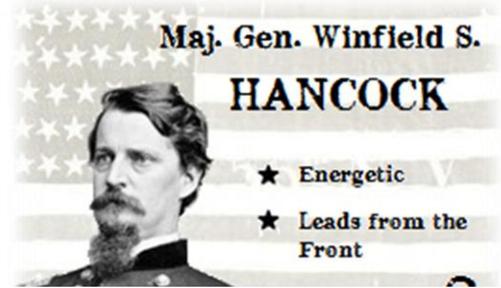


FEDERAL II CORPS BRIEFING



Strategic Overview:

It is late June 1863. Pleasanton's cavalry caught JEB Stuart at Brandy Station, confirming our suspicions that Lee might be shifting west into the Shenandoah. It has since become clear that the rebels are rapidly marching north in a similar maneuver to their ill-fated Antietam campaign of last September. Alarm is now being raised across western Maryland and even as far north as Pennsylvania. Our army concentrated at Manassas Junction last week and is presently moving toward Frederick to counter any possible rebel moves. Lee's ultimate objective is not clear at this time.

Order of Battle:

The Army of the Potomac currently fields 95,000 men, and you are responsible for maneuvering three infantry divisions—Caldwell, Gibbon and Hays. You are among the most respected and senior generals in the army.

Caldwell's Division		Gibbon's Division		Hays' Division	
Cross	-1	Harrow	+0	Carroll	-1
Kelly	-3	Webb	-1	Smyth	-1
Zook	-1	Hall	-2	Willard	+0
Brooke	-2				
Hazard (art.)	+0				

Morning Field Report

Turn 1, Late June 1863

General Hancock,

All three of our divisions are camped at Monrovia, marching north under Hooker's orders. But word has just arrived hours ago that General Hooker suddenly resigned his command and General Meade has been promoted. We have received no reports of the enemy.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Hancock

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 4)

From: Meade's Army HQ

Genl Hancock. – I have this day taken command of the Army of the Potomac. It seems certain that elements of Genl Lee's forces are in Pennsylvania. I request that you move your Corps to Taneytown. I expect Reynolds to be at Emmitsburg within the 2 next days and have instructed the Cavalry Corps to push into Pennsylvania on your right. . Identify your starting location and destination in communications with HQ as well as ETA. Meade at Frederick, moving to Liberty

Morning Field Report

Turn 2, Late June 1863

General Hancock,

Our divisions made excellent time on the march, double-timing it to Middleburg. General Reynolds appears to have the vanguard of the army as far north as Fairfield, while our cavalry is screening our advance into Pennsylvania to the northwest. No sign of Lee.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Hancock

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 4)

From: Meade's Army HQ

Continue moving north to Littlestown. Reynolds should be at Gettysburg and the Cavalry at Hanover and North. I have information that CSA forces are at between Newville and Harrisburg, but the exact nature is not known. There are reports of Stuart's cavalry in Maryland and heading north to Westminster. If the situation permits, send a division to Westminster to protect that depot. Send messages to Reynolds and Pleasanton to identify their locations. Meade at Liberty, moving to Middleburg

To: Genl Hancock

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 8)

From: Reynolds' I Corps HQ

We have previously arrived at Emmitsburg and Fairfield. I Corps has now been ordered to take position just west of Gettysburg, straddling the roads into Gettysburg from Cashtown and Fairfield, which is a very simple, 1 grid movement. I have requested Gen Howard bring XI Corps into Fairfield proper (from his current position at Emmitsburg) as he awaits contact from Gen Sykes and V Corps. We have made contact with Buford's cav division to our immediate south, which is a great comfort at this time!

We have received perhaps more credible reports that elements of General Ewell's II Corps have been identified at Carlisle. We can not confirm this, nor confirm his strength there. In any event, at this time we are not in a position to relieve Harrisburg. We continue to receive unsubstantiated reports of Rebel concentrations at Chambersburg. Continue to be wary of Confederate elements crossing the mountain passes to our west.

Morning Field Report

Turn 3, Early July 1863

General Hancock,

General Hays is outside Littlestown, while the rest of the corps is camped at Taneytown as ordered. From his forward position, Hays is reporting contact with Buford's cavalry just south of a crossroads at Gettysburg, and it seems rebel infantry are on the spot. It is unclear if this is a significant enemy force, or even where it came from—the Cashtown gap or perhaps from Ewell's Harrisburg front. We are in urgent need of better information.

The telegram office here in Taneytown is alight with confirmed reports that Harrisburg has fallen to General Ewell and he is threatening to torch the city. These are dire days.

The most recent message from Meade specifically requests we dispatch a division to Westminster to protect the rail line from JEB Stuart's cavalry, which must be rampaging in the vicinity. Do you intend to heed Meade's call?

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Hancock

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

From: Meade's Army HQ

Thank you for your message. In light of recent information from General Couch that Harrisburg has fallen to Rodes Division and that Early's division may be north of York, you are directed to proceed to the Hanover area, with all of your Corps. There is some information from Reynolds at Gettysburg that there are CSA forces as Chambersburg as well. I will direct other forces to Westminster if needed. The Cavalry Corps is operating north of you and as far east as York. I do not wish to bring on an engagement without other Corps moving up, but if given the opportunity to delay or obstruct enemy formations, do so. I will share my concern given the quick march by the enemy on Harrisburg...that they will seek to use the railway through York and onto Baltimore. This would be aggressive with only the 2 enemy divisions I believe to be in the area, but let that shape the arrangement of your forces while keeping in mind not to create too large a gap with Reynolds at Gettysburg. Coordinate with Pleasonton as you are able. Regards, Genl. Meade

To: Genl Hancock
From: Reynolds' I Corps HQ

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 3)

Heth's division of AP Hill's III CSA Corps has already occupied Gettysburg. For better or for worse, the entire I Corps under my command is located just west of Gettysburg, sandwiched between Heth and Penderton's division (or bisecting his Corps if you prefer), also of AP Hills III CSA Corps, which is marching down the Cashtown road. Another unknown division is making its way through the Cashtown gap... presumably Anderson's division as the remainder of AP Hills III CSA Corps.

I am closely supported by Howard and his XI Corps... my take on it is that I Corps and XI Corps are about equal in strength to AP Hills III CSA Corps, though, they will have superiority in artillery against us. I will hope to utilize Buford's cavalry division , with regards to Gen Pleasonton, in the upcoming fight, to achieve local superiority against Heth while he remains isolated. Gen Howard and his XI Corps may receive a thrashing trying to hold off Penderton and possibly Anderson, but he is willing to take the role as he understands the need.

If the lead divisions of Gen Hancocks Corps can fall against Heth in Gettysburg directly, or at the very least, approach Gettysburg from the east, we may be able to deprive Hill of one of his entire divisions.

I feel obliged to pursue a battle here and now, as without a victory it is possible for Heth to advance upon Hanover. Given my position in the midst of Hill's Corps it hardly seems likely I can avoid battle even if I wanted to.

If Longstreet or Ewell arrives, or if Stuart ceases his galivanting, this may go fell for us here. Otherwise I hope make a good go of it.

I look for my esteemed colleague Hancocks's arrival, and Syke's as well, though he will not arrive for this days battle.... and can only hope that Buford has brought artillery with him.

God speed gentlemen.

Morning Field Report

Turn 4, Early July 1863

General Hancock,

Caldwell and Hays have made it to Hanover, but General Gibbons fell behind in his march and is outside Littlestown. Many of the men have grumbled loudly about a wave of terrible July heat, slowing the marches. General Pleasonton and element of his cavalry passed us near Hanover, apparently riding south to locate Stuart in Maryland. Rebel cavalry is reported to be rampaging behind our lines.

We received a long missive from your good friend General Reynolds, who is making ready for battle at a crossroads called Gettysburg. Yesterday our advance elements could hear the thudding sound of distant artillery, but we do not know the outcome of this battle. Element of AP Hill's III Corps are quite near us, just miles to the northwest.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 5, Mid July 1863

General Hancock,

It is well that you drove the men so hard these last few days, as this forced march north allowed us to reach the field at Gettysburg and keep Lee from gaining the upper hand. As it stands, we were truly only defeated by darkness and not by the enemy. Our corps is positioned two miles south of the town, on high ground.

Generals Meade, Reynolds, Howard, and Pleasonton are here, with Slocum only a day's march away. It seems Lee is content to camp on the field of battle, perhaps waiting for us to make the first move? Locating Longstreet and Stuart might be useful at this time, as well as our own General Sykes. Where is that man?

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 6, Mid July 1863

General Hancock,

Our corps marched to the sound of the guns at Emmitsburg and found itself among the first on the field of battle. The ground was unfavorable for attack and slowed our progress considerably. General Caldwell led a courageous assault on AP Hill's line but was driven back with considerable loss. Our shattered brigades rallied with elan and are eager to return to the action.

The corps is presently camped just two miles east of the rebel lines, with Meade's headquarters nearby. Our boys may be called upon tomorrow for a major engagement and they are ready to avenge Gettysburg and Emmitsburg!

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 7, Late July 1863

General Hancock,

The corps is in good fighting condition after being bloodied by AP Hill's rebels at the Battle of Fairfield. Our front lines are secure and the men are ready to carry the fight to the enemy tomorrow! Many rebel campfires are burning less than a mile from our lines, so there will be a hard day's work ahead.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 8, Late July 1863

General Hancock,

Damn rebels. The Army of the Potomac has pulled back behind a strong position at Pipe Creek after a minor repulse at the Battle of Fairfield. The enemy does not appear to have lingered on the blood-soaked field. It is unclear where Lee's army will go next, though there are credible reports from civilians in Chambersburg and Greencastle of heavy columns of rebel troops in the immediate vicinity.

Our men are currently camped at Taneytown in strong positions awaiting your orders.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 9, Late July 1863

General Hancock,

This is madness! The army is bottlenecked on just two roads—has no one told Meade of the logistics necessary to move an army of this size? Our corps passed through Middleburg, only to find panic-stricken survivors of Slocum's corps streaming toward us, speaking of a battle at Mechanicstown. From what best we can discern now that the chaos has subsided, Slocum's corps attacked AP Hill's corps and was repulsed. Now, our corps is stacked up behind these whipped men, stuck in a traffic jam. Farther north, it is said the traffic situation is even worse along the Emittsburg road. If only we could get this army moving, the way through the Blue Ridge appears clear!

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac