

be of great importance at this time. Enemy demonstrating on our front now. We occupy line of West Chickamauga. Our cavalry on right covers Stevens' Gap.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Major-General.



HDQRS. DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Crawfish Spring, Chickamauga Valley, September 18, 1863.

Major-General BURNSIDE:

I dispatched you on my arrival at Chattanooga, again on the 13th, and twice since then. It was very important you should close in on our left as soon as possible. Our cavalry has been worked so hard that it has decreased 2,100 from sickness and dismounted men since the commencement of campaign. Byrd should come down to Cleveland at once. If he is in any danger there he can come down to Tyner's Station, on our left. The remainder of your force should close down as soon as possible. The enemy are in our front in large force, occupying Pea Vine Valley and covering the roads to Dalton and Rome, headquarters at La Fayette. Johnston is with Bragg, with a large portion of his force, and re-enforcements have arrived from Virginia. We need all we can concentrate to oppose them. Let me hear from you.

W. S. ROSECRANS,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS FIRST CAVALRY BRIGADE,
Reed's Bridge, September 18, 1863—12.15 a. m.

Brigadier-General WOOD,
Commanding Gordon's Mills:

GENERAL: I sent report to General Rosecrans at 7 p. m. last evening. My report was delayed waiting for return of patrols, &c. A force of infantry passed through or near Graysville late yesterday a. m., which the citizens there state was General Spears'. Cannonading was heard yesterday afternoon north of Ringgold. Pegram's pickets are 9 miles up the Pea Vine Valley. Colonel Wilder encamped within 2 miles of me late last night. He states that he remarked a column of dust moving in the direction of La Fayette.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
ROBT. H. G. MINTY,
Colonel, Cavalry Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTY-FIRST ARMY CORPS,
September 18, 1863—3 a. m.

E. A. OTIS,
Assistant Adjutant-General:

We have had indications of the enemy in our front. Some shots have been fired by men on foot at our pickets. A column of dust appears rather to the right of our front. Enemy have been seen both to the right and left of the road in front. I think they are advancing.

SIDNEY M. BARNES,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
Pond Spring, Ga., September 18, 1863—6.30 a. m.

Brig. Gen. JAMES A. GARFIELD,
Chief of Staff:

GENERAL: I have the honor to state for the information of the general commanding that all is perfectly quiet on the right this morning. I am just starting to ride my lines and make the changes in the disposition of my forces prescribed in the latest orders. General Mitchell and I go to the right together.

Respectfully,

A. McD. McCOOK,
Major-General, Commanding.

—
ROSSVILLE,
September 18, 1863—8. a. m.

Captain MERRILL:
Nothing new. All quiet here.

J. L. JONES.

—
SIGNAL STATION,
September 18, 1863—9 a. m.

Colonel FLYNT,
Chief of Staff:

A squad of the enemy can be seen in the field at the same point at which they were observed last evening.

Respectfully,

W. A. SEITER,
Captain, Acting Signal Officer.
By H. C. JONES,
Acting Signal Officer.

—
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Crawfish Spring, September 18, 1863—9 a. m.

Maj. Gen. GEORGE H. THOMAS:

GENERAL: Clouds of dust and smoke indicate the enemy's cavalry is moving in heavy force from Worthen's to Knaper's [Napier's], and are sweeping around to our left. Have you any news from your front?

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. GARFIELD,
Brigadier-General, and Chief of Staff.

—
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
September 18, 1863. (Received 10 a. m.)

Major-General THOMAS:

The general commanding directs that I inform you that cavalry is seen advancing toward our lines 10 degrees southeast from here. Considerable dust seen among the timber.

JESSE MERRILL,
Captain, and Acting Signal Officer.

HIGH POINT,
September 18, 1863—9.50 a. m.

Captain MERRILL :

The cavalry spoken of as advancing has turned back. I counted seven wagons or ambulances.

MEEKER.

—
HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Alley's Spring, September 18, 1863.

Brigadier-General GARFIELD,
Chief of Staff:

Your dispatch of 9 a. m. just received, also dispatch from Captain Merrill. General Thomas is looking after the troops and regulating their positions. All quiet in front of our line. Two reports from the signal station on the mountain have been received. Can see no movements worthy of note.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[GEO. E. FLYNT,]
Assistant Adjutant-General, and Chief of Staff.

—
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Crawfish Spring, September 18, 1863—10.15 a. m.

Major-General THOMAS :

The general commanding desires you to report immediately the position of your pickets, and also to hold your command in readiness for any movement. There seems to be great activity on the part of the enemy in our front.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. GARFIELD,
Brigadier-General, and Chief of Staff.

—
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Crawfish Spring, September 18, 1863—10.45 a. m.

Major-General McCook :

The general commanding directs you to move your command down the Chickamauga and close it up compactly on General Thomas' right. The Fourteenth Army Corps is being drawn this way, and you will close in upon it in its new position. General Mitchell has been ordered to hold Stevens' Gap and watch the enemy's movements in the direction of the gaps of Pigeon Mountain. Hold your command in readiness for any movement. The enemy appear to be making a demonstration on Crittenden's left. Reconnoiter well your front.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. GARFIELD,
Brigadier-General, and Chief of Staff.

HIGH POINT,
September 18, 1863—10.30 a. m.

Captain MERRILL:

Three regiments of infantry passing due northeast by 15 degrees south from here. Eight wagons to the rear of each regiment; 12 miles off.

BRENT.

Presumed to be a reconnaissance on La Fayette road toward Gordon's Mills.

J. S. FEE.

Since the above the supposition is corroborated by reports from Gordon's Mills.

J. S. FEE.

—
HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
September 18, 1863—11 a. m.

Brigadier-General WOOD,
Commanding, Gordon's Mills:

SIR: The enemy has driven in my scout from toward Ringgold and are following up apparently in force. Cavalry and infantry are reported. I am now skirmishing heavily. I have had 1 man killed and several wounded. Please report by signal to Generals Rosecrans and Crittenden.

Respectfully,

ROBT. H. G. MINTY,
Colonel, Commanding.

—
HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Crawfish Spring, September 18, 1863—11 a. m.

Brig. Gen. R. B. MITCHELL:

The Fourteenth and Twentieth Army Corps have been ordered farther down the Chickamauga to close up on General Crittenden. The general commanding directs you to make immediate arrangements to hold Stevens' Gap and watch any movements of the enemy in the direction of the gaps of Pigeon Mountain. Keep communication with General McCook and cover his right flank. Report frequently.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. GARFIELD,
Brigadier-General, and Chief of Staff.

—
HIGH POINT,
September 18, 1863—11.30 a. m.

Captain MERRILL:

See heavy dust 70 degrees east of north.

MEEKER.

This bearing is toward Reed's and Alexander's Bridges, the vicinity of Steedman's and Minty's commands.

J. S. FEE.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE CUMBERLAND,
Crawfish Spring, September 18, 1863—11.45 a. m.

Maj. Gen. THOMAS L. CRITTENDEN :

The general commanding directs you to move General Van Cleve's division in the vicinity of Gordon's Mills and close it up on General Wood's division. Post General Palmer's division in General Van Cleve's present position, and hold your whole command in readiness for any movement. The enemy appears to be making demonstrations on your left.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. GARFIELD,
Brigadier-General, and Chief of Staff.

—
GENERAL PALMER'S HEADQUARTERS,
September 18, 1863—12.30 p. m.

[General ROSECRANS ?] :

GENERAL : General Palmer has notified General Negley that he will leave his present position at 2 p. m. General Palmer's grand guards will not be removed until properly relieved. No demonstration on General Palmer's front so far. As I came out I think I heard brisk firing on Colonel Barnes' front. I did not like the position of this brigade on yesterday. General Palmer will make it right as he can.

Very respectfully,

ARTHUR C. DUCAT,
Lieutenant-Colonel, and Inspector-General.

—
HIGH POINT,
September 18, 1863—12.30 p. m.

Captain MERRILL :

Large bodies of cavalry and, I think, infantry at a point 12 degrees south of east, filed, I think, on the State road, and then marched north. Dust and smoke are increasing in the east. Do not know whether friends or enemies.

MEEKER.

Conjectured to be our own troops.

J. S. FEE.

—
HIGH POINT,
September 18, 1863.

Brigadier-General GARFIELD,
Chief of Staff:

Lieutenant Meeker says, in answer to inquiry as to dispatch of 12.30 p. m., that the troops mentioned were in front of our lines as he understood them this morning.

Respectfully, yours,

JESSE MERRILL,
Captain, and Chief Signal Officer.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

Alley's Spring, September 18, 1863—12.45 [p. m.]

Major-General REYNOLDS,

Commanding Fourth Division :

You are directed by Major-General Thomas to move with your division and take post at or near Cook's Mill, with your left connecting with General Palmer's division. Take three days' rations in haversacks and sixty rounds of ammunition on the persons of the men. Move your trains in the rear of our camp, if there is any road to be found, so as to cover your trains while making the move. Notify General McCook of your movement, and move with as much celerity as possible without overtasking your command.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[GEO. E. FLYNT,]

Assistant Adjutant-General, and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

Alley's Spring, September 18, 1863.

Brigadier-General BRANNAN,

Commanding Third Division :

You are directed by Maj. Gen. George H. Thomas to hold your command in readiness to move at any time. The enemy, it seems, are making demonstrations on our extreme left, and orders have been received for the corps to move if necessary. General Reynolds has been ordered to move to Cook's Mill, his left connecting with Palmer's command. Should it be necessary you will receive orders to connect with Reynolds' right.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[GEO. E. FLYNT,]

Assistant Adjutant-General, and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

Alley's Spring, September 18, 1863.

General BRANNAN,

Commanding Third Division :

You are directed to move your division and follow General Baird as soon as he gets out of your way or the road is clear, keeping your line of skirmishers connected with General Baird's. Follow previous instructions as to ammunition and rations, and move your train on rear road if possible, so as to be out of the way and be covered by your movement. If you have time the general would like to see you.

By command of Major-General Thomas :

[GEO. E. FLYNT,]

Assistant Adjutant-General, and Chief of Staff.

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

Alley's Spring, September 18, 1863.

Major-General MCCOOK,

Commanding Twentieth Army Corps :

GENERAL : I am instructed by Major-General Thomas to say that he is directed to move his corps farther to the left, the left connect-

ing with Palmer's division at Cook's Mill, and to notify you of this movement. Reynolds has been ordered to move at once. Firing at intervals has been heard on the extreme left. Please acknowledge receipt immediately.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[GEO. E. FLYNT,]

Assistant Adjutant-General, and Chief of Staff.

—

HEADQUARTERS FOURTEENTH ARMY CORPS,
Alley's Spring, September 18, 1863.

General McCook,

Commanding Twentieth Army Corps:

GENERAL: The general instructs me to say that he has received orders to move, and will send you word where his right rests as soon as he gets in position.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

[GEO. E. FLYNT,]

Assistant Adjutant-General, and Chief of Staff.

—

ROSSVILLE, *September 18, 1863—1 p. m.*

General GARFIELD:

Have ordered Spears to Wauhatchie.

G. GRANGER,
Major-General.

—

STEVENS' GAP, *September 18, 1863.*
(Received 12.50 p. m.)

Captain MERRILL:

Have heard a dozen heavy reports of artillery in the direction of Gordon's Mills, on State road.

FULLER.

—

HEADQUARTERS,
September 18, 1863—2 p. m.

Maj. Gen. THOMAS L. CRITTENDEN,

Commanding:

GENERAL: My right rests at the point we selected on Sunday last and the left extends to about one-quarter of a mile east of the Ross-ville and La Fayette roads. A brigade and a half of Van Cleve's hold the left of the line and the remainder is held by my two brigades. I have a small part of my two brigades in reserve and two regiments of Van Cleve's. General Palmer should be forced up against my right. The enemy appears to have a heavy force of infantry opposite my right and center, and the lookouts from trees report another column or force moving toward our left. He has just opened on me with artillery for the first time.

Respectfully,

TH. J. WOOD,
Brigadier-General of Volunteers, Commanding.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1863—2.30 p. m.

General ROSECRANS :

Steedman has just returned to camp. Report is now on the way to your headquarters. Went to Graysville and Ringgold. Scott's brigade of rebel cavalry moved in two columns toward La Fayette and Dalton upon his approaching. Minty is at Reed's Bridge.

G. GRANGER,
Major-General.

HEADQUARTERS RESERVE CORPS,
Rossville, Ga., September 18, 1863.

Brig. Gen. JAMES A. GARFIELD, *Chief of Staff:*

GENERAL: General Steedman has just returned. He moved by the way of Graysville to Ringgold, reaching the latter-named place at 5 p. m. He saw what, from the best information he could gather, was supposed to be Scott's brigade of rebel cavalry, which made but little resistance, but moved off in two columns—one to the southwest toward La Fayette, the other to the southeast toward Dalton, the transportation moving toward La Fayette. He encamped at Battle Springs. Six shells were thrown into his camp about 10 p. m., but no one hurt. Moving from the north upon them led them to believe that the troops were the advance of Burnside's column. Inclosed please find notes from Colonel Minty. The brigade he speaks of as Spears' having passed through Graysville to Ringgold was undoubtedly Steedman.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,
G. GRANGER,
Major-General.

[Inclosure No. 1.]

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
Reed's Bridge, September 18, 1863—9 a. m.

Captain RUSSELL, *Asst. Adjt. Gen., Reserve Corps:*

SIR: I have to acknowledge receipt of your dispatch of this a. m. Pegram's pickets were about 9 miles up the Pea Vine Valley yesterday evening. A brigade of infantry, reported by the citizens to be Spears', passed Graysville toward Ringgold yesterday forenoon, and cannonading was heard a little north of Ringgold yesterday p. m. I have sent strong scouts up the valley and toward Ringgold. If anything of importance is learned from them I will advise General Granger by special courier.

I am, respectfully, your obedient servant,
R. H. G. MINTY,
Colonel, Commanding.

[Inclosure No. 2.]

HDQRS. FIRST BRIGADE, SECOND CAVALRY DIVISION,
Reed's Bridge, September 18, 1863—11 a. m.

Captain RUSSELL, *Asst. Adjt. Gen., Reserve Corps:*

SIR: The scout which I sent to Ringgold this a. m. has been driven back, and is followed by the enemy apparently in force. They appear to be pushing toward left and rear.

Yours, respectfully,
R. H. G. MINTY,
Colonel, Commanding.

SIGNAL STATION,

Lookout Point, Stevens' Gap, September 18, 1863—2 p. m.

Captain SEITER:

Heavy and continuous firing in direction of Gordon's Mills. Large clouds of dust near there and moving north on State road.

FULLER,

Lieutenant, Acting Signal Officer.

SUMMERTOWN,

September 18, 1863—2.25 p. m.

Captain MERRILL:

I see a cloud of dust moving toward our left, on a road 15 miles distant east of here.

AYERS.

HIGH POINT,

September 18, 1863—2.30 p. m.

Captain MERRILL:

Fuller (at Stevens' Gap) reports large clouds of dust moving north on State road near Lee's Mill.

MEEKER.

HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,

Pond Spring, September 18, 1863—2.05 p. m.

Brigadier-General GARFIELD,

Chief of Staff:

GENERAL: During my absence an order came for me to move, and Colonel Thruston carried it in person to Davis and Sheridan. This moment a telegram came for me to hold myself in readiness to move. Which order will I obey? All is quiet on the right, and no indications of a movement. Two deserters who came in last night state that Bragg's infantry was at La Fayette night before last. Bragg driving all the beef and stock south. The demonstration yesterday was made by Wheeler's cavalry.

Respectfully,

A. McD. McCOOK,

Major-General, Commanding.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1863—2.40 p. m.

General GARFIELD:

An order came in my absence for me to close up on Thomas. This moment a telegram comes to hold myself in readiness. Shall I move or be ready to move? All quiet on my front and right. General Reynolds wishes to know where Cook's Mill is.

McCOOK,

Major-General, Commanding.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1863. (Received 4.15 p. m. ?)

General McCook :

Move up.

W. S. ROSECRANS.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1863—4 p. m.

General McCook :

Your dispatch of 3 p. m. received. The general commanding intends in the two dispatches that you should move to Thomas' position and then hold yourself in readiness to move farther if necessary. Do so as soon as practicable.

GARFIELD,
Brigadier-General, and Chief of Staff.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1863.

Colonel GODDARD, *Assistant Adjutant-General:*

Officer on mountain at Stevens' Gap reports small camp fires and large columns of dust. Thinks troops were moving north on State road toward Ringgold.

Respectfully,

JESSE MERRILL,
Captain, and Signal Officer.

SUMMERTOWN,
September 18, 1863—2.40 p. m.

Captain MERRILL :

Twenty-five degrees east of south is where the troops camped all morning. Infantry, artillery, and cavalry; much dust about and beyond the gap, several miles from Gordon's Mills. Two columns of cavalry east, east of south, some 12 miles distant. Some artillery and musketry firing during the last hour in these directions. The rebel force lies toward the gap.

BACHTELL.

HIGH POINT,
September 18, 1863—3.15 p. m.

Captain MERRILL :

I think Wilder has found the enemy, from the sound of his guns. Sound comes from his direction, 70 degrees east of north. The firing is desultory cannonading.

MEEKER.

HEADQUARTERS POST,
Chattanooga, September 18, 1863.

Major-General GRANGER :

A soldier and citizen just in reports a portion of a forage train captured, which I sent up the river to-day. I am just sending out cavalry to look the matter up. The enemy reported 150 strong.

Yours, respectfully,

G. D. WAGNER,
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

ROSSVILLE, *September* 18, 1863.

General GARFIELD :

General Steedman sent the Second Brigade toward Reed's Bridge immediately upon receipt of your order,

WILLIAM C. RUSSELL,
Captain, and Assistant Adjutant-General.

—
CHATTANOOGA AND GORDON'S MILLS ROAD,
ONE AND A HALF MILES FROM GORDON'S MILLS,
September 18, 1863—4 p. m.

Colonel GODDARD,

Assistant Adjutant-General, and Chief of Staff :

The enemy are crossing (infantry and cavalry) Chickamauga Creek at Alexander's and Byram's Ford below. Colonel Minty has fallen back toward Rossville; has two of my regiments. Colonel Minty reports cannonading toward Cleveland last night. This forenoon a column of dust arose in Napier's Gap; three hours in passing. A large camp fire is now seen at Napier's. The column that attacked me came through Napier's Gap; another column came from the direction of Peeler's. Colonel Minty reports infantry flanking him on both flanks.

I am, sir, very respectfully, &c.,

J. T. WILDER,
Colonel, Commanding Brigade.

—
SEPTEMBER 18, 1863—4.30 p. m.

Brigadier-General GARFIELD,

Chief of Staff :

Brigade left an hour ago to support Minty. Have ordered Spears to Wauhatchie, 4.30 p. m.

GRANGER.

—
HEADQUARTERS TWENTIETH ARMY CORPS,
Pond Spring, September 18, 1863—5 p. m.

Brig. Gen. JEFFERSON C. DAVIS,

Commanding First Division :

General McCook directs that you move your command immediately on the main road leading in this direction. Further orders designating your new position will reach you on the way. Orders from department headquarters just received order this movement.

Respectfully,

G. P. THRUSTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General, and Chief of Staff.

—
SUMMERTOWN,
September 18, 1863—6.40 p. m.

Captain MERRILL :

Southeast 25 miles I see a heavy wagon train moving east to a gap. By the dust, I think it goes southeast through the gap. Has been passing one hour or two, and still continues.

[SAMUEL BACHTELL.]