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REBEL / R. A. W.

MEMORIAL.

ARMY OF TENNESSEE, Dec. 17, 1863.

To the Congress of the Confederate States:

In the existing condition of affairs, it is hoped your honorable bodies will pardon the variance from the custom of addressing you from the army. It is done in no spirit of dictation, but under the conscientious conviction that the necessities of the country demand the voices and labors of all, and that delay, even for thirty days, in enacting proper measures, may make present disorders incurable, and the dangers of the moment omnipotent for our destruction.

In our opinion, it is essential to retain, for the term of during the war, without reorganization, the troops now in service: to place in service, immediately, for the same term, all other white males between eighteen and fifty years of age, able to perform *any* military duty; to provide for placing in service, at the discret on of the President, for the same term, all white males between fifteen and eighteen, and between fifty and sixty years of age; to prohibit substitutions; to prohibit exemptions, except for the necessary civil offices and employments of the Confederate States and of the several States; to prohibit details, except for limited times, and for carrying on works essential to the army; to prohibit discharges, except in cases of permanent disability from *all* duty; to prohibit leaves and furloughs, except under uniform rules, of universal application, based, as far as practicable, on length of service and meritorious conduct; to prohibit, to the greatest possible extent, the detail of able-bodied officers and men to post, hospital, or other interior duty; and to place in service as cooks, laborers, teamsters, and hospital attendants, with the army and elsewhere, able-bodied negroes and mulattoes, bond and free.

These measures, we think, if promptly enacted as laws, so as to give time for organizing and disciplining the new material, would make our armies invincible at the opening of the campaign of next year, and enable us to win back our lost territory, and conquer a peace before that campaign shall be ended.

We further suggest that, in our opinion, the dissatisfactions, apprehended or existing, from short rations, depreciated currency, and the retention of old soldiers in service, might be obviated by allowing bounties, with discriminations in favor of the retained troops, an increase of pay, the commutation to enlisted men of rations not issued, and rations, or the value thereof, to officers.

We have the honor to be,

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

W. J. HARDEE, *Lieut. General*,
B. F. CHEATHAM, *Maj. General, C. S. A.*,
C. L. STEVENSON, *Maj. General*,
JOHN C. BRECKINRIDGE, *Maj. General*,
JOHN C. BROWN, *Brig. General*,
EDM'D W. PETTUS, *Brig. General*,
A. W. REYNOLDS, *Brig. General*,
JOHN K. JACKSON, *Brig. General*.

I sign this with the reservation that I approve the President's proposed system of permanent consolidation.

P. R. CLEBURNE, *Maj. General*,
 T. C. HINDMAN, *Maj. General*,
 JOS. H. LEWIS, *Brig. General*,
 D. C. GOVAN, *Colonel 2d N. C. Regiment*,
Commanding Liddell's Brigade.

I approve the above, except that portion which has reference to exemptions, and the proposition to place in service those under eighteen and over fifty years of age. I believe the old men and boys would be of more service to the country at home, and that ministers of the gospel, a necessary number of physicians and teachers should be exempt.

M. P. LOWREY, *Brig. General*,
 B. J. HILL, *Colonel comd'g 35th and 48th*
Tenn. Reg'ts and Polk's brigade.
 H. B. GRANBURY, *Colonel comd'g Texas*
Brigade., Cleburne's Division,
 PATTON ANDERSON, *Brig. General*,
 A. M. MANIGAULT, *Brig. General*,
 J. G. COLTART, *Colonel 50th Ala. Reg't.*,
Commanding Dea's Brigade,
 A. J. VAUGHN, Jr., *Brig. General*,
 WM. A. QUARLES, *Brig. General*.

Approved, but would favor consolidation of regiments, and no increase of pay.

(Approved,)

J. H. SHARP, *Col. comd'g Anderson's Brigade*.
 T. BURTON SMITH, *Colonel commanding*
Bates' Brigade, Breckinridge's Division,
 J. J. FINLEY, *Brig. General*,
 WM. B. BATE, *Brig. General*,
 ALEX. P. STEWART, *Maj. General*,
 H. D. CLAYTON, *Brig. General*,
 O. F. STRAHL, *Brig. General*,
 R. L. GIBSON, *Col. comd'g Adams' Brigade*.

The term "without reorganization" relates to re-election of company and regimental officers only, and not to consolidation of skeleton commands.

T. C. HINDMAN, *Maj. General*.

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