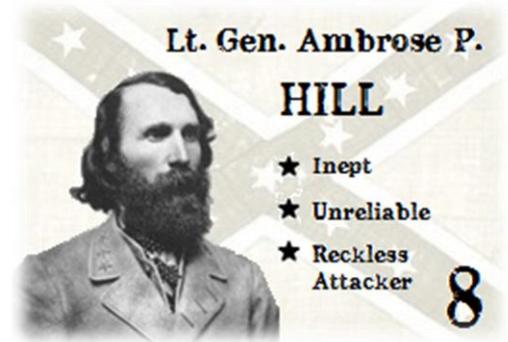


CONFEDERATE III CORPS BRIEFING



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—Anderson, Heth, and Pender. Following General Jackson’s tragic death just weeks ago, you were promoted to corps-level command.

| Anderson's Division | | Heth's Division | | Pender's Division | |
|---------------------|----|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------|----|
| Wilcox | +1 | Pettigrew | +3 | Perrin | +1 |
| Lang | -2 | Brockenbrough | -2 | Lane | +1 |
| Posey | -1 | Archer | -1 | Thomas | -1 |
| Wright | +0 | Davis | +2 | Scales | +0 |
| Mahone | +0 | Garnett (art.) | +0 | Poague (art.) | +0 |
| Lane (art.) | +0 | | | | |

Morning Field Report

Turn 1, Late June 1863

General Hill,

Our divisions are camped around Chambersburg, awaiting further guidance from General Lee. Longstreet's I Corps was last reported near Hagerstown, but Ewell's II Corps is fanned out somewhere across central Pennsylvania. No enemy activity has been reported in our vicinity.

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA

To: Genl Hill

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 9)

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 Hill,

Our divisions are strung out on the road toward Cashtown, making slow progress in the thick June heat. Without fully crossing through the Cashtown pass we cannot see what lies beyond the mountains, but General Heth has not reported any sign of the enemy.

Some very welcome rumors are filtering into our headquarters at Chambersburg, with the countryside discussing the potential fall of Harrisburg. We have not heard word directly from General Ewell, but if these rumors are credible it would be remarkable news.

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA

To: Genl Hill

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 8)

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 then 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 Hill,

General Heth arrived in Gettysburg this morning via a forced march. Pender and Anderson's divisions are in the vicinity of Cashtown, a few miles west, and General Lee appears to have established his headquarters in Chambersburg.

Though it was unoccupied when he arrived, General Heth is urgently reporting the arrival of large bodies of Federals. Cavalry probe from the south, and Reynolds' I Corps is marching up the Fairfield road.

Newspaper reports are rife with stories of Harrisburg's capture! Great news, to be sure, but this must mean General Ewell is very far north of our position when a battle may be imminent here. We have heard nothing from him directly and do not know his intentions. Will we withdraw to buy time for a concentration, or prepare to fight alone against an unknown enemy force at this crossroads?

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA

To: Genl Hill

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = n/a)

From: Lee's Army HQ

Army of Northern Virginia; Rob't E Lee commanding, Generals, greetings to you on a hot July evening in the land of our enemies. I hope that this letter finds you well and in good fighting spirit. Regrettably still no word has come from General Stuart nor can I offer any inkling as to his whereabouts or present situation.

Again, dear sirs I am sending these orders to all three of you, my trusted Corps Commanders so that each will know what is intended of you and the Army as a whole that we may yet achieve a coordinated action in spite of limited knowledge of our enemy.

Allow me to share with you what we have ascertained thus far of our enemy's disposition:

General Longstreet has identified elements of the enemy III and V Corps south of Boonsboro. General Hill has spotted elements of the enemy Cavalry Corps, namely Buford's division along with the enemy's I Corps south of the town of Gettysburg and additional unidentified enemy near Hanover General Ewell has indicated that there are enemy troops from Wrightsville to Abbotstown but which formations and what strength still remains unknown.

Thus we have identified three of the enemy's seven Corps. The rest are somewhere in the area and we can surmise that the enemy line likely extends from Harper's Ferry to Gettysburg and east through Abbotstown and East Berlin to Wrightsville.

I believe that the time is near that we must concentrate our Army so as to bring to bear as much of our force as possible against some portion of the enemy to bring about a decisive action. Towards that aim I would direct your actions as follows:

General Ewell sir, disengage your forces from the Harrisburg area moving towards Cashtown/Gettysburg and affecting a rendezvous with Hill's Corps operating in that region presently. From there we will determine which direction to move once we have word from Longstreet as to the success of his efforts to drive off those enemy force in front of him which threaten our lines of communication.

General Hill if you can reconnoiter east of Gettysburg without giving battle to those enemy near that town then do so but you should avoid becoming involved with the enemy until we have concentrated the Army.

General Longstreet I shall assume unless informed otherwise that you can drive off those people who threaten Shepherdstown/Martinsburg. From there move your Corps towards the area of Cashtown where General Hill now operates. If the enemy cannot readily be driven back then we shall consider the need to move the Army as a whole in that direction.

I shall for the present maintain my headquarters and the Army artillery train in Chambersburg so as to remain centrally located. Remember, dear Generals that in the puzzling absence of our cavalry Corps I am relying heavily upon you to gather and pass back to me timely and accurate information as to the identity of the enemy forces within your area of operations.

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

Morning Field Report

Turn 4, Early July 1863

General Hill,

After you have reviewed General Lee's lengthy campaign missive, there are urgent matters requiring your attention at Gettysburg. General Heth attempted to extricate himself from the town yesterday but found his northern path blocked by the rapid encirclement of Yankee cavalry. Heth engaged in a minor battle with Buford's cavalry in a desperate attempt to breakthrough, but the arrival of Reynolds' entire corps was too much for his division to face alone. Heth has retreated west, his only available path not blocked by the enemy. Elements of the XI Corps are also nearby, with ever-more Federals streaming north.

Anderson and Pender are dug in on very good ground, but Heth requires our assistance if he is to avoid encirclement. There is some ray of good news, however—advance elements of Ewell's corps are reported to be in York County, racing toward our aid. Perhaps we can coordinate with him to deliver the Yankees a counter-attack?

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA

To: Genl Hill

Sent: Turn 4 (GM roll = 6)

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 Hill,

Our corps was only lightly engaged at Gettysburg and we owe General Ewell many thanks for his timely arrival. 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.

We have received no word from Longstreet or Stuart and multiple Federal corps are yet to be spotted.

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA

Morning Field Report

Turn 6, Mid July 1863

General Hill,

Spirits are high in the corps following the Battle of Emmitsburg, where we smashed the Yankee cavalry and saved Longstreet from certain defeat. All divisions are deployed east of Emmitsburg, with large Federal bodies to our immediate east, not two miles distant. At least four different enemy corps have been identified.

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA

Morning Field Report

Turn 7, Late July 1863

General Hill,

Our corps remains on the field following the Battle of Fairfield, with many Yankee campfires burning brightly less than a mile from our position in the center of the line. Lee's orders are for us to stand and continue the fight, but two Federal's corps have yet to make an appearance. God willing, they will not suddenly arrive tomorrow....

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA

Morning Field Report

Turn 8, Late July 1863

General Hill,

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 has been assigned the rearguard duty as Generals Ewell and Longstreet pass through the Blue Ridge Mountains. General Stuart's cavalry screens our northern flank and the Federal army appears to be keeping a safe distance. Hopefully they will not interfere with our crossing back into the Cumberland Valley, and God willing, home to Virginia.

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA

Morning Field Report

Turn 9, Late July 1863

General Hill,

General Heth's division fought courageously against two Yankee corps attempting to pursue our movement at Mechanicstown. Heth drove those people back with elan, giving the army enough time to make good its escape west. Farther north, Pender and Anderson report the Federals are hot on their heels, but have not pressed an engagement. This is most favorable news given the traffic jam at the Waynesboro gap with Ewell's corps.

There are disturbing reports of Yankee cavalry pressing down the Cumberland Valley toward Hagerstown and even more disquieting rumors of the ferry at Williamsport being washed out, our nearest Potomac crossing.

Your Obedient Servant,

Maj. William Palmer

Asst. Secretary

III Corps, Army of Northern VA