

The State of South Carolina
Executive Department
Columbia. 25 Feb. 1865

Colonel.

From your absence & the non-reception of any report from you, it may be that you have gone with the army of Gen^l Hardee out of the State. And I write with great regret my apprehensions that it may be so, inasmuch as that would be against my wish, against my orders, against the intentions of the State, & against the promise of Gen^l Hardee that your return to me would be facilitated as soon as you could be relieved from the position you held near the line, for the defence of Charleston. Altho' you were acting in the field under the orders of Gen^l Hardee or other Commanding Officer, it was not proper that you should leave the State, if you have done so, without the knowledge & consent of the Executive of the State. And in so doing, if you have done so, you have acted very much in opposition to whatever I desired or expected.

Not knowing where you may be, I have sent a courier with this letter to you, requiring you to return to report with your Command at some point within the limits of the State. I wish you to understand that the troops under your command are a part of the Militia of the State. If South Carolina were invaded, I would be glad to offer to that State, all the assistance which the resources of this State would afford. But that is not the condition of South Carolina; & stripped as the State is

of its defence, with your force, the most material of
its resources, it is not consistent with any regard to its
security that the troops under your command
should be absent from its lines.

You will therefore immediately upon the receipt
of this letter, return to the State; avoiding of course
all contact with the forces of the enemy; & report to
the Head Quarters of the State which will be for the
present & until you hear otherwise be established
at Spartanburg.

When you re-enter the State if you have left it:
or if you are now in the State, you will proceed
by the most expeditious route, in which you will
not be exposed to interruptions from the enemy
to concentrate your command in the neigh-
-borhood of Union Church. When you
reach that point you will there expect further
orders.

Respectfully &c &c

Col Goodwyn
Command State Troops.

Communication also
Goodwyn
25. Dec. / 65