

COURT OF INQUIRY – OPERATIONS IN FLORIDA, &C.

**LETTER**

FROM

**THE SECRETARY OF WAR**

TRANSMITTING

Copies of the Proceedings of a Court of Inquiry, convened at Fredericktown in relation to the Operations against the Seminole and Creek Indian &c

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JANUARY 8, 1838,  
Read, and laid upon the table.

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DEPARTMENT OF WAR,  
*January 6, 1838.*

Sir: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, "a copy of the record of the court of inquiry, convened at Fredericktown, in relation to the operations against the Seminole and Creek Indians," which contains what is called for in the first three paragraphs of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 4th of October last; and to enclose a report and documents from the Commanding General in answer to the fourth and last paragraph of that resolution.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Hon. JAMES K. POLK,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, January 2, 1838*

Sir: I have the honor, herewith, to transmit a copy of the correspondence with Major General Jesup, and all other information which can be! furnished by this o1Hce, in relation to the Creek and Seminole campaigns as required by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 4<sup>th</sup> of October, 1837.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,  
*Major General commanding in chief.*

To the SECRETARY OF WAR,  
*War Department, Washington, DC*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, June 28, 1836.*

Sir: I have received, through the Secretary of War, the order of the President to call you to the seat of Government. You will, therefore, on the receipt of this letter, turn over to Brigadier General Jesup the command of the troops serving against the hostile Creeks, and repair to the city of Washington.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,  
*Major General commanding in chief.*

Major General W. Scott,  
*Fort Mitchell, Alabama.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY;  
*Washington, June 28, 1836.*

Sir: Major General Scott having been ordered to the seat of Government, the command of the troops serving against the hostile Creeks is, by direction of the President, hereby vested in you. The instructions which you received from the War Department, on leaving Washington for the Creek nation, will be your guide in executing the important duties which are hereby again devolved on you.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,  
*Major General commanding in chief.*

Major General Jesup,  
*Fort Mitchell, Alabama.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, April 7, 1837.*

Sir : From the favorable reports you have made of the state of affairs in Florida, and the recent conduct of the Indians, we are led to the belief that you will soon terminate matters with the Seminoles. If such should be the case, it is desirable that the troops should be sent to their respective stations, as indicated in a late general order concerning the artillery, and the other troops, the dragoons and infantry, to repair, by the way of New Orleans, to the following points, viz: the dragoons to Jefferson barracks, where the whole regiment is to be assembled for instruction; and the 6th infantry to Jesup; the 4th to New Orleans and Baton Rouge - say 5 companies at New Orleans and 5 at Baton Rouge. As the public property will require, in all probability, some protection, and the country itself the countenance of some military force, you will retain such as you may deem necessary for the purpose; but the dragoons you will forward to New Orleans as soon as possible, with a view to their joining at Jefferson barracks. All this presumes the war to be ended.

In a letter addressed by you to the Colonel of Ordnance, you ask for an additional officer to assist Captain d'Lagnel. Cannot you supply the necessary assistants from the officers of the artillery? There is Lieutenant Thornton, a first-rate ordnance officer, and, I dare say, many others very competent I will therefore request that you use your discretion in ordering officers of the artillery under your command on ordnance service, with a view of securing all the property belonging to that department in Florida, or elsewhere, belonging to the army, which has been operating in the Seminole and Creek countries,

General Armistead has expressed a wish that he might be indulged with leave of absence after the close of the war in Florida. I leave it to your discretion to grant him such leave of absence as you may approve, within the extent of the regulations, when his services may not be longer required in Florida.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,

*Maj. Gen. commanding in chief;*

To Maj. Gen. THOS. S. JESUP,

*Commanding the forces U. S. in Florida.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, April 18, 1837.*

Sir : Since I last addressed you on the subject of the disposition of the troops at the close of the war in Florida, circumstances connected with the Southwestern frontier have induced a change from that communicated to you in my letter of the 7th of April. It is now determined by the Secretary of War to station two regiments of artillery at Camp Sabine, on the Sabine river, near where the Nacogdoches road crosses; one regiment and six companies of the remaining regiment of artillery on the Sabine river, where the Opelousas road crosses; two of the remaining-companies to be stationed at some healthy position as near the mouth of the Sabine as practicable, and one at Key West; the two companies of the second regiment of infantry to be stationed at the Upper Withlacoochee, Georgia; fourth regiment of infantry, five companies to remain in Florida, two to garrison Baton Rouge, and two New Orleans, one company to remain in the Cherokee country; sixth regiment, seven companies to be sent to the Sabine, near the Opelousas road, three companies to Camp. Sabine; the whole of the second regiment of dragoons to be concentrated at Jefferson barracks. You will, therefore, as soon as the circumstances of your command will permit, order the whole of the first and fourth regiments of artillery to Camp Sabine ; the whole of the second regiment of artillery and six companies of the third to Opelousas road, to take up the most eligible position near where it crosses the Sabine; one company to Key West, (Captain Childs's,) and two companies to some eligible position near the mouth of the Sabine, which will be selected after the arrival of the regiment at the Sabine. You will understand distinctly that this arrangement of the troops is not to go into effect if it will interfere with your arrangements in reference to Florida, but as far as it will not interfere, you will order the troops to their respective stations, as herein indicated.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,  
*Maj. Gen. commanding in chief.*

Major General Jesup,  
*Fort Dade, Florida.*

P. S. - With the regiments of artillery, I wish you to send such howitzers and field-pieces as may be deemed necessary and fit for service on the Southwestern frontier, with the carriages, harness, and other equipments. I wish, especially, that the mountain howitzers be sent to New Orleans, to be one half sent to Fort Gibson, and the other half to Camp Sabine.

A. M., *Maj. Gen. commanding in chief.*

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, April 24, 1837.*

GENERAL: A letter has been received here, from the Governor of Georgia, in relation to Colonel Nelson, of the Georgia volunteers, stating that Colonel Nelson was authorized by you to organize a staff consisting of one adjutant, one surgeon, and one quartermaster, for his battalion.

You are requested to send to the headquarters of the army a copy of your order authorizing those appointments, that the Secretary of War may see the propriety of paying those officers.

I have the honor to be, &c.

A MACOMB,  
*Maj. Gen. commanding in chief.*

Major General THOMAS S. JESUP,

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, April 29, 1837.

Sir : From documents received from his excellency the Governor of Alabama, and from other quarters, it appears that there are many of the Creek Indians still in the swamps and fastnesses of the country 'occupied by them before the emigration; and, with a view of preventing further calls being made on the militia of the adjacent States, it is thought best to send to Fort Mitchell some of the regular troops under your command, whenever you think you can safely spare them. You will, therefore, order the 4th regiment of infantry thither, or such parts of it as you can spare.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,  
*Maj. Gen. commanding in chief.*

Major General THOMAS S. JESUP,  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Tampa Bay.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, June 10, 1837.

Sir: I have duly received your several letters acknowledging the receipt of several from me, and stating the slowness of the movements of the Seminoles towards embarking for the West and your desire to be relieved from the duty of superintending the sending of them off, with permission to leave the command and attend to your private concerns. These letters have been all shown to the Secretary of War, With regard to your leaving Florida until the Indians are sent

off, the Secretary could not consent to it, as it would be difficult to supply your place by one so conversant with all the arrangements ; and, if the war should be rekindled, the experience you have had in conducting the operations in Florida is considered as too valuable to be lost by your removal from the command.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,  
Maj. Gen. *commanding in chief.*,

Major General JESUP,  
*Commanding the troops in Florida.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY  
Washington, June 22, 1837.

Sir : Your communication. dated Tampa Bay, June 5, 1837, addressed to the Adjutant-General, has been received, and submitted to the Secretary of War. The Secretary of War, after duly considering the contents of your communication, has requested me to inform you, that after posting the troops in such stations as to cover the frontier from hostile attacks, as far as this can be done consistently with a due regard to their health, you will be at liberty to return to the performance of the duties of your office as Quartermaster General; at the seat of Government ; provided that, on the receipt of this letter, you still desire to be relieved from the command of the army of Florida. The Department of War waits anxiously for your views as to the preparation which you consider necessary for a renewal of hostilities in October, and the successful prosecution of the war, and desirous to know what course you would advise to be pursued with the Creek warriors, as it is deemed important to remove their families as early as practicable to their homes.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,  
*Major General commanding in*

*chief.* Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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HEADQUARTER OF THE ARMY,  
Washington, June 30, 1837.

Sir : If you can possibly dispense with the services of the marines, you will order them to their headquarters at Washington. Lieutenant Colonel Miller you will order to Washington on the receipt of this.

I am, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

ALEX. MACOMB,  
*Major General commanding in*

*chief.* Major General Thomas S. Jesup,

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Washington, July 6, 1837.*

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 17th ultimo, addressed to the Adjutant General, among other things expressing a desire to visit Kentucky for a few weeks. You no doubt, ere this, will have received my letter authorizing you to leave the command of the army in Florida, and directing you to repair to this city to resume your functions as Quartermaster General. In proceeding to Washington, there is no objection to your taking Kentucky in your route, and spending the time you require in that State.

Wishing you health and prosperity, I remain, with great consideration, yours, &c.

ALEX. MACOMB,  
*Major General commanding in chief.*

Major General Thomas S, Jesup  
*Commanding the army in Florida  
Garey's Ferry Florida.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY  
*Washington, August 15, 1837.*

GENERAL: Agreeably to instructions from the War Department, I am directed by the General-in-chief to request that you will detail suitable officers to take charge of the clothing depots to be established at Jacksonville and Tampa Bay.

I have the honor to be, &c.

JOHN N. MACOMB,  
*Aid-de-camp,*

Major General Jesup  
*Commanding the army in Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, November 8, 1836.*

Sir : Your communications of the 16th and 17th of October, from Tampa Bay, have been received, and submitted to the General-in-chief and Secretary of War,

I am, sir, &c.

R. JONES.

Major General T. S. JESUP,  
*Commanding, &c, St. Mark's, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, November 10, 1836.

Sir: The following-named officers of the army, serving in Florida, have been summoned by Captain Cooper, the special judge advocate of the court of inquiry now in session at Fredericktown: as witnesses in the case ordered to be investigated by that tribunal, pursuant to "general order" No. 65, dated October 3. The summonses were transmitted to the several officers named, through this office, at the request of the judge advocate.

Captain Drane, 2d artillery; Lieutenant McCrabb, 4th infantry; Lieutenant Betts, 1st artillery.

At the verbal request of Captain Cooper, summonses for Major Lomax, 3d artillery, and Lieutenant G. Morris, 4th infantry, were also forwarded through this office. In addition to the above-named officers, the following, not at the time serving with, but belonging to, the Florida troops, have been required to attend, viz:

Brigadier General Eustis, Lieutenant Colonel Bankhead, Colonel Lindsay, Lieutenant J. E. Johnston, Captain Canfield, Captain Waite, assistant quartermaster, and Captain Morrison.

I am, sir, &c.

R. JONES.

Brev. Major General T. S. JESUP,  
*St. Mark's, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, December 5, 1836.

Sir : Your communications from Tampa Bay, dated the 3d and 6th of November, respectively, enclosing copies of your correspondence with the Governors of Georgia and Alabama respecting a call for an additional volunteer force for the service in Florida, were received on the 29th ultimo, and submitted to the Secretary of War, the General-in-chief being absent at Fredericktown. The transit of those letters appears to have been delayed, as Doctor Elwes informs me that, having been charged with their transmission,

they were unintentionally retained in his possession a week or more after his arrival at the North, or before he committed them to the post office at Elizabethtown. .

With regard to the supply of recruits to which you advert in your letter of the 3d, it may be proper to remark, for your information, that the recruiting service has never been less successful than in the last twelve months, and especially during the past summer. The whole number of infantry and artillery recruits enlisted for the general service in the Eastern department, inclusive of the 1st of October, is but 585; of which number only 85 have been sent to any Northern station, and they have gone to the Upper Mississippi for the 1st regiment of infantry ; 252 recruits have been assigned to companies ordered to Florida and the Creek nation, inclusive of the month of June ; and 34 to the company of the 4th infantry, serving in the Cherokee country, at Camp Cass.

On the 19th of November, Lieutenant Colonel Foster reported that he should leave New Orleans with about .90 recruits for the 4th infantry ; and on the 15th of that month, Colonel Cutler was instructed, as you have already been apprised, to detach 119 recruits for the same regiment in Florida, as soon as they could be collected, which will complete its establishment.

Of the 173 infantry recruits enlisted in the Western department, inclusive of October 1st, 149 have been sent to the 4th regiment of infantry serving in Florida, and 45 were assigned to the 6th infantry when ordered from Jefferson barracks to the frontiers of Louisiana.

It will be seen by "general order" No. 80, that 550 recruits have been called for, for the artillery companies now serving in Florida; but I regret to add, it is impossible to say how soon this reinforcement may reach its destination; for notwithstanding the continued efforts of all the recruiting officers engaged in the service, the accession of numbers for the foot is yet slow.

The superintendent has been instructed to send off detachments in small parties of 50 or 60 to Florida, without detaining them for greater numbers.

I acknowledge the receipt of your field report of the troops at Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, on the 3d of November. With reference to the subject of field returns, I respectfully require your attention to my letter dated the 3d of June, and would now ask that you may forward such monthly returns, if it be practicable, of the *Tennessee Volunteers*, and of the *volunteers or militia* from other States who may have been under your command during your service in the Creek nation. And I also respectfully request that monthly returns of the volunteer force now *servng* in all Florida, distinguishing the States and Territories to which they severally belong, may be forwarded for the information of the General-in-chief and War Department, with as little delay as practicable. These returns are now the more necessary, as full returns never have been furnished by either of your predecessors commanding the army, either in the Creek or Florida campaigns.

The printed blank returns furnished yon in June appear not to have been

used; I, nevertheless, send a few more of the same description for field use.

I do not speak of the regular force ; its situation and condition have been, generally, regularly reported. In meeting the inquiries of the Secretary of War, as to the volunteer force serving in Florida, I have had resort to such data as I have been able to obtain, relying chiefly on the muster-rolls forwarded by the mustering officer , but I have no assurance that the rolls of all companies mustered into service have been forwarded to the Adjutant General's office. The certainty as to *all* the force operating in the field, is only to be obtained from returns forwarded by authority of the Commanding General.

A consolidated general field return of *all* the force, army, marines, volunteers, and Indians, serving in Florida, say on the 30th of *November*, is called for by the Secretary of War, which it is hoped it may be in your power to furnish, although I am well aware, for want of a proper staff; commanders in the field have it not in their power always to comply with the regulations touching reports, returns, &c. ; and it is owing to this circumstance, no doubt, that general headquarters have not been regularly furnished with copies of the "orders" and " special orders" issued by you (as is the case with other commanders) while in command in the Creek Nation.

Nos. 49 to 57, inclusive, and No. 59, are n.11 that have been received at this office, the omitted numbers of the series of the Creek campaign are now requested to be forwarded, as soon as convenient, for the information of the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.

R. JONES.

Maj. Gen. Thos. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, December 31, 1836.*

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of the following communications from your headquarters, since the date of my last letter of December 5th. I enumerate them in the order of their receipt, viz :

1st, Your letter, dated Tampa Bay, November 20th, referring to the arrival of the second detachment of the Alabama battalion, &c., received *December 17th*.

2d. Letter dated November 21st, transmitting copies of your correspondence with the late Colonel Walker, relative to a mistake in a report of Major General Scott, &c., which, agreeably to your request, are placed upon the files of the office ; received December 17th. As in a former like case,

respecting mistakes in one of his official communications from Florida, I have on this occasion forwarded copies of these papers to Major General Scott.

3d. Letter dated November 18th, reporting your readiness to take the field, but delayed for the want of transportation, and reporting the arrival of the last detachment of the Alabama volunteers, &c. received the 21<sup>st</sup> *December*.

4th. Letter of November 27th, from Tampa Bay, transmitting papers in relation to the election of Charles Irvine to be captain of Washington volunteers.

5th. Letter of November 28th, from Tampa Bay, reporting the embarkation of the troops for the Withlacoochee, &c

6th. Letter dated 12th December, from Volusia, suggesting the ordering the 6th infantry to Florida, reporting the near approach of the expiration of the period of service of the Tennessee brigade,\* &c. These last three letters were respectively received on the 24th December.

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• The Secretary of War having understood that the time of the Tennessee brigade would not expire until the 1st of January, when making out his annual report, inquired of me if this was so. To which, after directing the examination to be made, I answered in the affirmative. This, however, may not have been exactly correct ; for all though the official *brigade* return, including twenty companies, forwarded by Captain Kingsley, the mustering and inspecting officer, specified the "1st of July, 1836," as the time of the commencement of the service of the brigade ; yet it would appear, on further examination, by the muster-rolls, that only *twelve* companies would continue to the 1st and 2d of January, 1837, *four* to the 25th of December, *one* to the 18th, *one* to the 17th, and *two* to the 16th of the same month.

7th. Letter dated 5th December, from Volusia, reporting the progress of your operations, and your having joined General Call on the night of the 4th instant, &c., received 30th December, (yesterday)

These several communications have all been submitted to the Secretary of War, and subsequently to the General-in-chief, on his recent return to headquarters.

Copies of orders and instructions directing the 2d regiment of dragoons and the two companies of artillery, recently organized at Forts Hamilton and Monroe, first instructing this force to be held in readiness to proceed to Florida at the shortest notice, and subsequently directing it to proceed to join the army in Florida without delay, have been duly forwarded from this office for your information, by which you will perceive, that your suggestions touching the reinforcement of your command by the new regiment of dragoons had been anticipated by the Secretary of War.

This auxiliary regular force will consist of six companies of dragoons of sixty men each, and two full companies of artillery - say 450 men. Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Fanning has been ordered to conduct this detachment to the seat of war, and, having left Washington on the 21st instant for Fort Monroe, is now, it is supposed, in Charleston, with instructions to push

forward the companies with all dispatch. Those from New York sailed on the 28th. Lieutenant Colonel Harney, of the 2d dragoons, arrived yesterday from the West, and departs this day for Florida, as will also Major Fauntleroy.

On the 23d instant, I received a letter from the Governor of South Carolina, transmitting a copy of your communication to his excellency, dated Volusia, Florida, December 9, in which you make a requisition for a battalion of infantry of five companies. The dispatch was promptly laid before the Secretary of War; who having approved of the measure, all necessary orders were immediately communicated to the proper departments to expedite and facilitate the mustering into the service of this force, and its movement to Florida in the direction of your headquarters.

I herewith respectfully transmit a copy of my communication of the 27th instant, addressed to Brevet Brigadier General Arbuckle, the officer in command of the frontiers of Louisiana and Arkansas, by which you will perceive that the state of the service in that quarter does not justify the withdrawal of the 6th regiment for the proposed service in Florida; and accordingly, the Secretary of War has directed the countermarch of that regiment, should it have been put in motion for the East, by orders from any quarter ; of which circumstance, however, no official intelligence has, at yet, been communicated to this office or to the War Department.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Com'g army in Florida, Fort Drane.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, January 25, 1837.*

Sm : In reply to your letter of the 27th of December, relative to the term of service of the Washington city volunteers, I have to state, that it was understood at the time of muster into service that they were to serve for *twelve* months, unless sooner discharged. . .

The muster-roll of the company, tendering its services, was sent by the officers direct to the President, for his acceptance, and afterwards to the War Department, upon which the men were mustered into service ; but the roll does not specify the time, although there is no doubt, as before mentioned, that it was for twelve months.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, February 9, 1837.

Sir : I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of the following communications from your headquarters, since the date of my letter of the 31st December.' I enumerate them in the order of their receipt, viz :

1st. " General orders," from No. 20 to 30, inclusive, respectively dated the 8th, 10th, 10th, 11th, 19th, 21st, 23d, 24th, 27th, 28th, and 30th December ; received January 19th.

2d, Your letter from Tampa Bay, of January 1st, reporting your intention to join the troops in the interior, &c. ; received January 23d.

3d. "General orders" Nos. 31, 32, and 33, dated, respectively, the 1st, 2d, and 5th of January; received 2d February.

4th. Letter from Fort Armstrong, Florida, of January 10th, reporting the capture of sixteen Indian negroes, &c. ; received February 4th.

5th. Letter from " Ouithlacoochie," of January 12th, reporting the capture of thirty-six more negroes, and your intended movements, &c. ; received February 4th : and, also, "general orders" No. 34, 35, and 36, dated, respectively, the 8th, 9th, and 10th of January; received on the same day.

Forty recruits sailed on the 6th instant for the two companies of the 2d infantry, under Major Dearborn. It was not known that his command had been ordered from Irwinton, Georgia, to Florida, until the receipt of your order No. 23, of the 11th of December, on the 19th of January. On the 23d of January, 113 recruits for the artillery sailed for Tampa Bay, under Captain Mallory, of the 2d regiment of artillery ; and now 100 more are reported by Colonel Cutler to be ready. This detachment will be commanded by First Lieutenant Johnson, of the artillery, who will enter Florida *via* the St. John's.

The Secretary of War entirely approves of your detaining the 6th infantry in Florida, and authorizes you to hold it under your command as long as you may deem it necessary.

Your letters from the scene of your operations, respectively dated the 17th, 20th, and 21st of January, with "orders". Nos. 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, and 42, dated 16th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, and 20th, have this day been received, and submitted to the Secretary of War, I also acknowledge the . receipt of a letter from Colonel Stanton, from Fort Armstrong, dated January 20th, enclosing "orders" Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, respectively, dated the 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th June, 1836, in which is acknowledged the receipt. of my letter of the 5th December.

I am, sir, &c  
R. JONES.

Brevet Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army in Florida,*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, February 28, 1837.*

Sir : I have the pleasure to acknowledge your communication of the 7th instant, reporting the recent operations of the army in Florida, together with Colonel Henderson's report of the 28th of January; which have been duly submitted to the Secretary of War and General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.

R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army in Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, May 9, 1837.*

Sir : I herewith, by direction of the General-in-chief, forward a copy of my letter of this date to Lieutenant Colonel Harney, of the 2d dragoons, on the subject of his order to Captain Gordon, an officer serving with his company at the time in Florida, 'to leave the field and repair to Washington, and there report to his colonel. The General desires that you examine into this procedure of Lieutenant Colonel Harney, touching the matter, and that you will be pleased to take such measures in the case as due regard to the discipline of the army may demand.

I am, sir, &c.

R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, March 14, 1837.*

Sir : I have the pleasure to acknowledge your communications of the 13th and 27th February, enclosing "orders" numbered from 42 to 57, inclusive, and No. 59, and "special orders," from No. 1 to 18. I have received your letter of the 17th February, reporting your operations since the 7th, together with an extract of Lieutenant Colonel Fanning's report of the affair on lake Monroe,

which have been duly submitted to the General-in-chief and Secretary of War,

Lieutenant Colonel Farming's report of the affair of the morning of the 8th of February, was received direct from him on the 28th of February.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. JESUP,  
*Commanding the army, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, March 14, 1837.*

Sir : The Chief Engineer has reported to the Secretary of War that the dredgeboat belonging to the Engineer department, and intended to be used in the improvement of the inland pass between the St. Mary's and St. John's rivers, has been removed for the purpose of deepening the channel near lake George. The Secretary now directs that said boat, after effecting the latter object, be returned to its proper position, in good order, without expense to the appropriation for the above-mentioned improvement.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Fort Armstrong, Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, March. 18, 1837*

Sir : Your communication of the 25th February, detailing your recent conference with the Indians, and your contemplated operations, has this day been received, and submitted to the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding at Fort Dade, Florida*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, March 22, 1837.*

Sir : I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your orders numbered from. 5 to 70, of the series issued during the campaign against the Creek Indians in 1836, under cover of Lieutenant Chambers's letter of the 25th of February; and, with the exception of order No. 62, your orders Nos. 60 and 61, and special orders from 19 to 39, inclusive, of the series of the Seminole campaign ; and, also, your communication of the 1st of March, enclosing the letter of Colonel Henderson, in favor of Captain Howle, &c. All of which have been duly submitted to the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jessup,  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Fort Dade.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, March 23, 1837.*

Sir : I have the satisfaction to acknowledge the receipt of your official despatch of the 6th instant, from Fort Dade, announcing the successful termination of the Seminole campaign, together with a copy of the articles of capitulation, by which it is seen that the Indians are immediately to emigrate to the country assigned to them west of the Mississippi, by the treaty of Payne's Landing. The documents have been laid before the General-in-chief, and I congratulate you and the gallant army under your command on the termination of Indian hostilities in Florida. I hope that matters there will soon be settled, and that your companions may speedily return in health and happiness to their families and stations.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jessup  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Fort Dade.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, March 24, 1837.*

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your "orders" numbered from 71 to 90, of the series issued during the campaign against the Creek Indians in 1836, under cover of Lieutenant Chambers's letter of the 5th instant.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding in Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, April 5, 1837.*

Sir : I acknowledge the receipt of your "orders" numbered from 91 to 101, of the series issued during the campaign against the Creek Indians in 1836, under cover of Lieutenant Chambers's letter of the 10th March; and, also, your letter of the 11th of the same month, transmitting the proceedings of a board of officers in relation to the death of Sergeant Edward Silk, late of company H, 6th infantry: which have been duly submitted to the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.

R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Fort Dade.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, April 6, 1837.*

Sir : Your despatch of the 18th March from Fort Dade, with the document therewith, signed by the chief, Micanopy, assenting to the articles of the treaty entered into with the chief of the Seminoles, and in relation to other Indian matters, has been received and submitted to the Secretary of War and General-in-chief. As soon as I am authorized to give a specific answer to your suggestions respecting the officers named for Indian service, &c., it shall be despatched.

I acknowledge also the receipt of your letter of the 16th March enclosing copies of your official letters from the 10th of September to the 6th of October, which shall be placed on the files of the Adjutant General's office.

Two letters from your aid, Lieutenant Chambers, dated 12th and 19th March, respectively, transmitting your special orders from 1 to 71, inclusive, issued in the Creek nation in 1836, and copies of your official letters from the 6th of October to the 7th of November, 1836, were also received by the last mail.

I am, sir, &c.

R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Fort Dade, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, April 10, 1837.*

Sir : The General-in-chief having examined the proceedings of the board of officers ordered to inquire into and ascertain the causes which led to the death of Sergeant Edward Silk, of the 6th infantry, considers it proper to deliver the soldier who caused the death of the sergeant to the civil authority for trial.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

General Jesup;  
*Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, April 15, 1837.*

Sir: The Commissary General of Subsistence having called for an officer for duty in his department at Key West, should the company which has been designated (Brevet Major Childs's, 3d artillery) as a garrison for that station at the close of the campaign be not soon ordered thither, you will in that event please direct one of the subalterns to repair to the station for duty there, as requested by General Gibson.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Major General, Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Fl.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, April 17, 1837.*

Sir : I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 26th March, reporting the arrival of many of the Seminoles at Tampa Bay, &c., which was duly submitted to the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Tampa Bay,*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, April 24, 1837.*

Sir : I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt, on the 22d instant, of the returns of the regular and militia forces respectively under your command, in Florida, according to the strength exhibited on the 28th of February; and copies of your official letters from the 15th January to 6th March, inclusive, under cover of Lieutenant Chambers's letters of the 28th and 31st March. I have also received your letter of the 28th of the same month, reporting an omission in your report of the affair of the 27th January, at the Halchee Lustee, and that of the 29th, with Colonel Henderson's letter of the 29th of March, correcting his report of the 28th January: all of which have been duly submitted to the General-in-chief, and will be placed on the files of this office.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES:

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army, Fort Dade, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, April 26, 1837.*

Sir : On referring to the records, I find that I have omitted to acknowledge the receipt of "orders" from 62 to 71, inclusive, and "special orders" from 40 to 51, inclusive, issued from your headquarters. These were duly received on the 12th instant, and submitted to the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General Jesup,  
*Commanding, c&c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

NOTE. - I have also to acknowledge the receipt of copies of "orders" from your headquarters from 72 to 80, inclusive, and also copies of your official letters between the 6th and 19th March, 1837, under cover of Lieutenant Chambers's letter of the 1st instant.

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, May 10, 1837.*

Sir : Your letter of the 23d April, transmitting a paper concerning the

refusal of the Florida volunteers to obey their commander, with a request that it be placed on file in this office, has been received.

This has been done, and the letter on Indian affairs submitted to the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jessup  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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ADJUTANTS GENERALS OFFICE,  
*Washington, May 20, 1837*

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt from your headquarters of "orders" No. 81 to 99, inclusive; also, "special orders" from 52 to 68; copies of letters from the 3d to the 24th of April, inclusive ; and sundry courts-martial proceedings in cases of soldiers in Alabama and Florida.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jessup,  
*Commanding the army, &c., Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE  
*Washington, May 31, 1837*

Sir : I acknowledge your communication of the 8th instant, (received at the office during a temporary absence,) which reports that Powell and other Seminole chiefs had surrendered at Fort Mellon, and were soon expected to arrive at Tampa Bay. With reference to your very just remarks relative to absent officers, I may here repeat what I had occasion to say to Governor Call in my letter of the 25th of July, 1836, which, in substance, is : That it would be seen the subject had not been overlooked in this office ; that I had frequently taken special care to well inform the proper authorities of the great deficiency of officers for duty in the field, &c. ; and that other public interests besides the army being, it was said, entitled also to consideration, I did not see that the evil was likely soon to be remedied, severely as it was felt, and as often as it had been complained of, by the comparatively few officers serving with the troops and the commanders in the field, &c. No officer, not serving in the field, more sensibly feels, in the execution of his official duties, the inconvenience, and no one more deeply regrets the continuance, of a system which abstracts so large a portion of officers from duty with their companions, than I do ; and the records abundantly show the reiterated efforts and measures which have been attempted at this office

to afford service in the line the requisite relief. But I have recently been forced to come to the conclusion that these efforts are of little or no avail, and that it would be even more agreeable to my superiors that I should desist from a repetition of them. I have, therefore, considered it most proper on my part to say nothing more touching the subject of absent officers, or as respects the mode of applying for and making the selections, (I cannot call it details.) when called for and ordered on detached service. All that the Adjutant General can now do, as to your request touching the subject of absent officers, is to repeat to you what, on a like occasion, I informed Colonel Lindsay in my letter of the 22d May, 1835, to wit: "and all I can do in this instance is, to lay your letter before the General-in-chief," &c. On this occasion I would respectfully refer you to my communication on the same subject, dated 10th August, 1836.

As respects the short leave of absence (three months) granted to Captain Mallory, on the tender of his resignation, when he solicited a much greater period of indulgence, there was no knowledge at general headquarters that he had given any assurance of his immediate exit from the service ; and it being seen that he withdrew from the army on the surgeon's certificate of disability, and, moreover, as he had long and faithfully served in the army, the three months' leave granted him was deemed to be only reasonable. Should he not proceed to join his company at its expiration, of course his resignation must take effect.

I respectfully request your attention to the condition of Captain Van Ness's *company* (H) of the *1st artillery*. The colonel (General Eustis) reports that, in consequence of the failure of the company commander (if any there be) to forward the company monthly returns, he has been unable to complete the monthly regimental returns ; and this is the case with all his returns received since, and inclusive of, December last. I will, therefore, thank you to take the proper measures which may ensure the transmittal to this office, and to the headquarters of the regiment, proper returns of the company for each month respectively, inclusive of December, 1836, to supply the present deficiencies in the records.

I am, sir, &c  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Fort Dade.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, June 2, 1837,*

Sir : I acknowledge the receipt of the continuation of the series of your "*orders*" and "*special orders*," from No. 100 to 106 of the former, and from 69 to 72, inclusive, of the latter.

Also, copies of your official letters, inclusive of the 13th and 15th of May; also, sundry letters and papers setting forth the reasons for granting leaves of absence to the following-named officers, to wit : Lieutenant Colonel *Crane*, Lieutenant Colonel *Foster*, Lieutenant Colonel *Fanning*; Captains *Lyon*, *Hutter*, *Mallory*, *Demick*; Lieutenants *Dusenbury*, *Kennedy*, *Rose*, *Allen*, *Donaldson*; Doctor *Martin* and Lieutenant *Maddox*, of the Washington volunteers: all of which have been laid before the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. JESUP,  
*Commanding the army, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, June 8, 1837,*

GENERAL: The resignation of Lieutenant R. C. Smead, 4th artillery, dated, Fort Call, Florida, May 6, having been forwarded by your direction, under cover of Aid-de-camp Chambers's communication of May 12; and the same having been accepted and subsequently revoked, I enclose, herewith, for your information, copies of the official letters written upon the subject.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Bvt. Major Gen. T. S. Jessup,  
*Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, June 8, 1837.*

GENERAL : Your communications, under date of the 5th and 17th ultimo, in relation to the scarcity of field and medical officers under your command, and the tardy movements of the Indians, were both received on the 5th instant, and have been submitted to the General-in-Chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Bvt. Major Gen. T. S. Jessup,  
*Commanding army, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, June 10, 1837.*

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge copies of sundry official letters, dated from the 5th to the 28th of June, 1836, inclusive, (relating to your late Creek operations in Georgia and Alabama,) which were received on the 7th, under cover of your communications of the 20th and 21st ultimo, and have been placed on file.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major Gen. Jessup,  
*Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, June 17, 1837.*

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge copies of sundry official letters, dated from the 30th June to 9th July, 1836, inclusive, (Creek campaign;) and also copies of your correspondence, dated from the 15th to the 25th May, 1837, inclusive, with copies of orders from No. 107 to 112, inclusive, received on the 15th instant: all of which have been laid before the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major Gen. T. S. JESUP,  
*Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

NOTE, - Your communication of the 23d of May, enclosing the report of Major Wilson, has this day been received and submitted.

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, June 19, 1837.*

Sir: Your communication of the 5th instant, reporting that the Seminole Indians had failed to emigrate to the West, and that the campaign has terminated for the season, has been submitted to the Secretary of War and General-in-chief. In expressing the regret which is felt by us all, on receiving this intelligence of the bad faith of the Seminoles, I feel assured, general, that your indefatigable exertions, the proper measures adopted and zealously pursued by you, deserved the successful issue heretofore expected and hoped for.

I shall, agreeably to your request, remind the Secretary and General-in-chief

of your desire to be relieved from the command.

I am, general, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major Gen. T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Fort Brooke.*

NOTE, - Please send me consolidated returns of the army.

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, July 1, 1837.*

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge copies of sundry of your official letters, dated from the 10th of July to the 17th of August, 1836, inclusive, (Creek campaign;) copies of "orders" from No. 113 to 115, "special orders" from No. 73 to 78, present series, inclusive; and your communication of the 5th June, transmitting the application of Major Thompson for leave of absence: all of which have been laid before the General-in-chief

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major Gen. T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army, Florida, Tampa Bay.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, July 11, 1837.*

Sir: Your letter of the 17th of June, reporting your intended movements, and suggesting the needful preparations for the service in Florida, &c., was received on the 5th of July, during my temporary absence from the office. On laying the same before the General-in-chief, and conversing with him upon the various topics mentioned, I perceive that it had already been before him, and been answered in his own proper name on the 6th instant.

I am, sir, &c.  
R, JONES.

Major Gen. T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Black Creek, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, July 14, 1837.*

Sir: I have the pleasure to acknowledge, under cover of your letter of the 22d ultimo, copies of your official correspondence during the Creek campaign, elated from the 17th to the 29th of August, 1837, inclusive, which have been placed on the files of the office.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major Gen. T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, July 15, 1837.*

Sir: Captain Crossman this morning informed me that you had not received a copy of the Revised Regulations for the army. The object of this is to state, that at the time they were issued a supply sufficient for the several officers of the Quartermaster General's department. was furnished to the acting Quartermaster General, with a view to their direction and distribution; but it seems, on inquiry, that the copy designed for you was not forwarded. You will please to keep the copy which Captain Crossman says he left in your possession, he having been supplied with another from this office.

Copies of the Regulations for many officers in Florida are yet retained in this office, lest they may not reach their destination. They are only forwarded from time to time, as I am assured of the officers' posts.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major Gen. T. S. Jesup,  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

NOTE, - I, however, had been under the impression that you had been furnished direct from this office, as a commanding general in the field, and knew not to the contrary until this morning. R. J.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, July 21, 1837.*

Sir: Your communication of the 10th instant, on the subject of the reduced strength of the companies serving in Florida, and of the want of recruits to fill them, has this day been received; and I am happy to inform you that efficient measures have some time since been adopted, which it is believed will ensure an adequate supply for the several regiments that may take the field in October, should hostilities against the Seminoles be then renewed. The concentration and instruction of recruits at Fort Monroe, as you will have seen by "general order" No. 43, dated 24<sup>th</sup>. June, 1837, has direct reference to the Florida service. Already there are near 500 men assembled, and in a few weeks more there will not be less than 1,000, and probably by the

middle of September more than 1,500. At the date of "general order" No. 39, (June 13, the order countermanded by No. 43,) there was every reason to believe that the war in Florida was certainly at an end; and hence it was then deemed inexpedient to order recruits thither at such a season, when most of the regiments there were expected soon to be withdrawn and remanded to their permanent stations.

Should you deem it necessary to fill the ranks of any particular companies quartered at comparatively salubrious stations, earlier than October, your wishes, on being communicated, would doubtless be complied with. I mention this, that you may be apprised of the intention of the Department not to order the recruits to Florida at an earlier day than would be necessary to resume your military operations in the autumn; and which may also supersede the necessity of consolidating companies, as suggested in your communication ; which measure, the General-in-chief would prefer should not be adopted whenever avoidable .

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major Gen. T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., St. Augustine, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, August 12, 1837.*

Sir: I acknowledge the receipt, at this office, on the 24th ultimo, of copies of your official correspondence, from the 27th of May to the 15th of June, and from the 15th to the 25th of June ; and, on the 2d instant, further copies of the same, from the 20th of June to the 24th of July; also, on the 2d instant, copies of "orders" No. 126 to No. 141; and, on the 5th instant, orders from No. 142 to No 153, and. special No. 87 to 97.

With respect to the transmittal of copies of your orders and special orders, I respectfully request that, whenever practicable, these may be forwarded within a day or two after their respective dates; as the official information thus communicated, touching the disposition of troops, and the movement and change of station of the officers, is often very useful, and sometimes important to be known at general headquarters at the shortest interval after the issuing of such orders.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Tampa Bay, Florida.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, August 19, 1837.*

Sir : Your communications, respectively dated the 24th, 25th, and 26th July, have been received, and duly submitted to the Secretary of War; and will be laid before the General-in-chief on his return to headquarters. Your suggestions relative to the recruiting service have been attended to, by giving the necessary instructions to establish additional rendezvous in the country, including two or three to be opened in the upper part of the States of North and South Carolina. The pressure of the times, to which you advert, is but little felt, if any, in the interior; and we find that our success in obtaining recruits is, for the most part, confined to the large cities and parts of the country thickly populated in manufacturing districts. The selections you propose, to fill up Captain Ringgold's company, I think can be best made on the arrival of any body of recruits in that section of Florida in which the captain, with his company, may be serving.

You will please to give the necessary orders. We have about one thousand recruits under instructions at Fort Monroe.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, August 21, 1837.*

Sir : I have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 2d instant, enclosing the copy of a report from Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfild, of the Alabama volunteers, dated July 15, 1837, and copy of a letter from Captain L. H. Galt, dated July 24, 1837 ; all of which have been submitted to the General-in-chief.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, August 24, 1837.*

Sir : Your several communications from Garey's Ferry, respectively dated the 6th, (two,) 7th, and 13th instant, with the accompanying documents, have

been duly received, and submitted to the General-in-chief. With regard to the establishment of clothing depots in Florida, I have the pleasure to say that the subject has been anticipated, and your wishes fully met, as you will see by general orders No. 52, dated 16th instant, a duplicate of which is herewith respectfully transmitted.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, September 1, 1837.*

Sir: Your letter of the 28th July, in relation to the accounts of Lieutenant George Watson, 1st artillery, acting commissary of subsistence, with his accompanying explanatory communication, has been received, and referred to the Commissary General of Subsistence, who states that the explanations are perfectly satisfactory. The order of July 5th, directing him to be relieved, is accordingly considered as revoked.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES. Major

General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding, &c., Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*Washington, September 6, 1837.*

GENERAL : The proceedings of the general court-martial in the case of private *Robert Hayland*, 2cl regiment dragoons, received under cover of your communication of the 31st July, have been submitted to the General-in-chief and Secretary of War.

The proceedings are herewith, by direction of the Secretary of War, respectfully returned; who recommends that the court may be reconvened, and its findings and sentence be reconsidered, as these are deemed to be inconsistent with the law. If the court were of the opinion that the prisoner ought to suffer death, it would seem that he should have been convicted of the crime as specified in the charge, since the sentence pronounced in the case does not appear to be sanctioned by the 7th article of the Rules and Articles of War, in which are not to be found the words "*mutinous conduct*;" the modified crime substituted by the court in its findings for the charge of "mutiny." But, if the court persist in its findings, then the punishment to be awarded in the case should only equal the measure of the crime so modified.

The case appears to be an aggravated one, and the discipline and the good of the service require that such an offender should not escape the just punishment his high demerit would seem to demand. It is not a little surprising that the court should have awarded the highest punishment known to our military code, while it would not admit that the prisoner had been guilty of a crime of the highest order.

I am, sir, &c.  
R. JONES

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding the army in Florida, Garey's Ferry.*

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*Copies of letters from the Secretary of War to Major General Thomas S. Jesup, in relation to the Florida war, from November 4, 1836, to October 4, 1837, inclusive.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, November 4, 1836.

Sir. Before this communication reaches you, you will have become fully acquainted with the retrograde movements of Governor Call, and the other events connected therewith, which have recently occurred in Florida. These circumstances have, for a time, suspended offensive operations ; and, from the feeble state of Governor Call's health, it is to be feared that he will not be able to prosecute the campaign, when resumed, with that promptitude and energy which the crisis demands. The President has therefore determined to commit to you the command of the army serving in Florida, and the general direction of the war against the Seminoles.

Yon will accordingly, on the receipt of this communication, should you then be at Governor Call's headquarters, (and, if not, so soon as you can reach there, or can communicate with him.) assume the command of all the forces in the Territory.

The hostile Indians having been discovered in considerable force on the banks of the Withlacoochee, audit having been also ascertained that their principal camps and settlements are situated on the south side of that river, you will immediately make all suitable arrangements for a vigorous attack upon their strongholds, and for penetrating and occupying the whole country between the Withlacoochee and Tampa Bay. With a view to this end, you will first establish posts at or near the mouth of the Withlacoochee, at Fort King, and at Volusia ; and you will take the proper measures for securing, through them, the safety of the frontier. You will, also, through the same posts, and by such means of transportation as may be most certain and economical, make permanent arrangements for procuring sufficient and regular supplies. So soon as those dispositions shall be completed, yon will concentrate all your disposable forces, and proceed, without delay, to cross the Withlacoochee, and to possess yourself of the positions now occupied by the Indians ; attacking and routing them in their strongholds, and scouring

the whole country between the Withlacoochee and Tampa Bay.

Should you succeed in bringing the Indians to a general engagement, and in defeating them therein, the ready submission of the tribe may probably be expected. If, however, they should abandon their present position on the Withlacoochee before you reach it, or you should drive them from it, without entirely subduing them, you will then take such advanced positions to the south of Volusia, and to the east and south of Tampa Bay, as the nature of the country may admit, and push from them such further operations as may be necessary to the most speedy and effectual subjugation of the enemy.

The above direction to attack the enemy in his strongholds; and to possess yourself of the country between the Withlacoochee and Tampa Bay, you will regard as a positive order, to be executed at the earliest practicable moment. In other respects, you will exercise a sound discretion, and will adopt such measures as you may deem best calculated to protect the frontiers, and to effect the subjugation and removal of the Indians.

Great confidence being reposed in your prudence, energy, and skill, it is deemed unnecessary to urge you to promptitude or activity, or to impress on you the importance of early and frequent communications.

B. F. BUTLER.

P. S. Since preparing the foregoing despatch, your letters to the Adjutant General, of the 16th and 17th ultimo, announcing your arrival at Tampa Bay, and your intended departure on the 18th, with three companies of artillery, to the mouth of the Withlacoochee, in order to join the Indian warriors at that place, have reached here. These despatches, though they excite some apprehensions as to the safety of your detachment, do not make it necessary to alter the above. I have also just received, and enclose for your perusal and consideration, a memorandum from the acting Quartermaster General, prepared in reply to certain inquiries made by me, in respect to the best mode of transporting supplies, &c. in Florida. The President concurs, in general, in the views stated in this pt1.per, and it may, perhaps, furnish some suggestions which may be of service to you hereafter.

B. F. BUTLER,  
*Secretary of War ad interim,*

Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*United States army, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *November 5, 1836.*

Sir: I have the honor to enclose duplicates of a despatch, and accompanying paper, transmitted to you yesterday via Charleston, Black creek, and the headquarters of General Call.

Learning, by a communication this day received by the acting Quartermaster General, that, in consequence of the state of affairs referred to in the enclosed, you had repaired to St. Mark's, Captain Canfield, the bearer hereof, has been directed to proceed express to that. post, for the purpose of giving you the earliest information of the duties assigned to you.

All needful measures, in regard to supplies, officers, and surgeons, within the control of this Department, have already been taken in compliance with, or in anticipation of, your various suggestions on those subjects.

B. F. BUTLER,  
*Secretary of War ad interim*

Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*St. Mark's, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 4, 1837.*

Sir: I have the honor herewith to transmit to you a printed copy of the documents accompanying the President's message, among which you will find the annual report from this Department. In that document you will perceive that I have recommended an increase of the pay of all officers below the grade of colonel. My attention had been called to the subject before I had the honor to receive your communication of the 31st of October, enclosing the letter from the officers of the army under your command ; but the representations in those papers had justly much influence in determining me to bring the matter before the President and the Legislature.

The suggestion, as to the justice of granting a land bounty to all the officers and men who shall have served in Florida, meets my entire concurrence ; but, as such a proposal will be much more likely to pass after the conclusion of the war than at the present session, I deem it most useful to all concerned not to propose it now.

The request for a modification of general order No. 58 will receive due consideration, and the result will be communicated to yourself.

B. F. BUTLER.

Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Volusia, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *January 4, 1837.*

Sir: Your letter of the 5th ultimo, announcing your arrival at Volusia, and your receipt of a copy of the instructions of this Department of the 4th November last, was not received until the 30th ultimo. I had, however,

previously received your letters of the 9th and 12th ultimo, and by them had been informed of your arrival at Volusia, and your assumption of the command of the army.

As an act of justice to Governor Call, as well as to yourself, I have caused several extracts from those parts of your letters in which you speak of the great difficulties encountered by him, and of those with which you are obliged to contend, to be inserted in the Globe newspaper.

I have also the honor, on the present occasion, to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of October 23d and November 6th; the first received on the 11th and the last on the 29th of November.

The instructions of this Department of the 4th November, and the measures subsequently taken, and of which the Adjutant General has kept you advised, will probably have met, so far as was necessary, the various points embraced in these, and in your subsequent communications.

The instructions of the 4th of November were prepared on the supposition that they might reach you, and that you might assume the command before the resumption of the campaign, and whilst the enemy might be yet intrenched in the cove of the Withlacoochee. In that state of things, it was believed that the establishment of posts at Fort King and Volusia, as well as at the mouth of the Withlacoochee, would be found indispensable to operations on that river ; but it was not intended to make the order, in respect to those posts, a positive one, nor to require their continuance after they should cease to be required by the necessities of the service. You will therefore, hereafter, exercise your own judgment in relation to these and to other posts; and, whilst you will adhere, in general, to the plan of operations indicated in the letter of the 4th November, you will consider yourself at liberty to adopt such measures, and to pursue such course in the execution of them, as the means at your disposal may allow, and as you may deem most likely to accomplish the objects of the campaign.

B. F. BUTLER.

Major General Thomas S. Jesup.  
*Volusia, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 11, 1837.*

Sir : I had the honor on the 8th instant to receive your letters of the 19th and 21st ultimo. Those of the 23d of December were received on the 16th ultimo, and published for the information of Congress and the nation. This has also been done with several letters, or parts of letters, since received; and, with proper limitations, this course seemed necessary to meet the public solicitude.

Your determination, in respect to those companies of the 6th infantry

which have arrived in Florida, is entirely approved; and you will retain them and any others of the same regiment who may reach Florida, so long as you shall desire their services in that quarter.

The cutting off and capturing of so many small parties of the Indians and negroes must have the effect immediately to weaken, and ultimately to subdue them; and, in that view, your recent operations are regarded as highly important.

B. F. BUTLER.

Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *February 22, 1837.*

Sir : Your letter of the 7th instant, announcing the success of your expedition to the head of the Coloosahatchie, was this day received; and I hasten to express to you the gratification which its contents have given to the President and the Department.

I had the honor, in my letter of the 11th instant, to give the assent of the Department to your retaining those companies of the 6th infantry which have reached, or may reach, Florida, so long as you may desire them; and I believe the Adjutant General had made the like communication a day or two before.

B. F. BUTLER,  
*Secretary of War ad*

*interim.*

Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 11, 1837.*

Sir : Your several letters of the 17th, 20th, and 22d ultimo, were received on the 9th instant.

Should the arrangements in progress with the hostile Seminoles fail of being carried into effect, the attention of the Department will, of course, be given promptly to the measures which shall then be necessary, and which you may suggest, for the further prosecution of the war.

On Monday next I shall retire from the temporary care of the Department; but, before my connexion with it terminates, I desire to make known to you

the high sense entertained by the late President and myself of the indefatigable zeal and the great promptitude and skill with which you have devoted yourself to the arduous duties of your command. Having, as one of my first official acts, directed you to assume that responsibility, and having since, from time to time, given much of my attention to your movements, and repeatedly conferred with the Executive thereon, I feel it my duty to place this testimonial on the records of the Department.

I take pleasure in communicating, with it, my best wishes for your success as a commander, and for your personal happiness and renown.

B. F. BUTLER,  
*Secretary of War ad interim*

Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 20, 1837.*

Sir : It is of great importance that this Department should have as accurate a knowledge as possible of the topography of Florida, and particularly of the seat of war in that Territory ; and I have therefore to request that you will furnish me, at as early a day as your other important duties will permit, all the information on this subject in your possession, and which you can conveniently obtain.

J. R. POINSETT,  
*Secretary of War*

Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Fort Dade, Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 20, 1837.*

Sir: Your letter of the 25th of February has been received, and I am gratified to learn that you entertain hopes of soon terminating, by negotiation, this protracted and distressing war. I am glad, however, to find that you have not relaxed your exertions to prepare for a renewal of hostilities, provided negotiations should unfortunately fail. If you have to move your forces once more against the Indians, I should recommend that you take early measures to select positions where the troops may be posted during the rainy and summer months. In this selection, you will have due regard to the health of the posts, the facility of receiving regular supplies, and the means of restraining the Indians within the limits to which they have been driven. If hostilities are renewed, I have no doubt you will use every exertion to bring the war to a successful termination: but prudence dictates that every measure of prevention should be taken to place the troops in advantageous and healthy situations for the summer, in the event of the war being prolonged beyond that period.

J. R. POINSETT.

Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Fort Dade, Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *March 27, 1837.*

Sir : I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 7th instant, respecting the further continuance of the regiment of Creek warriors in the service of the United States. The reasons given by you for adopting this measure are entirely satisfactory, and the Department therefore approves it, and will carry into effect the assurances which you have given those Indians respecting their subsistence after their arrival at their new homes in the West.

J. R. POINSETT.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Fort Dade, Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 6, 1837.*

Sir : I had the honor to receive your letter of the 9th of April, conveying the pleasing intelligence that the war in Florida is over, unless renewed by the imprudence and violence of the white inhabitants of that Territory. From such a danger it is believed that your prudence and firmness will preserve the country.

Your distribution of the forces which are judged necessary to be retained in Florida for the purpose of protecting the frontier inhabitants, and your intention to withdraw others from posts deemed unhealthy early in the month of June, are approved. ·

J. R. POINSETT.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 17, 1837.*

Sir: Paymaster Andrews has reported himself at this Department, and given important information concerning the state of the troops in Florida. From the severe duty which has been imposed on the troops in Florida, and their sufferings under circumstances of peculiar privation, in a climate little congenial to the health of most of them, I feel much concerned in their behalf, with a disposition to afford them every relief consistent with a just

regard to the service; as I feel assured that every portion of the army serving in that quarter has done its duty most faithfully, and is deserving of the kindest treatment.

Instead, therefore, of ordering the regiments of artillery to the Sabine, as directed, you will, as soon as circumstances will permit, allow the 1st, 2d, and 4th regiments to repair to the posts assigned them in general order No. 58 of last year; where, it is hoped, they will find repose and be able to recruit their strength. The 3d regiment of artillery, which is destined to garrison the posts from Savannah to the Mississippi, you will order to Fort Mitchell, it being a healthy place; or, should the whole of the regiment not be required for duty at that place, during the unhealthy season it may be distributed among the healthy stations assigned it in general order No. 58, to wit: St. Augustine and Forts Pickens and Morgan.

In communicating to you this mode of relief to the troops, it is not intended to interfere with any arrangements you may have made, or may think of making, for the security of the country or the property belonging to the Government ; but it is intended to convey to you an expression of my satisfaction with the conduct of the troops, and to evince to them, through you, the disposition which the Department feels to relieve them as early as possible from the hardships and sufferings which they have so nobly sustained in the prosecution of the war against the Seminoles.

With a view of alleviating, as far as in my power, the burdens imposed on commandants of posts in Florida, I have directed that double rations be allowed to the commanding officers of Fort Harlee, Fort Crane, Fort Clinch, Fort King, Fort Armstrong, Fort Dade, Fort Foster, Fort Hillsboro, Fort Volusia, and Fort Mellon : this allowance to take effect from the time those posts were established, and to be continued until their evacuation. The other posts have been provided for by the order of the 21st of June last.

In sending the troops to their stations, as herein indicated, a due regard should be had to their present positions, in order to relieve them as much as possible from marching through an unhealthy country at this season of the year.

J. R. POINSETT.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

P. S. I have to request that the brigade of militia under General Hernandez, and such of the volunteers in the Territory of Florida as are not, in your opinion, necessary to ensure the peace and safety of the Territory, be forthwith discharged.

J. R. POINSETT.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 17, 1837,*

Sir : I have to request that you will instruct the officers of the subsistence department in Florida to continue, till the 1st of October next, the issue of rations to such of the suffering inhabitants of that Territory as may, in their opinion, and in that of the commanding officers of the different posts, be fit objects of the bounty of the Government.

J. R. POINSETT.

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 25, 1837.*

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 8th instant, with its enclosures.

I concur entirely in the opinion you have expressed, that the claim presented by Mr. Gould, as the attorney of Josiah Dupont's heirs, is embraced by the provisions of the sixth article of the treaty with the Seminoles of May 9, 1832, The parties must be aware of this, as it appears from a report received from General Thompson, in 1835, that they presented to him evidence in support of it, which he transmitted to this Department. This report will be soon acted upon ; and when the Department is in possession of all the claims, and necessary information, the sum stipulated to be paid will be paid in such manner as the aggregate amount of them may render necessary.

You can communicate these views to the persons interested, with an assurance that no measure taken now, in relation to their slaves or negroes, will affect injuriously any just claim against the Seminoles. But, at the same time, the Government cannot permit a discussion of individual rights to interfere with a prompt and peaceable removal of these Indians.

J. R. POINSETT.

Major Gen. Thomas S. Jesup  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *May 25, 1837.*

Sir : I have received your letter of the 8th instant, and have read with interest the copy of Colonel Harney's despatch enclosed by you.

In order that the present gratifying prospect of a speedy termination of the difficulties in Florida may not be marred, the Department advises that you

continue to exercise great vigilance in protecting the Indians from all violence, both from the troops and the citizens; and that you take all proper measures to prevent any officious interference from any quarter with your operations.

The attacks upon your course of conduct, to which you allude, are not worthy of your notice ; and it is hoped that you will steadily proceed in the execution of your important duties, without regard to them, and rely upon the support of the people, and the approbation of the Department, to sustain you in your efforts to put an end to the war, and to send the Indians speedily and peaceably to their new homes.

J. R. POINSETT.

Major Gen. Thomas S. Jesup  
*Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *July 25, 1837.*

Sir : As you have in several of your letter expressed an opinion of the impossibility of removing the Seminoles, and a doubt of the policy and propriety of persevering in that measure, it becomes necessary to explain to you the views of the Executive on that subject. It is true that the Seminoles dwell in an inhospitable and deadly climate, and occupy inaccessible swamps and morasses, which are not susceptible of cultivation or improvement by the whites. Still, their further continuance there was found to be incompatible with the peace and security of the citizens of the United States who inhabit Florida, as well as with their own preservation and independence ; it became, therefore, the duty of the Government to carry out the same policy with regard to the Seminoles, which it had adopted in its treatment of the other Indian tribes east of the Mississippi - remove them to the abundant and fertile country beyond that river; or to withdraw the settlers from East Florida, and protect the western part of that Territory by s cordon of posts and troops. Every consideration of sound policy required them to adopt the former alternative ; and, in pursuance of this decision, the treaty of Payne's Landing was concluded. Three years were allowed the Indians to prepare for their removal ; and this term was further extended, and every indulgence that they asked promptly and kindly granted, until it was made manifest that they did not intend to fulfil their treaty obligations, and it became the imperative duty of the Executive to compel them to do so. As soon as this determination of the Government was made known to them, they broke out into open hostility ; and, taking advantage of the unprotected state of the frontier, carried fire and sword into the white settlements, committing the most horrible cruelties and excesses. It is true that in the contest which ensued they have displayed, in an eminent degree, the savage virtues of constancy and courage ; and that, aided by the climate, and the nature of the country, they have so far successfully defended themselves against superior forces, directed by brave and skilful officers; but the conduct and courage of the enemy do not alter the nature of the war, nor diminish our obligation to subdue them, and to compel them to fulfil their engagements. To abandon the settled policy of

the Government because the Seminoles have proved themselves to be good warriors, and rely for the protection of our frontiers upon the faith of treaties with a people who have given such repeated proofs of treachery, would be unwise and impolitic. We cannot desist from prosecuting this war until the Seminoles consent to remove from Florida, without an abandonment of the only measures which can preserve the independence, and even existence, of the Indian tribes, and inviting the resistance of all those who now remain east of the Mississippi, To withdraw our forces now, would betray great weakness, and not only tarnish the honor of our arms, but violate the sacred obligations of the Government of the United States to protect the persons and property of the citizens of Florida from the savage aggressions of the Indians. I am persuaded that this obligation can be fulfilled without seeking to exterminate the Seminoles, and am gratified to find, that, after having had time for further examination and reflection, you coincide in this opinion. In consequence of the earnest desire expressed in your letter to the Adjutant General, of the 5th of June last, to be relieved from the command of the army of Florida, this Department assented to your wishes ; and you were informed that you might withdraw from the army, and return to your appropriate duties at Washington, provided, on the receipt of that permission, you still desired to do so. The, uncertainty of your retaining the command, rendered it unnecessary to correspond with you on the subject of the preparations for the next campaign; but finding, from your letter of the 8th of July, to the Commanding General of the army of the United States, that you are now desirous to remain and conduct the next campaign, which you believe may be done in a manner to ensure success, I will enter into the subject fully, and inform you of the measures which have been taken here already, and of those which it is deemed advisable to adopt, as well in the prosecution of the preparations for opening the campaign, as for the conduct of the war. In giving the views of the Department on this subject, it is not meant to confine your operations in the field, but merely to point out the general principles on which those ought to be conducted, leaving all the details to your own sound discretion; which, aided by the knowledge you have lately acquired of the country, will lead, no doubt, to the realization of your hopes, and the successful termination of this disastrous war.

The recruiting service has been very successful, and the regiments serving and to serve in Florida will have their full complement; and it is intended to ask authority from Congress, in September, to increase the companies to one hundred men ; so that there will be sufficient time to carry out that measure before the period arrives for opening the campaign. With the present establishment, by sending the whole of the first infantry, four companies of the second infantry, three companies of the second regiment of dragoons, and a sufficient number of recruits to fill the companies to their establishment, there will then be thirty-six companies of artillery of fifty each, making one thousand eight hundred; thirty-two companies of infantry of fifty each, one thousand six hundred ; and ten companies of dragoons of seventy each, seven hundred ; making in all four thousand one hundred men, which will be in Florida by October next : and if the contemplated measure of augmenting the army meets with the approbation of Congress, the companies can be increased, and the army of Florida carried up to seven thousand five hundred men. Measures have been taken to obtain the Indian force you have recommended, and it is hoped that one thousand warriors will be at Tampa

in time to co-operate with the regulars at the commencement of the campaign: say two hundred Delawares, four hundred Shawnees, one hundred Sacs and Foxes, one hundred Kickapoos, and two hundred Choctaws; making, in all, one thousand warriors. With respect to the militia, it would appear preferable to have them brought into the field from different sections of the country, in companies, and not to organize them into separate regiments, but attach them as light infantry companies to those already organized. The staff of the militia is exceedingly expensive and cumbrous, and might very well be dispensed with. It is thought totally inexpedient to employ mounted militia on this service. Experience has proved that description of force to be more expensive than efficient, and I will place under your command as many companies of the 2d regiment of cavalry as you may deem requisite.

Your suggestion with regard to the usefulness of spy companies meets the approbation of the Department, and has been already acted upon. Measures have been taken to engage the class of people designated, and, on your part, you may adopt such as you think proper to increase this description of force.

Measures are being adopted for establishing rapid and certain communications between this Department and the seat of war. A line of steam packets is already in successful operation between Washington and Charleston, leaving this place on Friday and reaching Charleston on the following Monday; when a sea steamer may be despatched to the St. John's, and return in time for the departure of the packet on the following Friday. This vessel reaches Washington again on Monday, so that ten days will suffice to communicate with the forces under your command. It is proposed to make Jacksonville the principal depot for the operations on the eastern side of the peninsula; and you will give immediate orders for the erection of sufficient storehouses for that purpose, sending a competent officer to make a judicious selection of the site, which ought, if possible, to be on the river bank, so as to avoid the expense and delay of land transportation. From this point, forage, provisions, and all things required for the use of the army, can be conveyed by steamers to any place on the St. John's where they may be wanted, to the nearest and most commodious point whence to commence land-carriage. In order to ensure the success of these operations, it will be necessary to engage the requisite number of steamboats for this service; and the Department desires to be folly informed on that subject, in order that it may decide whether to continue the contract or to purchase boats. And here it may be well to remark, that sea vessels ought to be employed for transportation between New Orleans and Tampa, and between the Eastern ports and Jacksonville, and the use of steamers confined to the rivers. It will be well to have on the eastern and western rivers, in addition to the barges which you already have, a number of flat-bottomed boats to push up the shallow streams, and to serve for lighters in the event of the steamers grounding.

Whatever land transportation you may require will be furnished by the proper department. Light two-horse wagons, drawn by mules, are the best. And here let me advise you not to burden yourself with too many horses, either for cavalry or transportation; it is extremely difficult to subsist them in the country you are to operate in, and, when too numerous, instead of facilitating, they retard the movements of an army. I observe in the plan of campaign submitted to the Department, in your letter of 15th of June, you call for

nine hundred and fifty calvary : this appears to be too great a number to subsist in Florida, but, if they are deemed essentially necessary, they shall be furnished of regulars. The immense loss of horses by the militia, and the enormous expense incurred by the employment of that description of troops, have determined the Department rather to bring into the field the whole disposable. force of regular calvary, than to make any draughts for mounted volunteers.

In the entire absence of topographical knowledge of the country which is the theatre of your operations, I cannot give an opinion of the plan of campaign you propose to follow. It has appeared to me that, hitherto, the base of your operations has been confined too much to a line parallel to the coast, and that, if the nature of the country would permit, it might be better to establish it across the peninsula; but of this I will defer a positive opinion until I receive copies of the results of the several *reconnoissances* you have caused lately to be made. I beg that you will communicate frequently with the Department, and as much as possible in detail, so that there may be no defect nor tardiness in sending forward the supplies you may require, or otherwise co-operating with you in making the necessary arrangements and preparations for a vigorous prosecution of the campaign, as soon as the season will permit it to be commenced without risk to the troops.

The period ought to be determined by experience of the climate. In all our Southern countries with which I am acquainted, the fall of the year is the most sickly; and to commence active operations in the lower parts of Carolina or Georgia before the 1st November, unless there should be a frost earlier in the season, would be attended with certain disease, and occasion the destruction of one-half of the army. If the troops are assembled in October, it appears to me tune enough; but I will be glad to hear further from you on that subject.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Commanding in Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, August 1, 1837.

Sir: I enclose for your information copies of instructions that have been issued, in reference to the employment of an Indian force during the next campaign in Florida.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Maj. Gen. Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

Sir: The attention of the Department has been called to the subject of the aid afforded by Government to suffering inhabitants of Florida, by a late letter received by the Quartermaster General from Lieutenant Vinton, informing him that another steamboat has been employed to transport subsistence, on the requisition of Governor Call, who alleges that the one now on that service (the Iazard) is not sufficient to supply the suffering inhabitants assembled at St. Mark's, You were informed, by a letter of May the 17th, that the President had resolved to continue the distribution of rations to the inhabitants who were unable to maintain themselves until the 1st of October next, and by that intimation it was intended to convey his intention that these supplies should cease at that time. The object of Congress would appear to have been to succor the immediate wants of a people who had been suddenly driven from their homes and deprived of the means of supporting themselves; not to continue during the whole war to maintain them gratuitously, thereby withdrawing all motive for exertion on the part of those who might otherwise find means to maintain themselves. Cases may present themselves of the aged and infirm, the widow and the orphan, wherein you may be called upon to exercise a sound discretion, as you are hereby authorized to do; but, on the 1st of October, the present system of dealing out rations to the suffering inhabitants of Florida generally, as now practised, must cease; and as early notice as possible ought to be given of this determination of the President.

That none may suffer under this decision, you will give employment to those who are in want of it; and it is supposed that the various branches of the service, especially the establishment of stores, posts, and good communications throughout the country, will enable you to do so. Apart from the pernicious moral influence of an indefinite continuance of such a system, the success of the campaign will be jeopardized by it. If the steamboats and wagon-train, and other transportation intended for the service of the army, may be called off at any time from their legitimate and necessary uses, to convey these supplies, the Commanding General cannot be certain of receiving with punctuality and despatch those intended for the troops. And if the subsistence destined for the army is to be consumed irregularly by the requisitions from officers whose duty it has been to obtain the rations heretofore distributed to the inhabitants, the commissary's department cannot answer for the result. The supply must, either way, far exceed the regular demand, which is attended, as experience proves, with great waste of the public stores; or there may be a deficiency of supplies for the troops, to the utter destruction of the best combined operations. Even those rations which, in the use of a sound discretion, you may find it absolutely necessary to distribute, ought to be taken from other resources than those intended for the use of the army, and transported by other means than those at the disposition of the Quartermaster's department for the transportation of the baggage and stores of the army.

You will therefore cause all such persons to be assembled in the neighborhood of Jacksonville, on the St. John's, and at Tampa Bay, or Charlotte harbor-points which can be approached by sailing vessels; and on information being received here of the number so to be supplied, measures will be taken,

before the commencement of active operations, to detach this service from the army altogether, and employ agents to attend to it.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, August 3, 1837.

Sir: It appears to me advisable to establish a post in Charlotte's harbor, on some convenient and healthy site, as soon as the means in your power will permit it to be done; and from thence to push reconnoitring parties up the rivers which fall into that bay, in order to obtain a knowledge of the country which is to be soon the theatre of your operations. I am sorry to find that you have been under the necessity of calling out so many men of the militia of Florida. It has always appeared to me sound policy to leave as many of the Floridians as possible on their plantations, and not to compel them to abandon their homes. The militia had better be drawn, as far as practicable, from the neighboring States, and the people of the country left to guard their own hearths and protect their own slaves. I have no doubt the exigency of the case required you so to act, but I am desirous you should know the views of the Department on this subject.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, August 16, 1837.

Sir: I have to request that you will observe and note the operation of the existing rules and regulations of the militia. service in the field, with a view to their future revision.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, August 18, 1837.

Sir : I have watched the progress of the recruiting service with great anxiety; and, although new rendezvous have been opened, and I believe proper exertions used by the officers charged with this department, still I am

afraid the number of recruits will fall short of the complement of men required to fill up, within the limited time, the regiments destined to Florida. Under this apprehension, I deem it expedient that you should make prompt use of the authority heretofore vested in you, to call for such militia or volunteer force as you may think necessary to complete the number of men required to carry out the plan of campaign you have proposed; the latter to serve six or twelve months, unless sooner discharged. The Adjutant General has been instructed to furnish you with a return of the recruiting service. There are not quite a thousand men at Old Point Comfort, and the return from all the recruiting stations will not, I fear, exceed five hundred men a month.

It may be well to endeavor to re-enlist, for a short time, the men now in Florida, whose term of service is about to expire ; say to the end of the campaign. You may assure them of the punctual fulfilment of any arrangement you may find it beneficial to make with them, on the part of the Department, within its legal powers. .

Every exertion is being made by the Quartermaster and Commissary Generals to complete the supplies necessary to the success of your operations, from their respective departments. A return of them will be furnished to you ; and I beg you will advise me of any further requirements you may deem essential to the health and comfort of the troops, and to the efficiency of the forces under your command.

J. R. POINSETT

*Major General THOMAS S. Jesup,  
Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *August 25, 1837,*

Sir : Your letters of the 10th and 14th instant have been received.

In accepting the services of the brigade of volunteers which has been offered for service in Florida from Kentucky, which you are hereby authorized to do, you will designate the description of force, number of men and officers you require, and the organization you propose to give it, agreeably to that adopted by the late President, when the volunteers for the last campaign were mustered into service.

In communicating to you my own convictions, it was not intended to do any thing more than bring them to your notice - not to make them the guide of your conduct, in any case in which your knowledge and experience, acquired on the theatre of operations, led you to differ from them. I had no wish to break up the depot at Garey's Ferry, and 'only desired to have established the general depot at Jacksonville, in order that the supplies might be transported by sailing vessels, and, being discharged there, supplies of every description could be transported there by steamers to Black creek, or

whatever other part they may be required. Your impressions, however, appear to be so strong as to the inexpediency of making the depot at Jacksonville, and so decidedly in favor of the Pelatka, that you are authorized to make the proposed alteration in the orders which have been given upon this subject; or if, in your opinion, sailing vessels can be brought up to the depot at Garey's Ferry, by being towed from the mouth of the creek, you may make that the chief depot for supplies on that line of your operations, and suppress the others.

The acting Quartermaster General will take the most prompt and active measures to send all the articles you require from his department

If the Engineer department can furnish the dredge-boat, and sufficient force to work it, in time to deepen the bar, and remove the obstructions to navigation at the head of the lakes, it shall be done. In the mean time, I would suggest, that flat-bottomed boats be used as lighters for the steamers. The operation of unloading and loading is, I acknowledge, somewhat tedious, but attended with less labor than land-carriage. Every effort is making to obtain for the army under your command the description of force you require. The 2d regiment of dragoons, now on their march from Jefferson barracks, it is hoped, from their having had some time to drill, will furnish you a few companies of good cavalry; and rendezvous have been opened in the interior districts, with the hope of obtaining men acquainted with the use and management of horses.

If the plan suggested by me cannot be carried out, you will designate the description of force you require, in the requisitions upon the States; not merely asking for regiments, brigades, or companies, but stating in every instance the number of men and officers required, and mustering none other into service. You may call for whatever number of volunteer cavalry you require ; but I would suggest whether it would not be advisable to bring the men chiefly by water, and have the horses driven by careful persons, so that they may be fresh on their arrival. If mounted men march from Kentucky or Tennessee on horseback, the horses will be galled and used up, before they reach the Territory.

The map was very acceptable, and, as soon as the one you intend to forward from Tampa reaches the Department, it shall be lithographed, and copies furnished to the officers in service in Florida, in order that while they use it, they may fill it up with such information as they can derive from actual observation. On a cursory examination of it, the plan of campaign you propose appears judicious.

The Navy Department will furnish the vessels required ; and I have asked for the officers you designate to command the steamers. One word as to the season to commencing active operations. The first of October is too soon. I have no objections to the force you require being in Florida early in that month, that you may organize it, and, if you desire, place the columns in position ; but October is too soon to begin active operations in the field, without exposing the troops to the deadly effects of the autumnal diseases prevalent in the latitude and climate of East Florida,

I regard the risk to the health of the men to be so great at that season, putting to hazard the success of the campaign, that I am compelled to instruct you not to commence active operations of attack before the commencement of November.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup,  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida.*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *August 26, 1837.*

Sir : I enclose you a letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and will thank you to furnish him with the information he desires respecting the Creek warriors in Florida.

J. R. POINSETT

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup.

WAR DEPARTMENT, *August 30, 1837.*

Sir : Since the letter from this Department was written, asking you to report what disposition you intended to make of the Creek warriors, whose families are at Pass Christian, I am informed by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that it is desirable they should be sent to that station as soon as can conveniently be done, in order that they may be ready to remove early in the month of October. From the measures taken by the Department to supply their places, it is hoped that you will be able to dispense with their services in time so as not to interfere with the measures adopted here for their speedy emigration.

Your letter of the 15th instant has been received, and your wishes with regard to the gnu-carriages shall be complied with as early as practicable.

It is stated by some persons that the Shawnee, Delaware, and Kickapoo tribe of Indians, which you recommended to be employed, are too few and too civilized to furnish the number of warriors we have required from them. Orders were given to the officers, in the event of their not succeeding in engaging the number of Indians required from these tribes, to seek them elsewhere; and I inform you thus early of all the obstacle likely to arise that, in aid of the Department, you may take such measures as are in your power to obviate them.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup

WAR DEPARTMENT, *September 2, 1837.*

Sir : Since my letter to you of the 25th ultimo, authorizing you to accept a brigade of volunteers from Kentucky, I have been informed by General Smith, of Louisiana, that the same number of efficient men can be raised in that State without delay. These being accustomed to a climate similar to that of Florida, and so near the scene of operations that they could be able to reach there at a n earlier period than those would from Kentucky, I have determined to accept the services of the former, and to countermand the authority given yon to receive the latter.

The Governor of Kentucky will be this day informed of this change of the views of the Department. .

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida*

WAR DEPARTMENT, *September 6, 1837.*

Sir: The Department having made arrangements for procuring a sufficient volunteer force from Tennessee, with that which will be raised in Louisiana and South Carolina, for the next campaign in Florida, it will be unnecessary that yon should call upon the Governors of Georgia and Alabama for the troops you were authorized to request, in letters from this Department, some time since. Nor is it necessary that you should communicate with the Governor of Tennessee respecting the force to be procured in that State, as the Department will take the necessary measures respecting it.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida*

P. S. The number of volunteers from South Carolina, it is believed, will be five hundred.

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *September 6, 1837.*

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter communicating the result of your interview at Fort King with certain sub-chiefs of the Seminoles, and hasten to say, that the intelligence given by you is of

a pleasing character, and to express to you the approbation of the Department of the course you have pursued, and of the language you have made use of in your talk with the Indians.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *September 9, 1837.*

Sir: In reply to that part of your letter of the 10th ultimo, which refers to the necessity of having a small naval force to aid you in preventing the Indians from obtaining powder from certain points, I transmit you copies of letters from the Secretary of the Navy and the Secretary of the Treasury, in answer to requests made to them by this Department for both species of force.

The Secretary of the Treasury has been requested to place the cutters under your orders, and cause them to repair to Tampa Bay at as early a period as practicable.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, *September 13, 1837.*

Sir: I have had the pleasure to receive your letters of the .28th and the 30th August.

In reply to the first, relating to General P. F. Smith, of Louisiana, I am happy to inform you that the Department has anticipated your wishes, and accepted the services of that officer to raise a regiment in Louisiana for the service of the Florida war. He has already the necessary authority, and measures are in operation to render his levies effective. You can communicate to him the point where you desire him to direct his force. As you indicate Charlotte harbor, I have this day given orders to send the battalion of 2d infantry, (say two hundred and fifty men.) now at New York, to that post, which will supply the place of the marines. I regret that force has not been retained in Florida, but suppose it is too late so to direct it.

The Department is satisfied with the reasons given in your communication of the 30th, for the employment of the Florida militia.

As you appear to apprehend that the force will not be in position in time

for active operations, which ought not to commence before the first week in November, I recapitulate what has been ordered on the subject. Measures have been taken to raise six hundred volunteers in Tennessee, six hundred in Louisiana, six hundred in Missouri, with three hundred additional riflemen, organized as spy companies. Active officers are engaged in procuring the Indian force of one thousand men. These troops, we confidently expect, will be in Florida in the month of October. Five hundred regulars will take their departure from Old Point Comfort for Tampa, from the 20th to the 25th of this month ; two hundred and fifty for Charlotte harbor as soon as practicable, but before that period; and from the 1st to the 10th of October, the remaining force now at Fortress Monroe, (say about one thousand men.) will be despatched to the St. John's.

The steamer New Brighton will shortly take her station between Charleston and Garey's Ferry, and our communications will then be regular and frequent. I await the promised map, to have it lithographed.

I send the instructions prepared for the commission intended to be sent to attend to the subject of distributing rations to the indigent and suffering inhabitants of Florida. As some days may elapse before the gentlemen will be able to reach Florida, I beg you will cause these regulations to be carried out immediately after the 1st October, by the officers now charged with that duty.

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida*

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WAR DEPARTMENT, October 4, 1837.

Sir : The Cherokee chiefs who are charged with this communication, having expressed a desire to be allowed to counsel with the Seminoles, in order to save that people from the consequences of the impending war, you will permit them to do so.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup

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WAR DEPARTMENT, October 4, 1837.

Sir : It having been signified to the Department that certain Cherokee chiefs have expressed a desire to counsel the Seminoles to submit to the Government of the United States, I have thought it advisable to permit them

to do so ; but you will take the precaution to have them accompanied by such agents and interpreters as you can rely upon, in order to ensure the faithful execution of their proffered services.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

To Major General Thomas S. Jesup  
*St. Augustine, Florida*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, November 3, 1836.*

Sir: I have the honor to enclose a return of the troops at this post. Not having returns of the three companies of regular troops, and one of mounted volunteers, in the Creek country ; of the two companies of infantry in the southern counties of Georgia ; nor of the battalion of mounted Alabama volunteers on their way to join me, I could not include them on the return,

Supplies are rapidly coming in; and if I had the means of transportation, I should be able to move forward the moment the Alabama volunteers arrive.

I enclose, for the information of the General-in-chief and the Secretary of War, a copy of a letter to his excellency Governor Schley, dated the 17th ultimo; and a copy of a letter to his excellency Governor Clay, of the 20th ultimo, on the subject of volunteers for 12 months, which will certainly be required for service here, as there seems to be no prospect of recruits being sent to fill up the companies in this Territory. I would have forwarded copies of those letters sooner, but was not able to have them made out.

I also enclose a letter to Commodore Dallas.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP, Major General.

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, October 19, 1836.*

Sir: Previous to my departure from the Creek country, that excellent officer, Major Nelson, stationed near the Cherokee line, proposed to raise a regiment of volunteers for twelve months. I did not then feel authorized to accept the services of so large a corps ; but information received since my arrival here

induces the belief that the war in this country, from the confidence with which the Indians have been inspired by their successes during the summer, will be protracted, and that the services of the regiment offered by Major Nelson will be required. I must, therefore, request your excellency to give the necessary orders for the organization of the regiment, and its march to Tallahassee.

As I have no officer disposable, I beg you to appoint an officer to muster them into service. Arms, ammunition, camp-equipage, &c., can be obtained at Columbus or Fort Mitchell.

I am your excellency's most obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP  
*Major General commanding*

His Excellency WM, SCHLEY,  
*Governor of Georgia, Milledgeville, Ga.*

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
Steamboat Merchant, near the Withlacoochee, *October 20, 1836.*

DEAR SIR : From the dispersed condition of the hostile Indians at this time in Florida, the war will be tedious, and more troops will be required than are now in the field. I desire that the fine battalion under Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfild should be extended to a regiment. I beg you to consider this letter as a requisition for five additional companies of volunteers for twelve months. Arms and every necessary equipment can be had at Fort Mitchell. I will thank you to organize the companies into a battalion, with a major to command it, and let the colonel be elected when it shall have joined the battalion now in the field.

I am, dear sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,  
*Major General.*

His Excellency C. C. CLAY,  
*Governor of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.*

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HEADQUARTERS, APPALACHICOLA, October 25, 1836.

Sir : Pursuant to instructions from the Secretary of War, I have entered Florida with the disposable force under my command to co-operate with his excellency Governor Call, in the prosecution of the war against the Seminole Indians. To strike the enemy in his stronghold, the command of the Withlacoochee is necessary; to take and retain command of that river, small

steamboats are required. The Izard, which was intended for that service, has been lost on the bar at the mouth of that river ; and our operations will be greatly retarded, if not entirely suspended, if she be not replaced.

Two public boats, the American and Dade, have, I understand, been sent to Pensacola for repairs. If they could be made fit for service, and one of them be sent to the Withlacoochee, and the other to the Suwannee, active operations might be commenced in a few days, and the war perhaps brought to a close, before the expiration of the term of service of the Tennessee volunteers. May I ask the favor of you to cause them to be repaired at the navy yard, and furnished with crews from your command?

The efficient co-operation afforded by the navy, and particularly by yourself, in the Creek campaign, induces me to make this request ; and I make it with the more confidence, from the belief that, with your enlarged and liberal views, you are always willing to promote the interest of the whole service by every means in your power.

Colonel Stanton, quartermaster and adjutant general of this army, whom I take great pleasure in introducing to your acquaintance, is the bearer of this letter. He goes to Pensacola, Mobile, and perhaps to New Orleans, on public duty. I have requested him to see you in relation to the steamboat before referred to.

With high consideration and respect, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Commodore ALEXANDER J. DALLAS,  
*Comdg. U. S. naval force on the Gulf of Mexico,  
Pensacola, Florida.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, November 6, 1836.*

Sir : I have received, this evening, your letters of the 6th and 8th October.

The marines and about five hundred regular troops are here. A detachment of Alabama volunteers arrived to-day - about a hundred and twenty. The remainder of the battalion, about a hundred and eighty, will be here probably by the 12th, at which time I expect mules and horses from New Orleans and St. Mark's for packing. On my arrival, I found no means of transportation, or I should ere this have been on the Withlacoochee, The moment the pack-horses arrive, I shall take the field.

I have despatches to-day from Governor Call and General Reed. The Governor, with the Tennesseans and Floridians, and the Indian warriors, will move on the Withlacoochee. If the Indians fight, the war will soon be ended.

If they disperse, we shall have a tedious and arduous service: but they must be pursued to their most hidden recesses. Should they go to the Everglades, I shall follow them, and for that purpose I have required boats of a suitable construction to be prepared at New Orleans.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

The Hon. Secretary of War,  
*Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, November 6, 1836.*

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 8th and 11th of October. They were forwarded to me from Columbus, Georgia, and were received this evening.

The marines, under Colonel Henderson, are here. I have also about 500 regular troops. About 120 of the Alabama volunteers arrived today, and the remainder (say 180) will be here by the 12th ; and I expect by that time to receive horses or mules from New Orleans for packing. The moment they arrive, I shall take the field.

Governor Call, from whom I have received despatches this afternoon, will meet me on the Withlacoochee with the Tennesseans, Floridians, and Indian warriors.

If the Indians return to fight us, we shall terminate the war during this month; but should they disperse, they will give us employment the greater part of the winter.

I have received order No. 69, and hope it may be carried out.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP  
*Major General commanding*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, November 9, 1836.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to send, herewith, a muster-roll of Captain W. L. Fry's company of mounted Alabama volunteers, which was mustered into the service of the United States by General Andrew Moore, of Alabama, under authority from Major General Jesup.

I am instructed by General Jesup to say, that when the company was called into service, it was necessary to facilitate the emigration of the Creek Indians. That service having been accomplished, the company will be ordered to report for duty to General Wool, in the Cherokee nation; who, should he not require their services, will have them discharged.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. N. CHAMBERS,  
Lieutenant and Aid-de-camp.

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General U.S.A., Washington City*

HEADQUARTERS, FORT BROOKE,  
*Tampa Bay, November 18, 1836.*

Sir : The last detachment of the Alabama volunteer battalion arrived here yesterday. The mules ordered from New Orleans for packing have not yet arrived. The moment they arrive, I shall take the field. I have been ready for two weeks, except transportation. The time, however, has not been lost, as I have employed the mounted volunteers in scouring the country ; and every arrangement has been made for the most vigorous prosecution of the war, so soon as the means of transporting a few days' subsistence and forage shall be obtained. I hope to move by the 20th.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

THO. S. JESUP  
*Major General commanding*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, November 20, 1836.*

Sir : Except the means of transportation, I have been ready for the field for two weeks past. A vessel with one hundred and twelve mules arrived evening before last. we are getting them on shore, and will march the moment they can be broken to the packs, for they are now entirely wild. Mules properly broken could not, I am told, be obtained.

The delay here, I am apprehensive, will derange General Cull's plan; but we must make up by energy and activity, when we get into the field, for the unavoidable delay which has taken place. Among the numerous disadvantages to the service incident to the detention here, we have one advantage at least, which is, the arrival of the last detachment of the Alabama battalion.

I have not heard from General Call since the 27th of last month. There is no communication by land, and a very precarious one by water ; consequently, it is impossible to combine the movement of separate columns, with any degree of certainty; and the friendly Seminoles who acted as guides last winter having been all sent off during the summer, not a single guide or pilot can be obtained.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP  
*Major General.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
Adjutant General, Washington City.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, November 21, 1836.*

Sir : I desire that the enclosed copy of a letter to the late Colonel Walker, with the copy of his letter in reply, referring to a mistake in a report, as well as an order of General Scott, and a misrepresentation which has been circulated widely in the newspapers, be placed, with this letter, on the files of the Adjutant General's office ; and

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP,  
*Major General*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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APPALACHICOLA, (FLORIDA,) October 14, 1836.

DEAR Sir : A writer in one of the Virginia papers, who represents himself as an officer of the army under the command of General Scott, has charged me with injustice to General Moore, in not reporting several hundred prisoners which his brigade is represented as having taken and sent to me. The same writer says, that of the three hundred prisoners sent in by me to Fort Mitchell, two hundred and fifty were taken by General Moore.

As I am not aware of any prisoners having been taken by General Moore's

command ; and as it has been asserted, and the assertion has found its way into the papers, that the prisoners taken by him were delivered to you on my order, I beg the favor of you to answer the following questions : 1st, Were any prisoners delivered to you by any part of General Moore's command, and if so, of what towns were they, and what disposition was made of them? 2d, Were any of the prisoners taken to Fort Mitchell captured by General Moore's command? 3d. Did not Captain Henderson, of General Moore's command, disarm and take into custody Jim Boy and his warriors of the Thlobocco-town, and Yelka-Hadjo and his warriors of the lower Enfula town, who were at the time preparing to accompany me on the campaign? 4th. Were these chiefs, or their warriors, at any time hostile? 5th. Did they not accompany me on the campaign under the command of yourself and General Woodward, and perform their duty faithfully and efficiently? 6th. Were there any other Indians than those of Jim Boy and Yelka-Hadjo taken and delivered to you by Captain Henderson, or any other officer of General Moore's command? 7th. Were there, to your knowledge, any hostile Indians captured at any time by General Moore's command, and sent to me ?

Respectfully, I am, dear sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP.

Colonel William Walker,  
*of Tuskegee, now at Appalachicola.*

I certify that the above is a true copy of the original, as recorded on the books of this office.

ADJANT GENERAL'S OFFICE, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, November 21, 1836.*

HENRY STANTON,  
*Brevet Lieut. Col. And Adj. General, Army of the South.*

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APPALACHICOLA, (FLORIDA,) *October 14, 1836.*

Sir : Your letter of the present date has just been handed to me, and I hasten to reply to the questions therein proposed, which I am obliged to do in the simplest form, as my indisposition has rendered me so weak as to compel me to make use of the hand of another to commit to paper all I have to communicate.

*1st Question.* In answer to your first question, I reply, that no prisoners were delivered to me by any part of General Moore's command;

*2d Question.* Answer. - No, not one.

*3d Question.* Captain Henderson, of General Moore's command, took and disarmed Jim Boy and Yelka Hadjo and their warriors, when they were actually in the service of the United States and preparing to join you in the

campaign.

*4th Question.* No, never.

*5th Question.* Yes, all of them.

*6th Question.* No other Indians, besides those above mentioned, were delivered to roe by Captain Henderson, or by any officer of General Moore's command,

*7th Question.* Never to my knowledge.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant.

WM. WALKER

Major General Jesup

We, the undersigned, hereby certify that the interrogatories to which the foregoing are answers, were put and answered in our presence.

W. S. McCLINTOCK,  
*Major U. S. Army*

J. A. CHAMBERS,  
*Lieutenant U. S. artillery.*

I certify that the foregoing letters and certificate are true copies from the originals.

J. A. CHAMBERS,  
*Lieutenant U. S. artillery*

TAMPA BAY, *November* 21, 1836.

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH  
*Tampa Bay, November 28, 1926*

Sir: Sufficient transportation having been prepared, I put the troops in march yesterday for the Withlacoochee; but having received information by the arrival of a steamboat with several officers, that Governor Call had scoured the Cove of that river without finding an Indian, and that trails in a southerly direction had been discovered by him, and also that he had moved to Volusia, I directed the troops to fall back and resume their position here.

My last communication from the Governor was dated the 27<sup>th</sup> of last month. It is utterly impossible to combine the movements of separate columns in a country like this, where communications cannot be kept up. The whole force should be united, and depots pushed into the immediate vicinity of the strongholds of the enemy. To be able to do so, I shall put myself at the head of the mounted men of this command to-morrow morning, and dash

directly through to Governor Call's headquarters. If I should get through, I will report to you immediately from the other side.

I am, sir, respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP,  
*Major General.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City*

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HEADQUARTERS, Volusia, December 5, 1836.

Sir : After a rapid march of between five and six days, I arrived here last night from Tampa Bay, where I found Governor Call with the Tennessee brigade, the Indian regiment, and a few regular troops and Florida volunteers; amounting, altogether, to about two thousand men.

Your instructions to me of the 4th ultimo, to take the command of the troops in Florida and the direction of the war against the Seminoles, have not yet been received; but Governor Call has given me a copy of them, and will turn over the command to me the moment the necessary returns can be prepared. I shall enter upon the duties assigned me without the confidence of success entertained by the members of the Government, or the hope of fulfilling the expectations of the President or the country. All that man can do shall be done ; but I can promise nothing more than to do my duty faithfully. Other troops will be required, and that immediately ; otherwise, a failure is inevitable.

The term of service of at least two hundred of the regular troops will, I am told, expire in the course of this and the next month, and not a man will re-enlist. The term of service of the Tennessee brigade will expire, of a part on the 18th, and of the remainder on the 31st of the present month ; and they will insist on going home. I shall then be left with troops barely sufficient to defend the necessary depots, without any for active service in the field.

I requested the Governor of Alabama, some time ago, to detach a force of five companies, either volunteers or draughted militia, for service in this Territory ; and, also, to complete Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfild's battalion of twelve months' volunteers to a regiment, I also requested Governor Schley, of Georgia, to detach a regiment of twelve months' volunteers, the services of which had been offered to me last fall, but which I did not then feel myself authorized to accept. I have not heard from either of the Governors - probably from the difficulty of communications reaching me. If the force asked from them should be sent to me, it will supply the place of the Tennesseans ordered to Tampa Bay; it would supply the place of the discharges, and enable me to end the war this winter. This post I find entirely out of position; but, as supplies are already collected here, I must

use it as a depot. Fort King is also out of position; but as you have directed that it be occupied, I shall re-establish it, if I can spare troops to garrison it. I have already established a depot, twenty-five miles in advance of Tampa Bay, on the road to Fort King, and propose to establish another on the same road, at the point where it crosses the Withlacoochee. I shall also establish a post at Punta-Rassa, near the mouth of the Langbell river, which falls into Charlotte harbor; but, to effect these important and absolutely necessary objects, force is required.

A post has been established by Governor Call, on the Withlacoochee, twenty miles above its mouth. If the Indians should remain on that river, another post must be placed near the Cove. With these posts established and supplied, the war may be carried on successfully by light detachments, operating without baggage, and striking the enemy promptly and unexpectedly wherever he may be found.

As an act of justice to Governor Call, I take the occasion to remark, (and I stake my professional reputation on the correctness of the remark,) that no man could, under the circumstances in which he has been placed, have accomplished more than he has done. He had the summer, it is said in the public prints, to make his arrangements for a winter campaign ; but he could not establish depots without force to defend them. And it is to be observed, that he entered upon his command under circumstances of embarrassment, which did not exist when the campaign of last year commenced. He found the country exhausted; and not only all the positions occupied during the campaign abandoned, but the whole country, from the Suwannee to the Atlantic, except Tampa Bay and St. Augustine, occupied by the enemy. His plan of campaign was admirable ; but there were circumstances which he could not control that prevented its execution. If I should fail, (and, unless I have more force, I certainly, shall,) the country can be completely defended by mounted rangers only, in connexion with the depots which I propose to establish. The rangers should be raised during the present winter, and should have a rate of pay to command the services of the best men. The pay of the regular troops, including the officers, should be doubled, to secure them the ordinary comforts during their service in Florida. Let me entreat you, as you regard the best interests of the service, to impress upon Congress the necessity of putting the army upon a better footing. I wish nothing myself, and, if justice can be done to. my brave companions, I will cheerfully serve out the campaign without pay or emoluments. I shall commence operations immediately with the utmost vigor which the means at my command will permit, and shall keep you constantly advised of my progress.

With high consideration and respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP.

The Honorable B. F. Butler,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

Sir : I was not able to obtain the means of transportation for even ten days' supply of subsistence and forage for the troops under my command at Tampa Bay until the 17th of last month : the mules sent for that purpose from New Orleans were entirely unbroken, and it was not until the 27th that I was able to commence the march on the Withlacoochee, When the troops had been put in motion, I received intelligence that Governor Call had reached that river on the 13th, had swept the Cove, and had, after driving the Indians, marched across the country to this post.

I immediately countermanded the march of the troops, and, putting myself at the head of four hundred mounted men, on the 27th ultimo pushed through the country, and joined the Governor last night.

On the 3d instant my spy company succeeded in capturing an Indian near the Ocklawaha river, from whom I received information of the situation of a village, inhabited by negroes, on the lake in which the river has its source, I detached Lieutenant Colonel Cawfield, of the Alabama twelve months' volunteers, with orders to burn the village and capture or destroy its inhabitants.

The result of the expedition was the destruction of the village and the capture of forty-one negroes. The service was performed in the most prompt and handsome manner.

I have not yet received a return of the troops at this post, nor of the supplies ; but I hope to have both to-day. After which, I shall be able to form some idea of the operations proper to be undertaken.

I have not yet received the instructions from the War Department to assume the command in Florida. They were forwarded, ia Fort Clinch, to Tampa. Bay; and the messenger had not arrived there when I took my departure for this place. Governor Call, however, has given me a copy of them, and will turn over the command to me as soon as the necessary returns can be prepared.

I have the honor, to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP.

*Major General, commanding army of the South.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH  
*Volusia (Florida), December 9, 1836*

Sir : The command of the forces in Florida was transferred yesterday. I would

greatly have preferred that Governor Call has been permitted to close the campaign. He has had difficulties to encounter, of which no man can form an adequate idea who has not been here. I have examined carefully the state of the service, and have looked into every matter connected with the recent operations; and I am sure that no man could have done more, under the circumstances. He established this post, and took every preliminary step to supply it.

Supplies and means of transportation are rapidly arriving, and, had he retained the command, he would soon have struck an important blow.

The term of service of the Tennessee volunteers will expire in a few days. To avail myself of their services in the attack I propose to make, I shall move sooner than in my own judgment I ought to move, and may have to fall back; but I am so arranging my depots, that if compelled to relinquish one object, I shall readily strike another. If I should not succeed in dislodging Powell, I can, on returning to this place, strike Micanopy, Philip, and Cooper, who are about a day's march from each other, each with from one hundred and twenty to two hundred Indian and negro warriors - the latter, perhaps, the more numerous. My object will be to strike them in succession, and prevent them from concentrating.

By all means let me have the sixth regiment; and if any companies of the second regiment dragoons have been raised, let me have them.

This, you may be assured, is a negro, not an Indian war; and if it be not speedily put down, the South will feel the effects of it on their slave population before the end of the next season.

Unless the army be placed upon a better footing, it will disband : discharges are numerous, and no old soldiers re-enlist. The officers cannot subsist on the miserable pittance now allowed them ; they should, upon principles of common justice, be placed on a footing with corresponding grades in the navy. You, sir, will command their gratitude, and render an important service to the country, by taking the lead in this matter.

Assure the President that whatsoever promptness and energy can accomplish shall be done. .

With high consideration and respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP.

Hon. B. F. Butler,  
*Acting Secretary of War, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH  
*Volusia (Florida), December 12, 1836*

Sir: A sufficient supply of subsistence having been received yesterday to

enable me to move with twenty days' rations, the army will march today. The advance is now moving. At the Ocklawaha I shall have the choice of two objects - Micanopy, who is about thirty miles south of the point where I shall cross that river ; and Powell, who is about fifty miles southwest of it.

I propose, after placing the train safely across the Ocklawaha, to have a sufficient force to protect it ; and, with the remainder, make a forced March, and strike either Micanopy or Powell ; and, if successful with the first, immediately attack the other.

My movements are not in accordance with my own judgment ; they are controlled by the necessity of availing myself of the few days that yet remain of the term of service of the Tennessee brigade ; and I am, therefore, compelled to march on their route, to the mouth of the Withlacoochee, where they expect to embark for New Orleans, on their way home. This movement will enable me to strike at the two chiefs mentioned above, and to cover the frontier ; but had I the control of my measures, I could employ the force to march to more advantage, in a succession of attacks along the Ocklawaha, and thence down the Withlacoochee.

Without a strong corps of wagon-drivers, muleteers, and laborers, it is almost impossible to act efficiently in this country. The Southern militia do not labor for themselves, and consequently cannot or will not labor for the public. The regular troops are on constant fatigue duty, and a road leading from camp, and on which we are to march to-day, requiring repair, I sent instructions to General Armstrong last night to move forward with his brigade and cause the necessary repairs to be made. He replied that it would be impossible, as his men would not work. I shall, therefore, be compelled to put this labor also upon the regular troops. At the same time that I consider Southern volunteers inefficient for many purposes, it is due to them to say that they are efficient whenever rapid marches are to be made, or an enemy to be fought. Add to them such a corps as I propose, and you make them efficient for every purpose.

Cannot the 6th regiment of infantry, and the companies of the 2d regiment of dragoons, already raised, be sent to Florida? Volunteers can be more readily obtained for service on the Southwestern frontier than for Florida.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

The Hon. B. F. Butler, Acting  
*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Volusia, ( Florida,) December 12, 1836.*

Sir : The term of service of the Tennessee volunteers will expire in a few days; I shall then have force barely sufficient to protect the necessary depots, and the trains that supply them. Cannot the sixth regiment be sent to me? It is now at Natchitoches, and could reach Tampa Bay in three weeks from the receipt of the order. If the companies of the second regiment of dragoons, already raised, were here, they would be sufficient to protect the train from Black creek to the Withlacoochee, and to cover the frontier, and would leave the remainder of the force disposable.

Cannot something be done for the army ? The officers should be placed on a footing with those of the navy ; and all officers or soldiers who are serving, or have served, in Florida, below the rank of major general, should have grants of land.

It is impossible to obtain an accurate return of the troops - of course, no return can be made.

If I had one thousand volunteers or militia to take the place of the Tennesseans immediately, I should be able to terminate the war in sixty days. The prospects are flattering, even now ; but I am not sanguine of success. The country is not so difficult as it has been represented, but the difficulties which we find arise from the entire destitution of every kind of supply.

To pursue the Indians in the swamps, I must have good double-barreled guns; and to enable me to keep the field a sufficient length of time to render any service, I must have portable soup. I shall order both.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Camp Dade, December 17, 1836.*

Sir : The army under my command, consisting of the Tennessee brigade, and Alabama battalion, with about three hundred regular troops, and five hundred Indian warriors; arrived in this vicinity last night. To-day I have had the Wahoo swamp completely examined: not an Indian is to be found ; and the friendly warriors are of opinion that they have all gone south. From the appearance of their trails, they are supposed to have retreated soon after their last battle with the troops under the command of Governor Call.

I propose to establish a post on the Withlacoochee, at the point where the Fort King road crosses it ; and, after supplying it, to endeavor to cut off the several detachments into which the hostile Indians are divided. The

service will be arduous and difficult ; but; if a small force be sent to me, sufficient to hold the necessary posts, and the 6th regiment and the companies of the 2d dragoons already raised be added to my active force in the field, I shall not despair of terminating the war this winter. Should I fail, the country can be secured during the next summer only by a cordon of posts, with mounted rangers, constantly patrolling between them. The rangers should be raised for twelve months, but be liable to serve during the war; and their pay should be such as to secure the services of the best men.

The regular troops who serve here, from brigadier down, should have grants of land ; and increased pay should be allowed them.

The Cove of the Withlacoochee shall be examined to-morrow and the day after; but, from present appearances, I have no expectation of finding an Indian. .

I have subsistence with me for twenty days; which, when the Tennesseans leave me, (and the term of service of several of the companies has already expired.) will serve my diminished force for a month.

The horses will be sent to Tampa Bay for forage, and Colonel Henderson and Lieutenant Colonel Foster will be ordered to join me, with their disposable force and twenty-five days' subsistence.

To carry on the war in the swamps, I have directed Captain d'Lagnel to purchase two hundred double-barrelled guns, and to require a small piece of ordnance from the arsenal at Washington ; which I am told, may be transported on mules.

Neither artificers nor laborers can be employed here ; and I have found it necessary to require Captain d'Lagnel to bring into the field a traveling force, with a number of ordnance artificers.

To obtain wagon-drivers, the quartermaster has been obliged to all the volunteers two dollars a day ; they could not be obtained for less.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP.

The Hon. B. F. Butler,  
*Acting Secretary of War, Washington.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH  
*Camp Dade, ( Florida, ) December 18, 1836.*

SIR: Since I wrote to you yesterday, I have resolved, from a careful consideration of all the circumstances of the country and the army, to place a depot at this place, leave a garrison of one hundred and fifty men .to

defend it, and, with the remainder of the force under my command, to proceed down the Withlacoochee, scouring the country on both banks to its mouth. .

By the movement proposed, I shall be able to drive out all the Indians who may remain on or near the river, to cover the frontier, and ascertain the practicability of pushing steamers or other boats up to the forks. If . boats can be brought up to that point, or. within a day's march of it, the Indians must forever abandon their settlements in the Cove and the swamps, of the river.

The Tennessee volunteers will continue with me until this movement be performed, though the term of service of many of them has expired, and that of all will probably have expired before it be accomplished.

The prisoners whom I have taken inform me that it is the purpose of Micanopy, Jumper, and Abraham, to fly before the army and avoid a battle. They will hide themselves in the dense swamps and hammocks of the Everglades. Ocoola has declared his intention to maintain himself as long as possible on the Withlacoochee, and then fly to the south ; but the prisoners say he will never surrender.

On my arrival at the mouth of the river, the Tennesseans will embark for New Orleans, on their return homeward. I have not yet been apprized of any force having been ordered to replace them. My last despatches from the Department, however, are dated more than a month ago, and I have not yet received the original of my instructions of the 4th ultimo, to take the command of the army ; but I have a copy of the copy sent to Governor Call, under which I am acting.

With the force mentioned in my letter of yesterday, I shall be able to keep the field, and, if the enemy can be found, probably bring him to terms. .

I hope at the mouth of the Withlacoochee to receive any dispatch that may have been sent to me from the Department during the last month or six weeks; and have the honor to be,

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP.

Hon. B. F. Butler,  
Acting Secretary of War, Washington, City

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FORT BROOKE, *December 23*, 1836.

Sir: After writing to you on the 18th instant, I ascertained from my Indian scouts and spies, whom I had kept constantly employed in scouring the country, that not a sign of hostile Indians could be discovered at or near

any of their strongholds on the Withlacoochee, All the trails arc in a southeasterly direction; and Powell, if he has not been deserted by his followers, has probably determined to draw the war into the neighborhood of Micanopy, Jumper, and Philip, to compel them to adhere to him with their warriors. As the enemy could not be found where we expected him, and the term of service of the Tennessee volunteers having expired, I determined to avail myself of the movement of that corps to send the wagon-train to Tampa Bay for supplies for the depots which I had found it necessary to establish.

I left Brigadier General Armistead in command of the forces on the Withlacoochee, with orders to scour the country from Fort King to that river, and to take the most active measures to find the enemy ; and I came through with a small escort to Fort Foster, for the purpose of designating the points to be occupied as depots in addition to those already established. I have ordered Lieutenant Colonel Foster to erect a work on the Withlacoochee, at the place where the Fort King road crosses it. It will be completed in a few days, and a wagon-train will leave here to-morrow to supply it with subsistence, forage, tools, &c.

Learning, by express from Colonel Henderson, of the arrival of Commodore Dallas, I came hither to arrange with him a plan of combined operations for the campaign. He is several miles below, but I expect him here to-day. I have established an abundant depot at Fort Foster, twenty-five miles in advance of this place. The fort which Lieutenant Colonel Foster is erecting on the Withlacoochee is twenty-nine miles in advance of Fort Foster. Fort Armstrong is fifteen miles farther north, near the point where the road from Volusia unites with the road to Fort King. The two latter posts command the principal retreats of the enemy on the Withlacoochee. These posts, with that near the mouth of the Withlacoochee, and that at Volusia, will be sufficient for the present.

Should it become necessary to re-establish Fort King, I will cause a strong work to be erected, which may be held by a few men, and supply it from Fort Drane. The moment my depot shall be filled, which will be in a few days, small as my force is, I shall commence active operations in the field, and shall prosecute them with the utmost vigor until I either beat the enemy or be beaten by him.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP.

The Hon. B. F. BUTLER,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH.,  
*Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay, December 23, 1836.*

Sir : Since I wrote you this morning, Commodore Dallas has arrived, and has offered to furnish men from the ships of war under his command to defend my depots, and to perform any other service at the posts or in water expeditions which the public interest may render necessary.

The commodore has acted on this occasion with the same disinterested and magnanimous zeal which distinguished his conduct during the Creek campaign. His co-operation, which I most readily accept, will relieve me from many embarrassments, and will enable me to take the field several days sooner than I had hoped. He will send an officer with a party of sailors, to ascertain the practicability of navigating the Withlacoochee, and will furnish the force to garrison Fort Clinch on that river.

I have just received the original of your letter of instructions of the 4th ultimo. You shall not be disappointed in my efforts, though you may be in their results. The country is so extensive, and contains so many hiding places for large as well as small parties, that the enemy may escape me.

Major Nelson, with a battalion of four companies of mounted volunteers from Georgia, arrived and reported this evening. He came through direct from Fort Clinch to this place. Two companies of his battalion were retained by Brigadier General Wool in the Cherokee country. The four companies here amount to about two hundred men. These, with the Alabama volunteers, will make my mounted force near five hundred men.

I am greatly embarrassed by the difficulty of obtaining laborers, drivers, and artificers. If the war should not be brought to a close in a few weeks, I shall send to Cuba for mule-drivers, and to New Jersey for artificers and laborers.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP.

The Hon. B. F. Butler,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, December 27, 1836.*

General: Your letter of the 12th ultimo, in relation to depredations committed on the plantation of the Hon. John Forsyth, I have the honor to state has been received. I am instructed to enclose two letters on the subject, presented by Colonel Henderson, commandant of the marine corps, in answer to inquiries made by General Jesup; and to state that these contain all the information that the general has been able to collect.

Personally he knows nothing, as he was not in the neighborhood, nor even in command of the army, at the period at which the depredations are said

to have been committed. .

I am, general, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. CHAMBERS,  
*Lieutenant and Aid-de-camp*

Brig. General R. JONES,  
*Adjutant General, Washington.*

FORT BROOKE, *December 24, 1836.*

General: Your letter of the 12th November, covering an affidavit of Abraham Collins, has been received. I enclose a communication from Lieut. Lindsay in relation to it : he was then acting as quartermaster.

On the evening of the 24th June last, five companies of the marine corps under my command, with a train of wagons, encamped on the plantation of Mr. Forsyth. On the 25th, the troops, with most of the wagons, crossed the Chattahoochie, and occupied a position near the bank of the river opposite the said plantation.

At this time the cotton was almost entirely overgrown with weeds and grass, from not having been worked in proper season. It is not in my power to state why this cotton-field was not worked. The field was directly on the river, and within rifle range from the opposite bank. The river was so narrow immediately at the place where the ferry was established, that the captain of a steamboat fired a pistol three times at a tree on the opposite side, and hit it each time.

The opposite side of the river, for many miles above and below, was in possession of the band of Creek Indians most actively engaged at that time in hostilities against the whites. This was the case at the most critical period for the cotton crops. This may have prevented Mr. Collins from working this field.

I recollect Mr. Collins informing me that the horses of Captain Love's company were turned into the field, and that he had protested against it. That officer may have supposed that all intention of working the field had been abandoned, and therefore concluded that there could be no impropriety in turning the horses into it.

The arrival of the marines, so far from being injurious to the operations on the place, at once gave security to everything on it. Two wagons were employed in hauling timber through it, to construct a field-work on the opposite bank. I presume they made but one track through the field, and the injury sustained from this was certainly requited by the entire security to the

slaves employed in working it.

Jim Henry, with the only party of hostile Indians of any consequence then in arms, occupied the swamps within a few miles of the position taken by the troops under my command. If Mr. Collins believed that the field could be worked with any advantage at this time, the security given to the negroes by the troops should have been considered by him as a full offset for the small injury sustained from the passage of the men and wagons through the field.

Under these circumstances, I am led to the belief that Mr. Forsyth's interests were rather promoted by the presence of the marines on and near his plantation, than injured.

I remain, general, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ARCH. HENDERSON, *Col. Commandant.*

Brig. General R. Jones,

*Adj. Gen. U.S. Army, Headquarters, Washington*

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Fort Brooke, Tampa Bay,

*December 24, 1836.*

Sir: I have carefully read the deposition you handed me of Abraham Collins, of Muscogee county, Georgia., on the subject of depredations committed on the plantation of the Hon. J. Forsyth. As the acting quartermaster of marines, I am enabled to state, that, so far as the corps of marines are concerned, no injury was done by them to the cotton crop during the one night that we were encamped there. In selecting the ground of encampment, as was my duty, I was particularly careful to place the corps immediately on the river bank, (the main road leading directly to it.) where we could not possibly interfere with the growing cotton. Indeed, so particular was I upon the location of the encampment, that I expressed my solicitude to the overseer, Mr. Collins, about the crop, and observed that every effort should be made not to injure it. He replied to my observation, by saying that it was then too late to preserve the cotton, the rank growth of grass having obtained the ascendancy, and that I need not be particular, but encamp where I pleased. Subsequently, I frequently heard Mr. Collins observe that Captain Love, with his lawless company, had ruined his cotton-field, and that he had often threatened to shoot the horses they had turned in there. The overseer is, doubtless, conscientious in his deposition; but abundance of proof can be given that he has asserted very little fact in the second page. The wagons and horses; as it is well known to you, sir, were, with the exception of two, all on the west bank of the Chattahoochie during the three weeks he alludes to. But it is useless to remark on the remainder of the letter. The Hon. J. Forsyth would have been sufficiently served, if his overseer had not touched upon the depredations committed on his property after it had been destroyed by the Georgia volunteers, I will simply add, that I conscientiously believe the crop was destroyed by their wantonness.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. S. LINDSAY.

Colonel A. HENDERSON,  
*Commander of Marines.*

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, December 27, 1836.*

General: When the Washington city volunteers joined the army, they were reported by their captain as having been mustered into service for twelve months. Many of the men, however, state that they entered only for six months; and, if they were mustered for a longer period, they were deceived, and it was contrary to their intentions. I am commanded by the general to ask an official statement of the facts in the case, and to suggest, that if the company have been deceived, and were mustered for a longer period than they intended, whether it would not be advisable to have them discharged. The company has performed its duty faithfully; and, in every case, met the approbation of the officers under whose immediate command it has served.

I am, general, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. CHAMBERS, *Lieut. and A.D.C.*

General R. JONES,  
*Adjutant General, Washington.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, January 1, 1837.*

Sir : The principal Indian chief of the regiment of Indian warriors in the service of the United States came in yesterday, and brought me reports from Brigadier General Armistead, commanding on the Withlacoochee, and Major Morris, commanding the Indian force. Occupied as every one about me is, in active preparation for the field, I cannot send copies of the reports ; but no Indians were found in that part of the country, and all the information which I have been able to obtain leads me to the belief that the body of the nation are south and southeast.

The troops in the interior are actively engaged, and I shall join them immediately. Commodore Dallas has sent sixty sailors to garrison Fort Foster, twenty-five miles east of this place. He despatched a garrison yesterday to

Fort Clinch, and has promised a garrison for this place : this will increase the active force for the field, There is so much sickness, however, among the volunteers and regular troops, that I shall not have more than nine hundred or a thousand of them altogether for active service, and at least a hundred of them will be required for convoys. The Indians are entirely broken down, most of them are sick, and I expect no further service from them. They will go home the last of this month. Such of them as are fit for service I will prevail upon to accompany me, if possible, on an expedition against the principal chief of the Seminoles, Micanopy. He is said to be within four days' march of me.

General Gaines has ordered the 6th regiment to join me.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major*

*General.*  
Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Armstrong; ( Florida,) January 10, 1837.*

Sir : I have only time to say that a detachment from this army surprised a camp of Indian negroes, and made sixteen prisoners. They are of Powell's band, and the mounted men are now in full pursuit of that chief. The enemy is nowhere found in great force. The great body of the Seminoles are said to be south. The moment the regular troops come up, which will probably be to-morrow, I shall either send or take a heavy detachment in that direction.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, NEAR THE COVE OF THE WITHLACOOCHEE,  
*January 12, 1837.*

Sir: In my last letter I informed you that the mounted men of my command were in pursuit of Powell. Thirty-six negroes, in addition to those already reported, ( 16,) have been captured by Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfieid's battalion

and the Indian warriors; from them we learn that the Indians have entirely dispersed, and that Powell has with him only three warriors and his family. One of the negroes, Primus, who was sent as a messenger to the Indians by General Scott or Clinch during the last winter, and remained with them, says that he is on the Withlacoochee, sick, and that he can collect about a hundred warriors. Learning from the prisoners that the Tallahassee chief is on the Withlacoochee with his warriors, I despatched Lieutenant Colonel Foster down the south side of the river, with a small battalion of infantry, a company of artillery, and Major Nelson's battalion of mounted Georgians, altogether about three hundred men; and moved down the north side of the river with the marines, a detachment of artillery, a battalion of Alabama volunteers, and a detachment of Indian warriors - in all, about seven hundred men - for the purpose of clearing the country on both sides of every hostile band.

The Tallahassee Indians are said to be in the neighborhood; Powell also. Two days will be employed in examining the swamps, when, if the enemy should not be found, I shall proceed down the river, unite with Lieutenant Colonel Foster, and then be governed by circumstances. If I should not hear of the enemy below, I shall return to Fort Armstrong, and immediately proceed against Micanopy and Jumper, who, I have good reasons to believe, are on the head-waters of the Ocklawaha, The campaign will be tedious, but I hope successful in the end. I am not, however, very sanguine; the difficulty is, not to fight the enemy, but to find him. I am unable to furnish returns, at present, of the force under my command. The difficulties in regard to transportation are such, that every officer is obliged to carry several days' rations in his haversack. I often carry subsistence sufficient for six days. The means of making correct returns are not, therefore, within the reach of any officer of this army. The blank returns to which you refer have not been received.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
Camp Izard, *January 17, 1837.*

Sir : The army under my command has, swept the swamp of the Withlacoochee, on the north side, from Fort Armstrong, at Dade's battleground, to this place ; and a detachment under Lieutenant Colonel Foster moved down the south side to Fort Clinch. The result of our operations has been the capture of fifty-two negroes and three Indians, and the positive knowledge that there are no Indians on the river, except small parties who are flying through and hiding in the swamps, with no other means of subsistence than roots, palmetto cabbage, and occasionally indifferent beef,

I moved down to Fort Clinch with the mounted men on the 15th, where I met Lieutenant Colonel Foster, and, learning from a prisoner that the women and children with the aged and sick of the Tallahassee and Ogechee Indians occupy a position in a swamp about thirty miles south of Fort Clinch, I detached Lieutenant Colonel Foster yesterday with about four hundred regular troops and Georgia volunteers, and a hundred Indian warriors, to attack, and, if possible, capture them.

I have to-day ordered Major McClintock. to Fort Drane, with about eighty regular troops, to take the command of that post, and endeavor to drive off the small bands of Indians who infest that neighborhood. Powell is flying, it appears, with his family and a band of not more than three warriors. The prisoners now say that he has gone to Ocklawaha.

I shall return immediately to Fort Armstrong, where I shall send expeditions into the country between that post and Volusia; and I shall conduct an expedition myself against Micanopy, the principal chief of the Seminoles, on the head of the Ocklawaha.

A part of this army has been on this river actively engaged in examining its swamps and hammocks since the 17th of last month, They have constructed two forts, and erected bridges over both branches of the Withlacoochee.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort .Armstrong, January 19,*

*1887,*

Sir: I have this moment arrived at this post in advance of the troops, having completely swept the swamps and hammocks of the Withlacoochee, from the Fort King road to Fort Clinch; and I am positive that there are no parties of Indians exceeding ten warriors on the river or in its neighborhood. .

The prisoners represent Powell as flying from one biding-place to another, with only three warriors. I returned thither with a small escort to make arrangements in anticipation of the arrival of the troops, to carry on an expedition against the Indians on the head-waters of the Ocklawaha. In that expedition I had calculated on the co-operation of the 6th regiment of infantry, and its aid will be necessary. Seven companies of the regiment have arrived; but Major Thompson, who commands, has received orders to-day to return to the Texas frontier. If he returns immediately, I must abandon the proposed

expedition.

I consider it of too much importance in its bearing upon the successful result of the campaign, to be given up ; and I therefore feel it to be my duty to retain the regiment, until its place be supplies by other troops.

I detaches Lieutenant Colonel Foster, from Fort Clinch, with five hundred regular troops, Georgia volunteers, and Indian warriors, against the Tallahassee and Ogechee Indians, who had fled from the Withlacoochee, and have established themselves in the swamps south of the mouth of the Withlacoochee; and, in consequence of information from Fort Drane, I was compelled to detach Major McClintock with the third .artillery of that post.

A small battalion of Alabama draughts have arrived at Tampa Bay, but I cannot use them for any military purpose, in consequence of the measles prevailing among them.

The dragoons promised in a communication from the Adjutant General had not arrived when I last heard from the officer commanding at Garey's Ferry, nor had the South Carolina draughts.

The Indian warriors are sickly, and will leave the service on the last of this month, in order to make arrangements to arrive in Arkansas in time to plant corn for the next season,

I have some reason to complain that orders should be published, directing recruits in large numbers to join, when the men have not been enlisted. A wrong impression is thus produced upon the public mind ; and where error has got the start, it is difficult for truth to overtake it.

The service is a most arduous one in Florida ; so much so, that not a man whose term of service expires will re-enlist.

I am happy to find that you have recommended a bounty in land to the soldiers; it should, in strict justice, be extended to the regimental and junior staff officers,

With high consideration and respect, I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

The Hon, B. F, Butler,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Armstrong, near Dade's  
battle-ground, January 20, 1837*

· Sir : I arrived here yesterday with a small mounted corps, and a few Indian warriors from Fort Clinch ; the marines and regular troops came in to-day.

All the swamps and hammocks, as far down as General Gaines's battle-ground, have been examined, with no other results than the breaking up of a negro settlement in the Pano Saufkee swamp, and the capture of fifty-two negroes and three Indians.

Powell was in the swamp with the negroes, but escaped, the prisoners say, attended by only three warriors. The Indians are represented as flying in small parties from swamp to swamp, almost naked. A part of them were represented by a prisoner to have taken refuge in a large swamp south of the mouth of the Withlacoochee. I have detached Lieutenant Colonel Foster to attack or capture them

I came to this place to prepare for an expedition against the Indians, on the head of the Ocklawaha; but, on my arrival, I found that Major Thompson had been ordered to return with the 6<sup>th</sup> regiment to Louisiana. I was reduced to the disagreeable alternative of giving up the expedition, or retaining the 6<sup>th</sup> for a few days. The interests of the service, in my judgment, required the latter course.

I think the service will not occupy more than ten or fifteen days, when I shall direct Major Thompson to proceed to his former station.

From the small force under my command, I have to hold the interior of this country, protect the trains on long routes, and furnish garrisons for numerous posts. The service has been so severe, that the sick are increasing in an alarming manner.

I send you a morning report of the Alabama mounted battalion, by which you will observe that nearly a third of the whole force are sick; and the regular force is rapidly diminishing by discharges and sickness. About one-half of the warriors of the Indian regiment are sick, or convalescent ; and that corps is so completely broken down by the severe service it has performed, as to be entirely inefficient.

The chiefs insist on returning to Alabama at the end of this month, to make arrangements for the removal of themselves and people to Arkansas.

They will have barely time to reach their new homes .in time to plant their corn.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Armstrong, January 21, 1837, half-past 9 o'clock, P. M.*

Sir : An Indian runner has this moment come in from Lieutenant Colonel

Foster's command, with intelligence of the troops having over-taken a party of hostile Indians and negroes, of which they killed two, and captured eleven Indians and nine negroes ; the remainder escaped.

The Indians are represented as desirous of peace ; and I have directed Lieutenant Colonel Foster to send one of the prisoners to invite them to come in.

I march to-morrow morning, at sunrise, to the head of the Ocklawaha.

I have the honor, to be, sir, your obedient servant, .

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. JONES,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Armstrong, January 21, 1837.*

Sir: I have this moment received, by express from Fort Drane, your letter of the 4th inst. I shall find Volusia a valuable depot in my operations on the St. John's' and the Ocklawaha, to the swamps of which rivers all accounts concur that the enemy have retired. The troops have been actively employed, but we have accomplished little, except obtaining a knowledge of the country, and establishing a line of posts to command it.

I march at sunrise to-morrow morning for Hapapka, near the head of the Ocklawaha, where Micanopy, Jumper, Alligator, and other chiefs, are said to have concentrated their forces. If we can bring them to action, the war may be soon terminated; but the danger is they will disperse, as the Indians on the Withlacoochee have done.

The prisoners say that some division exists in the councils of the chiefs, and that many of them are tired of the war. After showing them that we are able to follow them to their most secure retreats, I will endeavor to open a communication with them and offer them peace.

I have ordered Lieutenant Colonel Fanning to move up the St. John's to Topekalgia with the forces under his command, and as large supplies of subsistence and forage as he can transport, to attack the chief Philip, and to co-operate with me.

Lieutenant Colonel Foster is in pursuit of the Tallahasseees and Ogeehees, south of the Withlacoochee; and Major McClintock has been ordered to Fort Drane, to secure that depot, and drive the Indians from the adjacent country.

Two companies of dragoons will be employed in clearing the country

between the St. John's and the Suwannee, and General Hernandez is charged with the defence of the country east of the St. John's.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant, .

THOS. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Hon. B. F. Butler,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Armstrong, February 7, 1837.*

Sir: I returned last night from an expedition to the head of the Coloo-sahatchee, about seventy miles southeast of this place, having left the army .about thirty miles back.

The expedition has been so far successful that we came up with the enemy on the 27th ultimo, and the advance under Colonel Henderson attacked and beat them near the Hatcheeluskee, This led to a conference with the hostile chiefs, Jumper, Alligator, and Abraham, who have agreed to meet me, with the other chiefs of the nation, on the 18th instant, to discuss the terms of a peace, or rather to inform me whether they will accept the terms which I have offered.

I have required a strict observance of the terms of the treaty, and have demanded immediate emigration as an indispensable condition,

There would be no difficulty in making peace and giving immediate security to the country, if it were not for that condition; but the chiefs say that their people cannot live in the country assigned to them.in consequence of the coldness of the climate. They are here below the 28th degree of north latitude, and will there be above the 34th. The negroes, too, who rule the Indians, are all averse to removing to so cold a climate.

Seven companies of the 6th infantry having arrived, I assumed the responsibility of taking them into the field: without them, I could not have executed my plan, which has resulted so favorably, To send any troops out of the country at the present crisis, would jeopardize all we have gained, I therefore feel it to be my imperious duty to retain them till the result of the conference with the hostile chiefs, to take place on the 18th, shall be known.

Should that conference result us we hope it may, all the troops in Florida will then be disposable for service elsewhere.

I hope that you and the President may approve of the measure; and I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

The Hon. B. F. Butler,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Armstrong, February 7, 1837.*

Sir: I have the honor to report, for the information of the Secretary of War and the General--in-chief, that the main body of the army under my command was put in motion on the 22d ultimo, to attack the Indians and negroes in the strongholds which they were said to occupy on the head waters of the Ocklawaha.

On the 23d, Lieutenant Colonel Cawfield was detached with his battalion of mounted Alabama volunteers, Captain Harris's company of marines, and Major Morris's Indian warriors, accompanied by my aid, Lieutenant Chambers, to attack Osuchee, (Cooper,) a chief of some note, who was reported to have a large Indian force under his command, in a swamp on the borders of Hapapka lake. The chief was surprised, himself and three warriors killed, and nine Indians (women and children) and eight negroes captured. One of our Indian warriors was mortally wounded, and died on the 26th.

It was ascertained from the prisoners that the principal Indian and negro force had retired from the Ocklawaha, in a southeasterly direction, towards the head of the Coloosahatchee. Pursuit was immediately commenced, with no other guide than the track of their ponies and cattle.

The Thlawhatkee, (White mountains,) an elevated range of hills not mentioned by any geographer, nor described in any account of Florida which I have seen, was passed on the 24th. The ascent in many places was so difficult as to render drag-ropes and heavy details of men necessary to take the baggage-wagons over the heights.

On approaching the Thla-pace-hatchee, on the morning of the 27th, the herds of cattle feeding on the prairies, and the numerous recent trails, in various directions, indicated the presence of the enemy. The army was halted, and scouts sent out on different trails to obtain information.

Colonel Henderson, with Lieutenant Colonel Cawfield's battalion, Captain Harris's mounted marines, and Major Morris's Indian warriors, accompanied by my aid, Lieutenant Chambers, was detached to make a reconnoissance of the country in advance, with orders to attack the enemy if he should find them and deem his command sufficient, and report by express their force and position.

The enemy was found on the Hatcheeluskee, in and near the "Great Cypress swamp," and promptly and gallantly attacked. Lieutenant Chambers, with Price's company of Alabama volunteers, by a rapid charge, succeeded in capturing the horses and baggage of the enemy, with twenty-five Indians and negroes, principally women and children; the men having all fled into the

swamp.

Colonel Henderson, leaving one company with the prisoners and horses, entered the swamp with the remainder of his command, drove the enemy across the Hacheeluskee, passed that river under their fire, and drove them into a more dense and difficult swamp, where they dispersed.

The messenger first sent to report to me was killed: a second was more fortunate. The parties detached on other trails were called in; and Lieutenant Colonel Freeman, with a small force of pioneers and artillery, being charged with the defence of the camp, the disposable force of Brigadier General Armistead's brigade, and Major Graham's infantry, and Tustenuggee Hajo's Indian warriors, was moved forward to support Colonel Henderson. When the troops reached the point where the colonel had entered the swamp, it was ascertained that he was in rapid pursuit of the enemy, and was believed to be fully able to manage the force opposed to him.

The Indian scouts at this moment reported a large hostile force about two miles to our right. Major Whiting's battalion was left as a reserve, and the 6th infantry, with Major Graham's company of the 4th, and a small party of Indian warriors, was moved to the point indicated. The swamps and hammocks were entered and passed by the troops in perfect order; and the advance, under Major Graham, found a large Indian encampment, with fires burning and provisions cooking; the enemy having fled to the surrounding swamps.

As night was approaching, pursuit was impossible; and the troops returned to camp, where they arrived about nine o'clock. Colonel Henderson's returned after ten.

On the morning of the 28th, a prisoner was sent to Jumper, and the other hostile chiefs, with an offer of peace, on a strict fulfilment by them of the terms of the treaty; and the army moved forward, and occupied a strong position on the Toho-peeka-liga lake, within a few miles of the point at which the Cypress swamp approaches it, where several hundred head of cattle were obtained.

The prisoners returned on the night of the 29th, with pacific messages from Alligator and Abraham.

Abraham visited me on the 31st. He returned, and brought Jumper and Alligator, with two sub-chiefs, (one a nephew of Micanopy,) on the 3d instant. These chiefs entered into an arrangement to meet me at Fort Dade, with the other chiefs of the nation, on the 18th instant, and promised to send out runners and cause hostilities to be suspended until the conference shall have taken place.

I shall employ the intermediate time in preparations for the most vigorous prosecution of the war; and, from the information I have from prisoners, I shall probably be able to follow the enemy into their most hidden retreats, should they reject the terms offered to them.

The army commenced its return march on the morning of the 4th. I left it yesterday about thirty miles back, and came in last evening. It arrived to-day in good health and fine spirits. Colonel Henderson's report, a copy of which is enclosed, will give you more detailed information of the battle of the Hatcheeluskee that I have been unable to embody in this report. I unite with the colonel in the request that the officers whom he has named be rewarded by the distinguished approbation of the Government; and I ask, as an act of justice, that the same distinguished approbation be extended to the gallant colonel himself.

Though but a small part of the force had the good fortune to engage the enemy in battle, all, without a single exception, have performed their duties in the most satisfactory manner. They have opened a road near seventy miles into the interior of the enemy's country, and to the immediate vicinity of his strongest holds, where the white man had perhaps never been before; and by their patient, cheerful, and persevering labors, have contributed as much probably to their discomfiture as would have been effected by a general and decisive battle.

To Brigadier General Armistead, Lieutenant Colonel Cawfield, Major Thompson, Major Whiting, and Major Morris, and to Colonel Henderson, Lieutenant Colonel Freeman, Major Kirby, and Major Graham, as well as to the officers and soldiers of their respective commands, I am under the greatest obligations for the prompt and efficient support which they have, on all occasions, given to me during the expedition.

Lieutenant Colonels Stanton and Brown, of the Adjutant General's department, Captain Crossman, quartermaster, Lieutenant Searle, principal commissary, Doctor Kearney, medical director, Captain Tompkins, ordnance officer, and my aids, Lieutenants Chambers and Linnard, merit my warmest commendation for the efficiency, ability and zeal, with which they have performed their duties.

Every department and every individual has fulfilled my utmost expectations, and nothing necessary to be done has been left undone.

As an act of justice to all my predecessors in command, I consider it my duty to say that the difficulties attending military operations in this country can be properly appreciated only by those acquainted with them. I have had advantages which neither of them possessed, in: better preparations and more abundant supplies, and I found it impossible to operate with any prospect of success until I had established a line of depots across the country.

This is a service that no man would seek, with any other view than the mere performance of his duty. Distinction or increase of reputation is out of the question; and the difficulties are such, that the best concerted plans may result in absolute failure, and the best established reputation be lost without a fault.

If I have at any time said aught in disparagement of the operations of others in Florida, either verbally or in writing, officially or unofficially, knowing the country as I now know it, I consider myself bound, as a man

of honor, solemnly to retract it.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. JONES,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH  
*Hatcheluskee, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 1837*

General : Under your directions, I left the main army on the morning of the 27<sup>th</sup>, with mounted Alabama volunteers, under Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfild, with the company of mounted marines, under Captain Harris, and proceeded, accompanied by your aid, Lieutenant Chambers, on a southerly train. Orders were left for Major Morris, with his command, to follow as rapidly as possible.

Soon after we left your position, a large number of cattle were collected and sent in under charge of portions of two companies of the Alabama volunteers. You were present, however, when this detachment was made.

The troops under my command then pursued the trail for about a mile, when we came to two diverging trails - one taking a southeasterly course, and the other more to the eastward. On these two trails the signs were the most recent, and Lieutenant Chambers, with a few men, proceeded to trace out one of them, while the rest of the troops, joined here by Major Morris, pursued the other. We had proceeded but a small distance, when a volunteer, sent by Lieutenant Chambers, brought information that fresh signs of women's and children's tracks were discovered, and requested a company to be sent to him. Captain Price's company of volunteers was ordered accordingly.

About a mile in advance, a negro man was captured at a fire. He informed us that a large number of negroes were in advance, and from forty to fifty Indians, with Abraham, were in our rear. He stated that he had left the latter body since sunrise in the morning.

The determination was promptly made to retrace our steps, and attack the Indians. Just as we were about to march, one of the volunteers came up and gave information that Lieutenant Chambers had overtaken a considerable force of Indians and negroes.

An order was given to proceed to his support, and a rapid movement made for that purpose. When we came up with him, he was in possession of two Indian women and three children, besides a body of negroes taken by the volunteers in the adjoining pine woods. He had also in his possession over a hundred ponies, a large quantity of plunder packed on them, as well as several stand of arms. The main body of the enemy escaped in the swamp,

and Major Morris was ordered with his command to pursue and bring them in. He entered the swamp in accordance with the order.

The remaining troops were then ordered to form, to pursue the Indian force in our rear; and were ready to march, when a firing commenced in the swamp.

Lieutenant Searle reached us here, under your orders, to obtain information of our position and movements. When the firing commenced, and the order was given to move in support of Major Morris, he sent a messenger to you, and bravely joined the troops in entering the swamp.

About half-past eleven, the marines, preceded by the officers, entered the swamp, and were immediately followed by the Alabama volunteers. Four or five hundred yards after entering the swamp, we arrived at a deep stream, from twenty to twenty-five yards wide, and found Major Morris's battalion engaged with the enemy across it. A tree had been felled from each side, and formed the only way of passing it.

The troops, as they came up, were ordered to extend to the right and left, and by a cross fire to dislodge the enemy. Their fire soon slackened, and an order was given to cross the stream ; when Captain Morris ( major of the 1st Indian battalion) gallantly advanced on the log, followed by Lieutenant Chambers, Lieutenant Searle, and Captain Harris. Lieutenant Lee ( captain of the Indian battalion) swam the stream at this time, and joined the officers on the other side. I attempted to cross in this way, but had to return to the log, and crossed there. At this stream Private Wright, of the marines, was killed, and Sergeant Cunningham and Privates Sullivan and Foley wounded, but not dangerously.

Just as I was crossing, an officer was sent from Lieutenant Colonel Cawfield, on our right, for orders. He was directed to cross as rapidly as he could with his men, after the regulars and Indians had passed over -we were then promptly joined by the marines, Morris's artillery, and some friendly Indians, and pursued the enemy as rapidly as the deep swamp and their mode of warfare admitted.

Another fire from them was received farther in advance, and their trail from the swamp was followed through an open pine woods, and traced till it again entered the swamp, three-quarters of a mile from the place it came out. We were here joined by Lieutenant Colonel Cawfield, with his men, who had been delayed in crossing the stream. The swamp was again entered, deeper and more difficult to pass than it had been. The friendly Indians were directed to enter on each flank, while the regulars and volunteers advanced in the centre. The regulars were ordered to lead the march.

After advancing about half a mile, the enemy again fired on us, but retreated on the advance of the troop. At this place Private Peterson, of the marines, was killed, and Corporal Stevens severely but not dangerously wounded. On a farther advance into the swamp, a few more guns were fired by the enemy, who retreated as the troops followed them.

Soon after this last fire, a negro man and woman, with a child, were taken, and an order was given for the return of the troops after 4 o'clock.

The wife and child of the negro man were kept, and he was sent to the enemy, to induce them to come in, as they had lost all their clothing, blankets, and other property.

The troops then returned to the position occupied by Major Whiting, and remained there till joined by Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfeld, who had remained in the open woods for one of his companies which had not come out of the swamp. He joined, some time after dark, with another negro prisoner, taken by his company. The troops then took up the line of march, and reached the camp of the main army at ten o'clock at night.

Captain Howle, acting assistant adjutant general, was reported by the surgeon too unwell to accompany the troops on this expedition, and was not informed of my intention to take command. He and Captain Crossman, however, entered the swamp with an expectation of taking part in the operations, but were not fortunate enough to join till the attacks were over. Such an effort is a sufficient evidence of what their conduct would have been had they succeeded in reaching us sooner.

The loss on the part of the enemy in the several attacks could not be ascertained, as the troops made no halt in the pursuit, and returned after dark. One Indian, however, and two negroes, were seen by the troops dead.

The result of this day's operations was, the capture of two Indian women and three children, and twenty-three negroes, (young and old.) over a hundred ponies, with packs on about fifty of them. All their clothing, blankets, and other baggage, was abandoned by the enemy, and either taken or destroyed by us.

In concluding this report, it gives me pleasure to state that Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfeld's command executed every duty assigned it with great promptness and firmness.

A portion of the friendly Indians also, who came under my eye, conducted themselves with great bravery.

The regular troops, both artillery and marines, displayed great bravery, and the most untiring and determined perseverance. The marines, however, I cannot refrain from mentioning in a particular manner. The killed and wounded show where they were, and render any further comment from me unnecessary.

Lieutenant Whitney, of Captain Harris's company, and Lieutenant Brent, of Captain Morris's, were with their companies, and shared in the dangers and fatigues of the day in such a manner as to reflect credit on them.

I would recommend to the particular notice of yourself and the Government the five officers who first crossed the stream, and who, in the pursuit,

constantly led the van. It would be as gratifying to me as it would be just to them, that some marks of distinction be bestowed where such gallantry has been displayed.

I remain, general, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ARCH'D HENDERSON,

*Colonel commanding 2d brigade army of South.*

Major General Thomas S. Jesup,

*Commanding army of the South, Hattcheeluskee, Florida.*

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FORT DADE, *February 17, 1837.*

Sir: Since my report by Lieutenant Colonel Stanton, on the 7th inst., detailing the operations of the division of the army under my immediate command, in the expedition to the head of the Coloosahatchee, I have received a report from Lieutenant Colonel Fanning, with a copy of one made direct to you, of a handsome affair between the force under his command and the hostile Indians, on the 8th instant, at the head of lake Monroe. The conduct of both officers and soldiers deserves the highest praise ; and I hope both may receive the reward due to gallantry and good conduct.

I send an extract from the report to me.

The enemy were evidently in great force, and as the battle took place not more than fifty or sixty miles from the point on the Hattcheeluskee where the advance of my division fought, I am apprehensive they were reinforced by a part of the warriors opposed to me. If so, the Indians may not meet me to-morrow, agreeably to their promise. I shall not, however, regret having afforded them the opportunity to come in, as every claim of humanity will thus have been satisfied; and if we have to recommence the war, we shall have nothing with which to reproach ourselves, with regard to these unfortunate but ferocious people. I had, previously to marching to the Coloosahatchee, directed Lieutenant Colonel Foster to resume offensive operations against the Indians on the gulf south of the Withlacoochee. Commodore Dallas detached a small force under Lieutenant Johnson, to cooperate with him. The combined force ascended and descended several rivers not previously known to us, and explored several extensive swamps and hammocks. They destroyed eight Indian villages and a quantity of Indian property: and on the 9th instant, Captain Allen, of the 4th infantry, fell in with a superior force of the enemy on the Wee-wa-ki-e-wa, attacked, routed, and dispersed them in the most gallant manner. Captain Allen, as well as the officers and soldiers under his command, behaved with great gallantry, and deserve every commendation. Allow me to claim for them the attention of the Government. Lieutenant Johnson, of the navy, with the officers and men of his command, are entitled to great credit for their persevering and prompt attention to the duties with which they were charged. That excellent officer was ready to support Captain Allen, and would have joined him had

the action continued.

Lieutenant Colonel Foster conducted the operations confided to him in the best manner; and Major Nelson, with his battalion of Georgia volunteers, executed with energy and promptitude every duty assigned to him. They, with the officers and soldiers under their command, are entitled to all praise.

I enclose a copy of Lieutenant Colonel Foster's last report, with a copy of Captain Allen's report to him.

Lieutenant Hunter, of the navy, with his characteristic energy and enterprise, succeeded in ascending the Withlacoochee about ninety miles - more than seventy in a small steamboat, and the remainder of the distance in a barge constructed for the purpose.

His voyage has demonstrated that the river cannot be used for any valuable purpose in our operations in this country. The difficulties of navigation are such as could be removed only in time of peace, and the expense of much time and great labor.

So arduous and unremitted have been the labors of this army, and so rapid and constant its marches, that men and horses are broken down. The mounted men, to perform efficient service, should be remounted, and great additions must be made to the train if hostilities should recommence.

The entire absence of all means, except those brought into the country, renders it difficult to remain many days in succession in the field. The Indians cannot be pursued without mounted men, and to support their horses in the interior is almost impossible.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS.\_S. JESUP.

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General Washington City.*

[Extract.]

Fort Call, February 12, 1837

GENERAL: On the 29th ultimo I was at the head of lake Monroe, with ample supplies for your army. On the 8<sup>th</sup> instant the enemy attacked us in great force.

He was repulsed, and did not show himself afterwards. On the 9th instant I received your orders to retire upon this place. I could have been here on the 10th, but deferred the retrograde movement until this morning ; not willing the enemy should think we retired in consequence of the contest with him.

I herewith forward a copy of my official report to the Adjutant General; also, a copy of an order read at the grave of the late Captain Mellon, and

which, I trust, you will approve.

I have the honor to be, general, with great respect, your most obedient servant.

A. C. W. FANNING,  
*Maj. 4<sup>th</sup> artillery, Brev. Lieut. Col.*

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding army in Florida, Fort Armstrong.*

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Fort Dade, *February* 15, 1837.

Sir : Upon my reception of your letter of the 8th instant, I wrote you that operations should cease in the left wing of the army of the South; and that Nelson's horse should be sent to Fort Drane. Neither of these things has occurred at the time as I then intended.

I send you orders Nos. 9 and 10. The movements directed in these orders took place on the 8th instant. I immediately countermanded them, and ordered the troops to camp, on the reception of your letter of the 8th instant ; but their return could not be effected until, in the case of Nelson, two o'clock in the afternoon of the 10th instant; and in the case of Captain Allen, at eight o'clock in the evening of the same day.

The combined operations, directed in the orders referred to, although not perfectly successful, yet produced a greater knowledge of the country, and brought about, between three and four o'clock of the afternoon of the 9th instant, a very gallant little affair. At the extremity of an Indian village, on the Wiwakiakki, or Clear river, between Captain Allen and forty men of the 4th infantry, and about fifty warriors; in which the Indians were beaten, and driven, from a mile to n mile and a half, upon the run ; the officers and men constantly pressing on them, cheering and firing as they advanced, stopped by nothing. Rivers, creeks, lagoons, and swamps were rapidly waded by these brave men, who neither counted the numbers of the enemy, the depth of the streams, nor halted an instant in their determined purpose, until night came on, when they were obliged to desist. .

Towards the close of the affair, Sergeant Clendenning, a soldier of twenty years standing, in the 4th infantry, fell. His comrades bore his body to the boats, and rowed them to the steamboat American, a distance of ten miles. A coffin was made at Fort Clinch : and he was buried on an island at the mouth of the Withlacoochcc. Such is often the death, and such should always be the funeral, of a soldier.

Lieutenant Johnson, of the navy, (who was placed under my orders by the soldierly feeling and correct judgment of Commodore Dallas at my first suggestion,) and his command, who were on the river in boats, the moment they heard the first firing, hastened up to the scene of action with all that

promptitude which ever characterizes brave and tried soldiers. The commanding officer takes a pride in naming to you, general, the gentlemen who compose this entire command. Captain Allen, of 4th infantry, commanded. He was assisted in the battle by Dr. Parsons, of the avy; Midshipmn Watkins, and Mr. Bayly, a gallant and disinterested volunteer from the State of Maine. 'With Lieutenant Johnson were Passed Midshipman Borden and Midshipman Boudinot.

Lieutenant Hunter, of the navy, who deserves great credit for his late persevering and arduous trip up the Withlacoochee, in the steamer Crowell, also remained, at my request, at the mouth of the river (anxious and willing to participate in my operations) until the cessation of hostilities took place, when he passed into Tampa Bay. To all these brave soldiers, both officers and men, I have given all I have in my power to offer-my sincere and hearty thanks.

I regret to say, general, that Nelson's horse are unfit for immediate service. I was compelled to leave with Major Wilson, at the position selected by me for artillery and infantry of my command, nineteen horses and twenty-one men; thirteen more men are dismounted. One hundred and nine mounted men compose Major Nelson's command. With hay and oats they would soon be able to take the field. By easy marches, and without injury to them, I have brought them here, where they can go to Fort Drane, should things take an unfavorable turn, after the 18th instant, or immediately, as you may wish. They are now a few miles farther from Fort Drane than when at my camp, in the vicinity of Fort Clinch; but the fine corn here will more than compensate this ; (the corn at Fort Clinch being bad ;) and, if hostilities recommence, I can return as soon as an express would reach the position of my command from this place.

Hoping that all my acts may meet your approval, I am, general, with the highest consideration and respect, your obedient servant,

W. S. FOSTER,

*Lt. Col. com. south wing of army of the South.*

Major General T. S. JESUP, *commanding, &c.*

P. S. Thirty-two cattle captured on our last march.

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MOUTH OF THE WITHACOOCHEE,

*February 10, 1837.*

COLONEL: In obedience to your instructions, I proceeded with my company on board of the United States steamer America, commanded by Lieutenant Johnson of the navy. The boat got under way early yesterday morning, and grounded. After using every exertion to get her off, we found it impracticable, and accordingly embarked in Mackinac boats, and proceeded about twelve miles down the coast; whence we entered the Crystal river, and

ascended it to a point about ten miles, where we discovered a fresh trail, and oysters which had been recently taken out of the river by the Indians. This point, or shell-bank, was surmounted by an oak tree, which was worn smooth by the Indians in ascending up for the purpose of reconnoitring.

I left the boats at this point, taking with me forty men. Lieutenant Johnson proceeded up the river with the boats. After a short distance, I entered an Indian camp, which had been hastily and recently abandoned. All their cooking utensils, camp equipage, &c. were left in the camp. Large quantities of the compta root, cabbage tree, and its berries, were found here, besides skins of cattle, deer, and bears. The bayous and rivers afford oysters and fish in abundance: and I hesitate not to assert that man may here subsist from resources that are inexhaustible. Leaving this camp, about one quarter of a mile distant, we entered upon another, the most extensive I have seen in Florida ; and, from the number of huts, I think it must have contained two or three hundred. Whilst we were examining this camp, Indians were discovered at the upper end. We immediately attacked them, and drove them about two miles, through several small hammocks and across two or three bayous, or estuaries of the sea, where we were arrested by deep water, and a dense hammock upon the opposite side. I here ordered a halt, to bring up my rear.

Having found a narrow strip of land over which we could pass, a charge was again sounded, and rapidly executed, under a heavy fire from the enemy, who forthwith retreated and dispersed; and I regret to state that Sergeant Clendenning was killed at this juncture.

Lieutenant Johnson, of the navy, upon hearing the firing, promptly joined me near this hammock, with all the force that could be spared from the boats. Night coming on, the Indians could not be pursued any farther. We retired to our boats, with the body of the sergeant, and, descending the river some distance, encamped for the night.

Midshipman Watkins, and Mr. Bayly, who volunteered his services; fought bravely throughout the whole affair.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. W. ALLEN,  
*Captain 4th infantry.*

Col. W. S. Foster,  
*Commanding 4th infantry.*

HEADQUARTERS, FORT DADE,  
*February 17, 1837.*

Sir : I had the honor to receive last night your letter of the 4th ultimo,

with a copy of the President's message and the documents accompanying it; for which, accept my acknowledgments.

I am waiting most anxiously the movements of the hostile chiefs. The attack on Lieutenant Colonel Fanning has caused me to doubt their sincerity even more than before ; for, although I consider myself bound to allow them an opportunity to come in, I place but little reliance on their professions. There would be no difficulty in making peace if they were allowed to remain in the country, even as citizens, or individuals subjected to our laws ; but many of them prefer death to removal. In all the numerous battles and skirmishes that have taken place, not a single first-rate warrior has been captured, and only two Indian men have surrendered.

The warriors have fought as long as they had life ; and such seems to me to be the determination of those who influence their councils - I mean the leading negroes. To-morrow, however, will determine the question as to their sincerity. Should they refuse the terms which I have offered, the war must recommence, and there will be little prospect of closing it during the present season.

If I were as well acquainted with the country as the hostile chiefs are I would undertake to defend it with five hundred men against as many thousand, My last march, as well as the operations of Lieutenant Colonels Foster and Fanning, has demonstrated that we can pursue the enemy into their strongest holds, but we cannot remain there a sufficient length of time to produce any lasting effect upon them.

We may conquer them in time, and may destroy them, it is true; but the war will be a most harassing one, and will retard the settlement and improvement of this country for many years to come. I am not disposed to overrate the difficulties which surround me ; but, in communicating with you, it would be criminal to underrate them. The force I have is as large as could well be supplied, and as large, perhaps, as is necessary to carry on operations in any part of this country. I consider it amply sufficient to beat the whole force of the enemy if they were concentrated; but the enemy will not concentrate.

To enable you to judge of the difficulties of carrying on operations here, I beg of you to examine the map, and observe the dispersed state of the troops and the enemy. On the 27th ultimo, the advance of my division fought on the Hatcheeluskee, seventy miles southeast of this place, at the head of the Coloosahatchee. On the 8th instant, Colonel Fanning fought at the head of lake Monroe, perhaps sixty miles northeast of my battle ground. On the 9th, Captain Allen fought a party of the enemy near the Gulf, at least seventy miles west of this place; and I have been compelled to detach a part of the dragoons to Newnansville, a hundred miles to the northwest, and another portion of that corps to operate against the Indians on Orange lake, fifty or sixty miles northeast of us. General Hernandez is to operate on the eastern side of the peninsula, from St. Augustine, south. Thus it will be seen that the forces composing this army are divided into six different corps, covering an extent of country at least a hundred and fifty miles square.

The posts necessary to be kept up are Fort Brooke, Fort Foster, Fort Dade, Fort Armstrong, Fort Drano, Fort Winder, Fort Harlee, and Fort Heileman, on a line or road from the former to the latter inclusive, a distance of one hundred and eighty miles ; another post is necessarily kept up near the mouth of the Withlacoochee, one at Volusia, one at St. Augustine, one at Picolata; besides numerous other small posts which are absolutely necessary to cover the country and protect the inhabitants.

With such numerous posts and detachments, it will readily be seen that a large force cannot be employed in any single operation.

If the war should recommence, I shall break up some of the posts, in order to take their garrisons into the field.

*February 18.* - Abraham has just come in with a flag, accompanied by a nephew of the Indian chief Cloud, and a negro chief.

He repeats that Jumper, Holatuchee, Alligator, and others, are on the way, and will probably arrive to-morrow. I am yet doubtful of the result.

I have the honor to be, sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP

The Hon. B. F. Butler,  
*Secretary of War, Washington, City*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH

*Fort Dade, February 20, 1837.*

Sir: The Indian chiefs were to have met me on the 18th, hut they have not yet arrived. They have sent two of the sub-chiefs, with several Indians and Indian negroes, to inform me of the cause of their delay : the message is not satisfactory, but the Indians are slowly coming in. To be able to take the field promptly, if they should deceive me, I shall require at least four hundred horses. I have had scarcely any, except the broken down horses of the Tennesseans, and the broken-down trains of Governor Cali's army; and the consumption of horses by this service exceeds any thing I have ever witnessed before. .

To reach Micanopy, I must have mounted men; and so severe has been the service which I have exacted of the mounted volunteers, that they have not among them a hundred horses fit for immediate service. I shall be under the necessity of ordering a purchase ; and, for that purpose, must send an officer to Savannah. If peace should be made, the horses will probably sell for nearly their original cost ; if it should not be made, I shall gain time by making the purchase immediately.

By the most extraordinary and unremitting exertions of the quartermaster's

and commissary's departments, I have kept this army in the interior of the country, engaged in the most active operations, since the 17th December ; and I shall keep it in the interior so long as there is a hostile warrior in the field.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

The Hon. B. F. Butler,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City*

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FORT DADE,  
*February 22, 1837, 4 o'clock, P.M.*

Sir : Alligator and Clond (who commanded at Wahoo) have just arrived, and report that Holah-Touchee, second chief of the nation, will be here to-night. Jumper and Micanopy have not come. I am not yet sanguine as to the result, but hope that all may go as we desire.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP.

The Hon. B. F. Butler,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Dade, February 25, 1837.*

Sir ; I have the honor to report that a portion of the hostile Indian chiefs, with a number of warriors, red and black, visited me at this place, in accordance with an arrangement made with Jumper, Alligator, and Abraham, on the 4th instant, at the head of the Coloosahatchce.

Neither Jumper nor Micanopy came in ; but Ho-lo-ah Toochee, second chief of the nation, and brother of Micanopy, attended as the representative of his brother and of the nation.

Ho-lo-ah Toochee informed me that runners had been sent to call in all the-chiefs and warriors, to meet me on the 18th instant; but that the Indians were so widely dispersed, that the information could not be sent to all in time. He declared that the Indians were all desirous of peace, but he could not say whether they would consent to emigrate. Micanopy requested him to say that the troops had driven him into a "bad swamp," from the good land on which he had formerly lived, and he desired to be allowed to remain

there. I informed Ho-lo-ah Toochee that emigration was an indispensable condition of peace. He said Micanopy had not instructed him on that point. I informed him that I could enter into arrangements for peace with no one but Micanopy himself; that I expected him here, and, if he desired peace, he must come : but he, as well as all the other chiefs and warriors, must distinctly understand that there could be no peace without emigration. Ho-lo-ah Toochee undertook to communicate with his brother, and Alligator with Jumper; and they engaged that both those chiefs should visit me on the 4th of March.

Twelve hostages have been left with me, one of them a nephew of Micanopy. All hostile Indians north of the Withlacoochee and the road to Volusia are to withdraw south of that line, and are not to return north of it without a written permission from headquarters ; and those east of St. John's are also to withdraw to the west of that river, as soon as information can be communicated to them by runners. In the mean time, I reserve the right of establishing a post near the mouth of the Coloosahatchee, and one near the head of the St. John's ; and, also, of re-establishing Fort King, should I think proper to do so. I am also to continue the troops in active employment, on the frontier north of me, should circumstances require it. Peace may be the result of my conference with Micanopy, should he come in ; but I am not sanguine that he will come ; or, if he come, that he will consent to make peace unless emigration be abandoned. I therefore consider it to be necessary to continue the most' vigorous preparations for an immediate and active campaign ; and, if the chiefs should not come in, or should refuse peace on the terms offered, I shall be able to recommence operations the moment they disperse.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. JONES, Adjutant General,  
*Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Dade, March 6, 1837.*

Sir : I have the honor to report, for the information of the Secretary of War and the General-in-chief, that I have this day entered into a convention with the Seminole Indians, by their second, third, and fourth chiefs, representing the principal chief, Micanopy, and the nation, for the suspension of hostilities, and the immediate removal of the whole nation west of the Mississippi. I enclose a copy of the convention, or capitulation, from which it will be seen that I have granted to the Indians the most liberal terms. This I considered the dictate of policy as well as of sound economy. To have attempted the exaction of severe terms, might have led to a renewal of hostilities, by which millions might have expended, and many valuable lives

lost by exposure to the climate as well as by the arms of the enemy.

As the Indians respect nothing but force, I shall be compelled to retain the troops, in readiness for active service, until a considerable portion of them at least take their departure for the West, which I hope will have been done before the 1st of May.

The wagon-trains were, in a great measure, broken down ; in consequence of which, I ordered a hundred mules from New Orleans ; and the horses of the mounted men being rendered, by the severe service they have performed, entirely unfit for service, and mounted men being absolutely necessary to pursue the scattered hands of Indians, should any of them determine not to come in, I ordered an officer to Savannah to purchase four hundred horses. On them I shall mount the dragoons, and a portion of the other regular troops, and shall thus be able to compel a full execution of the treaty ; my depots being so arranged, that I can operate at any time - being [not] more than from thirty to forty miles from supplies.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,  
Major General, commanding.

Brig. General R. JONES,  
Adjutant General, Washington

*Capitulation of the Seminole nation of Indians and their allies, by Jumper, Hohahtoochee, or Davy, and Yaholoochee, representing the principal chief Micanopy, and fully empowered by him, entered into with Major General Thomas S. Jesup, commanding the United States forces in Florida, this sixth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.*

Article 1; The chiefs above named, in behalf of themselves and the nation, agree that hostilities shall cease immediately, and shall not be resumed.

Article 2. They agree and bind themselves that the entire nation shall immediately emigrate to the country assigned to them by the President of the United States, west of the Mississippi.

Article 3. Until they emigrate, they will place in the possession of the general commanding the troops, hostages for the faithful performance of their engagements.

Article 4. The Indians shall immediately withdraw to the south of the Hillsborough. Those found north of that river, and a line drawn from Fort Foster due east from it to the ocean, without permission of the general commanding, after the 1st of April, will be considered hostile.

Article 5. Major General Jesup, in behalf of the United States, agrees that the Seminoles, and their allies, who come in, and emigrate to the West, shall be secure in their lives and property ; that their negroes, their bona fide

property, shall accompany them to the West ; and that their cattle and ponies shall be paid for by the United States, at a fair valuation.

Article 6. That the expenses of the movement west shall be paid for by the United States.

Article 7. That the chiefs, warriors, and their families and negroes, shall be subsisted from the time they assemble in camp near Tampa Bay, until they arrive at their homes west of the :Mississippi, and twelve months thereafter, at the expense of the United States.

Article 8. The chiefs and warriors, with their families, will assemble in the camp to be designated by the commanding general, as soon as they can; and at all events by the 10th of April. Yaholoochee will come in at once with his people, and the other towns will follow as fast as possible.

Article 9. Transports will be ready to take the Indians, with their negroes, off to their western homes.

Article 10. Micanopy will be one of the hostages: he is to visit the commanding general, and will remain near him until his people are ready to move.

Article 11. All the advantages secured. to the Indians by the treaty of Payne's Landing, and not enumerated in the preceding articles, are hereby recognised, and are secured to them.

Signed at Camp Dade, this sixth day of March, one thousand eight hundred and thirty-seven.

THOMAS S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*  
[Signers.]

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Dade, ( Florida.) March 8, 1837.*

GENERAL: Under instructions, I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 9th ult., addressed to Major General Jesup, wherein you acknowledge the receipt of sundry letters, orders, &c. from these headquarters. .

One paragraph of your letter states, "It was not known that his (Major Dearborn's) command had been ordered from Irwinton, Georgia, to Florida, until the receipt of your order of No. 23, of the 11<sup>th</sup> of December, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of January." In answer to this paragraph, the general desires me to inform you that the removal of Major Dearborn's command from Irwinton to the lower part of Georgia was reported to your office as far back as the 20<sup>th</sup> of September, 1836, as shown by the accompanying letter, (copy,) which

is now forwarded under supposition that the original must have miscarried.

I am, general, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. CHAMBERS,  
*Lt., A. D. C., and A. A. Gen.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington, D. C.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Dade, (Florida,) March 26., 1837.*

Sir : I have the satisfaction to be able to report that the Seminole chief Yaholoochee, (Cloud,) who commanded at the Wahoo, is at Tampa Bay with his family; and he has about two hundred of his people in a camp near that post.

The principal chiefs on the St. John's, Tuskinia and Emathla, (Philip,) have sent messages to me: they will obey the order of Micanopy to emigrate. Philip sent his son, who informed me that his father had required Abiaca, (Sam Jones.) chief of the Micasukies, to join him and accompany him on his visit to Micanopy.

The war is no doubt ended, if a firm and prudent course be pursued ; but a trifling impropriety, on the part of the white population of the frontier, might light it up again. The negroes rule the Indians, and it is important that they should feel themselves secure : if they should become alarmed, and hold out, the war will be renewed.

I shall send one battalion of the Indian warriors serving in Florida to Mobile, so soon as it can be mustered and paid, and transports be obtained.

The Alabama draughts will be sent off as soon as they can be paid: transports have been provisioned for them. The naval garrison, furnished by Commodore Dallas for Fort Foster, has been relieved and ordered to join the ship whence it was detached.

I shall discharge the volunteers and militia force as rapidly as the circumstances of the service will permit, and shall take measures to have the ordnance and other stores, not required in Florida, taken to the most convenient arsenals and store-houses.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP.,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Dade, March 28, 1837.*

GENERAL: In my report of the affair of the 27th of January at the Hatcheeluskee, I omitted to mention that Major Thompson commanded the 6th regiment of infantry: That excellent officer moved, on that occasion, at the head of his corps, under General Armistead, to support Colonel Henderson, who commanded the advance of the army; and afterwards to attack the Indians concentrated in the "Cabbage hammock," to the right of the colonel's position. It is due to justice that the omission be noticed, and I respectfully ask that this note be published as a part of my report.

I have the honor to be, general, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH  
*Fort Dade, (Florida,) March 29, 1837.*

GENERAL : I enclose a letter from Colonel Henderson of this day's date, which I will thank you to file with my report of the expedition to the head of the Coloosahatchee. Captain Price, as well as the other officers of the corps to which he is attached, was most efficient and useful throughout the whole of the operations in the field. On the occasion referred to, Lieutenant Chambers was detached from headquarters, and directed movements as a staff officer, but was not in command of the troops.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

THO. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Dade, March 29, 1837.*

GENERAL : In the report made to you on the 28th January last of the

operations of the previous day, two mistakes were made inadvertently, and which are now corrected.

The first mistake is in not stating that the negroes taken in the pine woods were captured by a detachment of Captain Will's company of Alabama volunteers, sent with orders to Captain Price. The second error is in mentioning Lieutenant Chambers as commanding the force that captured the Indian women and children, the ponies, and other property of the enemy. Captain Price was in command.

I remain, general, with great respect, your obedient servant,

ARCHIBALD HENDERSON,  
*Colonel commanding 2d Brigade Army of the South.*  
Major Gen. Thos. S. Jesup,  
*Comd'g Army of the South, headquarters, Fort Dade.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Brooke, (Florida,) April 3, 1837.*

SIR: I have this moment received your letter of the 14th ultimo.

When I directed the dredge-boat to be taken to lake George and lake Monroe, I was not aware that it was in the service of the Engineer department ; I had been informed that it belonged to the custom-house. It was, I believed then, and believe now, entirely idle, and I thought it would be more useful to the public in deepening a channel, through which supplies might be taken to the vicinity of the enemy's strongest retreats, than lying idle near the mouth of the St. John's. The instant I was apprized that the boat was in the service of the Engineer department, though the object for which it had been taken remained unaccomplished, I ordered it to be returned. The order, a copy of which is enclosed, was dated on the 1<sup>st</sup> March.

I am, sir, respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*  
Brig. Gen. R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Dade, March 1, 1837.*

COLONEL : When I directed that the dredge-boat should be employed and sent to lake George, I was not aware that it was in the service of the

Engineer department. I supposed that it was kept in service by the Treasury Department, or the Territory, for the purpose of keeping the navigation of the St. John's open. Had I been aware of the service on which it was employed, I would not have ordered it. You will cause it to be immediately returned to the Engineer department, and will instruct Lieutenant Colonel Harney accordingly.

I am, colonel, most respectfully, your obedient servant, .

THOS. S. JESUP.

Lieut. Colonel J. B. CRANE,

*Com'nding district between St. John's and Suwannee,*

*Fort Heileman.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

*Tampa Bay, April 23, 1837.*

GENERAL : I will thank you to cause the enclosed paper to be placed on file in your office. I shall, perhaps, have occasion to refer to it hereafter, in connexion with the attempt of the Legislative Council of Florida to repeal their militia laws, in order to prevent the draught of four companies of men which I had required, not for service in the field, but to aid in defence of the settlements when the small force under my command was operating in the field, and was necessarily spread in detachments over a surface of more than a hundred and fifty miles square.

Many of the principal Seminole chiefs are with me, but their people come in slowly. The majority of the Indians doubt the sincerity of our promises ; and those whose interest it is to renew the war - I mean unprincipled white men - spread reports that all who come in are to be executed. Both Micanopy and Jumper have complained to me that, when they had their people collected, and in march to this place, they have been alarmed by such reports and have disappeared ..

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,

*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. JONES,

*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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CAMP, NEAR FORT DRANE, January 17, 1837

ORDER,

The detachment will move to-morrow morning at 7 o'clock for the

Ocklawaha, and the surrounding country; five days' provision and forage for the detachment will be carried in the wagons. Those captains who refuse to march, will state on the bottom of this order.

JOHN WARREN,  
*Colonel Commanding*

I refuse to obey the above order, because my company was raised and mustered into service for the protection of Fort Heileman, and to scour the country from the south branch of St. Mary's, thence to New river, thence to the head of Santa Fe and Picolata. I have, as I conceive, transcended my authority in having my men to escort a train so far as Fort Drane, though, according to the colonel's orders, they have not murmured, but escorted the train to Fort Drane. They, contrary to expectation, are ordered into the nation ; which order they refuse to obey, believing that I am not clothed with power to order them farther. I have called for volunteers; out of twenty-three who were present, there were ten volunteers; I tendered those, who, with my own service, are accepted. I am ready, together with my command, to obey the orders of my colonel, to scour the country to a certain extent, east or north of Fort Drane. The articles which I have reference to have the muster of Major B. K. Pierce, subject to the approval of Governor Call, commander-in-chief of the troops in, Florida; the articles were presented and recognised by the Governor, and we were regularly mustered, which my pay-rolls, which I have now in possession, will show.

JOHN G. SMITH, *Captain,*  
*commanding Whitesville rangers,*

Having called on my company to obey the above order, they refuse, as they volunteered for the protection of the frontier of Drane and Nassau counties; they are at this time drawn from their homes, leaving their families exposed to the enemy, and wholly unprotected; they are now ordered to the Indian nation, and I feel myself in duty bound to disobey.

JOHN PILES, *Captain.*

My reason for disobeying the above order is, my men were summoned to go on a scout in pursuit of the enemy, who attacked Deli's negroes near the Santa Fe, and pursue them as far as Orange lake, if required. Contrary to their expectations, they were ordered to guard baggage-wagons as far as Fort Drane, which they complied with without murmuring .. They are now ordered to the Indian nation ; they were mustered for the protection of Jacksonville and its vicinity. The present order they consider illegal and unjust, and therefore refuse to obey.

A. WAHOMAN,  
*Lieutenant commanding detachment*  
*Jacksonville Black Hawk rangers.*

I refuse to obey the above order for many reasons: First, because my company is unwilling to go; believing that the enemy is in the rear, they are willing to scour the country north of Fort Drane before they return. Secondly, because my orders from Colonel Crane were, that as soon as the pursuit of the Indians that captured Mr. Dell's negroes was given up, I was to return to my post at Mandarin. My company was mustered into service for the protection of the east bank of the St. John's river, although we have a contract with Governor Call that they shall not cross the river without their own consent; yet have they ever been ready and prompt to obey all orders at a moment's warning. They crossed the river to guard the baggage-train, or scour the western banks of the St. John's, to the frontiers of the enemy; they are now, in violation of Governor Cali's agreement, ordered to the Indian nation, which they simultaneously refuse to obey.

MOSES CURRY,  
Commanding company.

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, May 5, 1837.*

GENERAL: Many of the field officers of the regiments serving in Florida, as well as the company officers, have been absent during the whole campaign, greatly to the injury of the service, and to the inconvenience of those who have been constantly at their posts. The state of Lieutenant Colonel Crane's health, as well as Lieutenant Colonel Fanning's and Major Fauntleroy's, renders temporary absence from duty in Florida necessary. Those officers have performed their duties most faithfully and efficiently; and I most urgently request that other field officers be ordered to join, in order to afford them some respite from their labors.

Dr. Stinnecke, who had joined but a short time before, was taken away to *attend a medical board at New York!* Could not some of the idle members of the medical department, at the posts from which the troops had been withdrawn, have been placed upon that board? The doctor certainly had no claims from service, and it was with some surprise that the order for his withdrawal was received. When any other consideration than that of services is allowed to govern, either in regard to stations or indulgencies, discontent is the inevitable consequence, and justly so; the General-in-chief, I am sure, could not have been aware of the little claim the doctor had from services performed, when he consented that he should be taken from this army, where his services were necessary, and employed on a duty which many who are entirely, or comparatively, idle could have performed.

I am anxiously waiting the tardy movements of the Indians. There is no danger of a renewal of hostilities, but the chiefs find great difficulty in collecting their people. Several bands have been assembled, but they have been dispersed by reports that they were to be punished so soon as they

should place themselves within our power.

I am, general, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
Major General comd'g army of the South.

Brig. General R. JONES,  
Adjutant General, Washington City.

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, May 8, 1837.*

Sir : By reports from every part of my command, I am induced to believe that the Indians will all come in and emigrate in the course of the s

Powell and other chiefs, with their people, are at Fort Mellon, and will depart thence to this post in a few days. All the chiefs of the nation have now expressed their readiness to obey the commands of Micanopy, and remove to the West.

Whilst waiting the tardy movements of the Indians, I have detachments of the troops and Indian warriors employed in exploring the country and surveying routes through it. The Withlacoochee has been examined from its mouth to its source; the Fort King road surveyed hence to Fort Armstrong ; and a party is now exploring the country from this place to Camp Izard. I have directed the survey of several routes north of the Withlacoochee, and the exploration of the St. John's above Fort Mellon. These surveys will enable me to have a good topographical map of the theatre of operations in Florida prepared.

I have directed the withdrawal of the garrisons of Forts Armstrong and Drane. The garrison of the former goes to Fort King, and the latter to Micanopy. The garrison of Fort Clinch will be withdrawn so soon as the stores at that post can be disposed of.

Officers are much wanted; many of those serving with this army are worn out by the effects of the climate, and the severe duties they have performed. They require a respite from duty; and I respectfully suggest the justice to them of ordering those who have been absent from the field to take their places.

Captain Mallory, without a single claim to indulgence from the services he had performed, was permitted to leave the army on the solemn assurance that he had made his arrangements to retire from the army, and would go out of it immediately, and that he would be put to serious inconvenience by being detained in Florida. As he was not efficient, I permitted him to go. I now, however, learn that he remains in service: if so, I request, as an act of justice to others, that he be ordered to join his company without delay.

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, May 17, 1837.*

GENERAL: I have this moment received general order No. 28, dated the 1st instant. Dr. Heiskell, in consequence of severe domestic affliction, was permitted, a few clays ago, to proceed to the North; and the services of Dr. Tripler cannot possibly be dispensed with. There is not an army surgeon or assistant at this post, and I propose ordering him hither so soon as his services can be dispensed with at his present post,. The movements of the Indians are so tardy, that no calculation can, with certainty, be made as .to the time of their emigration. Their women and children were to be collected from a surface of from fifteen to twenty thousand square miles. Many of them are sick ; and I find that, without the application of force, many months may elapse before they can be assembled. I do not consider it my duty to recommence the war, believing that, if I were to do so, beat the Indians, and make another peace, similar delays to those which we now experience would then occur in collecting and removing them. I have, it is true, but little acquaintance with them myself; but those best acquainted with them, and among them Major Graham and Captain Page, believe they will all come in so soon as their families can l be collected. We committed an error, in regard to these Indians, in the attempt to remove them before the country was required for white settlers. In all other cases of removal, a white population has been pressing upon and crowding out the Indians before they were required to leave the homes of their fathers ; here, there was no population pressing upon them, and they have never felt the necessity to go. Besides, the negroes rule them ; and the. arrival of several Floridians in camp for the purpose of looking after and apprehending negroes, spreads general consternation among them. Those that were in camp fled, and carried the panic with them, and we cannot now induce them to return.

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

*Tampa Bay, May 23, 1837.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report that I have withdrawn the garrison and stores from Fort Clinch, at the mouth of the Withlacoochee. The naval force under Lieutenant Bell has gone to Pensacola, and the military part of the garrison has gone as an escort to a wagon-train to Fort King, whence it will join its regiment at Fort Dade. The ordnance stores were sent to Mount Vernon, Alabama, and the subsistence and quartermaster's stores, except ten thousand rations sent to Fort King, have been removed to this place.

I enclose an extract from a report of Major Wilson, whom I detached some weeks past to Pensacola and Mobile point, from which it will be seen that he has succeeded in causing the whole party of Indians, who had for some time frightened the good people of that part of the country out of their wits, to join the Creeks at Mobile point. The same prudent course would bring all the Indians in Alabama and West Florida into camp.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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Mobile Point (ALABAMA,) *May 18, 1837.*

GENERAL: I have the honor to report the return of Lieutenant Reynolds, a few days since, from up the bay of Pensacola, where I had despatched him, with three or four Indians from the Point, for the purpose of bringing in, if possible by persuasion, a small party of Euchees who had wandered off from the nation, evidently with the design of escaping emigration to the West. He fell in with them at their camp, about thirty miles from Pensacola; and having a conference with them through his interpreters, he represented their helpless condition, and the probability, if they persisted in strolling through the settlements, of their all being destroyed by the whites, who they knew had already fired on their party and killed one or two of their warriors; he would, therefore, advise them to come in and join their friends at the Point, where they would, preparatory to emigrating, be both fed and protected by the government: to which they assented, and came in, together with a few Creek families that had been living on the bay for years past.

The lieutenant had them transported by water to this place, amounting in all to seventy-men, women, and children.

HY. WILSON, U. S. A.

To Major Gen. Thos. S. Jesup,  
*Corn'ng army of the South, Tampa Bay, Florida.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH  
*Tampa Bay, June 5, 1837.*

Sir: I have the honor to report that this campaign, so far as relates to Indian emigration, has entirely failed.

The Seminole chiefs were, I believe, sincere in their intentions of fulfilling the provisions of the treaty; but they have no influence over their people, except for purposes of mischief. The warriors, I understand, have degraded Micanopy, and placed Sam Jones, the Mickasuky chief, at the head of the nation. Micanopy, Jumper, and Cloud, met me in council on the 1st instant; they were to have come in again on the 2d, but failed; and on the night of that day they were seized by a force of armed warriors and removed to the interior, I succeeded in securing a number of their negroes, and have sent them to New Orleans.

The season is too far advanced for the renewal of offensive operations. All, therefore, that can be done, is to place the troops in such positions as shall at the same time cover the frontier and give reasonable assurance of health. The garrisons of Forts Mellon and Call, on the St. John's, and Foster, on the Hillsborough, must be withdrawn in consequence of the unhealthiness of the sites; and Fort Dade, on the Withlacoochee, must also be withdrawn, from the difficulty of supplying it during the wet season.

The negroes whom I seized say the Indians will not renew the war, unless attacked. This may be true; but we cannot trust them. The best security for the frontier will be complete preparations to repel attack. - Emigration I consider impracticable. The Indians, generally, would prefer death to removal from the country, and nothing short of extermination will free us from them. Not a single first-rate warrior has surrendered since the commencement of the war; nor has a single instance occurred of a Seminole having proved false to his country.

The difficulties presented by the country are great, but those presented by the climate are greater. Many of the posts necessary to success during the season of operations must be abandoned early in the summer, to preserve the lives of their garrisons; and the consequence is, that at the commencement of every campaign nearly all the interior depots have to be re-established.

If operations are to be renewed in the fall, it is important that early preparations be made; and that the officer who is to conduct them have every thing in readiness to take the field by the first of October. I will write to you again in detail on this subject. In the mean time I desire you to present my most earnest requests to the Secretary of War and the General-in-chief, that I be immediately relieved from the command of this army. It is known to the members of the late administration that I was placed in command not only without solicitation, but contrary to my known and expressed wishes.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General,*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, June 17, 1837.*

Sir : If I should not be relieved from the command of this army, I desire to be permitted to visit Kentucky for a few weeks. I will thank you to lay my request before the General-in-chief and the Secretary of War. All is quiet in this quarter. I shall leave the 4th and 6th infantry at Fort Dade, on the Withlacoochee, and break up the posts of Hillsborough, Thlonotosossa, and Fort Foster. This accomplished, I shall proceed to Micanopy and Black creek, at one of which posts communications will reach me.

I have permitted about one-third of the Indian warriors to visit their families at Mobile point. They will return in four or five weeks, when another party will be allowed to go. The term of service of the regiment will expire on the 31st of August. Should the war be renewed, a regiment of Northern Indians should be engaged to take their place. The general who is to command, in the event of another campaign being necessary, should be immediately required to organize the force and means to take the field by the first of October ; and he should be unrestricted as to both. The nature of the country is such, that difficulties increase at every step, and the commander should have unlimited control both of measures and means, and the entire support of every department. A large regular force will be required, no matter who may command; and immediate measures should be taken to raise it. The corps now in Florida are reduced to mere skeletons; a considerable portion of the men remaining will be discharged in the course of this summer and autumn, and not one will re-enlist. Many of the officers and men have been more than a year constantly in the field, and have been completely broken down by the labors and privations of two arduous campaigns : something should be done for them, and that speedily, or we shall have no force by the end of the year. It would be a great relief to the officers who have been long absent from their families, if those who have avoided the perils and fatigues of the field should be required to relieve them for at least two or three months. And the families of such soldiers as remain in Florida should be brought to their posts here at the public expense, and have rations allowed them by the Government.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

*Tampa Bay, June 24, 1837.*

Sir : Disease is developing itself rapidly among the troops; all except the recruits have gone through two arduous and harassing campaigns, and are, in a great measure, broken down. The tendency to scorbutic affections is becoming general. I am making every effort to increase the comforts of the men, as far as the means in my power will enable me : among other measures, I have directed that a convalescent hospital be established on one of the keys at the entrance of this harbor. This, I think, will restore many men to the service who would otherwise be lost to it.

The garrison has been withdrawn from Fort Foster, also from Fort Mellon ; and I shall proceed through the country to-morrow to Fort Dade, and thence to Fort King and other posts on the north frontier of the Territory, to make final arrangements for the protection of that frontier during the sickly season. No operations should be attempted before October: if the enemy, however, attack, he must be repelled, and driven from the frontier at any sacrifice.

If I should not be relieved from the command of the army, I request permission to visit Kentucky for a few weeks, after I shall have provided for the defence of the frontier.

I have directed Lieutenant Chambers, my aid-de-camp, to proceed to Washington with a duplicate of my despatch for the Secretary of War. From the position he has occupied, he will be able to give accurate information on all matters relating to the campaign. Should new corps be raised, I strongly and earnestly recommend him for an appointment. He is qualified for the command of a regiment, and I recommend that as high rank as possible be conferred on him.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,  
*Major General, commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

*St. Augustine, June [July] 8, 1837*

GENERAL: I enclose two reports, received last night by express: one from Lieutenant Colonel Miller, commanding at Tampa Bay, and the other from

Major Childs, commanding at Fort King. I also enclose a copy of a report from Captain Bradley, of the Florida volunteers, to Lieutenant Colonel Mills, of an affair with a party of Indians west of the Suwannee. The Indians were, evidently endeavoring to escape. From every information I can obtain, I believe the body of the nation mean to wait our movements. The frontier will be rendered secure, even should they recommence hostilities ; and such information has already been gained of their country, that operations may be carried on in the autumn with far less difficulty than heretofore. I have in my possession, or have sent to New Orleans, all the prominent Indian negro leaders. I have fifteen or twenty negroes and four Indians, who may be used as guides to all the fastnesses of the country. So soon as a list of the prisoners can be prepared, I shall forward it to you. .

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

THOMAS S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding,*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE TROOPS SOUTH OF THE HILLSBORO',  
*Tampa Bay, July 8, 1837.*

GENERAL: Captains Allen and Morrison arrived with the train from Fort Foster on the 29th ultimo; the latter officer brought with him "Bow Legs," brother to Alligator, who was found at the fort with his rifle and ammunition; he most unwillingly came to this post. Upon examination, he states that he was on his way from his former residence, at the "Round pond," on the road to Fort Dade, where he had been collecting peaches for the "corn dance;" and that he expected to find cattle and some corn left at Fort Foster by the train. He says that Micanopy, Jumper, and his party, were at Casseeme creek, about three days' march from Tampa, and that Micanopy was expecting to hear from you by the messenger he sent in, and that he expressed a great desire to see Abraham. He also informed me that Powell had said that the Seminoles would remain quiet until they should see what the whites intended to do. Powell and his party, he says; are in the neighborhood of Volusia, and south of that place.

In consequence of the near connexion of this Indian with Alligator, I have deemed it advisable to secure him in the picket with the other prisoners, and to forbid any intercourse with him whatever until further orders.

Major Churchill left here yesterday for St. Mark's ; his wound having improved essentially for the last four or five days. .

The sheds for the marines, and those for the artillery and infantry, will be completed early the next week.

I have not heard from Mullet Key since the return of the Star, but presume the Spaniards have made considerable progress in preparing for the reception of the convalescents.

A party of Creek volunteers are now out scouring the country in a north and northeasterly direction.

I am, with the highest respect, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL MILLER,  
Lieut., Col. commanding.

Major General Jesup,  
Commanding army of the South, &c.

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FORT KING, *July 7, 1837.*

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 6<sup>th</sup> instant, in relation to the hostile Indians. On the 5th I sent word for them to come in ; about 11 o'clock five made their appearance, with melons and fresh beef.

They stated that one hundred were on the St. John's, and one hundred in this part of the country; that they had orders not to molest white people or their property, but to hunt game and cattle for their support; and at a certain time in the moon, which I judge to be about the 12th, they are to return and go over the line established by the treaty; in the mean time, the chiefs were to go to St. Augustine to see the commanding officer, and make arrangements for a store for them to trade at until the time arrived for them to go off. .

At this camp there are seven of them, and at another, ten miles from them, seventeen. None of the latter have been here; their corn will not amount to much, they say, in consequence of not having been hoed in season. To-day three of them were in; one had his squaw with him; he says that seventeen Indians were on the road, nine miles from this, the day Lieutenant Ross returned from Fort Armstrong, and the day the general arrived ; that the horsemen came within twenty paces of them ; that they were lying in the pine barren, and were afraid to run or show themselves for fear of being fired upon before they could make known their peaceable disposition : the appearance of a squaw with them would indicate this.

They represent the cattle as very scarce, and what few they find are in swamps, and so wild that it is difficult to approach near enough to shoot them.

Respectfully, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS CHILDS,  
*Major. U. S. Army, commanding*

Lieut. T. B. LINNARD,  
*Aid-de-camp abn A. A. G., headquarters of the South*

NOTE.~ Since writing the above, one other of the seven has been in; he says that a council was to have been held at Powell's camp, near Philip's town, and that Alligator, Hola-toochee, Yahoolochee, Coa-hago, and Coacoochee, (Philip's con,) were to go to St. Augustine, and that they are to be there in four days from this; but Cardjo says, as he understands the "broken days," there are not to be there until eight days from this. They were under the impression that Paddy Carr was at St. Augustine. This Indian appeared much pleased when informed that General Jesup was there. .

T. S. CHILDS,  
*Major, United States Army*

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CHARLES FERRY, *July 6, 1837.*

Sir : Being under the impression that it is my duty to keep you, as the commanding officer, advised of whatever transpires in my vicinity of a military nature, I report to you, for the information of General Jesup, that Captain Bradley went on a scout, via this place, on the 30<sup>th</sup> ultimo, from San Pedro to Suwannee old town, to examine about the fires and Indian signs reported in that quarter.

Ten miles from this place, south, he discovered signs of a large quantity of cattle having been driven from this neighborhood southerly, and very recently, by the Indians. Pursuing his march, he arrived at Suwannee old town, where he encamped on the night of the 1<sup>st</sup> instant, Next morning, having discovered fresh Indian signs leading west from Old Town, he immediately marched, and at nine miles distant discovered an Indian warrior with a pack – fired on, and wounded him. He made his escape by plunging into a swamp and abandoning his pack, filled with beef. Pursuing on his march, he came upon four others, killed one, and scalped him; wounded another, who was well dressed, and mounted on a mule; he made his escape by abandoning his mule and pack, leaving much blood on said mule; the other two having carried him into the swamp. After which, in passing through a small swamp, or hammock, came on others, killed and scalped one, and wounded another badly, having seen a great deal of blood where he made his escape. .

The whole number of warriors seen was ten; and, from the number of packs, and a large quantity of beef, ( about 200 lbs.) dried and fresh, captured, and these preparations for drying beef, Captain Bradley is of opinion that there is a considerable number about fifteen or twenty miles west of Old Town, or at Cook's hammock, about forty miles from Old Town. There were women and children's signs seen, as well as some of their apparel taken, together with a large quantity of cooking utensils and some jewelry. Captured from the Indians, in addition, three mules, three ponies, and one horse, all

with good saddles and bridles on, and three Indian rifles. The most of the articles were brought here, and all that could not be brought were destroyed.

The whole of the day (2d July) being consumed in this affair, and Captain Bradley's men being exhausted, (having 30 men.) he deemed it proper to return for more men. He informed me that he shall, in ten or fifteen days, make another scout, when he would like to have some assistance at Suwannee old town.

The whites lost one horse, killed by the Indians. The Indians lost two men killed and scalped, and two wounded, with a great deal of baggage, &c.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

F. L. JONES,  
*Lieutenant, U. S. Army*

Lieut. Col. Mills

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*St Augustine, July 10, 1837.*

SIR : Many of the companies serving in Florida are mere skeletons. Some of them will be without non-commissioned officers, and will be reduced to from eight to fifteen men in the course of a few weeks, Were the companies thus reduced united and formed into full companies, the service would be greatly benefited : its moral would be improved, because every company would then, at all times, be under the direction of officers, which, with the small number of officers fit for duty in Florida, is not always possible now ; besides, the officers would feel more pride of profession, and be more active and attentive, when commanding full companies, than whet I commanding corporals' squads.

I must ask the favor of you to bring this matter to the consideration of the General-in-chief; and if he has no objection to the course proposed, I respectfully ask for authority to organize complete companies out of the skeletons serving here.

I have the honor to be, most respectfully, general, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*St. Augustine, July 19, 1837.*

GENERAL : I enclose an extract from a report of Lieutenant Colonel Miller, commanding at Fort Brooke, by which it will be seen that the Creek volunteers are entirely broken down. I had ordered fifty warriors to join Major Birch as an escort for the stores which I had directed to be removed from Fort Dade to Fort King, and the regiment can furnish only thirty men. .

I shall send the whole corps off as soon after my return to Tampa as transports can be obtained.

I have the honor to be, general, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

[EXTRACT]

HEADQUARTERS OF THE TROOPS SOUTH OF THE HILLSBORO',  
*Tampa Bay, July 16, 1837.*

GENERAL : I duly received by this day's mail your orders 146.

Major Freeman can furnish but thirty men from the Creek volunteers, out of the whole number here ; the rest are sick, or claim to be so. I fear that but little service will be obtained from this force, They complain that they have been deceived by their chiefs ; that their time will expire in a few days, when they are anxious of Joining their families and friends in the West.

The number of sick in Major Birch's command compels him to leave a portion of his men to take care of them until his return, or we can provide for them here and at the Rancio,

Our sick-list this morning, independent of the Creek volunteers, numbered upwards of one hundred and twenty.

I am, sir, with high respect, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL MILLER,  
*Lieutenant Colonel commanding.*

Major General Jesup,  
*Commanding army of the South, &c.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*St. Augustine, July 20, 1837.*

GENERAL: I enclose a list of the Indian negroes captured during the campaign. Among the prisoners are nearly all the leaders of influence. The

negro portion of the hostile force of the Seminole nation not taken, is entirely without a head. About eighty of the Indian negroes are at Fort Pike, Louisiana, six have died, and seventeen remain at Tampa Bay. Ninety-three negroes, the property of citizens, have been captured, and eighty-eight of them returned to their owners, or placed subject to their orders. One was sent into the Indian country on a message to other negroes, but was not permitted to return. Two who are well acquainted with the country are retained as guides, and two are retained at Tampa by the request of their owners.

Of the Indian prisoners who have been taken and secured, I shall not be able to furnish a list until my return to Tampa : they amount to between eighty and ninety. Twenty-three of them are at Fort Pike, fifteen have died; three are confined here : about fifteen women and children, relations of the Creeks, were allowed to accompany their relatives to Mobile point, and to Conchaptimicco's town on the Appalachicola. The remainder are at Tampa; all except three of them with the Creek Indians.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brig. Gen. R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Garey's Ferry, July 24, 1887.*

GENERAL: In the present state of the business of the country, recruits could no doubt be obtained in the agricultural districts of the country, and particularly in the interior regions of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina. The men of that region are all horsemen and woodsmen, and they not only know how to take care of their horses and their arms, but to use them in the most effective manner. Twenty of those men are, on an average, worth, for the service in this country, as much as thirty of the best men raised in cities. I respectfully recommend that as many recruits as possible be obtained from the country, and from parts of it above referred to.

The recruits for the dragoons should all be taken from the country, and should be men accustomed to horses; the period of enlistment is now too short to enable a man, not accustomed to ride and to manage and take care of horses, to become an efficient dragoon, and render more than one year's service, before his discharge. Captain Ringgold has command of a mounted company, which has rendered most efficient service. He would make a most able cavalry officer. His company, with the exception of eight or ten men, will be discharged, I am informed, by the 1st of October. Could not recruits be selected, for that company, of men who can ride ? A few companies of mounted regular troops, under experienced officers, are necessary as rallying points for the volunteers. But few of the men of the dragoon corps can ride,

and there is no time to instruct them here.. The recruits sent to fill the companies of that corps should all be able to ride, and take care of horses, so as to be ready for service immediately on their arrival. By giving your attention to these matters, general, you will add much to the efficiency of the service.

I have not been able to mount my horse since the 6th, but I hope in a day or two to be out, when I shall proceed to the Suwannee.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Fort Heileman, Garey's Ferry, July 25, 1837.*

GENERAL: I have received your letter of the 11th instant. On the 5th of June, in closing my official report to you, I asked to be relieved from the command of this army. I made this request to disembarass the Government, supposing that public opinion, when all had not been successfully accomplished that had been expected, might demand my recall; and I was unwilling that any considerations, personal to myself, should for a moment embarrass the service, or interrupt or influence the plans of the Government.

On the 8th of this month I received a letter from the General-in-chief, in which, referring to my request to be relieved, he informs me that the Secretary of War had decided that, after posting the troops in such stations as to cover the frontier from hostile attacks, as far. as possible, consistently with a due regard to their health, I should be at liberty to resume my duties as Quartermaster General, at the seat of Government, provided, on the receipt of that letter, I still desired to be relieved. In the mean time, it appeared to me, from the opinion of both military men and citizens, as far as they were made known to me, that I was expected to remain. The press, either mistaking or misrepresenting my motives, had attacked me for asking to be relieved ; and I informed the General, in reply, that I would retain the command of the army, unless the Government should otherwise determine. That is my intention now, and I shall continue with this army until regularly relieved, or positively ordered to relinquish the command. .

I desire you to lay this letter before the Secretary of War and the General in-chief; and at the same time assure them, that never having solicited the command, and having no other objects in view than the best interests of the

service, I do not wish to be considered in the way of any plans or arrangements which they may believe will best promote those interests.

I have the honor to be, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE SOUTH,  
*Garey's Ferry, July 26, 1837.*

GENERAL : A convalescent hospital has been established at the entrance of Tampa Bay, on one of the keys, where the invalids will have the most salubrious atmosphere, with every comfort which our means can command. The tendency to scorbutic affections, which generally prevailed when I left Tampa, causes me to apprehend most injurious consequences from a sea voyage so long as that from Fort Brooke to Fort Monroe. I therefore respectfully submit for the consideration of the General-in-chief, whether it would not be better that the invalids at Fort Brooke, particularly of the infantry regiments, remain at the convalescent hospital already established.

Let me hear from you on this subject as soon as you conveniently can,  
Most respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Garey's Ferry, August 2, 1837.*

Sir : I have the honor to enclose the copy of a letter received from Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfild, commanding the remnant of the Alabama battalion of volunteers that served with me last winter. Lieutenant Colonel Cawlfild is a man entirely to be relied on; he is one of the best volunteer soldiers I have ever seen in the field, and is a man of perfect truth. I hope that his corps may be discharged. I sent Major Churchill to Fort Mitchell to perform that duty, but the corps had moved into Florida, I understand, before his arrival. I have not heard from the major, owing, I presume, to the difficulty of communication ; letters are often more than a month on the way from one post of

this territory to another.

Of the five battalions from Alabama and Georgia, under Cawfield and Nelson, there are less than one hundred men able to do duty, and there are not half that number of efficient horses. I have never been engaged in any service before, where all the physical energies of men were so soon and so entirely prostrated ; and the mental energies seem to be equally affected by the baleful influence of the climate.

I have received your letter of the 15th ultimo. I had received a copyt of the Revised Regulations, but I had attributed it to the irregularity of mails. Very few of the orders issued from your office have reached me ; I have attributed that to the same cause : for I have not received more than half the letters written to me by my family and public communications are equally, uncertain.

I am, respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General, Commanding*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.* ·

P. S. I enclose a copy of a letter from Captain Galt, commanding at Fort King. I place no reliance on the statement of the Indians ; hut it is good policy to treat them kindly until the mounted volunteers be ready to act, and the posts for the protection of the frontier be all established.

T. S. J.

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HEADQUARTERS, BATTALION ALABAMA VOLUNTEERS,  
*Lagrange, ( West Florida,) July 15, 1837.*

Sir: I arrived at this place on yesterday, having bent my course somewhat farther south than I had intended, and perhaps farther than was contemplated in the instructions of the Secretary of War of the 13th ultimo ; but, having understood there was a depot established at this place, and that I would be able to. get what forage and subsistence I might want, I thought it best to take it in my course ; also, having understood that it was the headquarters of Colonel Brown, who is operating in this country, I concluded I might be able to learn something satisfactory as to the movements and situation of the enemy. But I have been disappointed; I have not seen Colonel, Brown; and find the place without stores of any kind.

A company returned to this place from Colonel Brown on yesterday, and by them I learned he was scouring the country around towards Pensacola, He has been operating for some considerable time, but has made little discovery. Indeed, to be candid, and use a vulgar phrase, my own opinion is, that the whole matter of Indian hostilities in this country is pretty much

a story of moonshine, the object of which I leave others to conjecture for the present.

I will move immediately towards the line of Alabama again ; but whether I will be able to find the point indicated in the Secretary's letter, where I may "hold the Indians in check," I doubt, as I am now fully persuaded they need no checking. That there are a few miserably wretched Indians secreted somewhere in this country, I will not deny ; but, on the other hand, I do not believe they have any dispositions to be hostile, further that their own preservation is concerned. You must be aware that they have but little reason to feel safe in surrendering themselves prisoners to the troops who have been operating in this part of the country ; and perhaps even what few there may be in this part of the Territory, may make a desperate resistance when found, if they cannot escape.

I have looked in vain for orders, but have not received those alluded to in the Secretary's letter to me. I have written to every point where I thought it probable communications for me might be sent, but have received none.

The health of my command is not good; and I am sorry to say that the spirits of many have become pretty much worn down, from the belief that they are performing a laborious service in an unhealthy climate, which promises no advantage to the country.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,

DAVID CAWLFIELD,

*Lieut. Colonel, com'g battalion Ala. volunteers.*

Major General Thos, S. Jesup,  
*Commanding army of the South*

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FORT KING, *July 24, 1837.*

Sir : In consequence of the continued severe indisposition of Major Childs, I write, at his request, to say that the Indian runner, whom he reported on the 18th instant as having gone to the chiefs in the vicinity of Fort Mellon, returned and made his report yesterday. He met Co-a-co-chee ( Wild Cat ) beyond Fort Mellon, who said, on the subject of the message from Major Childs, that he was very glad of it, that the principal chiefs were some distance beyond him, and that he would immediately communicate the message to them; that they would be very much rejoiced to hear from you, as they had long been anxious to do; that himself, Co-a-hajo, Holatooshee, Tuskenaha; and Alligator, had some time ago been appointed to go into St. Augustine ; but that, as they were about starting, one of four hunters, who had been started ahead of them, returned, giving the account of the capture of the other three by the whites; that even then he wished to go on, but the other chiefs objected ; that since, they have been confused, and know not what to expect, or what to do in order to have a talk with the whites ; that the whites simply captured the three men, without firing on them.

Co-a-co-chee sent in word to Major Childs, also, that the chiefs would, consult, and that about Wednesday morning the runners would be sent to this post, and he doubted not that a deputation of the chiefs would be on the trail hither at the same time. These latter may then reasonably be expected here about Friday morning, when, Major Childs requests me to say, .he will despatch a special messenger to you. .

With great respect, your obedient servant,

P. H. GALT,  
*Captain 4th. Artillery.*

To Major General Th. S. Jesup,  
*U. S. Army, commanding, &c, &c,*

HEADQUARTER, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Garey's Ferry, August 6, 1837.*

GENERAL : You have been in the field, and know how entirely impossible it is that company officers should be able to have the necessary supplies of clothing to replace articles lost or worn out in active service. That those officers may be relieved from an onerous responsibility, and the soldiers be promptly supplied with whatsoever may be necessary to enable them to perform their duties efficiently, I respectfully submit, for the consideration of the General-in-chief, whether it would not be advisable to establish a depot of clothing at this place, and another at Tampa Bay, from which any and every company may be supplied when necessary: By such establishments the service would be rendered more efficient, because the soldiers would be certain of a supply, and the officer would be relieved from the anxiety attending the accountability for property necessarily not within his personal control, and would have no further care than to account for that which he would actually receive for use in the field.

It would not be necessary to encumber the depot with any articles of parade uniform, Blankets shoes, stockings, round jackets, flannel and cotton shirts, pantaloons, forage caps, and other articles required in the field, should alone be kept in store.

I beg of you to ask the attention of the General to the subject as soon as you conveniently can.

And I have the honor to be, sir,  
Your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

HEADQUARTER, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida, August 7, 1837 .*

SIR: I have this moment received your letter of the 21st ultimo,

It was not my intention, in my communication of the 10th ultimo, to ask for recruits to fill the companies in Florida ; I know it would be extremely unwise to send them hither during the sickly season. To save the troops already here, I am compelled to adopt the expensive measure of calling into service a body of Florida volunteers, to keep up the scouts required to protect the scattered settlements of this extensive Territory. In my letter of the 10th of July I merely submitted for the decision of the General-in-chief the proposition to form out of the skeleton companies here full companies, because the discipline of the service would be promoted by it, particularly when companies are reduced to eight or ten men. It was not my purpose to propose the measure as one to be carried out in regard to companies not greatly reduced, I shall not attempt it unless it become a matter of necessity.

I enclose a copy of a report from Major Childs. I place no reliance on the statement that Indians are coming in; but I do believe that so far as Micanopy and Jumper can influence their people, no other depredations than robberies will be committed ; still, there would be but little security for the frontier without force to repel any attempt that might be made upon it.

In the course of to-morrow or next day I propose to depart for the interior.

I am, sir, respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

*T. S. JESUP,*  
*Major General commanding*

Brigadier General R, Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

P. S. Order No. 43 has not yet been received.

T. S. J.

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FORT KING, *August 3, 1837.*

Sir : To-day I have received a visit from Tuckabatcha-hajo, alias John Hicks, a noble-looking Indian, The following is the substance of his communication, in answer to my questions:

Left Powell's camp, near Fort Mellon, ten days since, having hunted much on the way, and came to the Indian camp, on the, left side of the Ocklawaha, with two others, day before yesterday ; would have been in sooner but for the storm. The chiefs, and all the Indians, were greatly pleased to hear the message from me; and the former, that were present, agreed at once to come in as invited ; he would not have left if he did not know that they were

coming, and is disappointed not to find the chiefs here ; he supposes the delay to be on account of Holatoochee, who is a great distance off towards Charlotte harbor, and his family understood to be very sick ; there is much suffering for provision, and a great deal of sickness (fever) amongst the Indians. The chiefs have been very particular in their instructions to the warriors on no account whatever to fire another gun in hostility ; and that he does not believe there was one Indian who had a thought of such a thing. Powell was near Fort Mellon, and Coahadjo was on the banks of the lake fishing; and lived in the pickets. Being asked if Powell was coming with the chiefs, said he did not doubt but he would; explained how he was captured by Captain Beall in the Suwannee country ; said he had just heard of the provisions of the treaty, that all Indians were to go to Tampa, and, having collected his party, was on his route thither when taken. When told that my orders were not to issue them any provisions, he said he was in hopes to have got one or two days' provisions on first coming; but, as it was contrary to orders, he could not expect it. Asked permission to encamp by a pond four miles from this, and at the agency, for the purpose of hunting until the chiefs come in. If his father had been alive, this war would not have broken out; a plenty of men, women, and children, were on their way. I have thought proper to give you this information, believing that the chiefs will be here in a day or two ; and whether their object is peace or war, to suggest the propriety of immediately increasing the force at this post. The present strength is only one hundred and thirty-two, not including the Creeks, and this force constantly diminishing by discharges.

Respectfully, Your most obedient servant,

THOMAS CHILDS,

*Major U. S. Army, commanding.*

Major General T. S. Jesup.

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Garey's Ferry, Florida, August 10, 1837.*

Sir: A brigade of volunteers has been offered for service in this Territory, from Kentucky; if there should be any doubt of obtaining recruits of the proper class to fill the regiments serving here, in time to open the campaign in the autumn, I would respectfully recommend that the services of that brigade be accepted. I know not what the Kentuckians are now, as soldiers, but there were nowhere better soldiers than they furnished during the last war with Great Britain. If it should become advisable to take them into service, they could be brought to the scene of action in a few weeks, by the way of the Ohio and Mississippi.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP.

The Hon. J. R. Poinsett,  
Secretary of War, Washington City.

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Garey's Ferry, August 13, 1837.*

Sir: I enclose copies of several reports from the interior, by which it will be seen that the Indians continue to visit Fort King in the most friendly manner. Those people are evidently in doubt what course to adopt. They are represented as having been greatly divided in their councils. From present appearances, I would infer that Micanopy and Jumper, who I believe to be sincerely desirous of fulfilling the treaty, have exercised, in some degree, their influence. Not a single depredation, with the exception of the stealing of three or four horses, and the driving off of forty or fifty head of cattle, has occurred since those chiefs were carried off from Tampa Bay, except the murders at the cape.

The reports enclosed, particularly those of Lieutenant Colonel Gates and Captain Galt, exhibit the necessity of either sending company officers to Florida, or allowing the skeleton companies to be consolidated. Several companies are without an officer, and your detail for West Point places two others in the same situation. It may be truly said the spirit of the service is gone, or fast going, when officers of respectable standing can be found ready to abandon the high and honorable duties of their profession to become *schoolmasters* at West Point. This circumstance augurs worse for the army than any thing I had before witnessed. By the way, I cannot perceive how, under the laws as they exist, you can take any but engineer officers for service as teachers. While the Government encourages, or even permits, officers to be so employed, it is impossible that the army can improve.

I am, sir, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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FORT KING, EAST FLORIDA,  
*August 8, 1837.*

Sir : Since my last communication to you on the subject of Indians, I have to report the arrival of two sub-chiefs from Fort Mellon, Tuskamakkey and Chictoahocar, men that are sent on all occasions by Coahagge and others when they have business to do, as I am informed by Paddy Carr.

They say the cattle which you mentioned as driven across the St. John's were twenty in number; that the chiefs, as soon they knew it, sent them off with orders to drive back every Indian, and to see that no depredations were committed; that they have been engaged in hunting up and sending back Indians for ten or twelve days ; that the cattle were driven off by

Indians who had left camp without the knowledge of the chiefs.

I take Tuskamakkey as far as Micanopy with me to-day, for the purpose of going out with some Creeks from that post, to hunt up some Indians reported as doing mischief in that vicinity, if Colonel Gates wishes. He says he left before my message to the chiefs was known; that he has no doubt they will be in, but the rains and distance they are from each other must have delayed them ; talks as if they were going off in the fall ; that Powell says he shall not say a word, but agree to whatever may be determined. I sent Paddy Carr to their camp, on the opposite side of the Ocklawaha, accompanied by Lieutenant Ross, two days since, to see who and what was there. Lieutenant Ross reports the crossing as very intricate and difficult, and easily defended, and a camp of seven or eight families about three miles from the bank. Eight hostiles are encamped, by my permission, four miles south of this, by a pond, and Hicks, with two others, between this and the agency. These are all the camps and all the Indians that we know of.

I have directed Captain Galt to send an express to you immediately; should the chiefs come in ; and, as the time approaches for a renewal of my attack, I am anxious to see if a change of air and travel will not relieve me in some measure.

Respectfully, your most obedient servant,

THOMAS CHILDS,

*Major United States Army, commanding.*

Major General T. S. Jesup,

*Commanding Army of the South, Fort Heileman, East Florida.*

*Extract from the report of Captain Galt, dated August 8, 1837.*

"Since writing the above, a party of six Micasukys, from Powell's camp, have arrived ; they started in company with the chiefs Coahadjo, Yuohadjo, the brother-in-law of Powell, and Honase Tuskennagge. They will be at the camp across the Ocklawaha probably this evening, and come in to-morrow, or, as the streams on the trail are very high, their arrival may be delayed 24 hours beyond this calculation. They are a deputation, and after seeing them I shall send a special express."

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FORT KING, *August 11, 1837, 3 P. M.*

GENERAL: Somewhere about 30 Indians, (men,) principally Micasukys, have reported themselves during the past three days, all telling the same story, as to the orders of the chiefs to do no mischief to the whites, and two of the men of parties spoken to have added that they were to do what the white chief at the first told them to do. Coahadjo's brother was of the party the evening before the last. The council, composed of all the chiefs, on the reception of the first message from Major Childs, was held at Appiacca's camp, and the subsequent proceedings are the result of a

unanimous vote of the chiefs. Coahadjo had turned back on seeing the state of the streams on the trail, but it is said to-day that Tuskina was on the other side the Ocklawaha yesterday, waiting for him. They all say that a great many Indians are on the way here.

A party of twenty Micasukys arrived this morning, and are in camp, about two miles off. Cudjo told me that his eldest son was among them. He sent his other son (Ned) out, and the oldest has just come in. I anxiously hope to obtain some news through this source, as to real intentions, &c., which, in the present state of relations with the Indians, will be very valuable.

About sixty men altogether have reported; perhaps thirty may be added for women and children; the parties are increasing in numbers.

I have told them all not to hunt above this, to which they willingly seemed to assent, as a matter anticipated by them. They all say that the chiefs are very anxious to have a talk with you, to have an understanding about every thing.

7 P. M. - The Tampa express is in unusually early. I have had a talk with Cudjo on the result of his conversation with his son. I suppose Cudjo, as I have always, to be perfectly honest, and as zealous in our favor as honest. He has, I am assured, in great sincerity expressed his conviction of the proper feelings towards us, and good faith of his son. The latter confirms entirely every account of the orders from the chiefs to their young men, as to their conduct towards the whites; that they will not, or any part of them, commit depredations or hostility, or permit it. The Micasukys, he says, are very much distrustful of coming in or remaining long, being fearful, under the consciousness of having done so much massacring to us, that we are decoying them to seize them. They have to his knowledge said nothing about going West. On one occasion he heard some of this party say they supposed that at last they would have to do what the white people wished. He wished to go back with this party, after the chiefs have their talk, and bring in his family.

With great respect, your obedient servant,

P.H. GALT,  
*Captain 4th Artillery,*

*commanding.*

Major General T. S. Jesup,  
*Commanding General, &c.*

*Extract from Captain Galt's report of same date.*

"There are now only myself, Lieutenants Ross, Warner, Sing, and Mock, for duty with six companies. The resignation of Mr. Sing has been accepted, and that of Mr. Mock may very soon be expected. I need scarcely add the suggestion of the urgent necessity for other officers."

FORT MICANOPY, August 8, 1837.

Sir : Be pleased to inform the Major General that I have received an order, No. 48, from the Adjutant General's office, detailing Lieutenant Roberts, 4th artillery, for duty at West Point. Lieutenant Roberts is in charge of Captain Brown's company, 4th artillery. There is no other officer with this company, nor have I any officer to relieve him. In fact, have now five companies under my command, and only three officers to take charge of them. Captain Ringgold does no other duty but scouting. Frequently the quartermaster, commissary, and adjutant commands two companies, and the duty of officer of the day is done by him also, and Lieutenant Roberts.

I utter no complaints, but simply remark this to show how illy Lieutenant Roberts can be spared at this time.

Be pleased to obtain the General's instructions upon this order, (No. 48.)

I am, sir, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM GATES,

*Lieutenant Colonel commanding.*

Lieutenant T. B. SINNARD,

*Aid-de-camp and acting Adjutant General.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

*Garey's Ferry, Florida, August 14, 1837.*

Sir: On further examination, I am decidedly of opinion that Jacksonville is not the most eligible place for a principal depot. The facility with which the troops and laborers obtain whiskey at that place, and the utter impossibility of enforcing any salutary regulations for the police or discipline of the establishment, renders it the last place in Florida that should be occupied. The river, too, for forty miles above, is very wide, and often agitated by the winds to such a degree as to render it extremely dangerous to tow the barges, on board of which the supplies are taken to Volusia and Fort Mellon. Any vessel that can be brought up the river to Jacksonville can be taken to Pelatka, sixty miles above, whence barges can be towed with comparatively little danger. The latter place is preferable to any other on the river; it has fourteen feet water, has abundance of timber in the neighborhood, is an open, dry, and healthy site, and it has the advantage of being sixty miles nearer to the theatre of operations, which, in going and returning, will make a difference in each voyage of a hundred and twenty miles. But the greatest advantage will consist in the ability to control the establishment, and

prevent the introduction of ardent spirits. It will, besides, be near to, and command, a narrow and sinuous part of the river, where, should any parties of Indians be out, boats are liable to be attacked. In every view in which I have been able to consider it, I think it the very best position that could be occupied, and Jacksonville one of the worst.

The quartermaster at the latter place will go on collecting materials, which may be used at Jacksonville, or, if Pelatka be preferred, may be removed thither.

I am, sir, with great consideration, your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP.

The Hon. J. R. Poinsett,  
*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, August 31, 1837.*

GENERAL : I have the honor to report, for the information of the General-in-chief and the Secretary of War, that I have established a post, garrisoned by regular troops, at Moultrie creek, south of St. Augustine; another on the Moccasin branch of the St. John's, east of that river, about twenty miles southwest of St. Augustine, garrisoned by Florida volunteers; one at the point where the frail from the Ocklawaha to the Okefenoke swamp crosses the road from Garey's ferry to Micanopy, garrisoned by two companies of Florida volunteers ; one at the head of navigation on the Santa Fe, a tributary of the Suwannee, near where the trail from the Withlacoochee to the Okefenoke swamp crosses the Santa Fe, garrisoned by one company of Florida volunteers; another at Clay landing, on the Suwannee, the great crossing-place of the Indians from the eastern to the western side of that river, also garrisoned by Florida volunteers; and I have ordered that a post, to be occupied by two companies of volunteers, be established northwest of Micanopy, the site to be designated by Colonel Mills. These, with the posts previously established, it is believed, will afford complete protection to the frontier during the sickly season. Volunteers occupy the posts at Charles and Livingston's ferries, on the Suwannee ; at Jacksonville and Mandarin, on the St. John's; at Weedmaris, between Picolata and St. Augustine; at Lowther's, between Jacksonville and the Okefenoke swamp and there is one company at Garey's ferry, to protect the train, and a detachment at Fort Crane, to protect the settlement and the corn-fields in that neighborhood. If an army were operating in the field, all these posts would not be necessary ; but they are all now required, to hold the Indians in check, and keep them out of the country. I came hither by the way of the Suwannee, for the purpose of completing arrangements for the campaign, and of discharging the detachment of Creek warriors, about two hundred and twenty, remaining in Florida. .

I shall send several invalid officers, and about one hundred and fifty men,

to Fort Monroe. The surgeons report that if sent thither the lives of many of them may be saved, and the greater part of them may be so recovered as to be available for the service in December, if not sooner. The troops are not so comfortable here as I intended they should be; near two months ago, I directed that lumber should be provided to make sheds for all the tents ; but the acting quartermaster at Mobile, on whom the requisition was made, has neither sent the lumber nor assigned a reason why it has not been furnished.

I am, sir, most respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*Tampa Bay, September 2, 1837.*

Sir: I have received your letter of the 18th ultimo, and will take immediate measures to call into service the requisite volunteer force. I wrote to General Smith, of Louisiana, yesterday, and authorized him to raise a regiment.

It will be a work of time to raise and bring into the field a volunteer force sufficient to produce any decisive effect on the enemy; and I greatly fear that the season best adapted to efficient operations will have passed before an adequate force be obtained.

As to re-enlisting the soldiers discharged in Florida, it is out of the question; not a man who has served in this country, and who is worth retaining, will engage again; and, unless the condition of the soldier be greatly ameliorated, or a different mode of filling the ranks be adopted, we cannot hope, to keep up even our small army. There is no inducement to any man to enter our service as a private soldier; in any other employment he has a better opportunity of supporting himself, and of making provision for old age ; for no matter what his merits, or how faithfully he may serve, he has nothing to look forward to but to be turned out and starve, when he shall no longer be capable of performing the duties of a soldier.

If the term of enlistment were extended to five years, and a small bounty were allowed on the first engagement, double bounty on the second, and a pension for life to those who should serve faithfully during three entire enlistments, the ranks could be filled with the best materials, and the establishment be kept complete and efficient. I know many eloquent objections will be urged against the pension system; but it is time that we disregard idle declamations, and take common sense views of the subject. If the army is

worth any thing, it is worth being made efficient ; without good soldiers it cannot be efficient ; to retain it as it is at present, is an imposition upon the people ; and the question, it seems to me, should be, whether we dispense with it entirely, or introduce such modifications into its constitution and administration as shall render it what it purports to be – a safe defence against sudden aggression, and a sure rallying point for the militia

I have the honor to be,

With high consideration and respect,

Your obedient servant,

T. S. JESUP.

The Hon, J. R. Poinsett,

*Secretary of War, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH.

*St. Augustine, September 27, 1837.*

Sir: General Hernandez returned to this post yesterday with his command, having with him Wild Cat and Blue Snake, two of the most warlike chiefs of the Tolofa Indians, and two other warriors : these make fifty-one prisoners, and two Indians killed, being an aggregate of fifty-three.

I hope a portion of the recruits may be pushed on immediately, to enable me to occupy the positions south which are necessary.

Officers are much wanted. I have not been able to detail a single one for the service of the clothing depots.

I am, sir, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,

*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,

*Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

*St. Augustine, October 2, 1837.*

Sir : The Seminole chief Coacoochee (Wild Cat) having, as General Hernandez informs me, come in as the bearer of a flag, I have on full consideration of all the circumstances of the case, considered it due to the sanctity of the flag to permit him to return. He promises to detach all his warriors, and perhaps the great body of the Seminoles from the hostile party. This is the possible advantage from permitting him to go out : the security for his good faith is, that his father and two other of his relations are our

prisoners. The loss, should he prove faithless, would be considerable, were it not for the circumstance alluded to, as he is unquestionably the best warrior and the ablest chief in the nation. Hon. He is more talented and enterprising than Powell, and has the important advantage over him, in the estimation of the Indians, of hereditary rank.

If he should not return, he will hardly venture to take an active part against us, as he has been assured that his father, as well as all the other prisoners of this town, will be held accountable for his conduct. His influence will rather be employed to restrain his warriors, and prevent them from taking part against us. Two weeks will determine whether he redeem the pledge he has given. In the mean time our preparations are not interrupted, but go on most vigorously. The body of the Indians are not within from one to three days' march of the St. John's, and the return of Coacoochee will rather have the effect to prevent their dispersing.

The frontier is tranquil, and the health of the troops who have been stationary is improving : those at the advanced posts, who have been actively employed on scouts during the sickly season, are beginning to suffer from attacks of intermittent fever; the cases, I understand, however, are of a mild character.

I am, sir, respectfully,  
Your most obedient servant,

TH. S. JESUP,  
*Major General commanding.*

Brigadier General R. Jones,  
*Adjutant General, Washington City.*

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HEADQUARTERS 1 ST DIVISION, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,  
*St. Augustine, September 16, 1837.*

GENERAL: My communication of the 12th instant will have informed you of my having captured, at Musquito, on the mornings of the 9th and 10th instant, the Indian chiefs Philip, Euchee Billy, Euchee Jack, and a number of their men, women, and children; and I now proceed to report to you in detail, all the circumstances which led to or are connected with this capture: Four negroes; who had been with the Indians, came into Fort Peyton, about seven miles south of this, on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> instant. From them I learned, that there were certain other negroes left by them at their master's plantation, on the Halifax river, some few days before and that many of the plantation negroes who had been taken off had also been there, who, though they designed to have left that place, might not have been detained by the bad weather, which prevailed about that period. These negroes also gave me reason to believe that some Indians might be fallen in with that section of country.

With the view of availing myself of the disposition thus partially manifested by the negroes, to abandon the Indians, if they could find an opportunity of doing so with safety, I deemed it proper to collect such force as could be spared from this and the neighboring posts, and with it proceed as speedily as possible to the south. Although the different companies and detachments ordered on this service

displayed more than ordinary despatch and alacrity in concentrating at Fort Peyton, yet, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring transportation, I was not able to move from that place till the 7<sup>th</sup> instant. This I did on the morning of that day; the whole force having been formed into one battalion and placed under the command of Lieutenant Peyton, he having volunteered his services. The battalion consisted of parts of companies "F" 2d dragoons, under Lieutenant McNeill; "E" and "H," 2d dragoons under Lieutenant May; part of Captain Hanson's mounted company, under Lieutenants Pellicee and Feneira; part of Lieutenant Whitehurst's command, and of Captain Carey's command of mounted Florida volunteers under Lieutenant Whitehurst; and company "D," 3d artillery, commanded by Lieutenant Frazer; Lieutenant J. Graham, of the dragoons acting as my aid-de-camp; and Assistant Surgeon Motte was designated to attend the expedition as surgeon. Lieutenant Frazer's company of artillery, forming the escort of the small baggage train, was directed to take post at the plantation of Mrs. Anderson, on the Tomoka. On the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> the main body had reached Bulow's plantation which is about thirty-three miles from Fort Peyton.

On the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup>, at daylight, four negroes belonging also to Major Heriott, with an Indian negro named John, and belonging to the Indian chief, Philip, came into the camp and surrendered themselves, expressing their previous anxiety to do so, and receive our protection. On examining the Indian negro John, and finding that he would be very useful, I ordered him to join the other guides.

Among other information obtained from these negroes, I learned that there was, or had been a short time before, an Indian encampment at Dunlawton, a plantation also belonging to the Anderson family, on the Halifax; and the march of the troops was accordingly directed to that point. Ignorant of the precise position of the encampment, great caution was necessary in advancing on the point supposed to be occupied by it. On its becoming perfectly dark, Lieutenant Pellicee, with Sergeant Paul Masters, who had previously resided in that neighborhood, and was well acquainted with its localities, were directed to take the negroes Abraham and George, who acted as interpreters, with the Indian negro John, belonging to Philip, and discover and examine the position of the Indian camp, and report to me. This duty was executed with great fidelity, and the report was that the Indian camp, which Abraham had left on the north side of a large canal, south of the road leading from the dwelling-house to the sugar works, had been removed, as nearly as could be discovered, to the south side of this canal, a little to the eastward of a bridge which crossed it; the position of the Indians having also been first examined by Lieutenant Peyton, and the previous report confirmed, my plan of attack was formed, and, in conformity therewith, the volunteers under Lieutenant Whitehurst's command, and Lieutenant Feneira, with Sergeant Masters, were formed in the rear of the Indian camp, and between it and a swamp on the south, and in its immediate vicinity, with directions to extend themselves in such a manner as to surround it, except on the front, which was left open for the charge of the cavalry; the volunteers having been directed, on that charge being made, to close in. These preparations being completed, and fearing: that the Indians might be aroused by the neighing and trampling of some loose horses, and that they would attempt an escape, a charge by the cavalry, under Lieutenant Peyton, was directed somewhat sooner than was designed, which was executed with great rapidity and effect. The Indians immediately fled, when they were arrested by the fire of Lieutenant Whitehurst's command, from its extreme flank, which so confounded them that they were all taken, without having fired a gun, with the exception of a son of Philip, a lad of about 18 years old,

who escaped. My satisfaction at the capture of these Indians, without the effusion of blood, was greatly increased on discovering that among them was the influential chief Philip. It unfortunately happened that three of the, warriors of this party were absent hunting, or they also would probably have fallen into our hands.

After this affair, I proceeded to the next plantation north of us, with the design, if possible, to discover and surprise the Indians, who I had reason to believe were in the neighborhood. For the purpose of ascertaining the truth of the reports which, had reached me on this head, I had the Indian warrior, Tomoka John, who was taken with Philip, brought before me, and by him I was informed that there was another encampment of a party of eight warriors, at the head of whom was Euchee Billy, with a number of women and children, in a swamp about five or six miles north of us. This Tomoka John stated that he had been at their encampment the day before, and offered to lead me to the spot; alleging, at the same time, that it was necessary to proceed with great caution, as they were always on the alert. On this information, I interrogated Philip, who in substance confirmed the statement of Tomoka John, saying that he had known me from my infancy, had perfect confidence in my promise of protection, and would readily give me all the information in his power; assuring me, at the same time, that I might entirely trust to Tomoka John. Proceeding under the direction of this Indian, as far, as he thought it advisable to do so on horseback, the horses, with the prisoners, were left under the charge of Lieutenants Pellicee and Whitehurst, (who could not walk, in consequence of a sprain his ankle received the night before,) with a guard of forty men. The remainder of the force proceeded, under the guidance of Indian John, for about three-quarters of a mile, through a pine barren, and thence through a very thick and heavily timbered swamp, following a trail opened by the Eucheas a few days previous. Having proceeded through this swamp for about two miles, to nearly its opposite side, the army was halted, and remained there till it became dark. On again moving, the march continuing through a thicket of scrub and a considerable space of low palmettos, we at last reached high pine barren land, and proceeded on it till we came in sight of the Indian fires situated in the pine barren, bounded on three sides by swamp, and an impervious thicket on the other. Here the troops were halted; and Lieutenant Peyton, with Sergeant Masters and the negroes who had acted as guides, accompanied by Tomoka John, proceeded to reconnoiter the enemy's camp. Soon after, a request was sent to me from this party to have troops advance; which was accordingly done, sufficiently near to the enemy to discover them about their fires.

At this time, Lieutenant Peyton, with the company commanded by Lieutenant May, and part of Lieutenant McNeill's, was directed to lead the right, with the Indian, and Philip's John as a guide, with orders to endeavor to surround the enemy on that side, and to post his men as near to each other as the object in view would permit. Lieutenants McNeill and Feneira, with the detachment of Lieutenants Pellicee and Whitehurst's command of East Florida volunteers, with Sergeant Paul Masters, and negro Abraham as guide, were ordered to lead the left, and to surround the enemy on that side. Orders were given that these positions should be occupied; the men lying flat on the ground till the appointed signal should be made at daylight. At daylight the signal was given, and the charge made with great promptness; but so watchful were the Indians, that they succeeded in discharging two rifles; by one of which, I greatly lament to say, as I have already stated to you before Lieutenant McNeill, while gallantly advancing at the head of his men was mortally wounded. The affair was soon over: one Indian was killed and three wounded; one of whom

afterwards died. The party consisted of twenty-one; of whom none escaped, except one man, who fled in the night. The encampment of this party was exceedingly well chosen, it being almost impossible that it could be discovered by those not previously acquainted with its position,

Though both the officers and men of this expedition had to endure great fatigue and privations of every description, they were all borne with the utmost cheerfulness; and the only circumstance calculated to detract from my satisfaction with the result of this expedition is the death of Lieutenant McNeill, who appeared to be a most promising young officer.

In conclusion, I cannot omit calling your attention to the good conduct of the officers and men of this small command. The alacrity with which every duty was performed does them all great credit. Lieutenant Peyton is an officer of great worth, as are Lieutenants Frazer, May, and Graham, and Dr. Motte, of the regular army. And I would take leave to suggest for your consideration the propriety of recommending to the Government that brevet rank be conferred on these officers; and Lieutenants Whitehurst, Pellicee, and Ferreira, of the mounted East Florida volunteers, are also equally entitled to the consideration of the Government. I have, likewise, strongly and particularly to recommend to you Sergeant Paul Masters. His knowledge of the country placed it within his power to render great services to the expedition, and the readiness with which it was furnished is truly creditable to him. The guides and the Indian, Tomoka John, discharged their duty with great fidelity.

An inventory of the articles captured will be annexed to this report. I have to regret the length which I have permitted to myself in this report; but it is hoped it may be excused, from my anxiety to present before you all the facts and circumstances connected with the expedition.

I have the honor to be, general, with much respect, your obedient servant,

JOSEPH M. HERNANDEZ,  
*Brig. General commanding.*

To Maj. Gen. Tn. S. JESUP,  
*Commanding army of the South.*

*Transcribed for the Flagler County Historical Society by Sisco Deen  
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