

The War Focuses on Richmond and South Carolina

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The Confederate Army continues to defend the Richmond-Petersburg lines with only 46,000 Confederate troops. They are stretched thin on the 37 mile front. Lee, Confederate General-in-Chief, requests an immediate wave of reinforcements. Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, approves Robert E. Lee's measure for deserters reporting within thirty days being able to receive a pardon. This eases the draining of manpower for a time.

Sherman's March through the Carolinas continued. Confederates tried to defend Charleston Harbor, James Island as well as Johnson's Station in South Carolina as Sherman's invading troops moved from the sea through the interior of the state. Sherman pushed across the Congaree River and marched toward Columbia. President Davis continued to urge Beauregard and Hardee to hold on to Charleston at all costs.

For the Confederates in South Carolina prospects were dark. Beauregard had only remnants of troops to defend Augusta, Ga., and Hardee waited for the possible time when he must abandon Charleston and Fort Sumter. Wade Hampton had been sent from the Virginia front to his home state to command cavalry, but he had not been able to do anything significant.

On the political front, the House of Representatives passed a joint resolution declaring that the rebelling states were not allowed to participate in the Electoral College. Once the electoral votes were counted, Abraham Lincoln was officially re-elected. He had two hundred twelve votes to McClellan's 12 votes. Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia Unionists, Ohio, and Missouri ratified the thirteenth amendment to free slaves.

In the Union, Major General Quincy A. Gillmore replaced major General John G. Foster for Department of the South. John M. Schofield's twenty-third corps joins Sherman's men in North Carolina. Both Confederate President Jefferson Davis and the U.S. president Abraham Lincoln reported to their Congresses about the Hampton Roads Conference. Rear Admiral Raphael Semmes takes charge of the James River Squadron for the Confederacy.

A west Tennessee group objected to military interference in civil affairs. President Lincoln told officers in the area that "the object of the war being to restore and maintain the blessings of peace and good government, I desire you to help, and not hinder, every advance in that direction."

In Richmond and elsewhere there was increasing clamor for Joseph E. Johnson to be put in over-all command in the Carolinas, but Gen. Lee wrote Vice-President Stephens that Beauregard should be retained at present and that continual change was unwise, although he held a high opinion of Johnson.

In London Lord Russell protested to federal commissioners against the St. Albans raid of Oct. 19, 1864, its aftermath in Canada, activity on the Great Lakes.