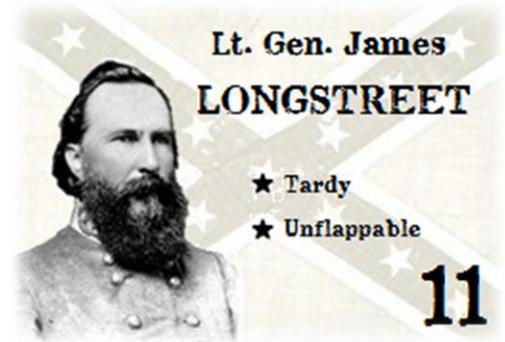


CONFEDERATE I CORPS BRIEFING



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—McLaws, Pickett, and Hood. In the wake of General Jackson's tragic death just weeks ago, you are now Lee's senior corps commander and his most trusted subordinate.

McLaws' Division		Pickett's Division		Hood's Division	
Barksdale	+0	Armistead	+2	Benning	+0
Kershaw	+2	Kemper	+1	Anderson	+1
Semmes	-1	Garnett	+0	Law	+2
Wofford	+0			Robertson	+1
Cabell (art.)	+0	Dearing (art.)	+0	Henry (art.)	+0

Morning Field Report

Turn 1, Late June 1863

General Longstreet,

McLaws, Hood, and Pickett are marching through Hagerstown on the road to Chambersburg. AP Hill's III Corps is camped in this area, but the location of Ewell's men is unknown—they are somewhere in Pennsylvania. Our corps is the rearguard of the army, with pickets stationed to watch our rear at Shepherdstown. A Federal garrison remains in Harper's Ferry, but the remainder of the Union army is nowhere to be seen.

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Maxley Sorrel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA

To: Genl Longstreet

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 10)

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 Longstreet,

McLaws and his division have secured the Mechanicstown gap, but report heavy columns of Federal infantry shifting north toward Emmitsburg. He could not identify them.

Pickett and Hood have secured the Boonsboro gap, observing the entire Federal V Corps marching toward the mountains via Middletown. Just to the south, Sickles and his III Corps have been identified, slipping through the mountains en route to Shepherdstown. It seems you were right to be wary of a Yankee movement toward our vital line of communication to Virginia. General Lee must be alerted immediately regarding this developing threat!

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Maxley Sorel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA

To: Genl Longstreet

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 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 Longstreet,

Two couriers arrived from Lee's headquarters in Greencastle this morning—one of them was waylaid and lost from last week. Lee's correspondence is finally ready for your review.

Our divisions have dug in with hasty earthworks, but the Yankees made no effort. General McLaws reports that Federal troops demonstrated from Middletown and confirms the entire V Corps is present, but they did not test our defenses fully. General Sickles and the III Corps show signs of digging in, refusing to withdraw back across the mountains or press their luck toward the Potomac.

It appears we are at an impasse. What is to be done? A scouting party from Hood's division has confirmed the units to our west are Stuart's cavalry pickets, along with a supply depot at Martinsburg. We are the true rearguard, general. No help appears on the way to our aid.

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Moxley Sorrel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA

Morning Field Report

Turn 4, Early July 1863

General Longstreet,

General Hood's boys covered themselves with glory at Sharpsburg! First, he drove Birney's division back toward the Blue Ridge, and then he prevented Sickles and Humphreys from breaking through to escape, as well. The enemy III Corps is now badly divided and Pickett still holds the mountain pass at Boonsboro. Many commendations will be due to Hood and his brigade commanders for two minor victories in such quick order!

Now we must decide how to take advantage of this situation. No word was received from Lee this week—perhaps his couriers are not getting through? We are badly in need of direction for his goals in the campaign. Should we continue holding this ground? Should we attempt to finish off Sickles? Should we break off and join the main body of the army to consolidate, leaving our line of communication vulnerable in the process?

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Moxley Sorrel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA

To: Genl Longstreet

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 Longstreet,

Hood launched a somewhat desultory attack against Sickles along the banks of the Potomac and was unable to bring the enemy to battle. General McLaws successfully left his defensive position along the Blue Ridge and made good time marching through Hagerstown, but could not fully close the trap to bag Sickles. The Yankees were beaten, but disengaged east to slip back the mountains.

We have successfully defended the rear of the army, but the most recent message from Lee indicates that we were expected at Gettysburg, where a major battle is said to have taken place. Reports of the fighting are not clear and more reports are needed, but hopefully our absence did not cost the army a victory....

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Moxley Sorrel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA

To: Genl Longstreet

Sent: Turn 5 (GM roll = 10)

From: Lee's Army HQ

General Longstreet I trust that you are, even as I write this marching northward. I am with Hill and Ewell heavily engaged north of Gettysburg against 3 enemy corps and the better part of the yankee cavalry corps south of us. There may be enemy forces in the Taneytown-Emmitsburg area between you and us as well. I cannot stress enough how urgent it is that your corps effects a link up with the rest of the army.

Morning Field Report

Turn 6, Mid July 1863

General Longstreet,

The Federal III and V corps did not attempt to molest our departure from the Boonsboro area, and all three corps made good time marching north through Hagerstown. General McLaws and his boys had their dander up and raced ahead at record speed, reaching as far as Emmitsburg before running into Yankee cavalry. Our boys were repulsed in a minor skirmish and then came under attack from Federal infantry.

In the great Battle of Emmitsburg that followed, our men performed with great elan, holding back half of the Army of Potomac before Generals Ewell and Hill arrived from the north. The Army of Northern Virginia is now largely united at Emmitsburg, and our divisions have their backs to the Blue Ridge. It is of some concern that, in our haste to march north from Boonsboro, we lost any contact with Sickles and Sykes....

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Maxley Savel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA

Morning Field Report

Turn 7, Late July 1863

General Longstreet,

Three cheers for Hood's division, the cream of the army! Just when the Battle of Fairfield looked to be lost, Hood spearheaded the effort to break the end of the Federal line, sending Howard's XI corps into flight. The rest of the corps is fresh and spoiling for a fight.

But it has been over a week since our last contact with Sickles or Sykes, leaving two Federal corps missing. Where are they? God willing, they will not appear here tomorrow morning behind our lines....

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Maxley Sorrel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA

Morning Field Report

Turn 8, Late July 1863

General Longstreet,

Victory at the Battle of Fairfield is the talk of the land, and it was our corps who repulsed the Yankee onslaught. Five times they came, and five times we drove them back! 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, with General Pickett in the van. His division has established contact with our pickets along the Potomac and the news is not good. If reports are to be believed, Federal infantry is massing in strength along the Potomac crossings we need to secure in order to return home to Virginia.

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Maxley Savel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA

Morning Field Report

Turn 9, Late July 1863

General Longstreet,

Our boys made good time across the Blue Ridge without interference from the Federal army. We have heard reports of a minor battle between Hill's rearguard and the pursuing enemy near Mechanicstown but have no further information. The rest of the Army of Northern Virginia appears to be concentrating as ordered in the vicinity of Hagerstown.

There are ominous reports of Federal cavalry closing in from the north and Federal infantry massing to confront us along the Potomac. Pickett's division has confirmed the nearest crossing at Williamsport is washed out with the ferry destroyed. This is potentially disastrous news and will require our vanguard to urgently seize the Sheperdstown ford.

Your Obedient Servant,

Lt. Col. Maxley Sorrel

Chief of Staff

I Corps, Army of Northern VA