

Original

By telegraph from Fort Monroe 7 P.M. Jan 13/65

Head Quarters Expeditionary Force
Before Wilmington N.C. Jan. 13, 1865

Brig. Gen. John A. Rawlings Chief of Staff
City Point Va.

General:

After consultation with Col. Bonstock and in view of what I think is the ascertained fact that the whole or nearly the whole of Hoke's force is still here I think that it would be advisable to send the balance of the troops which Lieut Gen. Grant spoke of sending forward. It seems indispensable to hold strongly the line towards Wilmington and for this purpose at least four of my Brigades are necessary, leaving only ^{two} ~~three~~ Brigades for operations against the Fort. In case an assault should be tried and be unsuccessful the losses which would be incurred would leave an entirely insufficient force for further operations.

I suggest that these troops should be sent in vessels capable of standing a storm at their anchors here, and should be provisioned, coaled & watered for at least fifteen days, so that in case the weather should prevent the landing of supplies for more troops than we now have they could remain on the vessels.

I have the honor to be General
Very Resp^{ly} Yr. Obedt. Servant

Alfred H. Terry
Brig. Gen. General
Comd. Expedition

P.S. Please send me twenty pounds to cover
Stous + Ammunition

Alfred H. Terry
Brig. Gen.

J. and S.
Terry & Rawlins

Printed
in
War Records.

ALFRED H. TERRY
Brig. Gen. USA