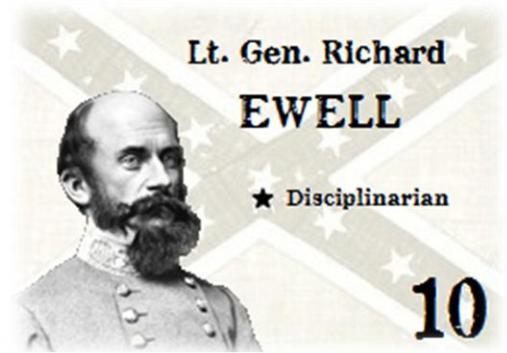


# CONFEDERATE II CORPS BRIEFING

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## Strategic Overview:

It is late June 1863. Masked by the Blue Ridge Mountains, our army has slipped north over the last two weeks. Our leading elements are already in Pennsylvania, with the rest of the army strung out across forty miles. Most of the Federal army is believed to be south of the Potomac, giving us a head start to concentrate on northern soil. If we can spend the summer gathering supplies in the bountiful, rich Pennsylvania countryside, it will provide much-needed relief to war-weary northern Virginia.

## Order of Battle:

The Army of Northern Virginia currently fields 75,000 men, and you are responsible for maneuvering three infantry divisions—Early, Johnson, and Rodes. The great “Stonewall” Jackson was your previous commander, and you were recently promoted to corps command following his death just weeks ago.

| Early's Division |    | Johnson's Division |    | Rodes' Division |    |
|------------------|----|--------------------|----|-----------------|----|
| Hays             | -1 | Walker             | -1 | Iverson         | +0 |
| Gordon           | +0 | Steuart            | +2 | Ramseur         | -2 |
| Avery            | -1 | Williams           | +1 | Doles           | -1 |
| Smith            | -2 | Jones              | +0 | Daniel          | +2 |
|                  |    |                    |    | O'Neal          | +1 |
| Jones (art.)     | +0 | Latimer (art.)     | +0 | Carter (art.)   | +0 |

# Morning Field Report

Turn 1, Late June 1863

General Ewell,

We are the vanguard of the army, operating well in advance of Hill and Longstreet, who were last reported advancing north along the Hagerstown-Chambersburg road. Our divisions are spread across Pennsylvania, seeking targets of opportunity and cities to requisition supplies. A force of unknown strength defends Harrisburg and our men are reporting Yankee pickets along the Susquehanna and near Hanover, but without cavalry of our own, we are largely blind and in need of more information, as well as clear direction from General Lee.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

To: Genl Ewell

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 6 )

From: Lee's Army HQ

My dear General, firstly let me apologize as I know little more about the whereabouts of our enemy's movements than can be gathered from the Yankee papers. It seems our luxurious cavalry commander General Stuart is missing and we have not received a report from him in quite some time. This land is abundant and I would urge you to requisition from every town and village through which your troops pass all available supplies and provisions and send them South at once the other route which we traveled originally.

General Ewell will advance his corps and determine if the city of Harrisburg may be taken. If it cannot be taken then I task you with burning and destroying all bridges and ferries by which the enemy could then cross the river into our rear. If you can take the city, send word at once that the whole of the army may support. General Longstreet will advance his corps towards York and Wrightsville with an eye towards finding a practicable crossing or burning said crossing to deny the enemy. General Hill shall advance towards Gettysburg and Hanover. In the event the enemy is encountered avoid a general engagement, send word to my HQ at once and withdraw towards the area of Cashtown. Lee.

# Morning Field Report

Turn 2, Late June 1863

General Ewell,

General Rodes is eager to report of his great storming of Harrisburg! The Yankee city is now in our hands, with our brave boys driving some 10,000 militia from the earthworks and rushing the bridge before it could be burned. The militia under WF Smith did mount an honorable counter-attack, but were driven back to Middletown.

General Johnson has reached Carlisle, and Early has made slow progress from York. General Early reports Yankee activity pursuing him from both Lancaster and—somewhat alarmingly—from Hanover. Why are Federal troops this far north so soon?

Our divisions did not have the time or energy to requisition supplies...yet.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

To: Genl Ewell

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 3 )

From: Lee's Army HQ

Army of Northern Virginia; Rob't E Lee commanding, Greetings Dear Comrades in Arms,

Generals, I must apologize if my previous dispatch caused you to be unclear as to course of action. The perplexing lack of news from Stuart vexes me and I am afraid that in combination with the humid hot weather my correspondence may have been hasty or confusing. I am sending these orders to all three of my Corps Commanders so that each will know what is intended of the others thus providing some semblance of coordination in the absence of information as to the enemy's movements.

General Longstreet; Given the sudden appearance of a Union corps in Sharpsburg you have rightly turned to confront the enemy. I would ask you, my trusted friend, to ascertain the strength of the enemy before us in the Sharpstown-Middletown area and if practicable drive them hence, forcing them eastward. General Ewell please provide me with a clearer picture of your situation in front of Harrisburg. Are you engaged there and if so with whom? It is my hope that this endeavour should draw those people further from our lines of communication while allowing us to gather provender to send back home to feed the army as well as ease the burden on the Noble citizens of our fair land the coming months. General Hill, it is perhaps best at this time that you limit your movement to no further west than the town of Hanover as I may need to call upon you to move in haste to support either Ewell to the northeast or Longstreet to the south.

I shall move my headquarters and the Army artillery train to Chambersburg so as to be more centrally located. Upon receipt of these orders please correspond in detail regarding any and all enemy activity encountered that I may form a picture of the situation.

Humbly, Gen R.E. Lee Sent from my quarters in Greencastle Pennsylvania

# Morning Field Report

Turn 3, Early July 1863

General Ewell,

General Rodes has ransomed city officials into providing a large baggage train of provisions to be sent south and set fire to buildings of military value. He was unable to complete the destruction of the bridge over the Susquehanna and remains in the city. General Early is camped in Lewisberry as ordered and General Johnson continues to negotiate with town elders in Carlisle for provisions, without success.

The local militia remains at Middletown and has not made another effort on Harrisburg, but there are increasing reports from the south of Federal forces crossing into Pennsylvania. Curiously, we have heard nothing from General Hill, and General Longstreet's corps is so far distant that we have lost contact. Is it prudent for us to remain so far north this long?

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

# Morning Field Report

Turn 4, Early July 1863

General Ewell,

General Rodes completed the successful destruction of the Harrisburg bridge but made poor time marching south. The boys are complaining about oppressive summer heat and straggling has become a problem. Likewise for General Johnson, who looted Carlisle but was also slowed in his march by the July heat.

Early drove his men hard, reaching Bermudian on schedule. As our vanguard, Early's pickets are reporting a growing number of Federal units to his front. Local townspeople in Bermudian are rejoicing over some kind of apparent Union victory near Gettysburg...might General Hill be in need of our assistance?

It is troubling that we have received no word from General Lee in recent days.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

To: Genl Ewell

Sent: Turn 4 (GM roll = 7 )

From: Lee's Army HQ

Gentlemen,

We find ourselves giving battle not at a place of our choosing as we would prefer but nonetheless fate has brought about a battle. We must act with alacrity and decisiveness to regain the initiative and freedom of action in the face of the enemy. Therefore we must take immediate action. There is an enemy Corps (or more) in the Emmitsburg Tanneytown area and at least a Corps (with more moving up) in the Gettysburg area where one of Hill's divisions has been cut off.

General Hill, you will launch an immediate attack to relieve Heth's division and give pause to the enemy movement to your front. I will move my Headquarters to join with you and place the Army Artillery reserve at your disposal. General Ewell and General Longstreet will advance as quickly as possible towards the town of Gettysburg bringing all available force to bear on the enemy. Rapidity of movement and violence of action are key gentlemen. We must strike swift and strong! If the full might of our glorious Army of Northern Virginia may be brought to bear against but part of the enemy we may be able to strike such a blow as to make them withdraw and allow us to then choose, if we so desire, the place to meet them for their ultimate defeat

Lee

# Morning Field Report

Turn 5, Mid July 1863

General Ewell,

General Johnson covered himself in glory at Gettysburg, landing the decisive blow against the Yankee cavalry and securing our army a narrow victory at minimal loss. No doubt Hill would have been driven from the field without our timely arrival. A word of praise should also be given to General Early for winning a hard-fought skirmish at East Berlin and fighting his way to the battlefield with vigor.

We are now camped at Gettysburg with Lee and Hill, and it seems Meade's army has taken up positions on high ground just two miles to our south. General Rodes only reached Bermudian during his march. We have received no word from Longstreet or Stuart and multiple Federal corps are yet to be spotted.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

# Morning Field Report

Turn 6, Mid July 1863

General Ewell,

It may be fitting to send a letter to President Jefferson Davis, recommending Bushrod Johnson for commendation in this great campaign. As at Gettysburg, his division smashed the Yankee cavalry and performed admirably.

The Army of Northern Virginia is now largely concentrated, with the exception of Rodes. His division is struggling to keep pace with the rest of the army and remains well north of Gettysburg. We must take care to avoid his division being cut off by the enemy.

Meade's main body has not fled following the Battle of Emmitsburg, but remains camped not two miles east of our positions.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

# Morning Field Report

Turn 7, Mid July 1863

General Ewell,

The corps is camped on the battlefield following yesterday's great engagement. Yankee cavalry cut up General Early's division with two brigades broken, but General Rodes finally arrived, just in time to drive the cavalry from the field and sack their headquarters. The rest of the corps is fresh and spoiling for a fight. Many enemy campfires burn brightly, less than a mile from our lines.

Two Federal corps remain unaccounted for at this time, and God willing, they will not appear tomorrow morning....

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

# Morning Field Report

Turn 8, Late July 1863

General Ewell,

Victory at the Battle of Fairfield is the talk of the land. The papers are buzzing with songs of our triumph and the miserable state of morale and disunion within the Federal ranks. It is said that General Meade may be sacked by his Washington masters any day now. The Yankee army is now in full flight to the east.

Our corps is on the road through the Blue Ridge Mountains, and logistical support from headquarters successfully restored both broken brigades in General Early's division. The corps is now at full strength and the men are full of good cheer!

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia

# Morning Field Report

Turn 9, Late July 1863

General Ewell,

Our corps made slow progress crossing the Blue Ridge with heavy traffic snarling the only road to Hagerstown. General Early's division marches in the lead. We lost contact with General Hill's rearguard behind us and there are unconfirmed rumors circulating through camp that Hill may be engaged in some kind of scrap with the Yankees near Emmitsburg. He has not yet sent to us for aid.

There are confirmed reports of two cavalry engagements to the northwest—one fought at Greencastle and another just north of Hagerstown—between Stuart and Pleasonton. The situation is very fluid and our cavalry seem to be falling back under heavy pressure. General Stuart has confirmed that the near Potomac crossing, Williamsport, is washed out, but General Longstreet's vanguard is within a day's march of the next available ford at Shepherdstown.

Your Obedient Servant,

*Col. Charles Faulkner*

Chief of Staff

II Corps, Army of Northern Virginia