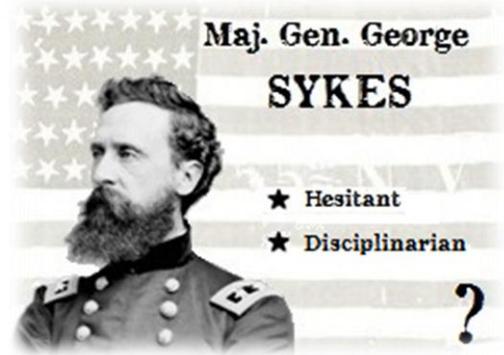


FEDERAL V CORPS BRIEFING



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—Barnes, Ayres, and Crawford.

Barnes' Division		Ayres' Division		Crawford's Division	
Tilton	-3	Day	+0	McCandless	-1
Sweitzer	+0	Burbank	-2	Fisher	+0
Vincent	-1	Weed	+0		
Martin (art.)	+0				

Morning Field Report

Turn 1, Late June 1863

General Sykes,

Effective this morning, you have hereby been promoted from division to corps command. You will now assume responsibility for command of the V Corps, while your former general, Meade, has been named to overall army command. General Hooker resigned yesterday, in the midst of the campaign.

Your new corps is camped in Frederick, Maryland and no enemy activity is reported in our vicinity. General Meade would no doubt be glad to hear from you.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 1 (GM roll = 3)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Sykes, – 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. You are ordered to join General Reynolds at Emmitsburg. 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 Sykes,

The situation now appears dire. Our men were marching toward the Boonsboro gap when we realized it was already guarded by rebel infantry. Just to our south, Sickles passed through a lower pass unopposed, but he may have bit off more than he can chew. Damn Sickles and his blustering recklessness! The man has surely walked right into a trap set by Bobby Lee, all while Meade has our army moving the other direction.

What are we to do now, general? Barnes reports that the Boonsboro gap is well-defended by formed Confederate infantry with artillery in support. Sickles may clearly need our assistance, but Meade's orders to support General Reynolds are clear.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 9)

From: Meade's Army HQ

Per previous orders, continue to move north to join General Reynolds at Fairfield, scouting the South Mountain passes as you move North and preventing delaying any strong forces should the attempt to move onto the flank of the Army. Meade at Liberty, moving to Middleburg

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 2 (GM roll = 3)

From: Reynolds' I Corps HQ

We have previously arrived at Emmittsburg 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 Emmittsburg) 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 Sykes,

The men have prepared defensive positions at the foot of the Blue Ridge, outside Middletown as ordered. General Crawford was sent forward to probe the rebel position and discovered a strongly entrenched battle line. It is his opinion that the rugged terrain and narrow defile make the position nearly impregnable. But our demonstration has kept the enemy in place, at least for now.

We do hold the lower pass just below this rebel defense, leaving an avenue to keep our line of communication open with Sickles. General Meade seems to be under the impression we are on our way to reinforce Reynolds in Pennsylvania, but surely he has no idea of the danger General Sickles might be in if we were to abandon the III Corps to Longstreet. It seems we are needed in two places at once, general. What are we to do?

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 7)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General, Your silence is inexplicable. You have ignored my messages and provided no intelligence. It is critical that you move your forces north to Emmitsburg. If you are blocking cavalry, leave a division at the pass and send the rest north. Communicate receipt and direction of movement.

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 8)

From: Reynolds' I Corps HQ

I have heard that you have regretfully been delayed. I am telling you at this very moment, I Corps is bisecting the advance of AP Hills' III Corps... his division under Heth is currently occupying Gettysburg, while Pender is just moving down from Cashtown with his division. Another division lurks on the horizon, in the Cashtown gap... presumably Anderson and the remainder of the III CSA Corps. We do not know the whereabouts of Longstreet or Ewell or Stuart, though elements of Ewells's Corps have occupied Harrisburg. With some assistance from Buford's cavalry division, and hopefully form the lead divisions of Hancock's Corps, we hope to inflict severe damage on AP Hill. However, we will sorely need your support even if victorious as the rest of the rebel army is likely on the way. If we fail, we may meet you further south than I would hope.... in any event I look forward to your arrival... sooner rather than later, I hope.

To: Genl Sykes
From: Sedgwick's VI Corps HQ

Sent: Turn 3 (GM roll = 7)

George, what news do you and Dan Sickles have of the Johnnys?

Very respectfully, John Sedgwick, Major-General, Commanding Sixth Army Corps

Morning Field Report

Turn 4, Early July 1863

General Sykes,

General Barnes sent forward a brigade yesterday evening before dusk and agrees with Crawford's assessment that the rebel mountain defenses are strong. He captured no prisoners and found the enemy not straying far from their earthworks. It is absolutely certain that General Picket's division is manning this sector.

Meade's rebuke seems very curious—perhaps he did not receive your last message, which clearly explained the situation? With Sedgwick moving off north, it now seems we are the new rearguard of the army and General Meade is so far distant that he continues to be blind to the danger presented by Longstreet's corps in our rear. General Reynolds sent a message yesterday, apparently believing we are en route to his aid at Gettysburg, which is clearly not the case....

Your Obedient Servant,
Gen. Daniel Butterfield
Chief of Staff
Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sykes
From: Meade's Army HQ

Sent: Turn 4 (GM roll = 6)

General Sykes, It is clear that delayed messages have given the command an incomplete picture of your efforts and your efforts to make contact are appreciated. If you are already moving north continue to do so, so as to guard the flanks of the Army at Mechanicstown and Emmittsburg. The Army is likely engaged at Gettysburg tomorrow and you must do everything in your power to assist. If you are still in touch with Sickles and at Middletown, then you are to coordinate with him in moving aggressively against the enemy in the Cumberland valley and under no circumstances preventing his exit from there.

Major General Meade Headquarters, Army of the Potomac

Morning Field Report

Turn 5, Mid July 1863

General Sykes,

General Crawford is proud to report that, upon hearing the distant rumble of artillery, his division led our van to press Picket's division in the Blue Ridge passes. The rebels had been attempting to slip away and trap Sickles, but our advance pinned them in place and may have bought Sickles enough time to make good his escape. A fine day's work, sir.

Our latest message from Meade makes it clear that your earlier messages were either lost or delayed, leaving the commander in the dark as to our whereabouts. He now appears informed of the true state of affairs. With Sickles safe and our position secure, shall we press toward Boonsboro, or perhaps march north to rendezvous with the army at Gettysburg? Word has arrived of a major engagement at this place, and while reports are yet filtering in to our headquarters, the news has not been good. Meade may need us before Lee overwhelms him.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 5 (GM roll = 6)

From: Meade's Army HQ

To V Corps, Major-General Sykes, General Sykes, Our forces were engaged at Gettysburg today and likely tomorrow. It is critical that you and I presume Sickles 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. If you are on the eastern side of the mountains, you are to continue to move to Fairfield.

George G. Meade, Major-General, Commanding

Morning Field Report

Turn 6, Mid July 1863

General Sykes,

Our disengagement from the Blue Ridge line has gone smoothly, and Crawford's division now leads our extended column of march toward Harper's Ferry. While General Crawford has made excellent time, the rest of the corps is badly strung out and intermingled with elements of the III Corps. There is no sign of the enemy in these parts of Maryland. Last known reports suggest Lee and Meade are both well north of our position.

Word from headquarters indicates General Meade may not be clear on our route of march. He continues to request our presence at multiple potential locations ranging from Hagerstown to Fairfield. No doubt he is under great stress at this time and would benefit from a detailed report on the status of our corps.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 6 (GM roll = 7)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Sykes, 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. It appears you are still near Middletown as you have been for this entire campaign. If you have heard new of our engagements at Gettysburg and Emmitsburg I hope that you are already on your way to Mechanicstown as have been ordered since the beginning of this campaign. General Sedgwick's forces have been engaged for two days and are not in a position to guard the passes. If I do not see you at Emmitsburg tomorrow, your orders are to remain near Frederick where you can block the passes and the road to Point-of-Rocks. Sickles may 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 Sykes,

Excellent progress on the march to the Potomac, general. Crawford's division is nearing Martinsburg, reporting a presence of rebel cavalry guarding the Potomac crossings here. General Crawford has not engaged them heavily but is requesting guidance from our headquarters. The remainder of the corps is ready to pass through Harper's Ferry, but there appears to be a logjam on the narrow mountain roads with Sickles and the III Corps in the way. Surely this matter must be sorted out quickly so our advance may continue.

Another note from Meade arrived, requesting our presence at Frederick to guard the Point of Rocks crossing. Shall we detach a division in that general direction to appease the commander?

We have received word of a great engagement at Fairfield, but the outcome remains in doubt.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 7 (GM roll = 4)

From: Meade's Army HQ

General Sykes, This Army was engaged at Emmitsburg again today and will fight again tomorrow. As per my prior message, if you are coming in support of this action you will contribute greatly to the effort. Longstreet's Corps is just east of Mechnicstown and presents a key opportunity for you to attack. If you instead remain as I see between Shepardstown and Frederick, leave a division east of the mountains to block the road to Point of Rocks which may be the line of Lee's retreat if we are successful. Your other divisions should aggressively with Sickles, whatever forces remain in the valley which cannot be more than a division of infantry or cavalry. This is a key opportunity to interdict their supplies and bag a division. . - Maj. General Meade, commanding

Morning Field Report

Turn 8, Late July 1863

General Sykes,

Crawford's division made good time and sacked a large rebel depot at Martinsburg before continuing to Hedgesville. Yesterday a flash flood broke loose and Crawford's pickets report that the ferry at Williamsport has been damaged, preventing us from crossing, while also preventing the Confederates from doing the same.

General Barnes made poor time and fell in behind Birney's division en route to Martinsburg. We have received welcome reports from Aryes that his men are in position at Point of Rocks, as ordered, guarding the crossing.

General French's garrison from Harper's Ferry rapidly marched south and was last seen in the vicinity of Winchester, seeking to destroy a rumored rebel supply depot. We received another message from Meade yesterday, as well.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac

To: Genl Sykes

Sent: Turn 8 (GM roll = 6)

From: Meade's Army HQ

Congratulations on your capture of the depot at Martinsburg. I thoroughly approve of your current locations between Point of Rocks and Martinsburg. I will provide staff support as soon as I am able for an attempt at Bath if you can do so without uncovering any of the crossings at Point of Rocks, Harpers Ferry or Shepardstown. Shepardstown should be held at all hazards and place yourself in a position to resist any crossing. General French will remain at Winchester as in that position cuts the line to Richmond and to move away will return it to CSA control given local forces. Lee has moved some units back into the Cumberland but we intend to attack those on our front at Mechanictown and Emittsburg today. Maj Gen George Meade, commanding

Morning Field Report

Turn 9, Late July 1863

General Sykes,

General Crawford is camped on high ground overlooking the Williamsport crossing, which is washed out from high water along the Potomac. There are reports of some rebel picket activity scouting the ford, but no efforts being made to attempt a crossing.

As ordered, headquarters has been re-established in Harper's Ferry and General Aryes reports no sign of rebel forces within several miles of his position at Point of Rocks. Instructions from Meade arrived yesterday, confirming our earlier orders. For the moment, all seems to be going according to plan, sir.

Your Obedient Servant,

Gen. Daniel Butterfield

Chief of Staff

Army of the Potomac