

H^d Qrs: Dept: of Texas
San Antonio, 7 Aug 1860

Col. S. Cooper
Adj't Genl U. S. Army
Washington City D. C.

Colonel

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 19th ulto, calling my attention to Genl order No 13 of 17th June 1859, relating to the allowance of transportation at interior posts, & directing the provisions of the order to be carried into immediate effect.

The Chief of M^t of the Dept: reports that there will be no excess of means of transportation at any of the Posts, when the arrangements now being made shall be completed, except at the following, viz.

At Fort Brown & Ringgold bks: there is a supply train for furnishing provisions & to the posts on the Rio Grande. The river having been too low this year to permit its navigation, which only extends to Ringgold, or to justify its withdrawal with prudence & economy.

The four Cav^y Camp^s operating on that frontier, to secure their mobility, & to keep themselves supplied with provisions & forage while in the field, have two or three extra wagons

temporarily attached to each.

At Fort Cobb there is an excess of wagons & mules, employed in hauling materials & driving the saw mill, considered necessary for the construction of the Post.

There are extra pack mules at Forts Lawaster, Davis & Quitman, & at the Posts occupied by the 2nd Cav^y.

The three posts specified are those to which 20 mounted infantry were assigned by authority of the Sec^y of War, & pack mules were considered necessary by the Command of the Dept: to complete their equipment. I have represented my views as to the necessity of pack mules for the service of the Cav^y & of having been obliged to send them to Major Thomas, to enable him to execute a scout in which he is now engaged. I am only awaiting the decision of the Sec^y, to withdraw them, & will withhold them in future, if not authorized.

I fear if suitable transportation is not furnished to the troops, their mobility, & consequently their efficiency in the field, will be destroyed. I would earnestly urge if practicable, that certain Companies of Inf^y be mounted on native horses, or mules, for the purpose of transporting them rapidly from point to point, & of pursuing & punishing marauding bands of Indians, which it is hopeless to attempt on foot. The present arm & exercise of the Inf^y are eminently adapted to this mode of warfare. It was practised with advantage

in the Southern States during our revolutionary War, & has
been adopted with success by the Turks & French in Algeria.

The means of transportation lately brought into the Dept:
by Col Bournville's Command, have been ordered to this Dept,
& should the Sec^y not concur in the opinion as to the necessity
of the extra teams & mules employed at the posts named,
I will cheerfully comply with the instructions he may give.

I beg he will keep in mind that we are in a state of war in
this Dept: & the advantage of being prepared to take the field
at any time.

I am very resp^t your obtent

R. B. W.
B. Col Command Dept.

130. Texas, Dept. of
Head Quarters, Dept. of Texas,
San Antonio, August 9, '60.

Brig. General H. E. Lee
Comdg. Dept.

In reply to letter from the
Adjutant Genl. of July 19, in
relation to the execution of the
provisions of G. Orders no. 13,
of 1859. - Requests that certain
companies of Infy. be mounted
on native horses or mules.

Respectfully referred to the
Quartermaster General for
his perusal and such re-
marks as he may please
to make. - Please return -

E. D. Townsend
Adj. Genl. Dept.
Rec'd (2. L. G.) Aug. 21, 1860.
Book 44. No. 308.
Rec'd (2. L. G.) Aug. 22, 1860.

Adjutant's office
Sept. 8, 1860.

This communication has
been returned by the
Quartermaster General
without remark - A copy
of General Order no. 13 is
herein - It is respectfully
recommended that the
suggestions presented by
Colonel Lee may be
carried out -

Respectfully submitted.

W. D. Nichols
Adj. Genl.

A 706 - Sept 25 - 1860

Approved

Secretary of War
War Dept.
10. Sept. 1860.

Samuel

LEE, Robert E. Autograph Letter Signed, 3 pages, 4to, Headquarters, Dept. of Texas, San Antonio, August 7, 1860. With an Autograph Endorsement on the verso by Secretary of War dated September 10, 1860. To Colonel S. Cooper, Adjutant General of the United States Army, Washington.

Colonel,

I have had the honour to receive your letter of the 19th ulto. calling my attention to Genl. Order No. 13 of 17th June 1859, relating to the allowance of transportation at interior posts, & directing the provisions of the order to be carried into immediate effect.

The Chief Qr. M. of the Dept. reports that there will be no excess of means of transportation at any of the posts, when the movements now being made shall be completed, except at the following, viz.

Barracks

- At Fort Brown & Ringgold bks. there is a supply train for furnishing provisions. to the posts on the Rio Grande, The river having been too low this year to permit its navigation, which only extends to Ringgold, or to justify its withdrawal with prudence or economy.

- The four Cavy. Compies. operating on that frontier, to secure their mobility, & to keep themselves supplied with provisions, forage while in the field, have two or three extra wagons temporarily attached to each.

- At Fort Cobb there is an excess of wagons & mules employed in hauling materials & driving the sawmill considered necessary for the construction of the post.

- There are extra pack mules at Forts Lancaster, Davis & Guitman, & at the posts occupied by the 2nd Cavy. The three posts specified are those to which 20 mounted infantry were assigned by authority of the Secy. of War, & pack mules were considered necessary by the Comms. of the Dept. to complete their equipment. I have represented my views as to the necessity of pack mules for the service of the Cavy. & of having been obliged to send them to Major Thomas to enable him to execute a scout in which he is now engaged. I am only awaiting the decision of the Secy. to withdraw them, & will withhold them in future, if not authorized.

- I fear if suitable transportation is not furnished to the troops, their mobility, & consequently their efficiency in the field, will be destroyed. I would earnestly urge if practicable that certain companies of Infy. be mounted on native horses, or mules, for the purpose of transporting them

Secy of War John B. Floyd ?

