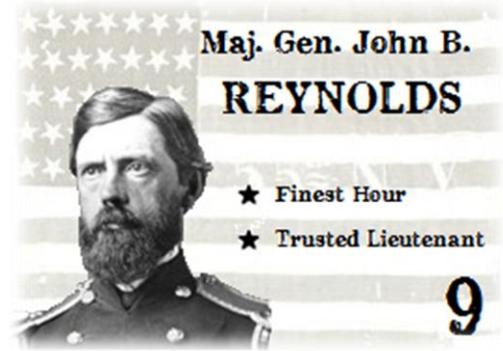


FEDERAL I CORPS BRIEFING



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—Wadsworth, Robinson and Doubleday. You are the most respected field commander in the army; in fact, Lincoln offered you command of the entire army two weeks ago and you refused.

Wadsworth's Division		Robinson's Division		Doubleday's Division	
Meredith	+1	Paul	+1	Rowley	+0
Cutler	+2	Baxter	-1	Stone	-1
Wainwright (art.)	+0			Stannard	+2

Morning Field Report

Turn 1, Late June 1863

General Reynolds,

Wadsworth, Robinson, and Doubleday's divisions are camped just south of Mechanicstown. General Hooker made us the vanguard of the Army of the Potomac, but word has just arrived hours ago that Hooker resigned his command and General Meade has been promoted. No enemy activity is reported in our vicinity, although local farmers claim to have seen rebel pickets guarding the Blue Ridge Mountain passes to the west.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Reynolds

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 8)

From: Meade's Army HQ

John, I'm in the yoke now and will need all your help to get through. It seems certain that elements of Genl Lee's forces are in Pennsylvania. I think you would be in a good position were you between Emmitsburg and Fairfield as soon as possible. You will retain XI Corps with you and I am sending Sykes V Corps as well. Hancock will be moving through Middleburg to Taneytown tomorrow or next while Pleasonton is directed to move into Pennsylvania to locate Lee's forces and protect Hanover. I have sent forces against the enemy at Hagerstown to disrupt their supply. They may link with you further north. Identify your starting location and destination in communications with HQ as well as ETA. Meade at Frederick, moving to Liberty.

To: Genl Reynolds

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 8)

From: Pleasonton's Cavalry HQ

Be advised that Buford's cavalry division will be conducting screen and reconnaissance operations to your north. Be sure of your reporting if you hear word of cavalry in your AO.

Morning Field Report

Turn 2, Late June 1863

General Reynolds,

Wadsworth and Robinson are camped at Fairfield, while Doubleday's division fell behind in the march and is following just behind. Howard's XI Corps has kept a good pace, camped at Emmitsburg and awaiting your further instructions as part of our vanguard force. Marching north, we passed rebel infantry guarding the Blue Ridge Mountain pass west of Mechanicsburg. We could not identify their strength.

General Buford visited our headquarters yesterday, bringing word that Pleasonton's cavalry is fanned out to our east, screening the flank of the army's advance. Buford's men rode from Middleburg and saw no signs of the enemy.

Hancock's II Corps appears to be moving rapidly north, but our own march seems to have outpaced the rest of the army, as we have lost contact with the bulk of the corps. Should we be concerned to be so isolated this far north, especially with no sign of Lee? Unreliable reports from local citizens in Fairfield claim that large rebel forces have massed around Chambersburg. Even wilder rumors suggest the rebels could be probing as far north as Harrisburg, but such stories are unsubstantiated.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Reynolds

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 4)

From: Meade's Army HQ

Continue your movement to Gettysburg. V Corps is moving to join you but is delayed by a day. I expect they will be north of Mechanicstown by tomorrow. Hancock is moving to Littlestown and the Cavalry is at Hanover and screening North. I have information that CSA forces are at between Newville and Harrisburg, but the exact nature is not known. Until we gain more information on the location of Lee's forces, do not move beyond the line of the Conewago Creek north of Gettysburg. Make contact with Hancock and the Cavalry to your right. Meade at Liberty, moving to Middleburg

To: Genl Reynolds

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 6)

From: Pleasonton's Cavalry HQ

Be advised that Buford's cavalry division will be conducting a forced march to the north. Advise you leave a screening force in Cashtown to observe any movement from the West.

Morning Field Report

Turn 3, Early July 1863

General Reynolds,

Our corps marched up the Fairfield road and successfully took up positions west of Gettysburg as ordered. General Buford's cavalry screens from the east. But General Wadsworth reports that our new position may already be compromised. Rebel infantry already possesses the crossroads at Gettysburg and large columns of rebels are sighted coming down through the Cashtown gap.

Our pickets have confirmed AP Hill's corps is present, and even more rebel troops may lay in wait beyond the Blue Ridge. There are also confirmed reports that Harrisburg—our state capital!—has fallen to the enemy. We can only pray they do not put the city to the torch. But this means that Ewell's corps is to our north, placing us in a potentially dangerous salient. This is especially precarious because Ewell's men could be anywhere by now.

Hancock's corps is in Taneytown but the rest of the army remains stretched out on the road through Frederick. A crucial moment in history is at hand—will we risk battle here at this crossroads alone, or wait for additional forces to converge? Meade has promised us the V Corps is en route....

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Reynolds
From: Meade's Army HQ

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 10)

General Reynolds, It is with great satisfaction that I find you are in place at Gettysburg and have Howard on the flank near Fairfield. Sykes has been delayed and I fear has fallen under Sickles' spell. He has not moved from Middletown...perhaps he will...in the meantime I will be moving Slocum north. Have a care to the Waynesboro - Emmitsburg road..have Howard picket the pass and I assume you'll do the same at Cashtown. Hancock will be at Littleton / Hanover while the Army reserve moves to Taneytown. Pleasonton continues to scout north towards Carlisle and east towards the Susquehanna. Remain at Gettysburg.--- Location of enemy units: So far we have identified elements of the CSA II Corps (Rodes at Harrisburg which has fallen / Early perhaps north of York) Additionally I have 2 day old information that Hood's division of Longstreet's I Corps was at or north of Hagerstown...indicating that Lee's army is likely strung out between Harrisburg and Greencastle / Chambersburg which gives us an opportunity to defeat one part of that or to delay their junction with forces west of Gettysburg.

To: Genl Reynolds
From: Hancock's II Corps HQ

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 8)

Sir, I am moving my Corps on a line covering Hanover, Codorus, and York. I have been ordered to keep in supporting distance with your Corps as well as securing Hanover and the rail line at York. Please inform of any enemy movement and information whenever possible. Regards, Hancock

To: Genl Reynolds
From: Pleasonton's Cavalry HQ

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 7)

Be advised that Buford's cavalry division attempt to occupy the high ground to the North of Gettysburg. Significant enemy forces to the North, we will try to prevent them from linking up in Gettysburg.

To: Genl Meade
From: Couch's Dept. of Susquehanna HQ

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 4)

My fellow Pennsylvanian,

We are indeed in contact with rebel forces in Harrisburg. I believe most of those forces to be concentrated in Harrisburg and Lewisburg. I have Ewell and Rodes in Harrisburg ransacking our dear capital and Early to the south at Lewisburg. I am mustering forces to attack and recapture Harrisburg, or at the least, keep rebel forces occupied while the rest of our forces assemble. I have reports of rebels in Carlisle, but I believe most of their strength in that area to be at the capital. Hopefully other sources can confirm.

I am in contact with Meade's HQ and Kilpatrick's cavalry in York. Let us throw this terrible invader back to the hell from which he was spawned!

Morning Field Report

Turn 4, Early July 1863

General Reynolds,

Three cheers for the Union! Heth's division attempted to escape our trap by marching north, only to be brilliantly cut off by Buford, who must have anticipated such a march. Heth's rebels attacked Buford with full force, but our timely arrival with the I Corps sealed the day and drove Heth east. Hill's III Corps is now perfectly divided and we have split in the enemy in two with no serious losses to our corps.

There is no sign of Longstreet, so we have Hill right where we want him. Hancock has also moved up to support and Meade is close behind, giving us a critical mass. Reports from newspapers indicate that Ewell's corps is sacking Carlisle, which means he must still be operating in the Cumberland Valley.

The only unfortunate news from the last few days has been the lack of communication from General Sykes and the missing V Corps. Where is that damn man?

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 5, Mid July 1863

General Reynolds,

Credit is due to our boys for a good showing at Gettysburg, but the enemy has the field. Our corps is positioned east of the town, with Doubleday's division posted two miles south in blocking position to prevent Lee's army from moving on Hanover. Stannard's brigade was badly cut up in the battle and is no longer combat effective—attention will be required from army headquarters to restore the brigade.

Generals Hancock, Howard and Pleasonton are here with us at Meade's headquarters, with Slocum a day's march east. The rebel army remains around Gettysburg, perhaps waiting for us to make the first move? We have no information about the whereabouts of Longstreet or Stuart. And our own General Sykes remains in the wind, as ever.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 6, Mid July 1863

General Reynolds,

The Battle of Emmitsburg was not one of our choosing—it seems General Sedgwick had a hand in that decision—but the I Corps performed ably. If only we had a few more hours of daylight, the outcome may have been quite different. As it stands now, the men are camped south of the battlefield, not two miles from the rebel lines. General Wadsworth remains miles to the northeast, just outside Gettysburg. He reports the crossroads is unguarded, vacated in haste by AP Hill's corps yesterday.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 7, Late July 1863

General Reynolds,

Our corps is in good fighting condition following the Battle of Fairfield, eager to resume the attack and finish the job. Organizational support from Meade's headquarters successfully restored Stannard's brigade to the line and his men will be back on the battlefield with Doubleday's division tomorrow. Many campfires are burning less than a mile from our lines and the rebel army is still here in strength.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 8, Late July 1863

General Reynolds,

The Army of the Potomac has pulled back behind a strong position at Pipe Creek after a minor repulse at the Battle of Fairfield. Newspapers from Harrisburg and Philadelphia are all full of glowing reports of your leadership at the battle. 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 north of 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 Reynolds,

Our corps spearheaded the drive to the Blue Ridge, with Wadsworth outpacing the rest of the corps and arriving at Emittsburg. He reports that the enemy has pulled back into the Waynesboro Gap and is stationed in strength. Our pickets confirm it is Hill's corps, but there is no sign of the rest of Lee's army.

There are rumors circulating throughout camp that a battle may have been fought to the south in the vicinity of Mechanicstown, but we do not yet know the nature of the engagement. Telegrams and civilian activity from the civilians in Emittsburg report heavy fighting between Greencastle and Chambersburg, where Pleasonton's cavalry was last reported to be operating. It is said—if these locals can be believed—that JEB Stuart's cavalry has routed our troopers and cities along the Pennsylvania border are calling out emergency militia.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac