

Head Quarters,
Department of South Carolina and Georgia
Charleston, SC November 4th 1862.

General

Your note of the 31st ultimo to the General Commanding has been received and I am instructed to reply that he desires you to procure the services of the negro man referred to as a spy in the Camp of the Enemy. You may either employ him yourself or send him to Genl. [William Stephen] Walker at Pocotaligo with a copy of this communication.

The negro on reaching the enemys lines should seek to become the body servant if possible of General [Ormsby M.] Mitchell,¹ or some officer about his Head Quarters to collect all the reliable information possible, which he should bring away in case of an impending attack in time to give us due warning.

It will be important to know when and where an attack will be made & by what force— the number of Ironclad and other gun boats, the name of all Generals at Port Royal or under Genl. Mitchell, also the number of each Regiment and the State and the state from which it may come, likewise the number of field batteries of light artillery.

If practicable a Return of the Troops should be abstracted to which end the negro should be shown one of our Returns so that he will understand exactly what character of papers we want him to get possession of.

It would be well too for him to collect and save all scraps of paper he may find about any Quarters or an office with *anything written* upon them then could be pasted together and might divulge something important.

For their services the negro shall be handsomely paid according to the manner he may discharge his *trust* and you can beside arrange what compensation shall be paid him to penetrate & return from the enemys lines in any event.

Respectfully
Your Ob[e]d[ien]t S[e]r[van]t
Thomas Jordan
Chief of Staff

To
Brig Gen. H. W. Mercer
Commanding District of Georgia
Savannah

¹ Gen. Ormsby M. Mitchell had died at Beaufort, S.C. of yellow fever on Oct. 30, 1862, shortly after assuming his post as commander of the X Corps and the Department of the South.

HEAD QUARTERS,
Department of South Carolina and Georgia.

Charleston, S.C. November 11th 1862.

General
Your note of the 8th
addressed to the General Command-
ing has been received and I
am instructed to reply that
he desires you to procure the
services of the negro man
referred to as a spy in the
Camp of the Enemy. You
may either employ him
yourself or send him to
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with a copy of this communi-
cation.

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evening fires should be
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Head Quarters to collect all
the reliable information
possible, which he should

bring away in case of an impending attack in time to give us due warning.

It will be important to know when and where an attack will be made by what force. The number of gunboats and other gun boats, the names of all Generals at Fort Royal or under Genl Mitchell, also the number of each Regiment and the state from which it may come. Likewise the number of field batteries of light artillery.

If practicable a Return of the Troops should be abstracted to which end the Regts should be shown one of our Returns so that we will understand exactly what character of papers we wish to get possession of.

It would be well too for him
to collect and save all scraps
of paper he may find ^{about} ^{the} ^{office} ^{or} ^{any} ^{place}
anything written up in them
They could be pasted together -
and might divulge something
important

For their services the Negro
shall be handsomely paid
according to the ~~usual~~ ^{usual} manner
he may discharge his trust
and you can readily arrange
what compensations shall
be paid him to penetrate
& return for the success lines
in any case -

Respectfully

Yours with 2/3

Wm. W. Merces

Chas. J. Hall

Brig Genl W. W. Merces

Commanding District of Georgia
Savannah

Charleston S.C.
Nov 4th 1862

Thomas Jordan
Co of Staff

Relative to negro
man who used as
spy-