Head Quarters
3rd Division M.S.
Camp "Little Big Horn"
Sep't 1, 1861

Col: Thos. L. Reade
Acting Adjt General M.S.

In obedience to instructions from the Major Genl Commanding No. 84. I left Camp this morning at 10 O'Clock A.M. with a force of 786 Cavalry from the different Divisions of the Army, 286 of which were from General Parsons and Ashley's Divisions under the command of Col. Rice, 300 from Genl Ripley's Division, under Col. Brearley and 100 from Genl Chalmers and my own Division under the command of Lt. Col. Major, and proceeded in the direction of Fort Scott, Kansas on a Reconnoissance—moving in three columns and throwing out scouts to scour the Country in advance of the Line, until we reached a point within four miles of Fort Scott, when all the pickets and scouts were called in, and Col. Rice was thrown forward with a force from the several Divisions in advance of the Main body, with instructions to find the position of the Enemy. When within a mile of Fort Scott the Col. was fired upon by the Enemy and returning the fire and making a forward movement, to within a few hundred yards of the Enemy's Camp, he captured and sent to the rear, 36 of the pickets of the Enemy, together with 27 horses and 78 mules. These prisoners and animals were sent rapidly to the Army encampment. The Main body advancing to the support of Col. Rice, formed a line of battle in a strip of timber on the small stream. The Enemy numbering 12 or 1500 Infantry and Cavalry advanced and fired upon us. I deemed it proper under instructions not to hazard an engagement...
with a force as vastly superior, rested and well-prepared for action. I re-occupied my command and fell back to a better position, and being pretty prepared and outflanked by a superior force, again fell back to another position, where a sharp skirmish, lasting 15 or 20 minutes ensued. Night coming on, I again moved to "Big Dry Wood," taking a strong position. The enemy now gave us the pursuict and I continued my retreat to Camp without the loss of a single man or animal. Three of my men were slightly wounded while the enemy left three dead on the field and had several wounded. All the prisoners and captured animals were brought into camp.

To every individual, officer, and soldier, I am indebted for gallant support and perfect willingness to meet the enemy at any time and under all circumstances. I could not mention with too much praise the conduct of every individual. All did their duty as became the veterans of the battle of Spotsylvania.

I cannot close my Report without saying that my best thanks are due Col. Rice for the prompt manner in which he obeyed and carried into effect my orders and instructions. The success of the expedition is due in a great measure to his gallantry. My thanks are due Col. H. Brand, Col. Farrington, Col. Moore, Capt. Lanktree, Dr. W. Gillespie, Dr. Wright and Capt. Landis as volunteer aids. Also to Dr. C. W. Palmer and Capt. L. Hallow, members of my staff. Col. McCullough displayed the same conduct and heroism that characterized his conduct at the battle of Spotsylvania.
I must express my regrets at the absence of my aide and acting assistant adjutant Jrsll. I had D. H. Flawerree, who was prevented by sickness from accompanying the distance travelled by the command was 36 miles.

I am Very Respectfully
Your o. & s. Sev.

A. E. Steen
Brig. Genl Commanding
Head Quarters 5th Division M.S.Guard
Camp near Johnston
Pates Co. N.C.

To All whom it may concern.

Aug. 7, 1861

False - Reports having been circulated throughout the 5th Military District by one John E. Pitt, that he has authority to organize and retain troops in that District, the undersigned takes this opportuni- 
y to inform the people, that neither the aforesaid Pitt nor anybody else has any such authority either from Maj. Gen'l Price or Gen'l Price. John E. Pitt has no connection whatever with the Army.

A. E. Steen
Brig. Gen'l 5th Div. M.S. Guard
Head Qrs 5th Div M.S.G.  
Camp Ben McCulloch March 20, 1862

Col. Thos. L. Sread  
A. A. Geil

Sir:

I am just in receipt of your note directing by order of Maj. Geil Price, that I “suspend action” on so much of Division Orders No. 1 from these Head Quarters on the 19th inst. as requires the immediate discharge of all soldiers whose term of enlistment has expired, until Geil Orders from your Hqrs. shall have been published governing that matter.

They leave me respectfully to say that a copy of my order above referred to has not officially been sent to you Head Quarters, which would shew beyond doubt the old spirit of insubordination on the part of some of the Officers of this Division, and a disposition to cling to their nominal positions in spite of law and orders. My action in this matter was taken after mature reflection, consulting the interest of the service generally, and was such, as would enable one at the earliest possible moment to comply with Special Orders No. 24 from Army Head Quarters.

Col. I can assure you, from my own knowledge, that it is the determination of many of my Officers to hold...
their positions as long as possible by quibbling and evading orders.

Enclosed please find Official orders published to my Division, which I trust will be satisfactory to the General, and hope he may approve to save me the degrading mortification of submitting to a public retraction of my Official acts, to an unofficial step taken by my inferiors.

I am Sir,
With much respect
Your Obliged Servant
A. C. Steen,
Brig. Genl. Cav.
Jefferson City, Mo Oct 29 1862

General Dear, Letting For You,

Sample Orr made a blazing secession speech here last night denouncing your assessments in this District as unconstitutional, in violation of law, and the people's rights. The President's proclamation was wrong, he expected to resist it, denounced the suspension of the habeas corpus act, the law enabling states to free their slaves was wrong and unjust, that the government must be just before it should be generous. Dr. Col. Bruns was present also Captains Johnson, Stenger, and Fleeck, Messrs Cobney Richardson, Miller, and Dr. Kenney all of whom will certify to the facts. I have directed him (Orr) to remain in Jefferson. Col. Bruns & Maj. White advised this course. Is my action approved? Please answer at once, for he (Orr) may receive permission to leave from St. Louis.

W. W. Summer
Lieut. A.A.A. G.