

Hell's Half Acre



Lt. Col. Alexander Carey McAlister's Campaign Against Deserters
and Union Sympathizers in Randolph, Chatham and Moore
Counties, North Carolina,
February-April 1865

*Transcribed from McAlister's papers by Ross A. Holt,
Randolph County Public Library, 2024*

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Introduction

As the Civil War approached its end and it became evident that the Confederacy was doomed, resistance to Confederate authority in southern Unionist enclaves intensified. Nowhere was this show of force more dramatic than in Randolph County, North Carolina. Located in the center of the state, Randolph anchored a block of counties extending north and west that historian William Auman has termed the “Quaker Belt” – anti-war, anti-slavery and pro-Union.¹

Throughout the war, these counties served as places of refuge for those unwilling to fight for the Confederacy, including deserters and “recusant conscripts.” Desertion was a major problem for regiments raised from Unionist areas. One report included in these papers lists deserters from a company raised in Randolph County, and suggests that during about two years, more than 20 percent of the unit deserted.²

These “outliers,” as they came to be called, hid out in the countryside away from their homes, making camps and digging caves into hillsides. Families and other sympathizers established warning systems, such as bell ringing and other signals, to alert the fugitives when Home Guard units or Confederate troops were in the area. Purgatory Mountain, the present-day site of the North Carolina Zoo, got its name on account of the haze of smoke that settled over it from the outlier’s campfires.

The outliers soon began an unorganized, guerilla-type war of robbery and sabotage against government interests and officials, no longer seeking only to avoid Confederate service, but also to advance the Union cause. After Peace Party candidates swept all Randolph County offices in the 1864 elections, resistance evolved into open insurrection.

Local leaders who supported the Confederacy pressed state government to suppress the rebellion. Asheboro businessman Dr. John Milton Worth fired off letters to his brother, State Treasurer Jonathan Worth, who in turn sought help from Governor Zebulon Vance. Vance implored Gen. Robert E. Lee and the Army of Northern Virginia to quell the unrest.

On February 27, 1865, army high command ordered Lt. Col. Alexander Cary McAlister and a detachment of Confederate troops to Randolph, Chatham and Moore counties “for the purpose of breaking up and dispersing the bands of deserters said to be collecting in these counties.” McAlister’s orders told him in no uncertain terms how to deal with those who resisted his authority: “You will shoot them down taking no prisoners.”

At his disposal, McAlister had some 600 regular troops. These included the 7th Regiment of North Carolina Troops, and elements of the 46th and 48th regiments detached from the now-combined brigades of Brigadier Gen. John Rogers Cooke and Brigadier Gen. James Henry Lane. Units of the Home Guard also were ordered to support McAlister’s efforts. As the United States army of Gen. William T. Sherman approached from the south, McAlister’s force came under the command of Gen. Joseph Johnston’s Confederate army, which was forming to resist Sherman’s advance.

Although away serving in the army, McAlister was a resident of Asheborough (now Asheboro), the central town in the area he now would attempt to pacify. A native of Cumberland County, he was raised as part of the landed gentry on a 2,300-acre plantation on which as many as 26 enslaved people toiled.³ After graduating from the University of North Carolina, he returned home to manage the family enterprise. Shortly after enrolling in the Confederate Army in April 1861, he married Adelaide Worth of Asheboro, daughter of the prosperous Dr. John Milton Worth. The couple resided in Dr. Worth’s expansive home on the northeast corner of present-day Worth and Cox streets. After a stint in the locally-raised 22nd Regiment, where he rose to the rank of captain

and company commander, McAlister was transferred to command of a company of the 46th Regiment, and later served as a lieutenant-colonel in the regiment's field command.

Arriving in Asheboro in early March, McAlister spread detachments throughout southern Randolph County. Troops of the 7th Regiment under Maj. James G. Harris encamped at Moffitt's Mill between present-day Ramseur and Coleridge. Capt. Daniel Edward Green's company made its headquarters at Page's Store, a toll house on the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road at present-day Seagrove. Captains Leslie A.W. Turner and Colin S. Stewart centered their unit at Oak Grove Church in the southwestern part of the county, and Capt. John H. Mabry moved his company west to Shepherd's School House near Mount Shepherd.

From these stations, troops marched out seeking "desperadoes," raiding homes of those suspected of harboring or aiding the deserters, seizing caches of arms, and fighting pitched battles. A singular event in the campaign occurred when Green's detachment drove outliers from a rocky promontory in southeastern Randolph County. A leader of the outlier band, Alpheus Gollihorn, was captured with Pvt. William F. Walters, a Federal cavalry scout sent to assess Union support in the area. After a drumhead court martial, Green executed Gollihorn by firing squad. Walters was sent to McAlister's headquarters in Asheboro as a prisoner of war. His trial and execution are documented in these papers.

Capt. Francis Marion Wishart of the 46th described Randolph County during this period as "Hell's half acre." The bloodthirsty operation ended in April, when McAlister and his troops were ordered to Danville, Virginia, and then to Greensboro, as the Army of Northern Virginia retreated towards North Carolina.

Glossary of Persons, Places and Terms

Persons

Carlton, Pinkney .C. (1832-1916), Lieutenant, 7th N.C.T.; acting adjutant for the regiment during the Randolph County campaign. He was from Iredell County and lived in Statesville after the war.

Cazaux, Anthony D. (1829-1910), Capt., Assistant Brigade Quarter Master, Lane's Brigade. From Wilmington, N.C. After the war, he engaged in wholesale and maritime activities there.⁴

Gatlin, Richard Caswell (1809-1896), Brigadier General, Confederate Army. After a less than illustrious military career, during which he was blamed for the loss of eastern North Carolina to Union forces, Gatlin served as North Carolina's Adjutant General in charge of state militia forces.

Gollihorn (or Gollyhorn), Alpheus (1844-1865). Leader of an outlier band alleged to have fired upon Confederate troops from a rocky promontory in southeastern Randolph County near the present-day North Carolina Zoo, on March 21, 1865. Gollihorn was captured and, on March 22, executed after a drumhead court martial. Gollihorn had deserted in August 1863 from Company B of the 52nd Regiment N.C.T., which was raised in Asheboro and nicknamed the Randolph Guards. He resided in the Browers Mill area in the southeastern part of the county.

Green, Daniel Edward (1838-1902), Captain, Company F, 15th Regiment N.C.T. From Harnett County, Green served after the war as justice of the peace and county surveyor, and represented Harnett County for one term in the state legislature.⁵

Harris, James Gilmer (1841-1902), Major, 7th Regiment N.C.T. Identified as a prominent citizen of Charlotte at the time of his death.⁶

Holmes, H. [Theophilus Hunter] (1804-1880), Lieutenant General, Confederate Army. Early in the war, Hunter held several major commands in the western theater of war. After an unsuccessful campaign in Arkansas, Holmes was replaced. He resigned from the army in 1864 and became commander of North Carolina's state reserve units. Born in Clinton, N.C., he was a farmer near Fayetteville after the war.

Ihrie, Ross R. (1928-1889), Lieutenant Colonel, 4th Battalion, Home Guard. A physician born in Easton, Pennsylvania, and educated at the University of Pennsylvania, Ihrie moved to Chatham County, North Carolina, after his marriage to a Chatham resident. He enlisted in the 15th Regiment N.C.T. in 1861 and shortly was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel. He left the regiment in 1862 to serve as assistant surgeon for the 49th North Carolina Militia.⁷ The militia was transitioned to the Home Guard in 1863. He practiced medicine in Pittsboro after the war.

Mabry, John H. (1835-1879), Captain, 48th Regiment N.C.T. From Davidson County; rose through the ranks from private.⁸ Resided in Lexington, N.C., after the war.⁹

McAlister, Alexander Carey (1838-1916), Lieutenant-Colonel, 46th N.C.T. After the war, McAlister settled in Alamance County and established a mercantile operation. He represented Alamance in the

North Carolina House of Representatives.¹⁰ Despite apparent solicitations, he declined to join the Ku Klux Klan. During the so-called Kirk-Holden War, he served the writ of Habeas Corpus on George W. Kirk that eventually resulted in the freedom of Klansmen rounded up by Kirk. McAlister returned to Asheboro in 1873, where he became a business partner of his father-in-law John Milton Worth. He engaged in mercantile pursuits and in the 1890s joined the insurance industry. He was involved in educational leadership in Asheboro, and served as chairman of the Randolph County Board of Education for many years. Later in life he was active in the United Confederate Veterans organization.

McLean, Jesse R. (1827-1898), Major, Confederate Army, commanding Camp Stokes. McLean was born on the family farm near present-day McLeansville, North Carolina. A graduate of Davidson College, he was before and after the war a teacher. He spent the latter years of his life in Manning, South Carolina.

Moss, Adolphus A. (1819-1880), Colonel and commanding officer, 6th North Carolina Senior Reserves. A Davidson County native, Moss was a merchant in Mocksville after the war.

Otey, John Marshall (1839-1883), Colonel, Confederate Army. Assistant Adjutant General to Gen. P.G.T. Beauregard for most of the war; served with Confederate forces assembling in North Carolina under Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to confront the U.S. Army under Gen. William T. Sherman. Born in Lynchburg, Virginia; worked as a broker and insurance agent in Richmond after the war.

Stewart, Colin S. (1842-1894), Captain, 46th Regiment N.C.T. A farmer in Richmond County prior to the war.¹¹ Relocated to Texas after the war.

Turner, Leslie A. W. (1835-1903), Captain, Company A, 46th N.C.T. A native of Camden, South Carolina, Turner relocated to Monroe, North Carolina, after his marriage. He returned to Monroe after the war and lived the rest of his life there.¹²

Waddill, John M. (1841-1912), 2nd Lieutenant, Company B, 46th N.C.T. Acting adjutant to McAlister's detachment, Waddill was born in Granville County, N.C. Prior to the war he worked as a clerk in Warrenton. After enlisting in 1862, he spent the early years of the war as quartermaster sergeant of the company.¹³ After the war he was a merchant in Reidsville, and later moved to Greenville, South Carolina.¹⁴

Walters, William F. (1846-1865), Private, Company L, 3rd Indiana Cavalry (the unit was transferred to become part of the 8th Indiana Cavalry), United States Army. Walters was sent to Randolph County as federal troops approached the area, to assess the strength of Unionist sentiment and cooperate with the outliers. Caught alongside Alpheus Gollihorn after a skirmish with Confederate troops on March 21, 1865, he was sent to Asheborough, where he was court martialed and executed on April 1 by firing squad near the present-day intersection of North Fayetteville Street and Carolina Avenue. The nineteen-year-old, who previously had escaped from the Confederate prison at Andersonville, was reported to have been "tied to a tree and shot."¹⁵ The execution took place near the present-day intersection of North Fayetteville Street and Carolina Avenue, at that time just outside the town limits.

Wishart, Francis Marion (1837-1872), Captain, Company B, 46th N.C.T. A Robeson County native, Wishart described Randolph County during his deployment there as “Hell’s half acre.” Reported to have “displayed an ‘absolute indifference to danger’ and a ‘total indifference of fear, laughing and joking under fire as in camp, always wanting to get at ‘em.’”¹⁶ After the war, he served as a colonel in the Robeson County militia that was tasked with suppressing Lumbee followers of Henry Berry Lowry in a conflict not unlike the one in Randolph County during the war. Wishart was shot and killed allegedly by members of Lowry’s band near his hometown of Shoe Heel after having gone alone and unarmed to negotiate the surrender of two member of the group.¹⁷

Places

Bear Creek – rises in southeastern Chatham County and flows east into the Rocky River

Burney’s Bridge – Crossing at Burney’s Mill on the Uwharrie River in southwestern Randolph County, probably near the location where present-day Burney Mill Road crosses the river.

Cabin Creek – Rises in northern Moore County and flows north into the Deep River near the Randolph County line.

Camp Stokes – A Confederate training camp for conscripts and prison camp for deserters located in Greensboro, North Carolina, at the present-day intersection of Green Valley Road and Battleground Avenue. Union Army prisoners also were held here at the end of the war.

Cox’s/J.D. Cox’s – Residence on the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road near present-day Ulah, near the intersection of NC 159 and Happy Hollow Road.

Greenwood School House – A school possibly located in central Davidson County; Capt. John Mabry’s detachment encamped here early in the campaign before making its headquarters at Shepherd School.

Moffitt’s Mill – A grist mill established in the late 1700s by Hugh Moffitt on Richland Creek in southeastern Randolph County. The 7th Regiment N.C.T. was headquartered here during the campaign.

Oak Grove Methodist Episcopal Church – Established in southwestern Randolph County as early as 1843, the congregation met in a log sanctuary until an academy was built in 1858, where services were held until a new church was constructed in 1886. Before serving as headquarters for the detachment commanded by Capt. Leslie A.W. Turner and Capt. Colin S. Stewart during McAlister’s campaign, the church in 1864 was the locus of a Home Guard effort led by Col. J. Hargrave to track down deserters. The church is situated on present-day Oak Grove Church Road near the intersection with High Pine Church Road.

Page’s Toll House/Page’s Toll Gate – A toll house on the Fayetteville and Western Plank Road located on the west side of present-day Old Plank Road in Seagrove, N.C.¹⁸ Served as headquarters for the detachment of Capt. Daniel E. Green during McAlister’s campaign.

Shepherd School – A school associated with Mount Shepherd Methodist Episcopal Church, established in 1848 located south of Mount Shepherd in western Randolph County. Served as headquarters for the detachment of Capt. John H. Mabry during McAlister’s campaign.

Terms and Abbreviations

AAG – Assistant Adjutant General

Actg/Atg – Acting

Adjutant – A military officer who acts as administrative assistant to a senior officer, transmitting orders and handling correspondence.

Adjutant General – The chief administrative officer of an army or unit, responsible for such duties as recordkeeping, pay, promotions and transmitting orders; also a state-level officer responsible for administration of a state military force such as a state militia, or in the present day, the National Guard.

AQM – Acting Quarter Master

Cmdg/Comdg – Commanding

Detach – Detachment

ER – Enrolling Officer

Enrolling Officer – A Confederate military officer in a Congressional district or county responsible for recruitment and conscription.

Hd Qrs – Headquarters

Home Guard – a state-sanctioned, North Carolina reserve force of men age 18-50 who were exempt from military service formed in 1863. Performed garrison and guard duties and searched for deserters.

Junior Reserves -- A Confederate military unit in North Carolina consisting of 17-year-old conscripts, generally assigned to garrison or guard duties; expected to matriculate to a combat unit when they turned 18.

Quarter Master – A officer or non-commissioned officer responsible for supply and logistical support for military units.

Senior Reserves – A Confederate military unit in North Carolina consisting of older conscripts age 45-50, generally assigned to garrison or guard duties.

Supporting Force – A special unit of North Carolina’s Senior Reserves created in 1864 and tasked specifically with hunting deserters.¹⁹ Some members of the unit received specialized training before being returned to their home counties.

Supporting Senior Reserves – see Supporting Force

Suptg Sr Res – Supporting Senior Reserves (Supporting Force)

Preface

February 16, 1865: Dr. John Milton Worth to Jonathan Worth

Asheboro, N.C. Feby 16th 1865

There is no spot upon this earth more completely subjugated than Randolph County. There is not a day or night passes but what some one is robbed of all the parties can carry away. They are in bands in nearly all parts of the County unless it is stopped we shall be utterly used up....

March 9, 1865: Gen. Robert E. Lee to Gov. Zebulon B. Vance

...Another detachment of 500 men under Colonel McAlister, has been sent to Chatham and Moore Counties, in which the bands of deserters were represented to be very numerous. They will, however, operate in other quarters as occasion may require. They are instructed to take no prisoners among the deserters who resist with arms the civil or military authorities. I hope you will raise as large a force of local troops co co-operate with them as you can, and think that the sternest course is best with the class I have referred to. The immunity which these lawless organizations afford is a great cause of desertion, and they cannot be too sternly dealt with...

From the papers of Lt. Col. Alexander Carey McAlister

February 11, 1865: "A pardon is announced"

Headquarters Armies of the Confederate States,
11th February 1865

Extract from General Orders No. 2}

BY authority of the President of the Confederate States, a pardon is announced to such deserters and men improperly absent as shall return to the commands to which they belong, within the shortest possible time, not exceeding twenty days from the publication of this order, at the headquarters of the department in which they may be.

Those who may be presented by interruptions of communication, may report within the time specified to the nearest Enrolling Officer or other officer on duty, to be forwarded as soon as practicable, and upon presenting a certificate from such officer, showing compliance with this requirement, will receive the pardon hereby offered.

Those who have deserted to the service of the enemy, or who have deserted after having been once pardoned for the same offence, and those who shall desert, or absent themselves without authority after the publication of this order, are excluded from its benefits. Nor does the offer of pardon extend to other offenses than desertion and absence without permission.

By the same authority, it is also declared that no general amnesty will again be granted, and those who refuse to accept the pardon now offered, or who shall hereafter desert or absent themselves without leave, shall suffer such punishment as the courts may impose, and no application of clemency will be entertained.

Signed:

R.E. LEE, General

Inspector's Office, 7th and 8th Districts

February 27, 1865: "You will shoot them down taking no prisoners"

*Near Lee & Army Camps [illegible]
Feb 27 1865*

Hd Qrs 3rd Army Corps
February 27th 1865

Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
46th N.C. Regt.

You will proceed with the 7th N.C. Regt. Maj. Harris Comdg and a detachment of 250 men from Cooke's Brigade to the counties of Randolph, Chatham and Moore, North Carolina, for the purpose of breaking up and dispersing the bands of deserters said to be collected in those counties. Should you come in contact with deserters who resist your authority or who have resisted the authority of the Government, you will shoot them down taking no prisoners.

The counties above are mentioned as it is believed organized bands of deserters are collected in those counties to a greater extent than any other portion of the state. Should you discover

however on your arrival in N.C. that your command are to be employed more advantageously in other quarters of the State you are authorized to proceed there, and carry out the above instructions. Report on your arrival in N.C. to the Cmdg General in that State sending him a copy of your instructions. From time to time report the result of your operations to the Hd Qrs of the Army of No. Va. giving your address.

March 2: "Four hundred and seventeen of my command"

Greensboro, N.C. March 2 65
Letter to Col. Jno. M. Otey Aag
reporting arrival in N.C.

Hd Qu Detach. Cooke's and Lane's Brigade
Greensboro, N.C. March 2 1865

Col.

I enclose copy of letter of instructions under which I am acting. Four hundred and seventeen of my command arrived here yesterday. The remainder about two hundred looked for this afternoon. I will not march from High Point before the morning of the 4th inst. as transportation cannot be had sooner. I will operate first in the county named in Gen. Heth's letter and my headquarters will generally be at the county seat of the counties respectively in which I may be.

I am very respectfully
Your Obdt. Servant
A. C. McAlister
Lieut Col Cmdg

Capt. Jno. M. Otey
AAG

March 2: "Co-operation of Reserves and Home Guard"

Greensboro, N.C. March 2 1865
Letter to Gen. R.C. Gatlin
Adg Gen NC

Hd Qu Detach. Cooke's and Lane's Brigade
Greensboro, N.C. March 2 1865

Gen'l

I enclose copy of letter forward to Lt. Gen'l H. Holmes this day – concerning letter of instruction from Maj Gen H Heth Army of No Va – and respectfully call your attention to request in same with reference to the co-operation of Reserves and Home Guard forces with any command in arresting deserters.

Very Resp Your Obd Serv't
A. C. McAlister
Lt Col Cmdg

March 3: "Procure supplies for this command"

Special Order
No. 3

Hdq Mar 3rd
High Point NC

Capt. Cazaux A Q M will proceed to Greensboro and if necessary Raleigh to procure supplies for this command and will return as soon as practicable.

A.C. McAlister
Lt Col Cmdg

March 4: "Cooperation of Supporting Forces"

Head Quarters. Reserve, North Carolina,
Adjutant General's Office
Raleigh, March 4th 1865

Col.

Your communication of the 2nd inst. has been received & the necessary instructions given to secure to you the cooperation of the Supporting Forces of Reserves in the counties referred. The Home Guard are not under the command of Lieut Genl Holmes, but I have seen Gov. Vance & procured the written order to be issued at once. Genl Holmes is temporarily absent at Salisbury. I will forward your communication to him for any special suggestions he may have to make.

Very resply
Yr Obt. Svt.
Chas. S. Stringfellow
Maj. A.A.G.

Lt. Col. A.C. Mcalister
Cmdg

March 4: Home Guard ordered to operate against deserters

Adjt Gen's Office, Raleigh

March 4 1865

Special Order }

No. 41 }

II – ordering out 2nd Class Home Guard to cooperate with Cooke's Lane's Brig.

Executive Department, North Carolina
Adjutant General's Office
Raleigh, March 4, 1865

Special Order
No. 41

II The Commanders of the Home Guard of Davidson, Randolph, Montgomery, Moore and Chatham Counties will call the 2nd Class of their Battalions into the field to

operate in their respective counties against deserters. They will report to the Col. A.C. McAlister 46th Regiment N.C. Troops for duty.

By order of Gov. Vance
R.C. Gatlin
Adjutant

March 5: "Designs of the enemy"

Special
No. 4

Hd Qrs
Asheboro Mar 5

Lieut Thos Neal Cmdg detch Junior Reserves will present with his command at Troy Montgomery Co. and ascertain the whereabouts & if possible the designs of the enemy reported to have crossed the Pee Dee River at Stanback's Ferry & to be moving in the direction of this[?] place. He will report to me within the next twenty four hours by letter & in the absence of positive orders will at the expiration of the next 24 hours return with his command to this place.

March 6: "Need of forces to enforce conscription"

Hd Qrs 6th Regt. Res.
Lexington, NC March 6th 1865

Special Order
No. 1

I. Adj. C. Gray will proceed to Asheboro Randolph County NC without delay and order E. [Enrolling] Officers to report conditions of offices re. need of forces to enforce conscription in their respective counties to Hd Qrs immediately.

II. Will order one of the Cavalry companies operating in Randolph County to report to Lexington 10 inst. Supporting Force also as soon as circumstances will admit ~~will also report at same place to [illegible]~~ mass for duty.

III. Select from Cavalry Force two reliable men with good horses to be retained as Couriers at Asheboro and will act in obedience to orders of E.O. in bearing dispatches to Lexington or wherever directed.

A.A. Moss
Col. Inspector
7 Con Dist NC

March 6: "No quarter will be shown"

Instructions for Detach on duty [possibly to Major James G. Harris, 7th N.C. Troops]

Head Qrs Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig.
Asheboro, Randolph Co. N.C. March 6 65

Major

Proceed with your command to the neighborhood of Alfred Smith Esq. establishing camp there. Scour the country for the area of (7) seven miles for deserters, absentees and recusant conscripts. All details of operations are left to your discretion. You are empowered to impress citizens for guides. Should they refuse to render service when called on, you will inflict such punishment as you may think necessary to protect you from betrayal.

Every precaution will be taken to guard against surprise both in camp and on the march.

You will allow no detachment to move without advance guard, and at night the additional precaution will be taken of having videttes on either side of the road for a distance of (30) thirty paces.

To any who may resist your authority or who may have resisted the authority of the Gov't, no quarter will be shown. They will be shot down whenever found.

Property stolen from the citizens will be invoiced and forwarded to a depot for such foods that will be established at this place or wherever my H Qrs may be.

The premises of all who may be know to have participated in any of the robberies that have been committed in this county will be thoroughly searched for such stolen property.

Gov't arms of all kinds and cavalry equipment will be taken, conforming to the directions contained in the appeal of Gen Lee 25 Jan 1865, an account of all such arms and equipment seized or captured will be kept with the name of captor.

You are authorized to arrest and hold while in the county any and all persons who may hinder you in the discharge of your duties by giving aid to deserters by the alarming of horns, ringing of bells, or by the giving of any other signal or who in any way may assist in their escape or concealment. Besides the weekly report called for in Gen Order No. 2, report from time to time the result of your operations. By order Lt. Col. McAlister Jno Waddill Lt act adj

March 7: "600 deserters"

*Report made to J.E. Johnson's Chief of Staff
Mch 7 1865*

Head Qrs Detch Cooke's Lane's Brig.
Asheboro, Randolph Co. N.C. March 7 1865

Sir

On my arrival at Greensboro (on the 2nd inst.) I reported by letter – enclosing letter of instruction under which I am acting to Col. Jno M. Otey supposed actg Chf Staff to Gen Johnson. My command (600) six hundred in number arrived at this place on the 5th inst. I find a deplorable state of affairs existing. The Enrolling Officer reports (600) six hundred deserters in the county – (200) two hundred of whom at least I am informed are in organized bands and are well armed. They have been committing wholesale robberies upon the citizens for several months, but of late their outrages have become more frequent and intolerable. They are active sympathizers with the enemy and should a raiding party or force come within a convenient distance they would doubtless cooperate with it.

Yesterday an officer of the Quartermaster's Dept. en route from Cheraw to Greensboro when within two miles of this place was robbed of his money, watch and clothing – and to prevent the passage of Govt trains a bridge on the Fayetteville & Western plank road was set afire. This evil has existed so long in the County and is growing with such alarming rapidity that I am persuaded that the only speedy and effectual cure is a summary punishment of such of those bands as may fall

into my hands. Many of these deserters have before been arrested, some of them more than once and sent to the army to escape in a short time and return again to wreak vengeance on those who may have assisted in their capture.

Until the citizens can be shown that if taken they will never have an opportunity of going at large again -- or in other words that they will be summarily executed in the County, I shall be unable to obtain their cooperation, without which I will labor under great difficulties in finding out their hiding places and in hunting them down.

The object of this communication is to request (if such powers can be delegated) that I be authorized to appoint a Genl Court-Martial with power to confirm[?] sentence for the trial of such of these robbers as may be apprehended. If this cannot be I respectfully ask that one officer of the military court of the Army Tenn or of the Dept N.C. [illegible] be ordered to report to me for duty for one month and that I be empowered to confirm proceedings and sentence if [illegible]. The chief object for which this force has been detailed, that of arresting deserters from the army, can in my opinion be in no way better motivated than by disposing of these characters in the way I have suggested.

March 7: "not considered safe"

Hight Point
March 7 65
Letter from Capt. Cazaux
Concerning clothing

High Point
March 7 1865

Col

I arrived here this morning the clothing will probably be up this afternoon it was put on cars at Raleigh yesterday afternoon.

Could not get clothing at Greensboro & went to Raleigh Sunday delayed me one day. Will remain here until you send up a guard as it is not considered safe to go around with this clothing without guard.

Suppose a Guard will return with the wagon that went around with then command. If so will leave as soon as they return.

To
Lieut Col A.C. McAlister
Cmdg detachment from
Lane's & Cooke's Brigade

I [am] Col Very Respy
Yr Obt Servt
A.D. Cazaux
Capt. & aqm

March 8: Home Guard mobilization

Asheboro, N.C. March 8 65

A copy of the within together with a copy of Special Order No. 41 Adj Gen's Office N.C. for'd to Comdt Home Guard of Davidson, Montgomery, Moore & Chatham counties.

Head Qrs Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro, March 8 1865

Sir

I enclose copy of order from Adj. Gen's Office NC. You will report at once whether or not you have received such order and if so what action has been taken with regard to it.

By Order Lieut. Col. A.C. McAlister
Jno [John] M. Waddill Lieut
Acting Adjt.

Commandant Home Guard }
County NC }

March 8: Report of Randolph County unit

Asheboro, March 8

Report of Lt. B.M. Dowd

Cmdg Co. I 6 Reg Suptg Sr Res

March 8, 1865

Asheboro N.C. March 8th 1865

Below I make you a report of the no. of men belonging to Randolph Co under my command also the no of arms & equipment.

No of men	10	
Jackson Tally	Present	
Wm. P. Craven	[Present]	
John Dosett	Appointed Constable by the Court	
Wm. Bray	Removed to Stanly County left with Capt. Lilly	
James Brady	Home Sick	
H. S. Farlow	Home on sick furlow	
Lewis Pearce	Absent without leave	
O. C. Siler	At home on sick furlow	
Thos Dugan	Absent without leave	
W.E. Caudle	at home sick	

Total Present	2	
Absent with leave	6	furloughed by Capt. Lilly
[Absent] without leave	2	
No. of guns	40	
[No.] of Cartridge Boxes	29	
[No. of] Bayonets	47	
[No. of] Cartridges	25	

The above is a true statement as requested.

Respectfully
Lt. B.M. Dowd
Comd Company I S.F. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

March 8: "Form a line of skirmishers"

*Oak Grove Chrch Mch 9
Report of Capt. Turner
1 prisoner captured*

Hd Qrs Detachment Cook's Brig
Oak Grove Church March 9, 1865

Colonel

I have established camp at this place occupying the old church & school house. I shall move to-day to a neighborhood six miles west of this place. I shall return tomorrow to allow the men to prepare rations. Captain Varner informs me that the range of mountains on the opposite side of the river is likely inhabited by deserters from his account of the county. I deem it unsafe to communicate with Capt. Wishart or Green without sending a guard with the courier. I believe to make a move there sound but think the best plan will be to form a line of skirmishers across the mountain and move north and have Capt. Green form a line also across the mountain above Cox's on the opposite side and move in a direction South to meet me. I would like to have Captain Mabry before making this move. My present force will not make my line as long as I would like to have it. I have arrested Wm Lewis near this place. He is 43 years old has no papers to show why he is absent from his command. Says he belongs to the 5th N.C.T. He requested me to refer you to John Milton Worth of Asheboro for a statement of his case. He tells me that he was captured at Gettysburg and received a parole to go South and run away from the Yankees and came home. Please inform me tomorrow what disposition to make of him.

I am Colonel

Lt Col A.C. McAlister }
Cmdg Detachment }
Cooke's & Lane's Brig }

Very respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
L.A.W. Turner Capt.
Comdg Detach

March 8: List (fragmentary)

Written on the back of a copy of Gen. Robert E. Lee's pardon order of 11 February 1865

C.T. Harville Co. K 13 NC
W.D. Wright Co. K 13 NC
Joseph Sills Co. K 13 NC
D.S. Paschal Co. K 13 NC

8th Capt Green

March 9: List of Prisoners

List [of] Prisoners Captured by Ditch Cooke's Lane's Brigade, March, 1865

Name	Unit	Where Captured	When Captured	When Forwarded	Where Forwarded	Remarks
A.M. Griffin	Co. F, 2nd NC Cavalry	Greensboro, NC	March 2	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	Came in under Gen. Lee's amnesty Jan 25 1865
Wm. Ayers	Co. D, 7th Senior Reserves	High Point		March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	Came in under Gen. Lee's amnesty Jan 25 1865
G. Alexander ¹	Co. D, 7th Senior Reserves			March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
Robt Smathers ¹	Co. D, 7th Senior Reserves			March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
John T____pler ¹	Co. C, 7th Senior Reserves		March 6	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
Wiley Dougan ¹			March 6	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
Albert, Pugh ²	Morris Bell Senior Reserves	Near Alfred Smith's	March 7	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
Phillip Pugh ²	B_____	Near Alfred Smith's	March 7	March 9	Released 10 March	Taken up under suspicion of furnishing rations to his father
Richard H. Vernon ²	7th NC Senior Reserves	Near Alfred Smith's	March 7	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
Madison Lowry ²	5th NC Cavalry	Near Alfred Smith's	March 8	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	Has a horse which was retained by Maj. Harris
Adam Smith ²	7th NC Senior Reserves	Near Alfred Smith's	March 7	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
Caleb [obscured] ²	C.S. Navy	Near Alfred Smith's	March 7	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
?H. Ford[obscured] ²	C.S. Navy	Near Alfred Smith's	March 7	March 9	Camp Stokes, NC ⁴	
Lt James Gilliam ²	7th NC Senior Reserves	Near Alfred Smith's	March 7	March 9	To Col. Sholar[?] Greensboro NC if recognized to be released	Furnished with permit to join his command from A_____
Levi Humble ²	16th NC Infantry	Near Alfred Smith's	March 7			Severly wounded in thigh
Geo Mock ³	D, Cobb's Legion	Page's Toll Gate	March 7			Released 10 March
John Houston ³	D, Cobb's Legion	Page's Toll Gate	March 7			Released 10 March
Warren Auman, ³	Citizen	Page's Toll Gate	March 8			
Hillary Auman ³	Citizen	Page's Toll Gate	March 8			Released 12 March
Jacob Auman ³	Citizen	Page's Toll Gate	March 8			
W.? Balling ³	Citizen	Page's Toll Gate	March 7			Released 15 March
A. King ³	Citizen	Page's Toll Gate	March 7			Released 11 March

*Notation at top of document: "Folio No. 1"

¹ Capt. Turner's
² Maj. Harris's
³ Capt. Green's

⁴"in charge of Lt. Harris Co. B 7th NCT"

March 9: List of Prisoners

List [of] Prisoners Captured by Dtch Cooke's Lane's Brigade, March, 1865

Name	Unit	Where Captured	When Captured	When Forwarded	Where Forwarded	Remarks
Blair, J.F. (Capt. Green)	Co. A 10th NC Batt	Page's Store	March 7			Released _____ Mch 10
Robbins, Orlando (Capt. Marley)	Citizen - exempt	Greenwood School - home	March 7			
Burton, J.M.	Co. D 10th NC Batt		March 10			
Hardy, Amos	Co. D 10th NC Batt		March 10			
Beuran [Buran], H.	Co. C 2nd SC Senior Reserves	Page's Toll House	March 10			
Wendelkin, M.C.	Co. C 2nd SC Senior Reserves	Page's Toll House	March 10			
Ward, Saul	Co. C 2nd SC Senior Reserves	Page's Toll House	March 10			
Whitford, Leptha	Co. C 2nd SC Senior Reserves	Page's Toll House	March 10			
H_____, A.W.	Co. C 2nd SC Senior Reserves	Page's Toll House	March 10			
Medley, William R.	Citizen					
Coady, Haley	6th NC Regiment			Mch 13 65	Delivered Asheboro	
Parton, Thomas	Conscript					
Parton, W.L.	Conscript					

March 9: "A spy for them"

Greenwood School Hse
Mar 9th 1865

Col. I failed to arrest any deserter on the night of the 7th inst., but I arrested Orlando Robbins, who will be 17 years of age first April next, and is supposed to be, if not an accomplice, at least a spy for them, and might afford some information leading to the whereabouts of his cousins. I send his arms & c which he says were given to him. We arrived here at 2 AM on the 8th inst., sent out a detachment to Breedlove's Shoe Shop, who have just returned without accomplishing anything. A detachment was sent out to the Foundry who are to scour the country thence to Shepherd School Hse. where I shall meet them tonight. Jessy Harkey, sick, is sent for treatment. The guard with any of my company fit for duty, I agreeable to you, I wish to rejoin me tonight.

Very resp'y yrs

J.H. Mabry – Capt. Co. B. 48th N.C.
On detached Service

PS

Will endeavor to report tomorrow morning as to this day's proceedings, rations &c.
J.H.M.

March 9: Receipt of prisoners

Greensboro, Mch 9 65

Receipt No. 1

10 prisoners

Received Greensboro NC March 9 1865 of Lieut Col A.C. McAlister's Ditch Cooke's Lane's Brig the following named prisoners, viz.

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Robt Smithers | Co. D of NC Sr Res |
| 2. Gideon Alexander | Co. E [of NC Sr Res] |
| 3. Wiley Vaughan | Co. E [of NC Sr Res] |
| 4. John Temples | Co. C [of NC Sr Res] |
| 5. Alfred Pugh | Morris' Batt Sr Reserve |
| 6. Richard H. Vernon | 7 th Reg Nc Sr Res |
| 7. Madison Lowery | 5 th NC Cavalry |
| 8. Adam Smith | 7 th Reg NC Sr Res |
| 9. Caleb Hoffman | C.S. Navy |
| 10. Jno H. Forbes | C.S. Navy |

March 10: "Seven (7) Springfield rifles"

Asheboro NC Mch 10 1865

Received of Lieut Col A.C. McAlister (7) Seven Springfield rifles – to be returned when called for.

William Murdock Adj. Comdg
5th Batt HG N.C.

Head Qrs 4th Batt. H.G [Home Guard]
Pittsboro, March 11th /65

March 11: Cavalry units to assemble at Pittsboro

Head Qrs 4th Batt. H.G.
Pittsboro, March 11th 1865

Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
Col.

I am in receipt of Special Order No. 41 and have ordered my command to assemble at Pittsboro on the 18th inst. As we have to find our provisions I cannot keep them out longer than a week at time. A detachment of ninety men from the 65th Cavalry, Major Spann comdg [commanding] are also operating in this county.

Very Respect. Your
Obt. Servt.
R.R. Ihrie, Lt. Col.
Cav'y Batt.

March 12: "Seizure of property"

Hd Qrs Detach Cook's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro March 12 1865

Captain

I will not authorize yet the seizure of property as a means of causing deserters to surrender themselves. If "Texas" is a better field, go into it, or into any other neighborhood west of the plank road.

March 12: "such depredations on private property"

Page Store, N.C.
Pittsboro, March 12/65

Col. I have made inquiries among the officer and men who were at Mr. Jacob Auman's house a few days since and arrested him. They all declare that no saws, axes or other private property was taken or destroyed there. I am sorry indeed that our detachment could be charged with committing such depredations on private property.

I am certain that none of our men know anything about the matter whatsoever.

Yours Very Respectfully
D.E. Green Capt.
Cmdg. Detachment

March 12: "Hell's half acre"

Hell's half acre
Mch 12 65

Lieut [J.M. Waddill, acting adjutant for Lt. Col. McAlister]

Since God ever made me I never have seen such a place. I am worn finally out and nothing done. I would give all to be back at our old Shantys. I have tramped until I can't [go?]. I have run in to the (old Tars) twice without success. I have seen more than I can tell in twelve months but I have escaped being scalded so far. I fare badly for something to eat. I have skirmished all the [illegible] woods in this part of Purgatory. John when the wagon comes down again I want you to send my knapsack so I can get some clothes if you can get me some smoking tobacco, send me some for I am out. Whiskey plenty we found a still "beer" [ready?] had it stilled up. I send you and the Col some if possible. As soon as we get acquainted with the woods we shall rout the enemy I think. I go to church today if possible. Send my things.

Respectfully &c
F.M. Wishart

March 14: Receipt of prisoners

Camp Stokes

March 14th 1865

Recvd Lieut Neal of the Jr Reserves the within named men –

J.R. McLean

Maj. Cmdg

By J.N.[?] Dearborn[?]

Received Greensboro NC Mch 1865 of Lieut Col A.C. McAlister Cmdg Dtch Cooke's and Lane's Brig. the following prisoners – viz.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Orlando Robbins | |
| 2. Amos [illegible] | 5. [sic] S.M. Benton |
| 3. M Wendelkin | 6. H. B [illegible] |
| 4. Jeptha Whitfield | 7. Saul Ward |
| 5. M.W. Wood | 8. A.W. Hubert [?] |
| returned W.L. Carter | 10.[sic] Evan Johnson |

March 16: “Caught in the woods”

March 16, 1865

Letter from Capt. Green

Fdg 4 prisoners

Col. A.C. McAlister
Asheboro, N.C.

Dennis Presnell was caught in the woods 6 miles from his home in Montgomery County. [H]e is said to have been engaged in some of these robberies that have been committed in this vicinity.

Wyatt Trogdon is said to be 18 years of age. I send the names of two witnesses who will testify to that fact. (Nancy Newsom and Nancy Auman.)

I am with respect your obedient servant.

D.E. Green Capt.
Comdg. Detachment

March 16: “We are laboring under great difficulties”

Asheboro March 16, 65

Report made to Gen. Lee containing extract of letter to Gen Johnson's Chief Staff 7th inst. Also copy of address (circular) to citizens forwarded March 16 65

Head Quarters Detachment Cooke's and Lane's Brigade
Asheboro, N.C. Mch 16 1865

Colonel,

I arrived with my command at this place on the afternoon of the 5th inst. The difficulty of procuring transportation and supplies caused a delay of a few days in getting to work. The men entered upon it with cheerfulness and have displayed great zeal and energy, but for want of reliable guides and information, the first week's operations have not been as successful as I expected.

The following is the result to date, viz. 2 reportedly under amnesty, Gen Order No. 2 H. Qrs. A C.S. 40 deserters have been arrested, one of whom was severely wounded, and one killed.

The armed bands who have been committing most outrageous robberies on citizens and travelers fled from the county upon our approach, or have disbanded or so concealed themselves that all efforts to discern their hiding places have thus far proved unsuccessful.

The mountainous portions of this section afford good cover for them, and they possess so generally the sympathy of the inhabitants that we are laboring under great difficulties, but I hope to obtain shortly the assistance of a sufficient number of good men to overcome that to a considerable degree.

Appreciating the necessity of having the cooperation of the citizens, upon my arrival I addressed them by a printed circular asking their assistance, but the call has not been responded to. The chief cause of which and the steps I have taken to secure it you will gather from extracts of letter inst. Addressed Gen Johnson's Chf Staff – herewith enclosed.

I also enclose the appeal above referred to. I have procured an order calling into service the Reserve and Home Guard here and from adjoining counties while I operate here, but its execution has been drastically interfered with in three of them, by the movements of the enemy in and near them.

March 16: "We all suffer for the use of them mules"

Mrs. Nancy Robbins threatening &c &c &c &c
[March 16, 1865]

A.C. McAlister
Conl
Back Creek, N.C.

Dear sir I can inform you that one of them mules is my mule and the other is J.W. Conner Jr.[s] if you don't return them tomorrow morning I shall inform the governor of this. I am a soldier wife he of the 52 North Carolina Regt ___ [illegible] and this cant be proved. We all suffer for the use of them mules we are out of bread and nothing nothing to go to mill with we are out of wood also and nothing one four of ground plowed yet if you don't return them mules I shall be out there in the morning.

Ja W Conner Jr.
Nancy L. Robbins

March 17: “Made their escape through the woods”

Head Qrs Detch Cooke’s Brigade
March 17th 1865

Col

I send up today two prisoners captured on the 15th and 16th Private William R Peacock Co. F 7th N.C. Regiment Absent without Leave Furlough expired July 29. Private A Lackey Co. C 64th N.C. Regiment says He received a discharge from hospital at Salisbury to go to his Command. Instead of going there He came home. I regret to state that James Stout also absent without leave was arrested by Lt. Thomas’ company, but made his escape on Wednesday night. The detachment under my command consisting of two (Cos. “A” 48th & F 27) and operating west of this place on Tuesday last routed two camps of Deserters supposed to be about 20 in number. They had the advantage of seeing us first, and made their escape through the woods. We captured three guns. Some Linsey Blankets, cotton quilts and seven Haversacks filled with rations. The guns captured I think was the individual property of the deserters or had been stolen from citizens. One of the guns was an Enfield barrel and had a stock which just been finished. They also have a Rifle belonging to a deserter. I found it at his house and took possession of it [illegible] [illegible]. He carries six. The guns will be turned into Store as soon as I have an opportunity of sending them up. The Blankets, I think was the property of the deserters as they are all home made. I shall allow the Captains to keep them unless you wish me to turn them into Store also. I was very anxious to see you about the move I propose to make on the opposite side the river. Your order of the 14th inst. Is at [illegible] and will be complied with as soon as I accomplish all that can be done in connection with the move I have made into Davidson County. My guides will be absent until Saturday evening. I can do but little until they return.

L.T. Col. A.C. McAlister
Cmdg Detachments
Cooke’s & Lane’s Brigades

I am Colonel
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
L.A. W. Turner, Captain
Comdg Detachment

March 17: List of deserters

NOTE: Following are lists of deserters from Company B of the 52nd Regiment of North Carolina Troops. Known as the Randolph Guards, the company was raised in Randolph County in 1862 and enlisted at Asheboro. The 33 names listed represent about 21 percent of the unit’s original strength of 163 men. Company B was also the unit of Alpheus Golliborn, a deserter who was executed on March 22, 1865, after firing on troops from Capt. Daniel E. Green’s detachment.

List of Deserters absent from the 52 NC Regt.

	Name	Company	Where they may be found	Have been absent without leave
1	A.J. Rush	B	Science Hill Randolph Co. N.C.	14 July 64
2	Milton Bell	B	“	

3	Asa Callicott	B	“	December 1863
4	Pleasant Callicott	B	“	
5	Watson Ledwell	B	“	Dec 1864
6	Miles Floyd	B	“	_____ 1865
7	Benj Floyd	B	“	July 1864
8	Jos C Tadlock	B	“	Nov 1864
9	Robt Cooper	B	“	“
10	Jno Cooper	B	“	“
11	Mathew Cooper	B	“	“
12	Reuben Fesmire	B	Whynot “	December 1864
13	Reuben Lowdermilk	B	“	“
14	Reuben Brown	B	“	“
15	Adam Brown	B	“	“
16	Eli Brown	B	“	“
17	William Cole	B	“	“
18	Hartwell Bird	B	“	Dec 1864
19	R.S. Scott	B	“	----- 1863
20	Wm Owens	B	“	“
21	[First initial obscured] P. Auman	B	“	“
22	Henry Auman	B	“	Nov 1864

List deserters of Co. “B” [obsured] Continued

	Name	Company	Where they may be found	Haven been absent without leave
23	Noah Williamson	B	Why Not Randolph Co. N.C.	[illegible] 1863
24	Calvin Staley	B	“	July 1863
25	Evan Cole	B	“	Oct 1864
26	Wm. M. Miller	B	Jackson Creek “	July 1863
27	Wm. B. Yates	B	“	“
28	Jno Gaddis [Gattis]	B	“	Nov 1864
29	A.M. Webster	B	Sawyersville “	July 1863
30	Amos Jones	B	“	“
31	Alvis Jones	B	----- Guilford Co,	“
32	Alex Robbins	B	Sawyersville Randolph Co. N.C.	
33	Reuben Williams	B	Why Not Randolph Co. N.C.	----- 1862
34	P.C. Cranford	G	Asheboro “	

Petersburg, VA
17 March 1865

March 19: List of Prisoners

Mch 19 1865

Recpt for 47 prisoners [arrived?] Camp Stokes

No.3

Received Greensboro Mch 19 1865 of Lietu Col A.C. McAlister Cmdg Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brigd. the following prisoners in number (47) Joseph B. Barnes receiving viz.

Adam Slack	William Parks
N.N. Leach	James Hancock
Eli Marshall	Dan'l Dawson
Thomas Gordon	Mansil[?] Gragson
David Gilstrap	John Gilstrap
A.M. Brady	W.T. Hendrix
C. Stevenson	John Lane
W.F. Bradshaw	R.H. Lynch
W.G. Burge	W. Turner
W.J. Farlow	?M. Taylor
Joshua Ashley	J.J. Barnes
—[illegible].J. Wilson	Thos. George
T. Morris	J.P. Morris
W. Huggins	N. Shuly [?]
S.F. Bowles	W.B. Rich
W.P. Shuly [?]	J.A. Gilbason
J.F. Luck	C. Smith
J.P. Parker	James May
Henry Elliott	Henry Sheppard
John Lanier	Joshua May
Alfred Leyton	E.W. Lineberry
Allison Lineberry	Alex Robbins
Julias Robbins	Thomas Pool
William Lewis	J. Wyatt Trogdon

March 20: "The different companies will be in camp this evening or tomorrow"

Mch 20 1865

[illegible] Maj. Harris

Impossible to make a report

Head Quarters 7th N.C.T.
Moffitt's Mill Mar 2nd 1865

Col.

The command is so much scattered that it is impossible to make a report this morning. The different companies will be in camp this evening or tomorrow & a report will be made and forwarded to you immediately.

Maj. Harris request that you will send Pv W.R. Presnell Co. "F" 7th N.C.T. to his command by the guard that comes up today.

Lt. Col A.C. McAlister
Cmdg Detch. Cooke's & Lane's Brig.
Asheboro N.C.

Very Respectfully
Yout Obdt. Servt.
P.C. Carlton, Lt. & Act Adjt

March 20: "What action has been taken"

Head Qrs Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brigade
Asheboro, Mch 20 1865

Major

The Lieut Col Cmdg desired to know whether or not you have received a copy of Special Order No. 41 Adj. Genls Office, and if so, what action has been taken by you concerning said order.

Jno. M. Waddill
Lieut & Act Adjt

Major Rush }
Comdg H.G. }

March 20: "I move to-night at dark"

Mch 20 1865
from Capt. Turner
Carraway [illegible] East side River

Head Qrs Detach Cook's Brig
March 20th 1865

Col

I have today inspected this command, the condition of which I find to be as follows:

Guns:	In good order
Accoutrements:	In good order
Clothing:	Badly worn

I send up this morning my Morning and Ordinance reports. I send orders to Capt. Green this morning concerning the move on the east side of River. I move to-night at dark.

Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister	}	I am Colonel
Comdg Detachment	}	Very Respectfully
Cooke's & Lane's Brigade	}	Your Obt Servt
		L.A.W. Turner Captain
		Comdg Detach

March 20: "He is a shrewd scoundrel"

March 20 1865
Letter from Capt. J.H. Mabry
Prisoner J.M. Caviness[?]

Shepherd's School House
March 20th 1865

Col

I send one prisoner – J.M. Caviness, a recusant conscript. He was in the Government employ of the Saltpeter works until June last at which time his services were called for in the Army and failed to report. He has been largely engaged in distilling liquor contrary to law as well as harboring and [illegible] of the deserters. The paper he has was not willingly signed [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] it but [illegible] by constraint through fear of private [illegible] if they refused. He is a shrewd scoundrel and no privilege other than such as his [illegible] merits should be allowed him. He will get away if he possibly can.

I also send five bundles cotton bags and 30 shirts of a lot [illegible] found in the house of a Mrs. Polly Magee[?] and reported to be stolen goods. The balance of the lot will be sent [illegible] [illegible]. The bearer will give you in detail the circumstances leading to their capture. Mrs. Magee declared that she received the goods to make up, and carried them home from Franklinville Factory by the single bundle. The informant against her says she is swearing to the fact that Mrs. M. had the goods in her possession three weeks or longer, and that [they?] were stolen by deserters. Our men are needing shirts and other clothing.

Very Respectfully
Yr Obt Svt
J.H. Mabry
Capt. Co. B 48th N.C.T.

March 20: Prisoners

March 20 1865
from Maj. Harris
4 prisoners

Head Quarters 7th N.C.T.
Moffitt Mills, N.C.
March 20, 1865

Col.

I send under guard the following prisoners with date of capture –
March 17th G.W. Buck Co. "I" 15th Miss Adams Brig
" H.B. Moore "
" T.I. Evans "
" D.B. McKinnon "

None of these men are known to have been engaged in any of the numerous depredations recently committed on the citizens of this or adjoining counties.

I am Col.

Lt.Col. A.C. McAlister
Cmdg Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro, N.C.

Very Respectfully Yours
J.G. Harris Maj.
Cmdg 7th N.C.T.

March 21: List of prisoners

Head Qrs Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brigade
Asheboro, Mch 21 1865

List prisoners forwarded by Lieut. Col. A.C. Mcalister cmdg. Detch to Camp Stokes, N.C.

1.D.B. McKinnon	Co. I. 15 th Miss Reg
2. T. I. Evans	“
3. Escaped H.B. Moore	“
4. G.W. Buck	“
5. Escaped J.M. Caviness	Recusant conscript
6. Oliver Baker	22d Ga. Batt.
7. A.J. Beal	“
8. John W. Hallady	“
9. J.L. Grizzard	“
10. J.T. Welborn	“
11. A. Lackey	Co. C. 61 NC Reg

March 21: Receipt for prisoners

March 21st 1865
Recpt for 9 prisoners
No. 4

Received Camp Stokes N.C.
Mch 21st 1865 of Lieut. Col. A.C. McAlister cmdg Detachment Cooke's and Lane's Brig. The following nine prisoners, viz.

1. D. B. McKinnon	15 th Miss Reg.
2. T.J. Evans	“
3. H.B. Moore	Made his escape
4. G.W. Buck	[15 th Inf Reg.]
5. Escaped J.M. Caviness	Recusant conscript
6. Oliver Baker	22 Ga. Batt
7. A.J. Beal	“
8. Jno. W. Hallady	“
9. J.L. Grizzard	“
10. J.T. Welborn	“
11. C.[?]. Lackey	61 st N.C.T.

By J. T. Pearson Clk

J.R. McLean
Maj. Cmdg

Camp Stokes
March 22d 1865

Reply to Lt. Col. McAlister, with the information that of the within list J.M. Caviness & H.B. Moore were not received here – reported to have escaped the guard.

J.R. McLean
Maj. &c

Rec'd March 21st 1865

March 22: Quartermaster stores

Received this day of Capt. A.D. Cazaux a q m the following Quartermaster Stores, viz.

250	Two hundred & fifty pair Shoes
91	Ninety one Jackets
251	Two hundred & fifty one pants
200	Two hundred pair of drawers
200	Two hundred Shirts
60	Sixty pair socks
5	Five Packing Boxes
1	On small [illegible]
9	Nine [illegible] Letter paper
50	Fifty Letter Envelopes
1	One Blank Book
2	Two Pen Holders
25	Twenty five [illegible] pens
1	One bottle Ink
1	Pen Points
2	Blankets

Asheboro, NC
March 22, 1865

March 22: “Killed and wounded today”

March 22 1865

from Capt. Green

Asks to move against Bear Creek – wishes to move camp countermanded

Col. A.C. McAlister March 22nd/65

I have come to the conclusion that a move of our camp from near this place will not avail us much. We are situated on the best position to my opinion that can hopefully be selected. Should we move our camp from here to a point below this our communication will be subject to be interfered with. It will require twice the number of men to guard Prisoners that are now needed. The distance from here to Cabin's Creek is about 14 miles. I can leave camp any night at dark and get there by

daylight and by that means we will be more likely to Succeed. Should we move camp to a point below here I have no doubt but that this road would become unsafe to travel. I hope you will let me know by Lt. Ellis if I can be at liberty to take a detachment tomorrow night (Thursday) down in the neighborhood of where those men of ours were killed and wounded today. I believe that success will follow this movement.

Yours D.E. Green

March 22: "He died at the stake"

*Mch 22 65
from Capt Green
list prisoners accused of fight at Bear Creek*

Head Quarters Detachment
Cooke's Brigade March 27/65

Col. McAlister

I forward under guard the following named Prisoners . W.F. Walters CO "L" 3rd Indiana Cavalry (Yankee ~~Deserter~~).

G.W. Darden Naval [illegible] Works.

Cornelius Neice Capt Turner's Co. Sr. Rs. Deserter

Henry H. Saunders Salt Peter Works.

J.T. Borrughs Co. K 34th N.C. (Deserter wounded) captured in Montgomery County was wounded attempting to escape March 24/65

George Maness recusant conscript he is more than 17 years of age

William Dun 46th N.C. Deserter

C.W. S. Thompson left behind his command. Sick.

I sent a detachment under Lt. Hart yesterday in the neighborhood of old Gollyhorns. They succeeded in catching Alpheus Gollyhorn and Walters (the Yankee). Milton Gollyhorn made his escape. Alpheus Gollyhorn fired upon our men and according to your orders I disposed of him this morning at 4 P.M. He died at the stake. I concluded that I must not shoot the Yankee. I send him to you for to dispose. He admits that he was engaged in the robbery of Randall Presnell. He also had with him a Double barrel shot gun but did not offer to use it. He made no attempts to fight whatever. J.T. Borrughs [Borrroughs] was wounded by some of Lt. Wright's detachment while endeavoring to make his escape. He had no gun with him. He is supposed to be a bad character and connected with the wounding of Mr. Head[?]. Lt. Bass moved with a detachment of 23 men about 17 miles down on Bear Creek. He was attacked by a band of deserters supposed to number 100 men while he was trying to cross the creek. One man of Co. F 15th was killed. One man of Co B 46 was wounded and left on the field. He returned to camp tonight. He lost 5 rifles in the engagement. I moved early in the morning to attack them in their fortified position. You will let Capt. Turner know that I can not cooperate with him as desired. I must have revenge for loss of those good men.

I am yours truly D.E. Green.

March 22: "Kill a few of those rascals"

*March 22 1865
from Capt. Green
List of captured property*

Head Quarters Detachment
Cooke's Brigade March 22/65

Col. McAlister

I send you a report of the different articles that have been captured by the officers and men of this detachment.

2 Sporting Guns from Riley Vuncannon one of which has been delivered army the other forwarded to you.

1 Sporting Rifle from John Hussey (deserter)

2 Double Barrell guns from Alpheus Gollyhorn and W.F. Walters. I keep them for the present.

1 Rifle from J.F. Burroughs

1 Fayetteville Rifle from Wm. D [illegible] (I keep for the [illegible] [illegible])

2 [illegible] [illegible] from Gollyhorn

1 Valise 1 shirt 1 compact[?] delivered to the [army]?

1 horse ~~belonging and [illegible]~~ from [illegible] [illegible].

1 Buggy and Harness from Mrs.[?] Spring[?]

1 Side Saddle 1 Bolt checked and white cloth

1 Wool Roll 4 bags full 1 bag thread and 2 bunches spun cotton 1 feather Bed 1 Bedstead 1 checked Blanket 1 brown Blanket 1 Brown[?] Quilt 1 checked Sheet 1 Quilt not quilted 1 white Quilt 1 striped Quilt and one red flannel Lady's under Skirt delivered to the [illegible]. All of those last mentioned things were captured at Harvey Latham's (a deserter). This man is said to be a very poor man and the number and amount of such articles secreted as they were indicated to Lt. Wright to believe that they must certainly be stolen and therefore he brought them in to camp.

Yours Very Respectfully

D.E. Green

Col. I had just received your letter and shall do as ordered. I shall use every precaution not to be surprised. I am very sorry indeed that I can not operate against those deserters on Bear Creek who have killed one of my men and wounded and captured another. I hope you will let me hear from you by the guard. I am very anxious to kill a few of those rascals.

Your Obt. Servt.

D.E. Green

March 23: "A very bad fellow"

*Mch 23 1865
From Maj Harris
sends up 2 prisoners*

Head Quarters 7th N.C.T.
Moffitt's Mill March 23/65

Col.

I send up this morning under guard March 14. Pv J. N. Ellis Co "F" 53rd N.C.T. – Deserter. [March] 18 Pv Wm. Smith [Co "F" 53rd N.C.T. – Deserter] J.W. Ellis voluntarily surrendered himself. He is said to be a very bad fellow.

Capt. Williamson has been out on a scout with three companies for a week and has not returned to camp as yet, and it is impossible to make our weekly report until he returns.

I am Col.

Lt. Col.

A.C. McAllister

Very Respectfully

Your Obt.

Servt.

Cmdg Detach Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro

J.G. Harris Maj
P.C. Carlton Lt. & act adjt

March 23: "A good peaceable boy"

Note: Document contains non-standard spelling, which has been corrected in transcription for clarity.

*Mch 23 1865
Vouching for the character
Of Louis Maness*

Gold Region Moore County NC
March 23rd 1865

Col. McAlister

Dear Sir Louis Maness called on me to say to you that his son George that was taken up by your men is in good character he has never lay out and his father say that he is not 17 years old yet George is a good peaceable boy he is a near neighbor of mine and I never heard any thing against him.

B. Coffin

March 24: "A true and loyal man"

*March 24 65
Statement of citizens as to character of B. S. Caviness Col 46th NC Reg – ask that he be _____ guide.*

March 24th 65

Col. McMasters Cmd 46th Regt N.C.T.

Sir, B.S. Caviness belonging to your Regt. Having been induced to desert his command and come home by representations made to him that if he could get home that he could remain in peace and quiet, but on reaching home last Monday night and finding matters quite different from what he expected, he immediately gave himself up to the officers of the 7th Regt. We the undersigned neighbors of Mr. Caviness do not believe that he would have left his command had it not have been for misrepresentations made to him. We believe him notwithstanding his leaving his post of duty to be a true and loyal man worthy to be trusted, and respectfully ask that you use your influence to keep him from being punished.

Respectfully yours,
Nancy M. Foust
Geo. A. Foust
Josiah Cheek
John S. [Illegible]

March 24: "A Confederate officer has been murdered"

March 24 65

Copy of a letter to J.R. Bulla Esq. Atty Randolph Co.

Head Qrs Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro, March 24th 1865

J.R. Bulla Atty Randolph County

Sir

Information has been received at these Hd Qrs which leads me to believe a Confederate officer has been murdered in the county and that the murder was committed on the Fayetteville & Western plank road at a point about midway between Page's Toll Gate and Esq. J.D. Cox's where several travelers were recently robbed and on the day of said robberies. I therefore request that you direct the Sheriff or Coroner to make search for the dead body or for traces of the supposed murderers. Very Respectfully

A.C. McAlister Lieut Col Cmdg

Jno Waddill Lieut & actg adjt

March 25: "Of relatively low character"

Mch 25 1865
from Capt. Mabry
3 prisoners

Shepherd's School [House] Randolph Co. N.C.
March 25th 1865

I send the following prisoners:

Joseph E. Gordon and escaped convict from S.S. Barracks, Salisbury, N.C. an ex-member of Co. F. 2nd NC Batt. Is a desperate fellow.

Andrew Gordon – a youth supposed to be upwards of 17 years age – and an associate of his brother Joseph. Exhumed together
Greenbery [Greenbury] Davis – a recusant Senior Reserve of relatively low character.

Very Respectfully
Your Obt. St.
J.H. Mabry
Capt. Co. B. 48th N.C.T.

March 25: Captured from deserters

March 25 1865

Capt. Mabry

List of articles captured March 20th 1865 in the house Barzilla Wall
One fox skin overcoat
One pr. Shoes – very thin an appropriate – M. Morris

Captured March 20th 1865 from a squad of deserters at spring on M. Vickery's plantation
One shot gun loaded to Home Guard
Two rifles – Enfield
One overcoat – appropriated by J. [?]. Beane
One pr. Shoes – appropriated by Adj. Jarrett
Half side tanned hogskin – appropriated by H. Caudle[?]

Captured from deserters near Robbins School House March 21st 1865 – who deserted it when fired upon

Two (2) bunches cotton warps
One sack colored

J.H. Mabry
Capt. Co. B. 48th N.C.T.

March 21st 1865 – found one Enfield Rifle near the dwelling of Clark Yates

March 23rd 1865 – found one squirrel rifle in a cave with Jas. E. Gordon, escaped convict

March 26: “Voluntarily surrendered”

Mch 26 1864

From Maj. Harris

Concerning pris B.S. Caviness abs 46th N.C.T.

Head Quarters 7th N.C.T.
Moffitt's Mill March 26 65

Col.

Pr[isoner] B.S. Caviness Co "G" 46th N.C.T. will report to you this evening. He arrived home Monday night 21st and voluntarily surrendered himself next day. He has been permitted to remain at home till today. If you think it advisable I would like to have him for a week as a guide – he being willing to act as such & is well acquainted on the opposite side of the river.

I am Col.

Lt. Col.
A.C. McAlister
Cmdg &
Asheboro

Very Respectfully
Your Obt Srvt
J.G. Harris Maj
Cmdg 7th N.C.T.
P.C. Carlton Lt. & Act Adjt.

March 27: "Engaged with deserters"

Mch 27 65
from Maj Harris
Forwards 2 female prisoners

Head Qrs 7th N.C.T.
March 27, 1865

Col.

I send under guard two women viz. Mary Jane Welch & Christina Wilson or Webb. Miss Welch acknowledges that she has been engaged with deserters in two robberies & says that Miss Wilson or Webb was with her.

I am Col.

Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
Comdg Detch
Asheboro
N.C.

Very Respectfully Yours &
J.G. Harris Maj
Cmdg 7th N.C.T.
P.C. Carlton Lt & Act Adjt.

March 27: "Desperate characters"

Head Qrs 7th N.C.T.
March 25, 1865

Col.

I forward you the following prisoners, viz.

John Clapp	Co. H. 40 th N.C.T.
Henry E. Swink {Swing}	"
William Phillippy	Conscript
Alfred Ingall	"
J.M. McClintock	"
J. Emanuel Iseley	27 NC Res
Franklin Freeman	Conscript
Jacob Hendricks	"
Franklin Kivet	
Abraham Staley	

All of these men were caught in the woods. Freeman, Kivet & Staley are know to have been engaged in several of the robberyys [sic] committed in Capt. A. Smith's neighborhood and are desperate characters.

I return the Enrolling Officer order for the release of Jacob Hendricks as I do not feel authorized to release him unless the order had been approved by you. I have heard nothing from Maj. Harris since he left with the detachment night before last.

I am Col.

Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
Cmdg Detch Cook & Lane's Brig
Asheboro
N.C.

Very Repsectfully
Yout Obt. Servt.
P.C. Carlton, Lt &
Act Adjt

March 27: "Condemned to be shot to death"

Mch 27 65

Report from Capt. Green in the Case of Alpheus Gollyhorn

Page's Toll Gate
March 27th 1865

Col. McAlister

I have received your letter requesting that I forward to your Hd. Quarters the evidence and proceedings in the case of Alpheus Gollyhorn. The evidence upon which he was condemned to be shot to death was this, viz. That he fired upon two of our soldiers with the intention no doubt of killing them while they were moving upon him in his fortified position. If I had been present when he was first taken he would not have been brought to camp but such not being the case he was brought before me. I gave him the benefit of a Drum head Court Martial which condemned him to be shot to death with musketry on the 22nd day of March 18/65 at 4 p.m. Your orders to me were that any persons resisting the authority of the Government should be shot. I believed that more good to the service would arise from his being shot here or near where he was caught. I believed that by shooting him, one of the most desperate characters, would be a check upon the actions of his comrades. They will begin to believe that we are in earnest and that we are determined to put an end to those men who have been committing those robberies and depredations in this community.

I am with respect yours, D.E. Green, Capt.
Cooke's Detachment

March 2?: "The only cure for the alarming evils"

Draft of a letter to Gov. Zebulon Vance by Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister, with instructions to McAlister's Adjutant, J.M. Waddill.

Asheboro March

Sir,

I enclose copy of extract of a letter addressed by me on the inst. to Genl Johnson's Chief of Staff, not yet having received and answer, ~~which I earnestly request you will have~~ and I earnestly request that you will [illegible] the matter there [illegible] discussed brought to the attention of the

General Commanding that Department without delay. Alive, as I believe you to be, to the necessity of summarily disposing of the desperadoes infesting this community that may fall into my hands as the only cure for the alarming evils existing here. I am confident that your endeavours will be used to have me clothed with all lawful powers necessary to that end. If authority to appoint a general Court Martial cannot be delegated, and a Military Court temporarily assigned to me, I desire to be informed what circumstances justify the employment of Drumhead Courts-Martial I hold one escaped prisoner (Yankee) who but for the misinterpretation of my orders would not have been taken alive ~~had the spirit of my orders been complied with~~. He is recognized as an officer of an armed band of deserters, is a notoriously audacious robber, and is suspected of having participated in two murders ~~that have~~ recently been committed in the county, & is one of a party that fired upon my men. Is a Drumhead Court allowable in his case? Please answer the last question by telegram.

I have the honor to be
Your Excellency's Most Obt. Servt

His Excellency
Z.B. Vance

Lieut

Make a copy of the above and enclose copy extract of letter to Genl Johnson's Chief of Staff, the same that was sent with report to Army Hd Qrs. John will take letter to High Point, starting by 7 o'clock am. We will report him for a horse.

Yours &c
A.C. McAlister

Lieut Jno M Waddill

March 27: "Five deserters were routed"

Mch 27 65
Report from Capt L.A.W. Turner

Head Qrs Detach Cooke's Brig
March 27th 1865

Col.

I respectfully beg leave to submit the following as a report of the operations of the Detachment for the past week,

The Detachment was divided (on the 7th inst.) into Squads of six men & a non Com each and sent west of Oak Grove Church, for the purpose of searching the bypaths and premises of deserters. They made no captures nor observations worthy of notice and on the 7th inst they returned to camp[,] prepared rations and at dark moved again crossing river at Burney's Bridge. I intended visiting the neighborhood of Barnes Creek Ford but after crossing the river I received some information which lead me to believe that I could make some important captures in that section known as the Flager[?] Settlement. I moved the command across the river surveying the mountains in every direction. Five deserters were routed but escaped. A great-many Camps were discovered, some of which evidently were abandoned on our approach. The tracks leading out from the camps showed that the Deserters had passed out in the direction of the Fayetteville Plank Road.

Having failed to accomplish anything more than driving out these desperate characters, the detachment was brought back to camp for the purpose of cooking rations, as I intended to visit the neighborhood of Barnes Creek Ford immediately. Captain Stewart has arrived, he being my senior, I shall turn over the command of the Detachment to him, with all orders now in force.

Lt. A.C. McAlister
Comdg Detachment
Cooke's & Lane's Brigade

I am colonel
Very Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
L.A.W. Turner Capt
Comdg Detachment

P.S. I have released Henry Cranford Believing that He would do me more harm to be kept here than to send him home. Respectfully

L.A.W. Turner Capt

March 27: "Claims exemption"

Head Quarters
Pages Toll Gate March 27/65

Col. McAlister

Levi Wright Co. D 48th N.C.T. reported to me at camp. He was captured by the enemy at Bristol[?] Station Feb 14/63 and paroled March 18/64 and furloughed from Hospl. He is near fifty years of age and claims exemption on that account. He will report to you.

I will forward the prisoners I have on hand tomorrow and also a report [on] our late movements.

I am yours truly
D.E. Green Capt
Cmdg Detachment

Lieut,

Pris. Levi Wright Co. D 48th N.C. Regt has permission to remain at home four (4) days at the expiration of which time he will report to these Hd Quarters

By [illegible]

March 27: "Clothing is insufficient and badly worn"

Mch 27 65
Ordinance Report
Capt LAW Turner

Head Qrs Detach Cooke's Brig
March 27th 1865

Col.

I have today inspected the Detachment at this place and find the arms and accoutrements in good order. The clothing is insufficient and badly worn. We have just returned to

camp from a march into the mountains on the East side of the river and many of the men who left camp with passable shoes and pants have returned almost bare of either.

I have received a letter from Captain Green, by which I was informed that his command is also very much in need of clothing. I send across a requisition to the Quartermaster today for clothing for this and the Detachment commanded by Captain Green.

Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
Comdg Detachment
Cooke's & Lane's Brig

I am Colonel
Very Respectfully
Your Obt. Servt.
L.W. Turner Captain
Comdg Detachment

March 27: "Destroyed by fire"

Mch 27 1865
Statement of Alfd Smith Esq.

Asheboro Mch 27th 1865

Statement of Alfr. [Alfred] Smith Esq.

The dwelling knowns as the Nath'l [Nathaniel?] York house, belonging to me was destroyed by fire on the night of the 20th inst. and I have reason to believe that said property was destroyed as consequence of the assistance I have rendered to the troops under command of Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister engaged in hunting deserters.

A. Smith

Sworn to before me this day.
Jno. M. Waddill
Lt. & act'g Adj.
Asheboro, Mch 27 1865

March 27: "A notorious character"

Mch 27th 1865
From E.O. Davidson Co.
Concerning A.H. Gordon

En Off Davidson Co.
Lexington March 27 1865

Lt. Col. McAlister
Col.

In reply to yours of 25th inst. Asking information in regard to Andrew Gordon, I beg to say that there is one A.H. Gordon enrolled at these offices and serving at the age of 17 yrs in this month but do not give the day from the best information I can get. You have him now in charge, and there can be no doubt of it being the boy, he is represented as being a notorious character for stealing. On enquiry from a respectable citizen of his neighborhood it is also represented that his friends and relations will if necessary make oath of his being under 15 yrs old.

Yr. Obt. Servt.
Thos. [Thomas] Symons[?]
Act.[?] Enr. Off.

March 27: "Deserters captured"

Mch 27 65
from Maj Harris
sending 4 prisoners

Head Quarters 7th N.C.T.
Moffitt's Mill N.C.
March 27th 1865

Col.

I send under guard the following deserters captured by this regiment, viz.

March 24 th	Pv William Davis	1 st Regt Jr Res
"	" A. Brewer	Co "K" 5 th N.C. Cavalry
"	" Pleasant Morgan	Conscript
"	" William Morgan	Conscript

Davis & Brewer have very good character for deserters. The two Morgans are desperate men and are believed to have been engaged in several robberies.

I am Col.

Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
Cmdg Detch &c
Asheboro
N.C.

Very Respectfully
Your Obdt Servt
J.G. Harris Maj Cmdg
7th N.C.T.
P.C. Carlton, Lt. & Act. Adj.

March 28: "Deserters captured"

26th - 2nd - 7th N.C.T.
March 28th 1865

Col.

I send under guard the following deserters captured by this regiment viz

T.J. Sanyol	7 th S.C. Bat.	Hagood's Brigd.
J.L. Bill	"	"
R.J. Lewis	"	"
John Sanyol	"	"
Wilmer Siler	Conscript	

Siler it is believed was in the crowd that attacked Julian's

I am Col.

Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
Asheboro N.C.

Very Respectfully Yours
P.C. Carlton, Lt. & Act. Adj.

March 28: Receipt of prisoners

March 28, 1865
Receipt for 19 prisoners
No. 5

Received Camp StoKes Mch 1865 of Lieut Col A.C. McAlister the following prisoners viz.

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Julius Robbins | 12. Wm. Smith |
| 2. Jacob Hendrick | 13. J.W. Ellis |
| 3. J.E. Isley | 14. Neill Graham |
| 4. Wm. M. McClintock | 15. G.W. Thompson |
| 5. Alfred Ingall | 16. H. H. Sanders |
| 6. Wm. Phillippy | 17. Cornelius Neice |
| 7. Henry E Swink [Swing] | 18. G.W. Darden |
| 8. Jno Clapp | 19. Capt. S. S. Seabolt |
| 9. Greenbury Davis | |
| 10. J.E. Gordon | |
| 11. J. [illegible] | |

Camp Stokes
March 28, 1865

Rec'd of Lieut. Hammer Co. "B" 48th N.C.T. (14) fourteen deserters delivered at this camp

Albert A. [illegible]
[Illegible] Major

Received of Lieut Hammer eleven Conscripts deserted at this camp.

Joseph Barnes
Receiving Clerk

March 28: 5 Prisoners

Mch 28 65
from Maj Harris
sends 5 prisoners

Hd Qrs 7th N.C.T.
March 28th 1865

Col. –

I send under guard the following deserters captured by the regiment viz.

Pv T.J. Sonyol 7th S.C. Bat. Hagood's Brigd.

- | | |
|----------------|-----------|
| " J.L. Bell | " " |
| " R.J. Lewis | " " |
| " John Sonyol | " " |
| " Wilmer Siler | Conscript |

Siler it is believed was in the crowd that attacked Julians.

I am Col

Lt. Col. A.C. McAllister
Asheboro

Very Respectfully Yours &c
P.C. Carlton Lt & act adjt

March 28: "A prisoner in the hands of the deserters"

March 28 65
From Capt D E Green
5 prisoners for'd

Head Quarters Page's Toll Gate
March 28/1865

Col. McAlister

I forward under guard the following named prisoners (viz. Private Archibald Davis Co. H 6th Batt. (Sr. Res) N.C. (Deserter D.M. Lemmons Co. H 6th Batt. N.C. Sr. Res. (Deserter Daniel Sloan Co. H. 6th Batt. N.C. Sr. Res. (Deserter John M. Wright Co. E 1st Regt. N.C. Jr. Res. (Deserter John L. Davis (Conscript) Deserters.

Col.

I made the movement on the night of 23rd inst according to your instructions. I was met at the Potter Shop by Maj. Harris. We arrived at the Morgan Heights about Sun up but found no enemy. I supposed they had suspicioned that we would attack them and they left that night for home before our arrival. We brought off the wounded man of Capt. Richard's Company that was left down there before. I learned that my man was not killed as reported but that he was a prisoner in the hands of the deserters. We collected two wagon loads of Stores and grain and meat and sent them out to the camp of the Seventh. We also captured four prisoners on the same day. I suppose you have received at them as the Seventh took possession of all prisoners. I caught those that I now forward on Saturday. None of them had any guns or did not attempt to git [sic] away although they were all lying out in woods. The young man by the name of Davis has never been in Service and he is very anxious to join my company. I should be glad to have him if everything looks right. Wright has been in the Jr. Reserves but he is now 18. I would like that he could volunteer in my company, as he desired to do so. You can write to Col. Mallett and have it arranged I guess. Lemmons and Sloan were undertaking to make their way home when arrested.

I am with respect yours truly

D.E. Green Capt.
Cmdg detachment
Page's Toll Gate

March 28: Detailed

March 28 65

Copy of letter to Gen. Gatlin that Capt. P. Shamburger 51st N.C.M. be detailed for 20days

Head Qr Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig Page's Toll Gate
Asheboro, N.C. March 28 65

Gen R. C. Gatlin
Adj. Genl NC.

General

Capt. Peter Shamburger 51st Reg NCM is one of the very few reliable men in a community in which one of my Detachments is now operating, and can be of very great service in communicating

the whereabouts of deserters. I respectfully ask that he be detached for (20) twenty days to report to me for duty.

March 28: "Extraordinary measures"

By order Lt. Col. McAlister, John M. Waddill, Lt. Act. Agt.

North Carolina Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro March 28 1865

Major

The Lieut Col commanding directs that besides deciding as to the guilt or innocence of the party to be tried upon the charge that may be presented in the evidence that may be adduced, it will also be decided in the finding of the court whether or not the state of affairs existing in this community justifies the resort to the extraordinary measures authorized in Special Order No. 11 H. Qu. Detch Cooke's and Lane's Brig, March 28 1865

***March 28-30: Court Martial Record, Trial of William F. Walters
Company L, 3rd Indiana Cavalry, United States Army***

Head Qrs Detachmt Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro, N.C., March 28th, 1865

Special Order }
No. 11 }

A Military Court is hereby appointed at Asheboro N.C. on the 28th March 1865 for the trial of Wm. [William] F. Walters Co. "L" 3rd Indiana Cavalry.

Detail for the Court

Major J.G. Harris 7th NCT
Capt. F.M. Wishart 46th "
Capt. J.S. Harris 7th "
Lieut. J.M. Waddill 46th NCT Judge Advocate
By Order Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
J.M. Waddill
Lieut Actg Adjt

Proceedings of a Military Court convened at Asheboro by virtue of the above order.

2 O'clock P.M. Mch 28, 1865

The Court met pursuant to the above order.

Present

Major J.G. Harris 7th NCT
Capt. F.M. Wishart 46th "
Capt. J.S. Harris 7th "

Lieut Jno M. Waddill 46th NCT Judge Advocate

Private Wm. F. Walters Co. L 3rd Ind. Cav., the accused also present

The Judge advocate having read the order convening the Court. The Court was duly sworn by the Judge Advocate to well and truly try and *and* [sic] determine according to the evidence the matter before them, and the judge advocate was duly sworn by the presiding officer of the court not to disclose or discern the vote or opinion of any particular member of the court. Nor to divulge the sentence of the court to any but the proper authority until it shall be duly disclosed by the same. This in the presence of the accused.

Wiley Pressley a witness on the part of the prosecution was duly sworn.

Question by Judge Advocate. Do you remember ever having seen the prisoner before?

Answer. I remember having seen him in company with the Gollyhorns [Gollihorns].

Question. Will you state to the Court the circumstances under which you saw him?

Answer. He came to my home about three weeks ago, and asked for dinner for himself and two comrades which was given them. They conducted themselves very orderly while there.

Question. Were those men armed?

Answer. They had with them each double barrel shot guns.

Cross Examination by the accused. How did I deport myself while at your house?

Answer. Very gentlemanly.

W.H. Bost [illegible] Co. B 46th N.C.T. witness for the prosecution was duly sworn

Question by the Judge Advocate. Were you one of the party who captured the accused?

Answer. I was.

Q. Did you see him before he was captured?

A. I did.

Q. How many guns were found?

A. Two.

Q. Were they loaded or not?

A. They were both double guns. One barrel of one of them was discharged.

Q. Did you see accused attempt to fire?

A. I did not.

Q. Did he make any resistance after capture?

A. He did not.

Q. How many more seen[?] with him?

A. Two others, who attempted to escape.

Question by the Court. Did you see any attempt on the part of the accused to fire?

A. I did not.

Q. Did you attempt to discharge either of the guns ~~drawn by prisoner~~ [sic] after ~~it was~~ they were captured?

A. I did, and failed to do so with one of them until the caps were replaced by newer ones.

Cross examination by accused. Q. Did I appear unruly after capture?

A. You did not.

Mrs. Alex Spencer, witness for the prosecution was duly sworn

Question by the Judge Advocate. – Do you remember having seen accused before?

A. I saw him at my house 3 or 4 weeks ago.

Q. Was anyone else with him?

A. The two Gollyhorns were with him.

Q. Were they armed?

A. They had double shot guns.

Q. State what accused did while in your house.

A. The accused with the two Gollyhorns came to my home about 9 AM. They seated themselves by the fire and sat a short time. The accused then asked my husband for his pistol intimating that that was the subject of their visit. Accused stated that he preferred getting the pistol peaceably if possible, but he must have it at any rate. The pistol being given him, he took down a large silver watch from the wall which he laid down at the urgent entreaty of my husband. Accused then went up stairs by himself but soon came back and again took the watch which he carried off with him.

Q. Did you miss anything else besides the watch and the pistol?

A. Nothing else.

Q. Did he use any threatening language?

A. None.

Q. Did accused make any boast of what he intended doing?

A. He disclosed he wanted to shoot anyone who should attempt to take him.

Cross examined by the accused – in which he acknowledged having demanded the pistol.

Randall Pressnall [Presnell], witness for the prosecution was next duly sworn.

Question by Judge Advocate. Have you ever seen the ~~man~~ accused before?

A. He was at my house two weeks ago last Sunday.

Q. Was any one else with him?

A. When he first came he was alone but said he had 24 men a short distance off.

Q. Will you state to the court what took place after he came to your house?

A. Accused demanded the tithe grain in my possession saying he had as good a right to it as any one else. Said that the doors to the store house must be opened and it “didn’t make a lot of difference whether witness opened them or not.”

Q. Under what name did accused pass?

A. Young John Lathan from Robeson County.

Q. Did accused take grain himself?

A. He got into the hogshead containing wheat and handed it out to others of the gang assisted by one of his comrades.

Q. Did you open the doors of your store house to the man before he brought his comrades?

A. No, it was after they came up that I opened them.

Q. How many do you think there were in the gang?

A. I think three was as many as stated by the accused.

Q. Were they all arrived?

A. I think they were.

Q. How much grain did they take from you?

A. About 20 or 25 bus wheat & 3 or 4 bus oats.

Cross examined by accused. Q. Did you not tell me that you never say nothing of the affair if I would let you keep a bushel & a half of the wheat?

A. I did not.

Question by the Court. What time did this occur?

A. About 10 o'clock at night.

Q. What disposition was made of the grain after it was taken by accused?

A. It was handed to crowd out of doors in sacks – the sacks ret'd to be refilled after being emptied.

Q. Was there any guard posted for protection by the party?

A. There were men walking the road to & fro whom I took to be sentinels.

Re-examined by the Judge Advocate. Q. Did accused threaten you in case you refused to open the doors?

A. He said he could take the wheat and “damn quick too.”

Abel Cox witness for the prosecution was duly sworn.

Question by the Judge Advocate. Do you recognize ~~this man as one of the party who entered your house~~ accused as one of the party who robbed your house some time since?

A. I do, he was one of the six who committed the robbery.

Q. When did this occur?

A. On the 29th Febry last.

Q. Was the party armed?

A. They was all armed with double shot guns

Q. Did he enter your dwelling forcibly or not?

A. He unlocked the door himself and came in with his comrades.

Q. What took place after entering your home?

A. Accused presented his gun to my breast and demanded my gun – saying God damn you if you refuse I'll shoot you. He then slapped by negro boy and took his clothing from him. The Jacket now worn by accused I recognize as the one taken from my negro boy. After this, accused with his party broke off the locks and pillaged my home throughout, taking a variety of articles. During this I was compelled to keep my seat under penalty if I moved of being shot.

Question of the Court. Was accused's gun cocked when presented to your breast?

A. It was.

Q. Did you ask accused his name?

A. I did but he refused to give any.

W.H. Satterthwaite Co. K [?] N.C. witness for the prosecution was duly sworn.

Question by the Judge Advocate. Did accused make any confession after being brought to camp?

A. He confessed to have been one of the party who committed robbery at Mr. Pressnall's.

The Court adjourned to meet again at 10 AM on the 29th inst.

March 29 10 AM

The Court met pursuant to adjournemnt.

Present

Major J.G. Harris 7th NCT
Capt. F.M. Wishart 46th “
Capt. J.S. Harris 7th “
Lieut Jno M. Waddill 46th NCT Judge Advocate

John M. Cox witness for the prosecution was duly sworn.

Question by the Judge Advocate. Are you acquainted with this man, the accused?

A. I am.

Q. How often have you been in his company?

A. Two or three times.

Q. Was he ever at your home?

A. He was.

Q. Who came with him?

A. Alpheus & Milton Gollyhorn

Q. Was accused & Gollyhorns armed?

A. They had with them double shot guns.

Q. What is the general Character of the Gollyhorns in your neighborhood?

A. They have the reputation of being very bad characters, robbers, deserters, &c.

Q. Do you know when the accused was usual companion of the Gollyhorns or not?

A. He was as far as my observation six times.

Q. How long since you first saw accused?

A. About six months ago.

Cross examined by accused.

Q. Were you not with me at a party some time ago at Zeno Kings?

A. I was not.

Q. Were you not with me at a party at the Widow [illegible] the night before the one at Z. King's?

A. I was not.

Examined by the Court.

Q. Do you know Alf & Milton Gollyhorn?

A. I do.

Q. How far do you live from them?

A. About 2 miles.

Q. Do you know them to be deserters from the army?

A. Alpheus os a deserter from the 52nd Nc Regt.

Q. What was the character of A & M Gollyhorn before the war?

A. It was good.

Q. Did you hear them say why the carried guns?

A. I never did.

Q. Was it day or night when accused with the Gollyhorns came to your house?

A. It was at night, about dark or after.

Q. How long have these Gollyhorns been lying out?

A. A. Gollyhorn has been out probably 2 years. The other not so long.

Q. Was A. Gollyhorn ever captured?

A. He was.

Q. Do you know who took him?

A. I do not know.

Q. How far do you live from Tom King's?

A. About 2-1/2 miles.

W.H. Bost pvt Co. B 46 NCT witness for the prosecution duly sworn

Question by Judge Advocate. Were you in sight of the party with whom the prisoner was found when they were overtaken on the mountain?

A. I was.

Q. Were any shots fired by the deserters?

A. Yes, two.

Q. Do you know who fired the shots?

A. I could not tell which individuals fired them.

W.J. Winningham, witness for the prosecution was duly sworn.

Question by Judge Advocate. Have you ever seen accused before?

A. No.

George Auman, witness for the prosecution, was duly sworn.

Question by Judge Advocate. Have you ever seen accused before?

A. I have seen him at my house.

Q. How often have you seen him?

A. Probably three times.

Q. Do you remember any one being with him at any time?

A. Yes, the Gollyhorns were with him.

Q. Do you know who were the usual company of the accused?

A. Each time I saw him the Gollyhorns were with him.

Q. Were they armed when you saw them with the accused?

A. They were.

Q. Was accused armed?

A. He was, I think.

Q. Will you state to the Court any conversation that ensued between yourself[,] the accused & the Gollyhorns when they came to your house?

A. On one occasion a day or two after the murder of John Venderford they (the accused and the Gollyhorns) came to my house with a broken gun in possession of A. [Alpheus] Gollyhorn. They desired me to mend it for them which I refused. I asked how the gun was broken. One of them said it was broken over[?] a log[?]. A. Gollyhorn stated that he could not shoot fast enough and had to use the barrel of it on Jno. Vanderford.

Cross-examined by accused. Did not Gollyhorn say he broke the gun over a log?

A. He did.

Q. Did the break in the gun stock seem to be an old one?

A. I did not examine it close enough to discern.

Questioned by the Court. What kind of a gun was the broken one?

A. A double shot gun.

Q. How did Gollyhorn say his gun was broken?

A. He said he broke it over a log.

Q. Did he intimate in the conversation that the gun was broken over John Vanderford?

A. He said once in a joking manner that the gun was broken over John Vanderford's head.

Q. Did the circumstances and manner of Gollyhorn lead you to believe that he it was who had murdered Vanderford?

A. It would have been my impression had it not been for the [illegible] manner in which he spoke of it.

Q. Was accused armed while Gollyhorn was telling of his broken gun?

A. He was.

Q. What time did this visit to your house occur?

A. In the night, a few hours after Vanderford had been killed.

Q. Were you at a mutiny on Little River several weeks ago?

A. I was.

Q. Will you state what the object of the mutiny was?

A. It was reported to me that its object was to organize the citizens and [illegible] [illegible] deserters with a Company to put an end to the robberies going on in the county.

Q. Who was chief of the mutiny?

A. I cannot tell as there seemed to be no particular one.

Q. Were any speeches made, and if so who by?

A. Lewis Parks, the accused and one or two others spoke.

Q. What was the substance of accused's speech?

A. I did not hear it – but after he was done speaking he said if there were any in the crowd who were willing to serve under him as First Lieutenant, they should step ~~out of the crowd~~ aside.

Q. Did you hear accused say anything in private conversation that had reference to organizing a company?

A. He said in my presence that if they would follow him to Asheboro, they would get arms and run the deserter hunters out of the county and that if they the hunters became too numerous the citizens should inform them of the fact.

Q. What was the substance of Lewis Parks' speech?

A. I cannot give it all. I remember hearing him say that they (the deserters) must forage upon secessionists of the county and that when the hunters became too numerous, they must [illegible] to their [illegible] -- if that could not drive them out.

Q. Did accused confess that he was a lieutenant of the company in your presence?

A. He did.

Q. How many slipped out at the call of acc'd?

A. Probably 10 or 15 men.

Cross examined by the accused.

Q. Did I say the object of the company was to rob?

A. You did not.

Q. What made you believe such was its object?

A. Numerous remarks I heard & the speeches.

Q. Were these speeches in remarks from me?

A. They were not.

Q. Did you think from any conversation that I fanned[?] robbery?

A. I heard you say nothing of the kind.

Q. Did I ask the men to go to Ashboro for arms?

A. I think you did.

Q. Did I not say I intended leaving the county soon?

A. You did.

Q. Did I not say that what was taken from citizens should be returned and the one who took it punished?

A. You did.

Dr. J.M. Worth, witness for the prosecution was duly sworn.

Question by the Judge Advocate. Do you think the present condition of the county justifies the use of extraordinary measures in ridding the county of the armed bands of deserters now depredating on the county [illegible]?

A. I think the civil laws of the country are at present entirely powerless as far as punishing deserters and robbers now committing every species of outrages upon the citizens, and that severe examples are urgently called for to suppress depredations now being committed and which are of ever[y] day occurrence, that it would be hazardous to retain the leader of such band for regular trial by Court Martial, and that it is perfectly useless to forward them to the army for trial to [illegible] correcting the evil now existing in the country.

Question by the Court. Are you acquainted with the character of Abel Cox?

A. I am. He is a man of truth and is regarded as perfectly reliable

Q. Are you acquainted with Mrs. Alex Spencer?

A. I am not personally, but by reputation she stands very fair in the country.

Shff [Sheriff] Rush witness for the prosecution was duly sworn.

Question by the Judge Advocate. Are you acquainted with Alf & Milt Gollyhorn?

A. Yes, they are reputed to be very desperate characters.

Q. Are you able to enforce the laws of the country without the assistance of the military?

A. I am entirely unable to do so.

Q. What is the character of Abel Cox?

A. He is regarded as being a very upright man.

Q. Are you acquainted with Randall Presnell?

A. I am not very well acquainted with him.

Q. Would you believe him in oath?

A. I would.

Q. Do you think any man of the character of the accused safe in jail here without a mil'y [military] guard?

A. I do not.

Q. Did you intend applying for a guard for the prisoners you now have in jail before the arrival of [illegible] command?

A. I did.

~~J.R. Bulla County Atty duly sworn.~~

~~Questioned by Judge Advocate Would you believe~~

The statements of the [illegible] being then in possession of the Court. The Court was cleared for deliberation and having maturely considered the evidence adduced unanimously find Private William F. Walters Co. L 3rd Indiana Cavalry as follows.

Guilty of robbery and of associating with armed bands of deserters and robbers, of resisting ~~both civil and~~ military authority of the Confederate States and of being a leader & councilor of such armed ~~bands and~~ resistance.

And the Court do therefore unanimously sentence the said Private William F. Walters of the 3rd Indiana Cavalry to be shot to death with musketry at such time and place as the Lieut Col cmdg may direct.

J.G. Harris, Maj. 7 N.C.T.
P____ C M
Jno Waddill
Lieut & Judge Advocate

There being no further business before them, the Court adjourned sine die.

J.G. Harris, Maj. 7 N.C.T.
P____ C M

Jno Waddill
Lieut & Judge Advocate

March 30: The sentence is confirmed

Head Qrs Detachmt Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro, N.C. March 30, 1865

General Order }
No. 3 } I

Finding and sentence of a Military Court convened at Asheboro, N.C., March 28 1865 by virtue of Special Order No. 11, these Head Quarters, for the trial of William F. Walters Co. L 3rd Indiana Cavalry.

Finding.

Guilty of Robbery and associating with armed bands of deserters and robbers; of ~~resisting the military authority of the Confederate States~~ and of being a leader and councilor of such armed bands of deserters and robbers.

Sentence.

The Court do therefore unanymously [*sic*] sentence the said William F. Walters Co. L 3rd Indiana Cavalry to be shot to death with musketry at such time and place as the Lieut. Col. Commanding may direct.

II. The finding and sentence in the above case are approved. The sentence is confirmed and will be executed at Asheboro on Saturday 1st day April 1865

By Order Lt. Col. A.C. Mcalister
Jno. Waddill
Lietu & Acting Adjt.

March 30: "A good thing if he should die"

Mch 30 1865
List prisoners from Maj Harris 7 NCT
3 prisoners

Head Quarters 7th N.C.T.
Moffitt's Mill March 30th 1865

Col.

I send under guard the following deserters viz.

Pv Lewis N[illegible] conscript
" Cam Wilson "
" Frank[?] Garner "

Wilson had surrendered to the 6th Cavalry thru[?] a furlough (which I enclose. But as he is a deserter and has been engaged in several robberies of which we have good evidence, we thought it our duty to arrest him particularly as we caught him in the woods. He is a desperate character & should be dealt with accordingly.

Garner is very sick & it will be a good thing is he should die. He is a perfect desperado that has been in nearly all the robberies in the country.

Lt. Col. A.C. McAllister
Cmdg Detch &c
Asheboro
N.C.

I am Col.
Very Respectfully
P.C. Carlton Lt. &
Actg Adjt

March 30: "Fear and danger"

Mch 30 65
Report of Maj Rush
5th Batt H.G.

Head Quarters
Asheboro, March 30 1865

Lieut Col Comdg

Dear Sir In answering to your order desiring to know whether I have received a copy of Special Order No. 41 adjt Genls office. Sir I received a copy of the order and issues orders [to] the the [sic] different Cpts. I ordered the Second Class Home Guard immediatly in servis [sic]. The Cpts west of the Deep River report the Second Class in servis [sic] with a few exceptions. The

Capt's east of River do not report many of their[?] men in service on account of fear and danger.
Yours Ver Respectfully

Noah Rush
Maj Cmdg 6th Batt H.G.

March 30: 3 prisoners

Mch 30th 1865
Receipt for 3 prisoners
No. 6

Received Asheboro N.C. Mch 30 a865 of Lieut. Col. A.C. McAlister cmdg Detch the three following prisoners

Arch'd Davie	}	
D.M. Lemmons	}	6 th Ref NC Sen Res.
David Soan	}	

N.T. Lindsey

March 30: "Sixty one deserters"

Mch 30 1865
Report to Gen Lee

Head Qrs Deth Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro, March 30 1865

Colonel

I have the honor to report the result of my operations since the 16th inst. date of my last report.

(61) Sixty one deserters have been arrested, one of whom was killed and one wounded.

I am Col.

Very Respectfully Your Obt Svt
A.C. McAllister
Lt. Col. Cmdg

Col W.H. Taylor
A[illegible] a[illegible]

March 30: "Productive of more evil than good"

Major J.G. Harris
Cmdg 7th NC

Head Qrs. Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro Mch 30th 1865

Major

The Lieut Col Commanding thinks that the employment of such means as was resorted to in the cases of the boy and the two women (a verbal report of which was made by you) to extract confessions productive of more evil than good, and he therefore directs that it be discontinued.

Should a deserter or anyone falling under the jurisdiction of the military authorities be guilty of robbery or any other outrage, and the facts be substantiated by the oath of a good citizen, such means as you think necessary may be used to extort the whereabouts of the stolen property from them; In such instances, the oath together with an account of your proceedings will be forwarded to these Head Quarters.

Except whet is authorized in letter of instruction of the inst., such as impressing guides &c, the persons and property of private citizens will not be interfered with.

To Maj J.G. Harris }
Cmdg 7th N.C.T. }

I am Major with much respect
Your Obdt Servant
Jno M. Waddill
Lieut & actg adjt

over

In the case of the two Quakers, the Lt Col Cmdg directs that if they have no exemption papers they will be notified to pay the tax required by law, and if they fail to do so they will be arrested within two days after such notification.

Respy Yr Svt
Jno M Waddill
Lieut & actg adjt

March 30: "Report with your entire command"

Head Qrs. Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro NC Mch 30th 1865
II-1/2 P.M.

Maj. J.G. Harris
Cmdg 7th NC Reg

Major

You will report with your command to these Head Qrs by 7 oclock tomorrow morning (31 inst.). You will impress transportation as necessary. Also horses to carry dispatches to any detachments you may have out of camp.

Should you have any of your command at Point more convenient to any other Rail Road depots than High Point you will order them to such depots ~~to arrive there at 5 PM tomorrow 31~~*

~~inst~~) to take the earliest train for High Point when they will rejoin their command at 5 PM tomorrow.

By order Lt. Col. McAlister
Jno M. Waddill
Lieut & Actg Adj

Head Qrs. Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig

Asheboro NC Mch 30th 1865
II-1/2 P.M.

Capt. C. Stewart
Cmdg Oak Grove
Capt.

You will report with your entire command at Thomasville, NC by 5 o'clock tomorrow evening (31st inst).

You will impress necessary transportation. Also horses to carry dispatches to any detachments you may have out of camp.

By Order Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
Jno. M. Waddill
Lieut. actg. Adjt.

O.B.
Capt D.E. Green
Cmdg &c
Pages Toll Ho

Head Qrs. Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro NC Mch 30th 1865
II-1/4 P.M.

Capt. D.E. Green

You will report at these Head Quarters by 7 o'clock on tomorrow morning (the 31st inst.) with your entire command.

You will impress necessary transportation, also take horses to send dispatches to any detachments you may have out of camp.

By Order Lt. Col. A.C. McAlister
Jno. M. Waddill
Lieut. actg. Adjt.

March 31: "Report at once"

Head Qrs. Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
Asheboro NC Mch 31st 1865

Special Order}
No. --- }

Private William Bray Co. I 6th Reg. Sen. Res. [Senior Reserve] is hereby relieved of duty in this command and will report at once to his company commander.

By Order Lt. Col. McAlister
Jno. M. Waddill
Lt. & actg. Adjt.

April 6: "Number of guns on hand"

*C.S. Stewart Capt
Cmdg Detach Cooke's Brigade*

*J.G. Harris Maj
Cmdg 7th N.C.T.*

Head Qrs. Detch
April 6th 1865

Regimental commanders will forward immediately to these Hd Qrs a list showing as follows – viz:

Number guns on hand
Caliber of same
Number of rounds ammunition

They will also report deficiencies in arms, accoutrements &c.

By order Lt. Col. McAlister
Jno M. Waddill
Lt & Actg Adjt

April 7: "The following named men reported to me"

Hd Qrs 7th Regt. N.C. Troops
April 7th 1865

Lieut

I have the honor to report that the following named men reported to me on the 6th inst.

Sergt J.M. Grice	Co. "C" 28 th Regt. N.C.T.	assigned to Co. H.
Sergt A.F. Montgomery	Co. "J" 37 th	" " " D.
Sergt R.H. Farthing	Co. "E" 37 th	" " " B.
Sergt F.w Thompson	Co. "B" 28 th	" " " H.

Very Respectfully &c.
J.G. Morris

Lt. John M. Waddill
Act. Ajt.
Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brigade

Maj. Cmdg Regiment

April 7: "A thorough inspection of the command"

Head Qrs Detch Cooke's & Lane's Brig
April 7th 1865

Circular

A thorough inspection of the command by detachment is ordered to be held this evening at 4 o'clock, after which a report will be forwarded to these Hd Qrs showing as follows, viz.

Cartridges, Caps, Cart Boxes, Cap Boxes
Bayonets, Bay't Scabbards, [illegible]
Belts, musket balls, gun slings
Canteens, Haversacks & Knapsacks

This report will also show how many of each of the above articles are required by each company to complete its equipment.

A morning report is required from each detachment (on accompanying number form) establishing the present strength of the command. The [illegible] under the written headings will be noted and filled accordingly.

All documents forwarded through these Head Quarters will be deposited here by 5 o'clock P.M. including permits to visit Danville which will be granted to one enlisted man from each company and one ____ officer from each detachment when it is specified in the pass that the applicant has business calling him there. In extraordinary cases these limits may be excluded but otherwise this rule will be entirely adhered to.

Stated Roll Calls, Dress Parade &c as required by Regulations will be resumed. ~~also daily drills at each time as Detachment~~ The commands will also be exercised not less than (2) two hours each day in such drills and at such hours as may be established by Detachment commanders.

In addition to Stated Roll Calls required above. Irregular Roll Calls as needed the hour of which will be designated daily from these Head Qrs. This is necessary in order to prevent the men from strolling through the country and committing depredations, complaint of whici has bee made to the Brig Genl Cmdg.

By Order of Lt Col A.C. McAlister
Jno Waddill
Lieut & actg adjt

April 7: Detachment Cooke's Brigade

Roster of Officers
Detachment Cooke's Brig

Detachment Cooke's Brigade April 7th 1865

Company/Regiment	Name	Rank/Commission	Date of Commission
Co. A 48 th N.C.T.	L.A.W. Turner	Capt	July 15 th 186?
“	H.B. Harris	2 nd Lieut	Jan 1 st 1863
“	J.A. Lowry	2 nd Lieut	Sept 28 th 1863
Co. D 46 th N.C.T.	C. Stewart	Capt	Feb 20 186?
“	S. Thomas	1 st Lieut	March 30 th 186?
Co. B 46 th N.C.T.	F.M. Wishart	Capt	Sept 30 th 1864
“	J.C. Wright	2 nd Lieut	Dec 10 th 1862
Co. F 27 th N.C.T.	W. Wilson	2 nd Lieut	Sept 8 th 1864
Co. G 15 th N.C.T.	B.T. Hart	2 nd Lieut	May 2 nd 1863
Co. K 55 th N.C.T.	T.R. Bass	2 nd Lieut	April 7 th 1863
Co. B 48 th N.C.T.	J.H. Mabry	Capt	Oct 20 th 1862
“	W.B. Hamner	2 nd Lieut	Oct 20 th 1862

C. Stewart Capt.
Cmnd[?] Detachment Cooke's Brigade

Co. H 15 th N.C.T.	D.E. Green	Capt	May 31 st 1864
“	Barnes, R.	1 st Lt	May 31 st 1864
Co. K 55 th N.C.T.	Chandler, W.O.	2 nd Lieut	Oct 1 st 1864

The others have no commissions only acting

April 8: "Not as efficient an officer"

Hd Qrs Danville Apr 8 65
/ 8 / ?

Lt Col Hobson
Cmdg 5th Battln

Col

I send you two deserters from your command arrested in the county of Pittsylvania on their way home. Send me Detail of 40 men and a good officer for Provost Duty by 9 A.M. Lt Belcher is not as efficient an officer as [illegible] for this duty. Please select the officers of the most determination and energy for this duty,

Respectfully
[Illegible]
Adjt

April 9: Ordered to Danville

Head Qrs Southern Defences Danville VA
April 9th 1865

General Order }
No. 1 }

By virtue of authority from Brig. Gen. H.H. Walker, I hereby assume command of all the defensive forces of Danville on the south side of the river.

A.C. McAlister
Lieut. Col

Jno. M. Waddill
Liet & Actg Adjt

April 10: "Provost Guard"

Lieut Col McAllister
Cmdg
Southern Defenses
Danville Va

Head Qrs 6th[?] Bat Sr[?] Res
April 10th 1865

Col

I herewith enclose the form of the order made by Genl Walker for a detail for Provost Duty. I have misplaced the original order. I have furnished today 60 men & 2 officers for work on Fortifications, 40 men & one officer on Provost Duty, six men for work at Commissary Dept., 16 men & 3 officers on Picket a [illegible] 173.

I have just been down to see Genl Walker on the subject & he informed me that he would continue to call on me for a Provost Guard as my men [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] necessary to be guarded but that he wasn't [illegible] to other details.

Your Obt Servant
J.[?]. Hobson
Lieut Col Cmdg

Lieut Col McAlister
Cmdg
Southern Defenses

April 10: "Picket in the Greensboro road"

Head Qrs
April 10 65

Major

Relieve your picket in the Greensboro road with 2 com [commissioned] officers – 3 non-com officers and 40 men.

Continue doing so until further orders.

By auth Lt. Col. McAlister
Jno. M. Waddill
Lt. & Actg Adjt

Maj. J.G. Harris }
Cmdg 7th N.C.T. }

April 10: "Hard bread and bacon"

Hd Qrs Danville
April 10, 1865

Circular

Commandants of Brigade Regiments & Detachments will make immediate requisitions on A.C.S. for those days rations of Hard bread and bacon not to be issued until further orders.

Lieut Col McAllister
Cmdg

By Command of
Brig. Genl. Walker
Chas. Dashiell
A.A.G.

April 11: Ordered to Greensboro

Hd Qtrs Danville April 11th 1865

Col

Call in your picket and move with your Battallion [sic] at [?] a.m. today to the Piedmont Rail Road depot prepared to go to Greensboro North Carolina by rail and report to General Beauregard.

Col. Hale will relieve your picket guard.

By Command 18[?]
Brig. Gen. H.H. Walker
Chas. [Charles] Gaskill
Adjutant

To Lt. Col. McAllister [McAlister] }
Cmdg &c }

Notes

¹ See Auman, William T. *The Civil War in the North Carolina Quaker Belt: The Confederate Campaign Against Peace Agitators, Deserters and Draft Dodgers* (West Jefferson, N.C., McFarland, 2014).

² See “List of Deserters,” March 17, this document.

³ See Bradley Foley, “*Letters Home: The Civil War Correspondence of Lieutenant Colonel Alexander C. McAlister, 46th North Carolina Regiment* (Lexington, KY: Createspace, 2013).

⁴ “Death of Capt. Cazaux,” *The News and Observer* (Raleigh, N.C.), 22 January 1910, 1.

⁵ “The Late Daniel E. Green,” *The North Carolinian* (Fayetteville, N.C.), 19 June 1902, 1.

⁶ “Major James G. Harris...,” *The Alamance Gleaner* (Burlington, N.C.), 18 December 1902, 1.

⁷ North Carolina Troops, A Roster, Vol. V, 502, 610; Vol. XX, 415-416; “Dr. Ross R. Ihrie, Sr.,” Find-A-Grave (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/57282064/ross-r-ihrie>).

⁸ *North Carolina Troops*, A Roster, Vol. XI, 383.

⁹ “Lexington Items, *Carolina Watchman* (Salisbury, N.C.), 11 September 1879, 3.

¹⁰ For a profile of McAlister, see R.D.W. Connor, William Kenneth Boyd and Joseph Gregoire de Roulhac Hamilton, *History of North Carolina*, Vol VI (Chicago: Lewis Publishing Company, 1919), 273-275.

¹¹ *North Carolina Troops*, A Roster, Vol. XI, 169.

¹² “Death of Capt. L.A.W. Turner,” *The Monroe Journal* (Monroe, N.C.), 14 April 1903, 3.

¹³ *North Carolina Troops*, A Roster, Vol. XI, 136, 149, 169.

¹⁴ “Death of Capt. J.M. Waddill,” *Webster’s Weekly* (Reidsville, N.C.), 12 January 1912, 1.

¹⁵ Auman, 193n.

¹⁶ *North Carolina Troops*, A Roster, Vol. XI, 136, 149, 149.

¹⁷ “The Murder of Col. F.M. Wishart by the Lowery Outlaws,” *The Raleigh News Weekly*, 9 May 1872, 1.

¹⁸ See L. McKay Whatley Jr., “Page’s Toll House,” *Notes on the History of Randolph County, N.C.*

(<https://randolphhistory.wordpress.com/2008/04/16/page%E2%80%99s-toll-house/>).

¹⁹ See Auman, 156.