

Head Quarters Department of Virginia,

SEVENTH ARMY CORPS.

Port Monroe, Va. Apr. 28<sup>th</sup> 1863

To General Henry A. Wise,

~~Thru~~

or the Commanding Officer,

of the troops on the Chickahominy,

Sir,

The town of Williamsburgh has been occupied, as you are aware, by the troops under my command as a picket station or outpost of Yorktown. A large portion of the inhabitants are known not to be well disposed to the Government of the United States. They have nevertheless, while quietly pursuing their domestic avocations, been unmolested, and have been permitted to supply themselves with the necessaries and comforts of life at Yorktown and Port Monroe. The Insane Asylum at Williamsburgh has been put under the superintendence of an Army Surgeon and its three hundred helpless inmates supplied, at the expense of the United States, with every thing necessary to their comfort and with the remedial treatment they require. While exercising these



offices of humanity, the troops at Williamsburgh have been several times attacked by your forces, not with a view to gain and hold possession of the place and to assume the guardianship which has been extended to the inhabitants and the tenants of the Asylum by us, but for the purpose of harassing those who were performing this generous service. - On the 31<sup>st</sup> ult. your forces entered and endeavored to take possession of the town, occupying several houses & firing upon the troops; and in this, as I am informed, they were aided by some of the inhabitants, who have been living for nearly a year, under our protection. More recently your forces entered the town and took possession of it, placing our employe's in the Insane Asylum under parole, carrying off some of the servants and depriving its inmates of the care to which they have been accustomed and which their helpless condition renders indispensable. You have by withdrawing your forces, left the Asylum again to our charity and compelled Major General Keyes the Commanding Officer of the troops at Yorktown and Fort Mifflin to supply it with food to save the patients



from starvation. -

These raids under the peculiar circumstances are in violation of every dictate of humanity. Having no result and apparently no object but annoyance & a useless sacrifice of life, they are also in violation of every principle of honorable warfare. - I have directed Maj. Genl. Keyes to re-occupy the town; and the aggressions referred to may cease, I give you notice that, in case of any repetition of them,

1<sup>st</sup> That the inmates of the Asylum will be sent to Richmond, and the United States relieved of the burden of their support: -

2<sup>nd</sup> That any house which may be taken possession of for the purpose of firing upon the troops stationed there will be razed to the ground; and

3<sup>rd</sup> That any citizen of Williamsburgh not belonging to a regularly organized corps, who shall be found co-operating in these attacks and rising in arms against the occupying troops, will be put to death as a violator of the laws of civilized warfare. -

[I am, very respectfully

Your obedt servt.

[John A. D. M.]

Maj. Genl.



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EEH- Paul B. Casey #74  
4-22-54  
3-10-21  
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*[Faint handwritten notes, possibly a signature or date]*