

HDQRS. DEPT. OF MISS. AND E. LA., *Bovina*, May 13, 1863.

Maj. Gen. W. W. LORING, *Edwards Depot*:

GENERAL: The lieutenant-general commanding directs that you make a reconnaissance of such a character as you may deem proper, to find out where the main force of the enemy is, and in what direction moving. If on Jackson, he thinks his move will be to fall on their rear and cut their communication, but he must have accurate information from you that he can rely on before making this move, which would leave Vicksburg, by way of Big Black Bridge and the ferries, in so critical a position. It is necessary that the lieutenant-general should be informed not only what force has moved on, but the strength of that which is left, and where.

Very respectfully, &c., your obedient servant,

J. C. TAYLOR,
Aide-de-Camp.

EDWARDS DEPOT, *May 13, 1863.*

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON :

Information received that there is a force of 10,000 just this side of Fourteen-Mile Creek. Another force is at Montgomery's Bridge, though I do not think it is so large as the other. Am also informed that General Osterhaus' negro, horse, and dinner were captured this evening. This is so. The negro says the general told him to cook his dinner and bring it on to Edwards Depot, and he was doing so when captured.

W. W. LORING.

HDQRS. LORING'S DIV., *Edwards Depot, May 13, 1863—7 p. m.*

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON, *Bovina :*

The enemy were at a point $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles beyond Edwards Depot, on the road to Raymond, just beyond the creek, this afternoon. A negro man who came from the other side the creek says he saw a column of men marching on toward Raymond. Did not know how many, but counted twenty flags.

W. W. LORING.

HDQRS. LORING'S DIV., *Edwards Depot, May 13, 1863—8 p. m.*

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON, *Big Black Bridge :*

From every source, both black and white, I learn that the enemy are marching on Jackson. I think there can be no doubt of this.

W. W. LORING.

EDWARDS DEPOT, *May* 13, 1863—1.30 p. m.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON:

Two heavy columns of the enemy moving down the valley on our left, in direction of Raymond road, near the position designed for two of Stevenson's brigades. I think Stevenson will get there in time. Have ordered Scott's Twelfth Louisiana and a battery there, to hold it till Stevenson arrives. This will complete our line, which I think a strong one. The third brigade of Stevenson's will remain at Edwards Depot, equidistant from the different positions, and the fourth will remain near Smith's Station.

W. W. LORING.

EDWARDS DEPOT, *May* 13, 1863—5 p. m.

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON:

Latest information indicates the enemy have moved off from front, and have gone toward Raymond road. Have ordered reconnaissance some time since to ascertain the fact.

W. W. LORING.

BOLTON DEPOT, *May 14, 1863.*

Lieutenant-General PEMBERTON:

Enemy made demonstration on this station this morning at 3 o'clock. There are 1,200 bales of Government cotton and 3,000 bushels of corn and other supplies here. Shall I remain or move toward Jackson?
Answer.

WIRT ADAMS,
Colonel, Commanding Cavalry.

HEADQUARTERS, *Edwards Depot*, May 15, 1863.

Lieut. Gen. J. C. PEMBERTON, *Commanding, &c.*:

GENERAL: Two of my scouts have just returned, and you may rely upon their report. Yesterday and the day before they counted the

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enemy as he passed two points, one on the road to Dillon's, the other above Dillon's, on the main road to Raymond—the Raymond and Port Gibson road. The first reports twenty-seven flags, the last twenty-five. This is the force which was in our front. It has evidently moved to Raymond, probably leaving two regiments at or about Dillon's; of this I feel convinced. We have a report which seems reliable that the enemy are moving away from Baldwin's Ferry toward Raymond. Mr. Montgomery, who lives at the bridge of that name, and who has been a prisoner with the enemy, left them day before yesterday; says he saw Smith's division moving in the direction of Raymond on that day, and that it moved from the direction of Baldwin's Ferry, on the Montgomery road. It is the opinion of Mr. Montgomery that the division is not at or near Baldwin's Ferry, unless they marched it back yesterday; he saw it, as stated, the day before, going toward Raymond, 9 miles in advance of Baldwin's Ferry.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. W. LORING.