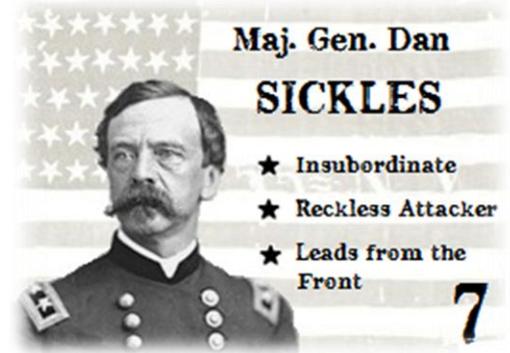


FEDERAL III CORPS BRIEFING



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 two infantry divisions—Birney and Humphreys. In the aftermath of the disaster at Chancellorsville, your corps was reorganized into a smaller, two division fighting force.

Birney's Division		Humphreys' Division	
Graham	+0	Carr	+1
Ward	+2	Brewster	+1
de Trobriand	+0	Burling	+0
Randolph (art.)	+0		

Morning Field Report

Turn 1, Late June 1863

General Sickles,

Our divisions are camped just west of Frederick, Maryland. Word has just arrived hours ago that General Hooker resigned his command and General Meade has been promoted. Shall we seek to establish contact with our new commander? No enemy activity is reported in our vicinity.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sickles

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 8)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Sickles - - 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 hereby direct you to take your Corps and cross South Mountain and conduct operations against the enemy's supply lines near Hagerstown. From Hagerstown you are to proceed to Waynesboro or Greencastle as opportunity presents to maintain pressure on the enemy's rear. If threatened by a superior force, it will be best if you rejoin the rest of the Army via Mechanicsville. 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 Sickles,

Our boys have stolen a march on Lee, slipping through the Blue Ridge passes and reaching as far as Sharpsburg. Beyond the mountains, it now appears we might be in a bit of a pickle. This side of the Blue Ridge is crawling with rebels, and Hood's division has been identified among them. Longstreet's entire corps must be near, and Lord knows how many other Confederate divisions are nearby. Sykes and his corps are nearby, but the rest of the army was last reported moving north, away from our position.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sickles

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 4)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Sickles - - It is my desire that you proceed to Hagerstown area and continue north in support of the Army. You are to interdict enemy supplies north of the Potomac and move to block any retreat of CSA forces. Your assistance in preventing Lee from retreating will be most critical. Meade at Liberty, moving to Middleburg

Morning Field Report

Turn 3, Early July 1863

General Sickles,

Humphreys and Birney have prepared hasty earthworks stretching from Sharpsburg east, toward the Middletown gap. Sykes and the V Corps appear to still be holding the gap open, which is our only viable retreat at the moment. The safety of Harper's Ferry lies over rugged, mountainous ground to the south, and strong rebel positions have hemmed us in from the north and west. Our pickets have observed infantry from Hood and Pickett's divisions also preparing earthworks. The rebels have not strayed far from their defensive positions, and we have no idea what additional forces they may have in reserve. Meade's orders seem to indicate he has no real sense of the significant force we currently face. This is no mere enemy picket line—Longstreet is here in force.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sickles

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 6)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General, If this message reaches you, you are to be actively engaging the enemy in the Cumberland Valley, by hindering his movement North or shutting off supplies. I wish you to be north of Hagerstown where the rumor of your movements may require caution on his part.

Morning Field Report

Turn 4, Early July 1863

General Sickles,

It has been a hot few days—literally and figuratively! General Birney's retreat east was preempted by a full attack from Hood's division. Our men hung on as long as they could, but were overwhelmed by superior numbers, falling back in good order toward the Blue Ridge passes. General Humphreys was not so fortunate. With the road east blocked, he tried in vain to fight his way through but was badly repulsed. With the roads east and west blocked by rebels, and mountains hemming us in from the south, his only avenue of safety was to slip north along the banks of the Potomac. This is a place of temporary safety, but also a dangerous division of our corps. Surely we must call Sykes for aid! Will he do nothing but watch our brave boys be cut apart by Longstreet's corps?

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sickles

Sent: Turn 4 (GM roll = 7)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General, I am delighted to hear that you have made contact with the enemy in the Cumberland Valley and pray that you continue to engage what forces you can to the end of keeping them from moving north or from breaking out east of the South Mountain passes. You are directed to coordinate with V Corps to that end and given your combined forces move offensively against enemy forces on their lines of supply. It is important that you are tying down an equal or greater number of forces....If given the delayed messages from your HQ to this, Sykes has already started north, he should continue to move north to Gettysburg where our forces are likely to be engaged tomorrow. By doing so he can protect the flanks at Mechanicstown or Emmitsburg as originally desired.

Major General Meade Headquarters, Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 5, Mid July 1863

General Sickles,

By your steady hand, a potential disaster has been averted. Hood's rebels came at Humphrey's division with full force, but the enemy did not commit to a pitched battle and was content to skirmish. Some timely and much-needed assistance from General Sykes and the V Corps gave us enough breathing room to escape the skirmish and retreat back to the relative safety of the Blue Ridge. Movement north was closed off by the sudden appearance of a fresh rebel division from the direction of Hagerstown. We could not identify this division.

Now that our corps is in a secure position, backed by Sykes, what are your orders? General Meade continues to express a desire for our men to harass the enemy rear, but he may not yet appreciate the great strength of the rebel positions here.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sickles

Sent: Turn 5 (GM roll = 5)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Sickles, Our forces were engaged at Gettysburg today and likely tomorrow. It is critical that you and I presume Sykes are operating aggressively against any elements, particularly Longstreet's Corps at this time. As I have not heard from Sykes I presume he is now with you south of Hagerstown. Together you are a match for Longstreet and must continue to harass Lee's rear.

George G. Meade, Major-General, Commanding

Morning Field Report

Turn 6, Mid July 1863

General Sickles,

The corps has made excellent progress, especially given the difficult nature of the terrain approaching Harper's Ferry. General Sickles is in the van with Birney's division, perhaps a day's march from Harper's Ferry, which is known to be garrisoned by General French and some 8,000 infantry. It would be most useful if the War Department in DC would see fit to release these men for duty!

General Sykes' V Corps is interspersed with our own, strung out through Frederick. Since disengaging successfully from Longstreet near Boonsboro, we have lost all contact with the enemy. Word from Meade arrived yesterday—now a few days old—indicating that our mission to cut off Lee's Potomac crossings is well-sanctioned by headquarters.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sickles

Sent: Turn 6 (GM roll = 8)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Sickles, Our forces were engaged at Emmitsburg today and will be again tomorrow. Since Longstreet was on the field yesterday, it is clear that his Corps has escaped the Cumberland. If I do not see you at Emmitsburg tomorrow, your orders are to move via Harper's Ferry to Shepardstown to disrupt supplies. Union Cavalry is ordered into the Cumberland from the North if they can escape their situation at Fairfield. Major-General G. Meade, commanding.

Morning Field Report

Turn 7, Late July 1863

General Sickles,

Corps headquarters is established at Harper's Ferry with the happy news that the War Department finally released the garrison here to Meade's command. We beseeched General French and his 7,000 men to join our march to the Potomac crossings, but he protested that his orders from Meade were to sack Winchester and secure the upper Shenandoah Valley. Better that than sitting in Harper's Ferry!

Our rapid advance to Harper's Ferry has the corps rather strung out, with Humphrey's lagging badly at Jefferson. General Sykes and elements of the V Corps have passed ahead and are now pressing Martinsburg. There are no rebels to be found in these parts!

A note from Meade's headquarters arrived for you yesterday.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sickles

Sent: Turn 7 (GM roll = 7)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Sickles, Aggressively attack forces in front of you with yours and Sykes Corps, save for the a blocking division to be left at Frederick. I will support you to the fullest, but it is critical that you bring Lee's few forces in the valley to heel or drive them from their supplies. General French and the forces from Harper's Ferry are on the road to Winchester to interdict even further. Thus far they have only encountered a light picket near beyond Charlestown. – Maj. General Meade, commanding

Morning Field Report

Turn 8, Late July 1863

General Sickles,

A message from Meade arrived at headquarters, indicating his support of our actions along the Potomac line. Troops of the V Corps sacked a rebel depot at Martinsburg, immediately to our north and scattered a thin screen of Confederate cavalry in the process.

Barnes and Birney are on the road to Martinsburg, where they could proceed farther north through Hedgesville, or turn east and secure the crossing at Shepherdstown. It appears to be guarded by a weak rebel force, ripe for the taking!

There has been disquieting talk among the men regarding rumors of a major defeat at the Battle of Fairfield. They say our army is in full flight toward Baltimore with Lee master of the field yet again. How can it be so?

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 9, Late July 1863

General Sickles,

General Birney has crossed the Potomac and is driving a pitiful screen of rebel cavalry before him! This critical crossing is now in Federal hands. Civilians in Shepherdstown claim that Longstreet's corps may be operating in the Hagerstown area, but we cannot confirm this yet. If true, the enemy could be just a few days away from our position.

General Humphreys has made very slow progress and is camped just south of our new supply depot at Martinsburg. Nearby, elements of the V Corps are positioned to watch over the Williamsport ford.

We have no word from Meade in recent days and no reports of another major battle.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac