly disposed of by orders, and left, and the office records, papers, &c., proper, be brought along. Your private horses will be disposed of as each of you may prefer, by sale, by taking quartermaster's receipts, or otherwise, but not be brought here, as transportation from New York cannot be obtained. The Regular Battalion Thirteenth Infantry will not come. Captain Poe sends instructions for Captain Jenney; and in the absence of General Barry I presume Lieutenant Towner must bring only his office proper. The general wishes his trunk, and also the effects or baggage for all the staff here should be brought along; all of us have more or less with Colonel Sawyer and yourself. You will come via New York, and thence by regular steamer. You can make the necessary orders covering these points and giving transportation. The clerks, messengers, and orderlies belonging to this part of the command will be brought along. This relieves from duty at headquarters Captain Rankin, Captain Stockdale, Lieutenant Newlin, and any others not enumerated as to come here.

I am aware the general has written you fully the news, &c., regarding the campaign just closed, and I can only add, all seems to be working well here.

I am, general, with respect, &c.,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

[Inclosure.]

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, } HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
No. 144. } *In the Field, Savannah, Ga.,*
December 27, 1864.

* * * * *

XI. The general and business headquarters of this military division will be moved from Nashville, Tenn., to Savannah, Ga., under direction of Brig. Gen. J. D. Webster.

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

In the Field, Savannah, December 28, 1864.

MESSRS. P. J. STANFIELD, A. J. PAGETT, and others,
Of Liberty and Tattnall Counties, Ga.:

GENTLEMEN: I have a copy of the resolutions adopted by you. They are surely strong enough and patriotic enough. I will aid you all possible, and do all in my power to encourage you and defend you in your course. I do think we have been at war long enough for truth to reveal itself. We are fellow-countrymen and bound by every principle of honor and honesty to maintain and defend the Union given us by Washington, and that is all I aim at, and the moment Georgia resumes her place in the Union and sends Representatives to Congress she is at once at peace, and all the laws both national and State are revived. If you will stay at home quietly, and call back your sons and neighbors to resume their peaceful pursuits, I will promise you ammunition to protect yourselves and property. If rebel soldiers do any of you violence I will retaliate, and if you will bring your produce to Savannah I will cause it to be protected in transitu, and allow it to be sold in market to the highest bidder, and our commissary will buy your cattle, hogs, sheep, &c. It would be well to form a league, and adopt some common certificate, so that our officers and soldiers may distinguish between you and open rebels. I will be glad to confer with any of your people, and will do all that is fair to encourage you to recover the peace and prosperity you enjoyed before the war.

I am, with respect, &c.,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

A D D E N D A .

When dominant political factions become so corrupt as to prefer the destruction of the General Government to their own overthrow as mere parties, and in support of such preference set at defiance the authority of such General Government, and finally actually inaugurate a war for the destruction of the same, we deem it the right and duty of all men living in the country where such parties are formed, who desire to continue loyal to their Government, to resist if possible all attempts to make them take up arms against the same; but if not able to make an open resistance, then we deem it not at all dishonorable to evade stealthily such unnatural, unlawful, and treasonable measures, nor do we deem it dishonorable to aid in the same or any other manner the open defenders of our cause.

Be it therefore resolved, That we, the undersigned citizens of Liberty and Tattnall Counties and the State of Georgia, either deserted from the army of the so-called Confederate States at home, in violation of the conscript law thereof, or by reason of our old age, will never aid in carrying on this wicked rebellion against our Government.

Resolved, That we will band together, under the leadership of some suitable person, in order that we may better defend our lives and our property against the execution of barbarous threats and orders uttered and issued against us by rebel leaders.

Resolved, That the occupation of Georgia by the Federal army is in accordance with our wishes, and that we will render any assistance in our power to said army that may [be] asked.

Resolved, That we are opposed to the principle of secession, and look upon all who support said principle as traitors to our Government.

Resolved, That hereafter, as heretofore, we will recognize the Constitution of the United States, and that alone, as the supreme law of our land, to which, though temporarily suspended here, we steadily look for that protection which, as American citizens, we are entitled to enjoy.

Resolved, That two members of this meeting be appointed to proceed as soon as practicable with a copy of these resolutions to the nearest Federal camp.

We do solemnly swear that we will not divulge to any one at all not present at this meeting anything connected therewith, or transpired thereat, without the full consent and approbation of the chairman thereof, so help me God.

Be it resolved, That the penalty will be death for any person who reveals any part of the above obligation or resolution or proceeding of this meeting that has been transacted, or may hereafter be transacted at any subsequent.

The following-named persons will act to form resolutions for this meeting to be governed by: P. J. Standfield, A. J. Pagett, Asa Barnett, J. E. Beasley, Jno. S. Long.

SPECIAL FIELD ORDERS, No. 145.	}	HDQRS. MIL. DIV. OF THE MISSISSIPPI, <i>In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 28, 1864.</i>
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V. Capt. O. M. Poe, chief engineer, is hereby authorized, in the execution of instructions to build a line of defense for the city of Savannah, to remove or destroy buildings of any character, to give orders for the removal of any camp of troops or other obstacles in the way, and commanders of troops will assist Captain Poe as much as possible in the removal of camps that may interfere with his proposed line.

* * * * *

By order of Maj. Gen. W. T. Sherman:

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Savannah, Ga., December 28, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

GENERAL: In consequence of the rain I have postponed the review of Major-General Blair's command to 11 a. m. Friday, the 30th instant.

Very respectfully, yours, &c.,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General.

HDQRS. DEPARTMENT AND ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Savannah, Ga., December 28, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

GENERAL: It is reported to me by my officers that the animals of this army are actually suffering for want of forage. It is reported to me by Major Thomas that there is a large quantity within six miles of this city, and that it can be landed without any trouble at Thunderbolt.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. O. HOWARD,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, December 28, 1864.

Maj. Gen. O. O. HOWARD,
Commanding, &c.:

GENERAL: The chief quartermaster represents that paragraph III, Special Field Orders, No. 141,* has not been complied with as yet, and he desires it shall be as soon as possible, for the reason that for the absence of this guard and fatigue service, the public property cannot be protected nor the supplies arrived be furnished the army. Please give this your earliest attention, as General Easton is in pressing need of the detail of men.

I am, general, with respect,

L. M. DAYTON,
Aide-de-Camp.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE TENNESSEE,
ENGINEER OFFICE,
Savannah, Ga., December 28, 1864.

Capt. O. M. POE,
Chief Engineer Military Division of the Mississippi:

I have to report that I have examined the ground for the new line of fortifications about the city. The line will run so as to render it necessary to destroy some old buildings (some of them occupied by families) and to remove some of the camps of our troops. I have located the line to interfere with both of these as little as possible. I think it necessary to give me authority, in orders, to have all buildings or camps in the way of the line of works removed at once.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. B. REESE,
Capt. of Engineers, Chief Engineer Department of the Tennessee.

SPECIAL
FIELD ORDERS, }
No. 207.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT AND
ARMY OF THE TENNESSEE,
Savannah, Ga., December 28, 1864.

* * * * *

III. Permission to proceed to Hilton Head and Beaufort, S. C., to return as soon as practicable, is granted to Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Oster-

* See p. 802.

time been discovered to be of our own forces, and the deployed line having been drawn in the column marched by the flank down the railroad. Upon reaching the railroad bridge near the city a guard forbade further advancing, and I reported to the division officer of the day, who ordered me to march to the present camp-ground of the division and await the arrival of the brigade. The brigade arrived about 11 a. m., at which time the pickets were dismissed and my successor reported for duty.

I have the honor to remain, captain, your obedient servant,

H. OSBORN,

Captain, Fifty-fifth Regiment Ohio Volunteer Infantry.

FLAG-SHIP MALVERN,

At Sea, off coast of North Carolina, December 29, 1864.

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN, U. S. Army,

Commanding Military Division of the Mississippi:

MY DEAR GENERAL: I send Captain Breese to communicate with you, and tell you about matters and things in this quarter. I congratulate you on your success, which I knew was sure when you started. I told the world you would be off Savannah on the 10th, and you were not far off on that day. I feel certain that you are in Savannah to-day, or will be there in a week. When you have captured that place I invite you to add to your brow the laurels thrown away by General Butler after they were laid at his feet by the navy, and which neither he nor those with him had the courage to gather up. I felt sure that it would be so when we started on the expedition. We attacked Fort Fisher, silenced it, blew it up, burned it out, and knocked it to pieces. An officer belonging to the small skirmishing party of twenty men sent out by the force that landed on the beach went on the parapet of Fort Fisher and brought away the flag that we had shot down. A sergeant went through the sally-port into the fort, and met there a rebel orderly ready to mount a horse for the purpose of carrying a letter. He killed the orderly, searched his body, found the dispatch, mounted the horse and rode out of the fort. Another soldier went in and brought out a mule that was stowed away in a bomb-proof; another fired his musket at a crowd of cowering wretches stowed away in the bomb-proof. Notwithstanding all this General Butler decided not to attack Fort Fisher, "as the navy fire has not injured it as a defensive work!" Great heavens! what are we coming to? Well, I think that Providence intended it to be so; and it rests with you to add new honors to your name, already famous, notwithstanding the newspaper reporters. This is merely on your way to Richmond. Take this place and you take the "crème de la crème" of the rebellion. I leave to Captain Breese to tell you all my views; and I do hope, my dear general, that you will second me here and let our people see the folly of employing such generals as Butler and Banks. I have tried them both, and God save me from further connection with such generals. With you I feel sure of success, and shall bless the day when I shall once more see your esteemed self in our midst. A host of old friends are here to welcome you, and show you the most magnificent naval fight you ever laid your eyes on. I hope soon to see you here. I have much to tell you that will astonish you.

Very truly and sincerely, yours,

DAVID D. PORTER,

Rear-Admiral.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, December 29, 1864.

Brig. Gen. R. DELAFIELD,
Chief Engineer U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your circular dated November 21, 1864, requesting me to furnish for your information the names of officers connected with my command of the Corps of Engineers who have been mentioned for distinguished and meritorious conduct during the present or previous campaigns against the rebellious States, with recommendations for brevet rank. In compliance therewith I have the honor to recommend for promotion by brevet, as below stated, the following officers of the Corps of Engineers connected with my command during the late and previous campaigns:

First. Capt. O. M. Poe, Corps of Engineers, chief engineer of the Military Division of the Mississippi, has been in constant daily service near my person since the beginning of the Atlanta campaign. His services have been of the very highest value throughout that and the campaign just ended, and have been rendered with a zeal, promptitude, and fidelity which have left nothing to desire. I consider that he has fairly earned the commission he formerly held as brigadier-general of volunteers, but I prefer that he should be brevet brigadier-general in the Regular Army, in order that I may retain him near my person as long as I have the honor to exercise an active command in the Army of the United States. I find him so thoroughly qualified that I would be lost without him.

Second. Capt. C. B. Reese, chief engineer of the Department and Army of the Tennessee, has proved himself a most earnest and efficient officer, to whom the highest praise is awarded by his immediate superiors for the valuable service he has rendered in all departments under his control. I respectfully recommend him for the brevet rank of colonel, U. S. Army.

Third. First Lieut. Amos Stickney, Corps of Engineers, assigned to duty with the Department and Army of the Tennessee, is recommended as a zealous and efficient officer, who has at all times satisfactorily performed the duties imposed upon him, and has fairly earned promotion by one grade.

Fourth. First Lieut. William Ludlow, Corps of Engineers, joined my command during the Atlanta campaign—afterward doing duty at Rome, Ga., under Brigadier-General Corse, participating in the heroic defense of Allatoona Pass, and serving during the recent campaign as chief engineer of the Left Wing of this army, under Major-General Slocum, commanding, who has expressed satisfaction with his discharge of the duties thus assigned him. For Lieutenant Ludlow's participation in the defense of Allatoona Pass, I respectfully recommend him for the brevet rank of captain, U. S. Army, and for that of major in consideration of his services during the last campaign.

I have the honor to be, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,
W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding.

P. S.—Please send a copy of your circular to Major-General Thomas, at Nashville, that he may report direct to you concerning the officers of the Engineer Corps serving in that branch of my command.

W. T. S.,
Major-General,

more than equaled his expectation, and the more so because a large portion of the brigade consists of recruits who have had but little opportunity for drill or exercise in the manual. General Sherman was much gratified, saying that the brigade was "a fine body of men." While thanking the command for having acquitted themselves thus well, the general would remind them it is only by improving every leisure opportunity, and especially the present one, in constant drill and the manual, that they can preserve to the brigade the reputation they have gained.

By order of Brig. Gen. W. W. Belknap:

O. D. KINSMAN,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 29, 1864.

Brig. Gen. N. J. JACKSON,
Commanding First Division:

GENERAL: The Third Division is ordered to cross the river early to-morrow morning. The general commanding the corps directs that you take up, at daybreak to-morrow morning, in addition to the line you now hold, that now held by the Third Division.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. PERKINS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
No. 172. } *Hilton Head, S. C., December 29, 1864.*

Col. C. L. Kilburn, assistant commissary-general of subsistence, U. S. Army, having reported at these headquarters in compliance with Special Orders, No. 431, paragraph 47, current series, from the War Department, dated Adjutant-General's Office, Washington, D. C., December 5, 1864, is hereby announced as chief commissary of subsistence of this department, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

By command of Maj. Gen. J. G. Foster:

W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
Morris Island, S. C., December 29, 1864.

Capt. W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the South:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to report that nothing of importance has occurred in this command since my last communication. Five deserters of the First South Carolina Infantry from Sullivan's Island and one of the Second South Carolina Artillery from James' Island have come into our lines. The general information brought by these men is the same as is already in our possession. They state that the details from the troops on Sullivan's Island that had been sent to Pocotaligo and Savannah (only about 150 men) returned last week. They represent a depressed, dispirited feeling as existing amongst officers and men, and give various rumors that are flying about camp which tend to corrob-

rate this. The enemy continues fatigue work on some of his batteries on James Island, and especially on the new batteries near Stono River on John's Island. As regards sending Mrs. Thomas and her daughters across our lines by flag of truce, I endeavored to communicate with the enemy in the harbor on the first day of the ladies' arrival here, but my flag of truce was not accepted. Yesterday was too stormy to admit of meeting in the harbor, and to-day I propose to send a flag of truce over from Cole's Island and endeavor to effect the transfer there.

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

A. SCHIMMELFENNIG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL.]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
*Washington, D. C., December 30, 1864.**

Maj. Gen. W. T. SHERMAN,
Savannah:

MY DEAR GENERAL: I take the liberty of calling your attention, in this private and friendly way, to a matter which may possibly hereafter be of more importance to you than either of us may now anticipate. While almost every one is praising your great march through Georgia and the capture of Savannah, there is a certain class, having now great influence with the President, and very probably anticipating still more on a change of Cabinet, who are decidedly disposed to make a point against you—I mean in regard to “Inevitable Sambo.” They say that you have manifested an almost *criminal* dislike to the negro, and that you are not willing to carry out the wishes of the Government in regard to him, but repulse him with contempt. They say you might have brought with you to Savannah more than 50,000, thus stripping Georgia of that number of laborers and opening a road by which as many more could have escaped from their masters; but that instead of this you drove them from your ranks, prevented them from following you by cutting the bridges in your rear, and thus caused the massacre of large numbers by Wheeler's cavalry.

To those who know you as I do such accusations will pass as the idle winds, for we presume that you discouraged the negroes from following you simply because you had not the means of supporting them and feared they might seriously embarrass your march. But there are others, and among them some in high authority, who think, or pretend to think, otherwise, and they are decidedly disposed to make a point against you.

I do not write this to induce you to conciliate this class of men by doing anything which you do not think right and proper and for the interest of the Government and the country, but simply to call your attention to certain things which are viewed here somewhat differently than from your standpoint. I will explain as briefly as possible: Some here think that, in view of the scarcity of labor in the South, and the probability that a part, at least, of the able-bodied slaves will be called into the military service of the rebels, it is of the greatest importance to open outlets by which the slaves can escape into our lines, and, they say, that the route you have passed over should be made the route of escape and Savannah the great place of refuge. These I know are the views of some of the leading men in the administration, and they now express dissatisfaction that you did not carry them out in your great raid.

* General Sherman's reply of January 12, 1865, refers to this letter as dated January 1st, but General Halleck's copy is dated as here given.

Now that you are in possession of Savannah, and there can be no further fears about supplies, would it not be possible for you to reopen these avenues of escape for the negroes without interfering with your military operations? Could not such escaped slaves find, at least, a partial supply of food in the rice fields about Savannah, and occupation in the rice and cotton plantations on the coast?

I merely throw out these suggestions; I know that such a course would be approved by the Government, and I believe that a manifestation on your part of a desire to bring the slaves within our lines will do much to silence your opponents.

You will appreciate my motives in writing this private letter.

Yours, truly,

H. W. HALLECK.

SAVANNAH, GA., *December 30, 1864.*

Maj. Gen. M. C. MEIGS,

Quartermaster-General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: I am instructed by Major-General Sherman to say that he wishes to accumulate at this place as soon as possible sixty days' forage for 35,000 animals. We have to-day but one day's grain on hand and none in the sound or river. I understand there is a ship-load at Hilton Head. I sent a steamer last night to tow the ship to this place, and hope she will be at the bar before we are entirely out. The corps quartermasters are slow in getting in their estimates for supplies. I send you inclosed an estimate of clothing and camp equipage which I require in addition to what you have already sent to Hilton Head and Pensacola. I will be glad to get the clothing mentioned on this estimate as soon as possible. I have sent to Pensacola for the clothing you sent to that point. I will try and send you an estimate of quartermaster's stores by next mail. Supplies should be sent to this place, if possible, in vessels not drawing over thirteen feet water; if larger vessels are sent the freight will have to be trans-shipped to small steamers. We want here very much a light class of steamers and Schuylkill barges for the purpose of removing freight from heavy-draft vessels lying at the roadstead below this place, and communicating from here to Hilton Head, and through other inland passages. I will be glad if you will send me six steamers suitable for this purpose. The class of boats most needed are high-pressure, double-engine boats, of wide beam and very light draft. I desire, also, that you send me twenty Schuylkill barges, six of them to be double-deckers or pleasure barges. The steamers we now have here are not suitable for our purpose, as there is only four feet water at low tide on the bar in the south channel, which we are compelled to use owing to obstructions in the north channel. Admiral Dahlgren reports that these obstructions cannot be removed. I am preparing to give them a trial myself, and hope I will succeed.

I am, general, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. C. EASTON,

Brevet Brigadier-General, Chief Quartermaster.

By sending vessels around through Wassaw Sound we can get about thirteen feet water up to this place at high tide. Order forward the sixty days' grain as rapidly as possible.

L. C. EASTON,

Quartermaster.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 60. }

HDQRS. FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 30, 1864.

Maj. Maxwell Woodhull, assistant adjutant-general, U. S. Volunteers, having reported in accordance with paragraph VI, Special Field Orders, No. 208, headquarters Department and Army of the Tennessee, is hereby assigned to duty as assistant adjutant-general at these headquarters, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly.

By command of Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus:

H. N. WHEELER,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, }
No. 61. }

HDQRS. FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 30, 1864.

In accordance with paragraph 3, General Orders, No. 59, headquarters Department and Army of the Tennessee, series of 1863, the following-named officers are relieved from duty with their respective commands and are hereby assigned as acting assistant inspectors-general, and will be obeyed and respected accordingly: Capt. Albert Head, Tenth Iowa Volunteers, for Second Brigade, Third Division, Fifteenth Army Corps; Lieut. A. D. Cameron, Seventh Iowa Veteran Volunteers, for Second Brigade, Fourth Division, Fifteenth Army Corps.

By command of Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus:

MAX. WOODHULL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

SPECIAL ORDERS, }
No. 211. }

HDQRS. FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 30, 1864.

I. Division commanders will take immediate steps to prevent the destruction of the railroad, telegraph lines, or buildings connected with the same, in the vicinity of their respective camps.

* * * * *

By order of Maj. Gen. P. Joseph Osterhaus:

MAX. WOODHULL,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH CORPS,
Savannah, Ga., December 30, 1864.

Brig. Gen. W. T. WARD,
Commanding Third Division:

GENERAL: The general commanding directs that your division move early to-morrow morning to Hutchinson's Island, where a pontoon bridge will be laid to the South Carolina shore.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBT. P. DECHERT,
Captain and Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 30, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK, U. S. ARMY,
Chief of Staff, Armies of the United States, Washington, D. C.:

GENERAL: Availing myself of the opportunity afforded by the sailing of the steamer, I have the honor to inform you that everything in this department is progressing favorably. I have just returned from Savannah, where I left General Sherman with his whole army. Preparations are rapidly being made for offensive operations, and the different corps are being reviewed by General Sherman in person. Supplies are being landed at the city, and although General Easton has not been able to effect his arrangements, yet, by rapid transfer by lighters from the vessels having them on board to the wharves of Savannah, it is expected that this will soon be facilitated so as to meet all demands. The admiral having relinquished his efforts to remove the obstructions in the north channel at the upper end of Elba Island, so as to allow the vessels of sixteen feet draught to go to the city wharves, I have undertaken to do it, and expect to accomplish the work in about three weeks. At present the lighters have to carry the supplies three miles by way of the south channel, which has only five feet of water at low tide. I intend to-morrow to go through Wilmington River, via Thunderbolt and Saint Augustine Creeks, and expect to be able to find a passage that way for vessels drawing ten feet of water, certainly as far as Thunderbolt, and probably up to the wharves of the city. The supply of forage thus far received here is very inadequate to the wants of General Sherman's army. The commissary supplies have been thus far sufficient. Five or six steamers sent by General Meigs have just arrived and have made the water transportation ample. I have no news of importance to communicate from either of the districts of the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
Morris Island, S. C., December 30, 1864.

Capt. W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant-General, Department of the South:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to inform you that nothing of special interest has occurred in my command since my last report. The inclosed copy of an intercepted dispatch gives the news they had in Charleston this morning with regard to our forces at Wilmington. My outposts report that night before last (the 28th to the 29th) the cars were running frequently on the Charleston and Savannah Railroad to the city. Last night (the 29th-30th) trains seemed to be running to and from the city as often as about once in every forty-five minutes. At about 1 a. m. a band was heard playing on James Island, and also considerable cheering. These indications, of course, lead me to suppose that troops are arriving on or returning to my front. At the request of Admiral Dahlgren, I have given instructions for Fort Strong and Battery Chatfield to throw rifle and mortar shells at intervals during the night to those points in the harbor where the enemy might be supposed to be placing new obstructions. The naval battery will also

open fire with the same object, and, in fact, do most of the firing. If this arrangement meets the approval of the major-general commanding, it will be continued for the present, not expending more than about twenty-five shots during the twenty-four hours. Arrangements have finally been completed for the transfer of Mrs. Thomas and daughters to the enemy's lines from the right of Cole's Island to-morrow, the 31st instant.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

A. SCHIMMELFENNIG,
Brigadier-General, Commanding District.

[Inclosure.]

By signal from Fort Ripley to Castle Pinckney, December 30, 1864.

What is the news?

LAWRENCE.

Castle Pinckney to Fort Ripley.

No papers received this a. m. News last evening that the enemy's forces ashore were badly cut up by the guns of Fort Fisher. They are probably below the fort.
O.

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
FIRST SEPARATE BRIGADE,
Morris Island, December 30, 1864.

Lieut. Col. A. G. BENNETT,
Commanding Post, Morris Island, S. C.:

COLONEL: Information having been officially received at these headquarters of the destruction of the iron-clads at Savannah, the brigadier-general commanding directs the precautions recently adopted for defense against the same may be relaxed, and citizens who have been detailed on guard duty in this district will be relieved therefrom.

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

J. W. DICKINSON,
Capt. 21st U. S. Colored Troops and Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 31, 1864.*

Lieutenant-General GRANT,
City Point:

I learn from a letter of General Foster that all able-bodied negroes brought in by Sherman are to be shipped to City Point. Permit me to suggest that they be armed, organized, and used in the Department of the South during the winter. Our experience is that negroes brought North during the cold weather, from a warm climate, are almost useless; moreover, they suffer much from cold. To send them North at the present time would create a panic among them, and prevent others from coming in from the interior of the country. Rebel papers are already harping on this point in order to frighten their slaves. The Secretary of War and General Meigs concur in these views.

H. W. HALLECK,
Major-General and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,

Savannah, Ga., December 31, 1864—3 p. m.

[General U. S. GRANT:]

DEAR GENERAL: A mail leaves at 5 p. m. for Hilton Head and New York. I have written a short official letter to General Halleck, amounting to nothing, simply because I suppose you want to hear from me at every opportunity. I have already reviewed my four corps, and wind up in a day or two with Kilpatrick's cavalry, which I keep out about nine miles. There is no doubt of it but this army is in fine condition and impatient to go ahead. I would like to have Foster re-enforced, if possible, so that I will not have to leave him a division to hold Savannah. I will have all the heavy work done, such as moving the captured artillery to Hilton Head, where it can be more safely guarded, and building the redoubts in the new line for the defense of Savannah. This will be close in, for we don't care if the enemy does shell the town. Five thousand men will be plenty, and white troops will be best, as the people are dreadfully alarmed lest we garrison the place with negroes. Now, no matter what the negro soldiers are, you know that people have prejudices which must be regarded. Prejudice, like religion, cannot be discussed. As soon as I can accumulate enough provisions and forage to fill my wagons, I will be ready for South Carolina, and if you want me to take Charleston I think I can do it, for I know the place well. I was stationed there from '42 to '46, and used to hunt a good deal all along the Cooper River. The direction to approach Charleston is from the northwest, down the peninsula between Ashley and Cooper, as also that ending on the bay at Mount Pleasant. You had better notify General Meigs to send at once enough provisions for 65,000 men and 40,000 horses and mules for sixty days, instead of the daily allowance, for you know I must work on the surplus and not on the daily receipts. We have pretty well eaten up all the rice and rice straw for fifty miles. By making a wide circuit by Barnwell, Orangeburg, Columbia, and Santee I can reach the neighborhood of Georgetown and get a resupply. I do not issue rations to the people, but order the mayor to look to the people, and have given him the rough rice to be sold and exchanged into flour and meat. Thus the expense will fall on the holders of this rough rice, which I treat as prize of war. Inasmuch as Hardee refused to surrender, and thereby escaped with his garrison, I take it for granted that we will have to fight in South Carolina, though I believe G. W. Smith, with his Georgia militia, has returned to Georgia, by way of Augusta, saying he would be damned if he would fight for South Carolina. The people here seem to be well content, as they have reason to be, for our troops have behaved magnificently; you would think it Sunday, so quiet is everything in the city day and night. All recognize my army a different body of men than they have ever seen before. I hope you will push Thomas up. Keep him going south anywhere. Let him make a track down into Alabama, or, if you think better, he can again come to Chattanooga and as far down as the Etowah, to which point I preserved the iron rails ready to be used again.

I am fully aware of your friendly feeling toward me, and you may always depend on me as your steadfast supporter. Your wish is law and gospel to me, and such is the feeling that pervades my army. I have an idea you will come to see me before I start.

Yours, in haste,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 31, 1864.

Maj. Gen. H. W. HALLECK,
Chief of Staff, Washington, D. C. :

GENERAL: The steamer leaves with the mail this afternoon at 5 p. m. I write only to say that since my last to you there is nothing of importance to communicate. The city is perfectly quiet and orderly. The enemy appear to be making preparations to receive us over in South Carolina. As soon as I can accumulate a sufficient surplus of forage and provisions to load my wagons, I shall be ready to start. We find the Savannah River more obstructed than we expected. It is filled with crib-works loaded with paving stones, making mud islands, with narrow, tortuous, and difficult channels. All our stores have to be lightered up from the ship anchorage about Tybee. I have been engaged in reviewing my troops, and feel a just pride in their fine soldierly condition and perfect equipment. I propose at once to make lodgments in South Carolina, about Port Royal, opposite this city, and up about Sister's Ferry. When all is ready I can feign at one or more places and cross at the other, after which my movements will be governed by those of the enemy, and such instructions as I may receive from Lieutenant-General Grant before starting. I do not think I can employ better strategy than I have hitherto done, namely, make a good ready and then move rapidly to my objective, avoiding a battle at points where I would be encumbered by wounded, but striking boldly and quickly when my objective is reached. I will give due heed and encouragement to all peace movements, but conduct war as though it could only terminate with the destruction of the enemy and the occupation of all his strategic points. The weather is fine, the air cool and bracing, and my experience in this latitude convinces me that I may safely depend on two good months for field-work. I await your and General Grant's answers to my proposed plan of operations before taking any steps indicative of future movements. I should like to receive, before starting, the detachments left behind in Tennessee belonging to these four corps, and it would be eminently proper that General Foster should be re-enforced by about 5,000 men, to enable him to hold Savannah without calling upon me to leave him one of my old divisions, which is too valuable in the field to be left behind in garrison. I would also deem it wise, so far to respect the prejudices of the people of Savannah, as not to garrison the place with negro troops. It seems a perfect bugbear to them, and I know that all people are more influenced by prejudice than by reason. The army continues in the best of health and spirits, and, notwithstanding the habits begotten during our rather vandalic march, its behavior in Savannah has excited the wonder and admiration of all.

I am, with great respect, very truly, yours,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General, Commanding, &c.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE MISSISSIPPI,
In the Field, Savannah, Ga., December 31, 1864.

Admiral D. D. PORTER,
Commanding North Atlantic Blockading Squadron:

DEAR ADMIRAL: Captain Breese has this moment arrived with your letter of December 29, and I assure you it does my heart good to

feel that I am once more near you. I hope soon we will meet again in person. I have already submitted to Generals Halleck and Grant a plan for a campaign which will bring my whole army to Wilmington, which I know I can take as easily, if not more so, than Savannah. I do not think you can take those shore batteries with your gun-boats, or do more than drive the gunners to the cover of their bomb-proofs. I have examined carefully many of the forts about Savannah, and find them so well covered by traverses and bomb-proof shelters, that you might blaze away at them for a month from the direction of the sea channels without materially harming them. I have no doubt, however, from what you say, that Butler's men ought to have taken Fort Fisher in about three minutes, for its bomb-proofs cannot possibly shelter more than 200 men, who would be, as you say, crouching in a defenseless position as against an attacking force. But even after you have got Fisher, then comes Caswell, Fort Johnston, and, I suppose, a string of forts all the way back to Wilmington. Now, I propose to march my whole army through South Carolina, tearing up railroads and smashing things generally, feign on Charleston, and rapidly come down upon Wilmington from the rear, taking all their works in reverse. I submitted this plan to General Grant on the 24th, and shall expect his answer very soon, and will be ready to start the moment I can replenish my wagons with bread, sugar, coffee, &c.

At present the Savannah River is badly obstructed by heavy cribs filled with cobblestones, which have served to make islands of mud and sand, leaving narrow, difficult, and tortuous channels between. Through these channels all our stores have to be brought in launches and light-draught boats, of which we have an inadequate number, so that thus far we barely get enough for daily consumption. But all hands are hard at work, and I hope by the 10th of January to get enough ahead to load our wagons, and be ready to start. It will take some time for me to reach Wilmington, but I am certain that mine is the only mode by which the place can be taken effectually. My army is a good one, but not large enough to make detachments from. I had to leave with Thomas enough men to whip Hood, and have written to General Grant to send to Foster enough men to hold Savannah, whilst I move with my entire force. It is very important that I should have two or more points along the coast where I can communicate with you, and where I could have some spare ammunition and provisions in reserve—say, Bull's Bay, Georgetown, and Masonborough. Can't you arrange to get all these points in your jurisdiction? Admiral Dahlgren is very accommodating, but you and I understand each other better. I think when you come to consider my position, you will agree with me that my proposition is better than to undertake to reduce in detail the forts about Wilmington, and you can so maneuver as to hold a large portion of the enemy to the sea-coast, whilst I ravage the interior, and when I do make my appearance on the coast, we will make short work of them all. I have shown to Captain Breese my letters to Grant and Halleck, and will explain to him fully everything that will interest you, and as soon as I can hear from General Grant will send a steamer to you, advising you of the time of starting. I rather fear, however, that the President's anxiety to take Charleston may induce Grant to order me to operate against Charleston, rather than Wilmington, though I much prefer the latter—Charleston being a dead cock in the pit altogether.

I am, most truly, your friend,

W. T. SHERMAN,
Major-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. FIRST DIV., 15TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 83. } Savannah, Ga., December 31, 1864.

I. The general commanding having returned to duty, Col. James A. Williamson, Fourth Iowa Infantry, will reassume command of the Third Brigade of this division.

By order of Brig. Gen. C. R. Woods:

FRED. H. WILSON,
Acting Assistant Adjutant-General.

GENERAL ORDERS, } HDQRS. SECOND DIV., 15TH ARMY CORPS,
No. 77. } Fort McAllister, Ga., December 31, 1864.

The troops of the United States being about to temporarily vacate the country west of the Ogeechee River, and the people south of the Gulf railroad, on what is known as Bryan Neck, being destitute of provisions, Mr. Maxwell, Doctor Johnson, and Mr. Cranston, residents, are hereby appointed a committee to ascertain the number and wants of the people on said Neck, both the black and white; also, to, without delay, take possession of the rice now in the Middleton Mills, guard the same, supplying from it the wants of said people. No more than two weeks' supply will be furnished any family at any one time. Frequent inspections by officers of the army appointed for that purpose will be made, to see that this order is complied with fairly and in good faith.

By order of Brig. Gen. W. B. Hazen:

G. LOFLAND,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

HDQRS. SECOND BRIG., SECOND DIV., 15TH ARMY CORPS,
OFFICE ACTING ASSISTANT INSPECTOR-GENERAL,
Near Savannah, Ga., December 31, 1864.

Capt. C. A. EARNEST,
Actg. Asst. Insp. Gen., Second Div., Fifteenth Army Corps:

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following record of events of the Second Brigade, Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps, from the 15th to the 31st of December, 1864:

On the 17th instant the command left camp near Fort McAllister, for the purpose of destroying the Gulf railroad at and near McIntosh Station, Ga., as directed by General Orders, No. 70, headquarters Second Division, Fifteenth Army Corps. About 12 m. the 18th the command encamped at McIntosh Station, and commenced the destruction of the road, and by the evening of the 20th had effectually destroyed, by burning the ties and twisting the rails, nine miles of railroad.

Morning of the 21st broke camp at 6 a. m., and commenced the return march for Fort McAllister. On the road received orders to report to corps headquarters. Camped for the night one mile east of the Ogeechee River, having marched twenty miles.

On the morning of the 22d received orders to move three miles east of the Ogeechee River, and encamp until further orders; remained in camp until the 29th, when the command moved to present camp, four miles west of Savannah.

Total number of miles marched, forty-five.

Very respectfully, yours,

THOS. O. PEIRCE,
Captain and Acting Assistant Inspector-General.

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Washington, December 31, 1864.

Major-General FOSTER,
Savannah, Ga.:

GENERAL: The Secretary of War directs that the order to send able-bodied or other negroes from your department to City Point be suspended, and that you organize all you can get for service there. You will give them the proper regimental and company organization, muster them into the service of the United States, and appoint their officers provisionally, reporting these appointments for confirmation. You will also arm and clothe them, and have them carefully drilled and exercised. They will soon be of service for the defense of your fortifications. It is presumed that you will find among your officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates men desirous of and competent for commands in colored regiments. If General Sherman has not left this will be submitted to him. It would be well to circulate a notice that you will receive, pay, clothe, and arm all able-bodied negroes who will join you.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK,
Major-General and Chief of Staff.

HDQRS. SIGNAL DETACHMENT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 31, 1864.

Capt. W. L. M. BURGER,
Assistant Adjutant General:

CAPTAIN: I have the honor to state that I have just received a message from Captain Bachtell, chief signal officer with General Sherman, that the line is open to Savannah by telegraph from here to Brad-dock's Point and by signal from there to Savannah. The stations between Fort Pulaski and Savannah are over low, marshy ground, and the communication will, I fear, often be interrupted by mist and fog.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JESSE MERRILL,
Captain and Chief Signal Officer.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,
Hilton Head, S. C., December 31, 1864.

Lient. Gen. W. J. HARDEE,
Comdg. Confederate Forces, Dept. of S. C., Ga., and Fla.:

GENERAL: I have the honor to request that you cause one of your staff officers to meet Lieutenant-Colonel Woodford, of my staff, at Port Royal Ferry, S. C., on Wednesday, January 4, proximo, at 2 p. m., for the purpose of receiving several communications and mails for prisoners of war. Unless I hear from you to the contrary, I shall consider that the time and place of meeting are agreeable to yourself.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. G. FOSTER,
Major-General, Commanding.

HDQRS. NORTHERN DISTRICT, DEPT. OF THE SOUTH,
FIRST SEPARATE BRIGADE,
Morris Island, December 31, 1864.

Lieut. Col. A. G. BENNETT,

Commanding Post, Morris Island, S. C.:

COLONEL: The brigadier-general commanding directs that hereafter the command of the northern point of this island will be designated otherwise than as the Northern District Morris Island, this term being liable to mislead when used in an abbreviated form. It will be hereafter known as the command of Forts Strong, Putnam, and the Batteries at Cummings' Point, which can be abbreviated, "Forts Strong, Putnam, &c.," if so desired.

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

J. W. DICKINSON,

Capt., 21st U. S. Colored Troops and Actg. Asst. Adjt. Gen.

Abstract from returns of the Union forces at Savannah, Ga., Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, commanding, for December 31, 1864.

Command.	Present for duty.		Aggregate present.	Aggregate present and absent.	Pieces of field artillery.
	Officers.	Men.			
Army of the Tennessee:					
Fifteenth Army Corps (Osterhaus)	729	14,839	18,038	28,145	18
Seventeenth Army Corps (Blair).....	437	11,803	13,681	24,219	14
Total Right Wing (Howard).....	1,166	26,642	31,719	52,364	32
Army of Georgia:					
General headquarters.....	7	7	7	7	16
Fourteenth Army Corps (Davis).....	598	13,722	15,917	27,757	16
Twentieth Army Corps (Williams).....	654	13,464	16,184	28,788	16
Total Left Wing (Slocum)	1,259	27,186	32,108	56,552	32
Cavalry (Kilpatrick).....	231	4,649	5,800	9,868	6
Grand total	2,656	58,477	69,627	118,784	70

Organization of the Union Forces at Savannah, Ga., commanded by Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, December 31, 1864.

HEADQUARTERS GUARD.

7th Company Ohio Sharpshooters, Lieut. James Cox.

ENGINEERS.

1st Missouri (five companies), Lieut. Col. William Tweeddale.

RIGHT WING.

Maj. Gen. OLIVER O. HOWARD.

ESCORT.

15th Illinois Cavalry, Company K, Lieut. John A. McQueen,
4th Company Ohio Cavalry, Capt. John L. King.

FIFTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Maj. Gen. PETER J. OSTERHAUS.

FIRST DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. CHARLES R. WOODS.

First Brigade.

Col. MILO SMITH.

12th Indiana, Maj. Elbert D. Baldwin.
 26th Iowa, Maj. John Lubbers.
 27th Missouri (seven companies), Col.
 Thomas Curly.
 29th Missouri, Lieut. Col. Joseph S. Gage.
 31st and 32d Missouri Battalion, Maj.
 Abraham J. Seay.
 76th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Edward Briggs.

Second Brigade.

Col. ROBERT F. CATTERSON.

26th Illinois, Capt. George H. Reed.
 40th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Hiram W.
 Hall.
 103d Illinois, Lieut. Col. George W.
 Wright.
 97th Indiana, Capt. George Elliott.
 100th Indiana, Maj. Ruel M. Johnson.
 6th Iowa, Maj. William H. Clune.
 46th Ohio, Maj. Edward N. Upton.

Third Brigade.

Col. JAMES A. WILLIAMSON.

4th Iowa, Lieut. Col. Samuel D. Nichols.
 9th Iowa, Capt. Paul McSweeney.
 25th Iowa, Col. George A. Stone.
 30th Iowa, Lieut. Col. Aurelius Roberts.
 31st Iowa, Lieut. Col. Jeremiah W. Jenkins.

SECOND DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM B. HAZEN.

First Brigade.

Col. THEODORE JONES.

55th Illinois, Capt. Charles A. Andress.
 116th Illinois, Lieut. Col. John E. Maddux.
 127th Illinois, Capt. Charles Schryver.
 6th Missouri, Lieut. Col. Delos Van Deu-
 sen.
 30th Ohio, Capt. Emory W. Muenschner.
 57th Ohio, Capt. Robert W. Smith.

Second Brigade.

Col. JAMES S. MARTIN.

111th Illinois, Maj. William M. Mabry.
 83d Indiana, Lieut. Col. George H. Scott.
 37th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Louis von Bles-
 singh.
 47th Ohio, Col. Augustus C. Parry.
 53d Ohio, Capt. Robert Curren.
 54th Ohio, Maj. George F. Kili.

Third Brigade.

Col. JOHN M. OLIVER.

48th Illinois, Maj. Edward Adams.
 90th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Owen Stuart.
 99th Indiana, Lieut. Col. John M. Berkey.
 15th Michigan, Lieut. Col. Frederick S. Hutchinson.
 70th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Henry L. Philips.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JOHN E. SMITH.

First Brigade.

Col. JOSEPH B. McCOWN.

63d Illinois, Lieut. Col. James Isaminger.
 93d Illinois,* Lieut. Col. Nicholas C. Bus-
 well.
 48th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Edward J.
 Wood.
 59th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Jefferson K.
 Scott.
 4th Minnesota, Col. John E. Tourtellotte.

Second Brigade.

Bvt. Brig. Gen. GREEN B. RAUM.

56th Illinois, Capt. James P. Files.
 10th Iowa, Capt. William H. Silsby.
 17th Iowa,† Lieut. Col. Samson M. Archer.
 26th Missouri (four companies),‡ Capt.
 Charles A. Meyers.
 80th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Pren Metham.

* Non-veterans 18th Wisconsin attached.

† On veteran furlough.

‡ Detachment 10th Missouri attached.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JOHN M. CORSE.

First Brigade.

Brig. Gen. ELLIOTT W. RICE.

52d Illinois, Lieut. Col. Jerome D. Davis.
 66th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Roger Martin.
 2d Iowa, Col. Noel B. Howard.
 7th Iowa, Lieut. Col. James C. Parrott.

Second Brigade.

Col. ROBERT N. ADAMS.

12th Illinois, Maj. Wheelock S. Merri-
 man.
 66th Illinois, Capt. William S. Boyd.
 81st Ohio, Maj. William C. Henry.

Third Brigade.

Lieut. Col. FREDERICK J. HURLBUT.

7th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Hector Perrin.
 50th Illinois, Capt. Timothy D. McGillienddy.
 57th Illinois, Capt. Frederick A. Battey.
 39th Iowa, Maj. Joseph M. Griffiths.

ARTILLERY.

Maj. CHARLES J. STOLBRAND.

1st Illinois Light, Battery H, Capt. Francis De Gress.
 1st Michigan Light, Battery B, Capt. Albert F. R. Arndt.
 1st Missouri Light, Battery H, Lieut. John F. Brunner.
 Wisconsin Light, 12th Battery, Capt. William Zickerick.

SEVENTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Maj. Gen. FRANK P. BLAIR, Jr.

ESCORT.

11th Illinois Cavalry, Company G, Capt. Stephen S. Tripp.

FIRST DIVISION.

Maj. Gen. JOSEPH A. MOWER.

First Brigade.

Col. CHARLES S. SHELTON.

64th Illinois, Capt. Joseph S. Reynolds.
 18th Missouri, Lieut. Col. William H. Minter.
 27th Ohio, Capt. James Morgan.
 39th Ohio, Capt. John W. Orr.

Second Brigade.

Brig. Gen. JOHN W. SPRAGUE.

35th New Jersey, Col. John J. Cladek.
 43d Ohio, Col. Wager Swayne.
 63d Ohio, Maj. John W. Fouts.
 25th Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Jeremiah M. Rusk.

Third Brigade.

Col. JOHN TILLSON.

10th Illinois, Lieut. Col. McLain F. Wood.
 25th Indiana, Maj. James S. Wright.
 32d Wisconsin, Col. Charles H. De Groat.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. MORTIMER D. LEGGETT.

Provost Guard.

20th Illinois, Capt. Henry King.

First Brigade.

Brig. Gen. MANNING F. FORCE.

30th Illinois, Lieut. Col. William C. Rhoads.
 31st Illinois, Lieut. Col. Robert N. Pearson.
 45th Illinois, Maj. John O. Duer.
 12th Wisconsin, Col. James K. Proudfit.
 16th Wisconsin, Capt. Joseph Craig.

Second Brigade.

Col. GREENBERRY F. WILES.

20th Ohio, Capt. Harrison Wilson.
 68th Ohio, Lieut. Col. George E. Welles.
 78th Ohio, Capt. Israel C. Robinson.
 17th Wisconsin, Maj. Patrick H. McCauley.

FOURTH DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. GILES A. SMITH.

First Brigade.

Col. BENJAMIN F. POTTS.

14th Illinois, }
 15th Illinois, } Lieut. Alonzo J. Gillespie.
 41st Illinois, Maj. Robert H. McFadden.
 53d Illinois, Col. John W. McClanahan.
 23d Indiana, Lieut. Col. George S. Babbitt.
 53d Indiana, Capt. Henry Duncan.
 32d Ohio, Lieut. Col. Jefferson J. Hibbets.

Third Brigade.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM W. BELKNAP.

32d Illinois, Capt. John J. Rider.
 11th Iowa, Lieut. Col. Benjamin Beach.
 13th Iowa, Capt. Justin C. Kennedy.
 15th Iowa, Maj. George Pomutz.
 16th Iowa, Capt. Leo Schumacher.

ARTILLERY.

Maj. ALLEN C. WATERHOUSE.

1st Michigan Light, Battery C, Lieut. William W. Hyzer.
 Minnesota Light, 1st Battery, Lieut. Henry Hurter.
 Ohio Light, 15th Battery, Lieut. Lyman Bailey.

LEFT WING.

Maj. Gen. HENRY W. SLOCUM.

PONTONIERS.

58th Indiana, Col. George P. Buell.

ENGINEERS.

1st Michigan (detachment), Maj. John B. Yates.

FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS.

Bvt. Maj. Gen. JEFFERSON C. DAVIS.

FIRST DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM P. CARLIN.

First Brigade.

Col. HARRISON C. HOBART.

104th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Douglas Hapeman.
 42d Indiana, Capt. Gideon R. Kellams.
 88th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Cyrus E. Briant.
 33d Ohio, Capt. Joseph Hinson.
 94th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Rue P. Hutchins.
 21st Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Michael H. Fitch.

Second Brigade.

Lieut. Col. JOSEPH H. BRIGHAM.

13th Michigan, Lieut. Col. Theodorie R. Palmer.
 21st Michigan, Maj. Benton D. Fox.
 69th Ohio, Capt. Jacob J. Rarick.

Third Brigade.

Lient. Col. DAVID MILES.

38th Indiana, Capt. James H. Low.
 21st Ohio, Lient. Col. Arnold McMahan.
 74th Ohio, Maj. Robert P. Findley.
 79th Pennsylvania, Maj. Michael H. Locher.

SECOND DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JAMES D. MORGAN.

First Brigade.

Col. ROBERT F. SMITH.

16th Illinois, Capt. John A. Chapman.
 60th Illinois, Lient. Col. George W. Evans.
 10th Michigan, Col. Charles M. Lum.
 14th Michigan, Maj. Thomas C. Fitzgibbon.
 17th New York, Lient. Col. Joel O. Martin.

Second Brigade.

Lient. Col. JOHN S. PEARCE.

34th Illinois, Capt. Peter Ege.
 78th Illinois, Lient. Col. Maris R. Vernon.
 98th Ohio, Capt. James R. McLaughlin.
 108th Ohio, Maj. Frederick Beck.
 113th Ohio, Capt. Toland Jones.
 121st Ohio, Maj. Aaron B. Robinson.

Third Brigade.

Lient. Col. JAMES W. LANGLEY.

85th Illinois, Capt. James R. Griffith.
 86th Illinois, Lient. Col. Allen L. Fahnestock.
 110th Illinois (four companies), Lient. Col. E. Hibbard Topping.
 125th Illinois, Capt. George W. Cook.
 22d Indiana, Capt. William H. Snodgrass.
 52d Ohio, Lient. Col. Charles W. Clancy.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. ABSALOM BAIRD.

First Brigade.

Col. MORTON C. HUNTER.

82d Indiana, Lient. Col. John M. Matheny.
 23d Missouri, Lient. Col. Quin Morton.
 17th Ohio, Lient. Col. Benjamin H. Showers.
 31st Ohio, Capt. Michael Stone.
 89th Ohio, Lient. Col. William H. Glenn.
 92d Ohio, Col. Benjamin D. Fearing.

Second Brigade.

Col. NEWELL GLEASON.

75th Indiana, Maj. Cyrus J. McCole.
 87th Indiana, Maj. Richard C. Sabin.
 101st Indiana, Lient. Col. Thomas Doan.
 2d Minnesota, Lient. Col. Judson W. Bishop.
 105th Ohio, Lient. Col. George T. Perkins.

Third Brigade.

Col. GEORGE P. ESTE.

74th Indiana, Lient. Col. Thomas Morgan.
 18th Kentucky, Lient. Col. Hubbard K. Milward.
 14th Ohio, Lient. Col. Albert Moore.
 38th Ohio, Capt. Charles M. Gilbert.

ARTILLERY.

Maj. CHARLES HOUGHTALING.

1st Illinois Light, Battery C, Lient. Joseph R. Channel.
 2d Illinois Light, Battery I, Lient. Judson Rich.
 Indiana Light, 19th Battery, Capt. William P. Stackhouse.
 Wisconsin Light, 5th Battery, Capt. Joseph McKnight.

TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS.

Brig. Gen. ALPHEUS S. WILLIAMS.

FIRST DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. NATHANIEL J. JACKSON.

First Brigade.

Col. JAMES L. SELFRIDGE.

5th Connecticut, Lieut. Col. Henry W. Daboll.
 123d New York, Lieut. Col. James C. Rogers.
 141st New York, Capt. William Merrell.
 46th Pennsylvania, Maj. Patrick Griffith.

Second Brigade.

Col. EZRA A. CARMAN.

2d Massachusetts, Col. William Cogswell.
 13th New Jersey, Maj. Frederick H. Harris.
 107th New York, Lieut. Col. Allen N. Sill.
 150th New York, Maj. Alfred B. Smith.
 3d Wisconsin, Col. William Hawley.

Third Brigade.

Col. JAMES S. ROBINSON.

82d Illinois, Maj. Ferdinand H. Rolshausen.
 101st Illinois, Lieut. Col. John B. Le Sage.
 143d New York, Lieut. Col. Hezekiah Watkins.
 61st Ohio, Capt. John Garrett.
 82d Ohio, Lieut. Col. David Thomson.
 31st Wisconsin, Col. Francis H. West.

SECOND DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JOHN W. GEARY.

First Brigade.

Col. ARIO PARDEE, JR.

5th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Robert Kirkup.
 29th Ohio, Capt. Jonas Schoonover.
 66th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Eugene Powell.
 28th Pennsylvania, Col. John Flynn.
 147th Pennsylvania,* Lieut. Col. John Craig.

Second Brigade.

Col. PATRICK H. JONES.

33d New Jersey, Col. George W. Mindil.
 119th New York, Col. John T. Lockman.
 134th New York, Lieut. Col. Allan H. Jackson.
 154th New York, Maj. Lewis D. Warner.
 73d Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. Charles C. Cresson.
 109th Pennsylvania, Capt. Walter G. Dunn.

Third Brigade.

Col. HENRY A. BARNUM.

60th New York, Maj. Thomas Elliott.
 102d New York, Lieut. Col. Harvey S. Chatfield.
 137th New York, Lieut. Col. Koert S. Van Voorhis.
 149th New York, Maj. Nicholas Grumbach.
 29th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. Samuel M. Zulich.
 111th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. Thomas M. Walker.

* Detachment Battery E, Pennsylvania Artillery, attached.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. WILLIAM T. WARD.

First Brigade.

Col. HENRY CASE.

102d Illinois, Maj. Hiland H. Clay.
 105th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Everell F. Dut-
 ton.
 129th Illinois, Lieut. Col. Thomas H.
 Flynn.
 70th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Samuel Merrill.
 79th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Azariah W. Doan.

Second Brigade.

Col. DANIEL DUSTIN.

33d Indiana, Lieut. Col. James E. Bur-
 ton.
 85th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Alexander B.
 Crane.
 19th Michigan, Lieut. Col. John J. Baker.
 22d Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Edward
 Bloodgood.

Third Brigade.

Col. SAMUEL ROSS.

20th Connecticut, Lieut. Col. Philo B. Buckingham.
 33d Massachusetts, Lieut. Col. Elisha Doane.
 136th New York, Lieut. Col. Lester B. Faulkner.
 55th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Edwin H. Powers.
 73d Ohio, Lieut. Col. Samuel H. Hurst.
 26th Wisconsin, Lieut. Col. Frederick C. Winkler.

ARTILLERY.

Maj. JOHN A. REYNOLDS.

1st New York Light, Battery I, Capt. Charles E. Winegar.
 1st New York Light, Battery M, Lieut. Edward P. Newkirk.
 1st Ohio Light, Battery C, Lieut. Jerome B. Stephens.
 Pennsylvania Light, Battery E, Capt. Thomas S. Sloan.

CAVALRY.

THIRD DIVISION.

Brig. Gen. JUDSON KILPATRICK.

First Brigade.

Col. THOMAS J. JORDAN.

8th Indiana, Lieut. Col. Fielder A. Jones.
 2d Kentucky, Capt. Joseph T. Forman.
 3d Kentucky, Lieut. Col. Robert H.
 King.
 5th Kentucky, Col. Oliver L. Baldwin.
 9th Pennsylvania, Lieut. Col. David H.
 Kimmel.

Second Brigade.

Col. SMITH D. ATKINS.

92d Illinois (mounted infantry), Lieut.
 Col. Matthew Van Buskirk.
 3d Indiana (two companies), Capt.
 Charles U. Patton.
 9th Michigan, Col. George S. Acker.
 5th Ohio, Maj. George H. Rader.
 9th Ohio, Col. William D. Hamilton.
 10th Ohio, Lieut. Col. Thomas W. Sander-
 son.
 McLaughlin's (Ohio) Squadron, Capt.
 John Dalzell.

Unattached.

1st Alabama Cavalry, Col. George E. Spencer.
 9th Illinois Mounted Infantry, Lieut. Col. Samuel T. Hughes.

Artillery.

Wisconsin Light, 10th Battery, Capt. Yates V. Beebe.

Abstract from return of the Department of the South, Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army, commanding, for December 31, 1864.

Command.	Present for duty.		Aggregate present.	Aggregate present and absent.	Pieces of artillery	
	Officers.	Men.			Heavy.	Field.
General headquarters	51	81	132	134	.....	.....
First New York Engineers (battalion, Place)	8	576	616	684	.....	.....
First Separate Brigade (Schimmelfennig)	66	2,474	3,241	6,754	.....	6
Second Separate Brigade (Saxton)	27	756	1,073	2,912	.....	2
Third Separate Brigade <i>a</i> (Brown)	69	2,024	2,711	3,285	66	11
Fourth Separate Brigade (Scammon)	50	1,337	1,766	4,195	.....	.....
Total*	271	7,242	9,539	17,964	66	19

a All the regiments composing the Third Separate Brigade are stationed at the front. The latest return received therefrom is for October, 1864, from which this return has been made.

Organization of troops in the Department of the South, Maj. Gen. John G. Foster, U. S. Army, commanding, December 31, 1864.

FIRST SEPARATE BRIGADE.†

Brig. Gen. ALEXANDER SCHIMMELFENNIG.

MORRIS ISLAND.

Lieut. Col. AUGUSTUS G. BENNETT.

54th Massachusetts (colored),‡ Col. Edward N. Hallowell.

56th New York,‡ Col. Charles H. Van Wyck.

52d Pennsylvania, Capt. John A. Hennessy.

21st U. S. Colored Troops, Maj. Richard H. Willoughby.

3d New York Light Artillery, Battery B,‡ Capt. Thomas J. Mesereau.

3d Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, First Battalion, Capt. Augustus W. Colwell.

FOLLY ISLAND.

Col. EUGENE A. KOZLAY.

55th Massachusetts (colored),‡ Lieut. Col. Charles B. Fox.

54th New York, Maj. Stephen Kovacs.

33d U. S. Colored Troops, Maj. Charles T. Trowbridge.

SECOND SEPARATE BRIGADE.§

Brig. Gen. RUFUS SAXTON.

127th New York,‡ Col. William Gurney.

26th U. S. Colored Troops,‡ Lieut. Col. William B. Guernsey.

102d U. S. Colored Troops,‡ Col. Henry L. Chipman.

3d Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, Company A,‡ Capt. William H. Hamner.

2d U. S. Colored Light Artillery, Battery G, Capt. Jeremiah S. Clark.

THIRD SEPARATE BRIGADE.||

Bvt. Brig. Gen. MILTON S. LITTLEFIELD.

144th New York,‡ Col. James Lewis.

157th New York,‡ Col. Philip P. Brown, jr.

25th Ohio,‡ Lieut. Col. Nathaniel Haughton.

32d U. S. Colored Troops,‡ Col. George W. Baird.

* The Coast Division (composed of details from the brigades) was commanded by Brig. Gen. John P. Hatch. The department return shows this division to have had 230 officers and 4,588 men for duty.

† Or Northern District.

‡ Constituted the Coast Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. John P. Hatch, on expedition against Charleston and Savannah Railroad.

§ Or District of Beaufort.

|| Or District of Hilton Head.

FOURTH SEPARATE BRIGADE.*

Brig. Gen. ELIAKIM P. SCAMMON.

- 17th Connecticut, Lieut. Col. Albert H. Wilcoxson.
 75th Ohio, Col. Andrew L. Harris.
 107th Ohio,† Capt. Edward S. Meyer.
 3d U. S. Colored Troops, Col. Benjamin C. Tilghman.
 34th U. S. Colored Troops,† Lieut. Col. William W. Marple.
 35th U. S. Colored Troops,† Lieut. Col. Ammiel J. Willard.
 4th Massachusetts Cavalry,† 2d Battalion, Capt. George R. Hurlbut.
 3d New York Light Artillery, Battery F,† Capt. Samuel C. Day.

UNATTACHED.

1st New York Engineers (battalion), Maj. James E. Place.

*Abstract from return of the District of West Florida, Brig. Gen. Thomas J. McKean,
 U. S. Army, commanding, for December 31, 1864.*

Command.	Present for duty.		Aggregate present.	Aggregate present and absent.	Pieces of artillery.	
	Officers.	Men.			Heavy.	Field.
Headquarters	3		3	3		
First Brigade (Yarrington).....	42	1,414	1,870	1,961	2	4
Second Brigade (Woodman).....	47	912	1,169	1,460		
Fort Barrancas (Hitchcock).....	13	266	331	386	32	
Fort Pickens (Reisinger).....	7	179	215	231	90	
14th New York Cavalry, Company M (Schmidt)	2	26	60	70		
Total	114	2,797	3,648	4,111	124	4

[December 31, 1864.—For organization of troops serving in the District of West Florida, see Vol. XLI, Part IV, p. 977.]

GENERAL ORDERS, } WAR DEPT., ADJT. GENERAL'S OFFICE,
 No. 3. } Washington, January 14, 1865.

The following resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives is published to the Army:

PUBLIC RESOLUTION NO. 4.—Joint resolution tendering the thanks of the people and of Congress to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, and the officers and soldiers of his command, for their gallant conduct in their late brilliant movement through Georgia.

Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the thanks of the people and of the Congress of the United States are due, and are hereby tendered, to Maj. Gen. William T. Sherman, and through him to the officers and men under his command, for their gallantry and good conduct in their late campaign from Chattanooga to Atlanta, and the triumphal march thence through Georgia to Savannah, terminating in the capture and occupation of that city; and that the President cause a copy of this joint resolution to be engrossed and forwarded to Major-General Sherman.

Approved, January 10, 1865.

By order of the Secretary of War:

W. A. NICHOLS,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

* Or District of Florida.

† Constituted the Coast Division, commanded by Brig. Gen. John P. Hatch, on expedition against Charleston and Savannah Railroad.

FOURTH SEPARATE BRIGADE.*

Brig. Gen. ELIAKIM P. SCAMMON.

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