

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

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FEBRUARY 9, 1863.—Ordered to be printed.

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Mr. LANE, of Indiana, made the following

### REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. No. 509.]

*The Committee on Military Affairs and the Militia, having had under consideration the subject of organizing the signal corps of the army, report for that purpose the accompanying bill, (H. R. 352,) and recommend that it may be passed.*

This bill, presented as an amendment, and by way of substitution for H. R. 352, passed unanimously by the House of Representatives, April 16, 1862, provides for a force less in number than that contemplated in that bill. This is done after full consultation with the signal officer of the army, and with the experience in management of the force in the field for eighteen months past.

The object of the bill is to organize, for the term of the war, for its more perfect instruction, discipline, and management, the force now known and serving as the acting signal corps of the army, but which is made up of officers and men temporarily detached from regiments, and serving under circumstances unjust to them; and, at the same time, preventing the most skilful and thorough discharge of their duty.

This contemplated organization is temporary, and closes with the rebellion.

The rebel congress has, by two acts, organized the signal service of the rebel army.

To compete with this, the United States have no force organized by law.

An acting signal corps has now been serving for eighteen months, and some organization of this corps is indispensable. This bill provides for one chief signal officer, a colonel, one lieutenant colonel, two majors; and for each army corps or military department, one captain, not more than eight lieutenants, and in the proportion of one sergeant and six privates for each officer. But no officer or enlisted man can serve in this corps until he shall have been examined

and approved by a board to be convened for that purpose by the Secretary of War. The officers to be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

The bill provides for two clerks in the office of the signal officer. The large amount of property now in the hands of signal officers, and the appropriation of the present session, render their services necessary.

The corps cannot be organized more economically and efficiently than by this bill.

In no case can the number of officers to be appointed for an army corps, say twenty thousand men, exceed one captain and eight lieutenants.

If such be the rule of the President, there need be but a single captain for an army corps.

The field officers for the whole army of the United States are only four in number.

The expenses for, and losses of property, will be greater without than with its passage.

The expense to the United States for pay of officers will be about the same, whether this bill does or does not become a law.

There are now, and have been for many months, on duty, but temporarily and not thoroughly organized, the number of officers probably to be provided for by this bill.

On signal duty, November 10, 1862: Captains, 19; lieutenants, 127; enlisted men, 448.

This force since increased.

It is intended these officers and men shall remain on this duty. They are now compelled to serve upon it.

They have served faithfully, and often gallantly.

The casualties in the field have been: One wounded at battle of Winchester; one stricken senseless by a shell at Yorktown, Virginia; one killed on gunboat Mound City at Fort St. Charles, Arkansas; one killed during bombardment at Harrison's Landing, Virginia; one wounded at Harrison's Landing, Virginia; two wounded and three killed, of six men accompanying the signal officer, at battle of Ralston's mill, North Carolina; one captured at Petersburg, Virginia; two at Sugar Loaf mountain, Maryland; two at Fairview, Maryland; one at the mouth of Battle creek, Alabama; three at Murfreesboro', Tennessee.

The private soldiers serving in this corps for now a year and a half have not had open to them even the grade of a corporal.

The officers are shut out from legitimate and just promotion.

While thus held and serving, and without reward, the consolidation of regiments, and the expiration of the terms of service, will deprive many of the most skilful of their commissions.

The service everywhere has been more expensive and less efficient than it would be if organized.

If this duty is not to be recognized, and those upon it are to have no legitimate promotion, every officer and man kept on it is virtually degraded. This is ungenerous and unjust.

It is impossible to instruct, discipline, and control, without legal organization, a body of troops of this size, of which the members feel its duties may be only temporary, and in which neither their interests nor their responsibility are permanent.

The signal corps, in the field from the beginning of this rebellion, and taking some part in forty-seven different battles and expeditions, has won, by the good conduct and gallantry of its members and their valuable services, the honorable and commendatory notice of many distinguished generals and naval officers. On many occasions the assistance it has rendered could have been given in no other manner, and has tended effectually to favorable results to our arms.

The Secretary of War, in his annual report, says: "The report of Major Myer, of the signal corps, deserves your attention. The service of this corps to armies in the field, and for many military and naval purposes, is highly estimated. At present, it is without distinct organization, and is made up of officers detailed from other branches of the service. *A separate organization is recommended.*

"**TO THE PRESIDENT :**"

The committee cannot too strongly urge the speedy passage of this bill; satisfied as they are that the services of the signal corps, in this rebellion, have been most valuable, and that its organization is both necessary and just.

The project of this bill was submitted, by the signal officer of the army, to prominent generals for their views, and received these endorsements; which, with the accompanying letters, were, by authority of the Secretary of War, laid before the committee.

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*Indorsements on plan of a bill to organize a signal corps to serve during the existing war.*

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
"Washington, January 6, 1863.

"I have never used the signal corps in the field and have never seen the operations of the system. I therefore have not such personal knowledge of its importance as to enable me to give an opinion.

"Relying, however, upon the opinion of the officers who have employed signal officers in the field, I respectfully recommend an increase of the corps.

"H. W. HALLECK,  
"General-in-Chief."

"NEW YORK, January 17, 1863.

"The operations of the signal department during the campaigns under my charge, have been so fruitful in results, imperfectly organized as the department, under existing laws, has been, as to promise,

under more favorable circumstances, in respect to the organization and development of the corps, a very advanced degree of usefulness.

"There is no limit to the advantage to be derived from the rapid collection and transmission of intelligence of the enemy's movements in a campaign or on the field of battle, or the ability to communicate orders with rapidity and accuracy.

"A quick apprehension of objects, good judgment, superior intelligence, and some military knowledge, or at least the aptitude to acquire it, are indispensable requisites to the forming a good signal officer.

"With selected material, this branch of the military service may be developed to an extent not now, perhaps, foreseen, with important gain to the public service.

"The officers now in the corps deserve a permanent status as a reward for faithful, intelligent, and gallant services.

"The project of the bill is good in itself, and I hope it will become a law.

"GEO. B. McCLELLAN,  
"Major General United States Army."

"Would suggest one addition to the 3d section, which is, in case the signal corps should be recruited by transfer from the regiments, that the consent of the commanding officer of them be first obtained.

"In other respects approved.

"JOSEPH HOOKER,  
"Major General C. G. Division."

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HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
Camp near Falmouth, Virginia, January 27, 1863.

I would respectfully recommend that the signal corps have a separate organization, and that the vacancies caused by officers and men detached from their commands on that duty be filled. With regard to the details of the organization as to pay, numbers, &c., I cannot give any opinion.

D. N. COUCH,  
Major General United States Army.

I concur fully in the above opinions of Major General Couch.

DANIEL BUTTERFIELD,  
Brigadier General of Volunteers.

I cheerfully recommend the passage of a bill containing the within enactment.

A. E. BURNSIDE,  
Major General.

I know no objections to the passage of the bill making the within organization for the existing war, and I believe that its passage will be conducive to the interests of the service.

A. B. FRANKLIN,  
Major General Commanding Left Army of Potomac.

HEADQUARTERS TWELFTH CORPS,  
*January 25, 1863.*

I most cordially approve the provisions of the enclosed bill.

H. W. SLOCUM,  
*Major General Commanding.*

[Extract.]

*Letters and reports from officers commanding land and naval forces.*

HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE ENGINEER CORPS,  
*Beaufort, South Carolina, January 3, 1862.*

SIR : \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*  
Now the signals came most beautifully and effectively into use. All the commands bore the flag which had been agreed upon, viz: a ground of white and blue. The signal officer, Lieutenant Taft, was with the skirmishers, communicating constantly with his colleague, Lieutenant Cogswell, on board the Ottawa. The concert of action thus established was absolutely perfect.

Moreover, this is the first occasion the system of signals, invented by Major Myer has been tested in actual battle. I claim for the signal officers of my staff, Lieutenants Tafft and Cogswell, the merit of showing the code to be a perfect success, and myself the good fortune of commanding on the occasion.

Says Lieutenant Cogswell, who was on board the Ottawa: "Permit me, before closing, to call your attention to the able and efficient manner in which Lieutenant Tafft managed the signals on shore. During the whole march from Adams's Landing to the ferry he so managed it that only for a few minutes was he so situated that he could not instantly open communication, though in order to accomplish this he was frequently exposed to the direct fire of the enemy."

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ISAAC I. STEVENS,

*Brigadier General Commanding Land Forces.*

Capt. L. H. PELOUZE,

*Acting Asst. Adj't Gen'l, Engineer Corps, Port Royal, S. C.*

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*January 21, 1862.*

Official.

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

UNITED STATES GUNBOAT MARATANZA,  
*Acquia Creek, September 5, 1862.*

DEAR SIR: I beg you to accept my thanks for the assistance you have rendered on board this vessel as signal officer. The rapidity and correctness of your code of signals is, in my opinion, admirable, and I should be pleased to see some such introduced in the naval service.

With my best wishes, I remain, very truly, yours,

G. H. SCOTT, Commander.

Lieutenant PAUL BABCOCK, Jr.,

BABCOCK, J. T.,  
Acting Signal Officer.

[Extract from report of Major General John Pope, in reference to operations of signal corps during the progress of the Virginia campaign.]

GENERAL: \* \* \* \* \*

The detachment of the signal corps with the various army corps rendered most important service, and I cannot speak too highly of the value of that corps, and of the important information which from time to time they communicated to me. They were many times in positions of extreme danger in the discharge of their duties.

\* \* \* \* \*

I am, general, respectfully, your obedient servant,

JNO. POPE,  
*Major General.*

Brigadier General G. W. CULLUM,

*Chief of Staff and of Engineers, Headquarters of the Army.*

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HEADQUARTERS FOURTH ARMY CORPS,

*Office of the Commanding General, Yorktown, Virginia, January 18, 1863.*

SIR: Having employed myself in bringing your plans for the organization of the signal corps before the authorities when you first originated them, and having, from the commencement of this war, been in constant intercourse with you or your officers on duty in the field, I have been always a witness to the great advantages of your system of signals to the service. I therefore cordially agree that your corps of signal officers is justly entitled to the benefits of a separate organization, with rank and promotion as in other corps of the army.

I remain, with high respect, your most obedient servant,

E. D. KEYES,  
*Major General.*

Major A. J. MYER, *United States Army,*

*Chief of Signal Corps.*

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UNITED STATES STEAMER WACHUSSETT,

*West Point, York River, Va., May 15, 1862.*

SIR: Lieutenant J. W. DeFord, 11th infantry, Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps, has been army signal officer on board this ship during the operations of the gunboats in York river, and it affords me much pleasure to say that his services have been of great advantage to me in managing the movements of the squadron, and he has been at all times attentive and prompt in the performance of his duties, and particularly were his services very valuable in the engagement between General Franklin's division and the gunboats and the rebel forces near this place on the 7th instant.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM SMITH,  
*Commanding United States Steamer Wachusett.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
Roanoke Island, March 5, 1862.

MAJOR: By direction of General Burnside, I have the honor to communicate to you his acknowledgment of the very efficient service rendered by the signal corps under charge of Lieutenant Fricker.

Their rapid and accurate method of transmitting messages was found of great advantage, and available when no other means could have been used.

I am, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LEWIS RICHMOND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Major A. J. MYER,

*Signal Officer, United States Army.*

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[Extract.]

## UNITED STATES GUNBOAT GALENA,

*James River, July 13, 1862.*

SIR: I beg leave to express my opinion of the value of the mode of signaling invented by yourself and used in the army.

It can be seen when the navy signals cannot, by reason of calm weather, be distinguished. In misty weather it can be read further, as the motions of the flag are more visible than mere difference of color.

On the 30th of June and 1st of July, when we were required to cover the flanks of the army by firing upon an unseen enemy, your signals served to direct the fire, and the signals being given with the utmost precision, I hope our fire was thereby made useful.

Your method is no new thing with me, since I saw it used in Georgia between Freborn Cut and Wright river, across the Savannah river, at a distance which astonished me, and where navy signals could not have been seen. For the navy I think your code invaluable.

\* \* \* \* \*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN RODGERS, *Commander.*

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[Extract]

General Orders No. 20.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SHENANDOAH,  
New Market, Virginia, April 21, 1862.

\* \* \* \* \*

II. The officers and men of the signal corps, Lieutenant W. W. Rowley, company F, 28th New York volunteers, commanding, by their diligence, bravery, and success, have given proof of the perfect adaptation of their system of signals to every condition and position of the army. On the field of battle, in the thickest of the fight, they have transmitted orders with the utmost rapidity and unerring accuracy. In the pursuit of the enemy, foremost in the advance, they have kept our communications open on every side by a mobilized telegraph, which shifted its position and renewed its capacity for the transmission of intelligence with the momentary change of events.

It is but just to officers and men to announce the entire success of their labors, and the satisfactory discharge of the very important duties assigned them.

\* \* \* \* \*

By command of Major General N. P. Banks,

R. MORRISS COPELAND,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

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UNITED STATES STEAMER CIMMERONE,  
*James River Flotilla, August 2, 1862.*

SIR: It affords me great pleasure to certify to the efficiency of your new system of army signals. It is the very best I have ever seen, and far surpasses any other I am acquainted with for compactness and great ease in the method of transmitting messages; also, its faculty of language is greater than any other now in use. I trust it will be adopted in the naval service.

\* \* \* \* \*

I make this statement, as I think every officer in the navy should give his experience regarding this system of signals, believing through this means it may eventually be introduced on shipboard.

Respectfully, &c.,

MAX WOODHULL,

*Commander United States Navy.*

Major A. J. MYER, U. S. A.,  
*Signal Officer of the Army.*

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HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
*October 15, 1862.*

GENERAL: The signal corps, under Major Myer, rendered, during the operations at Antietam, as well as at South Mountain, and during the whole movements of the army, efficient and valuable service. Indeed, by its services here, as on other fields elsewhere, this corps has gallantly earned its title to an independent and permanent organization.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. B. McCLELLAN,

*Major General Commanding.*

Brigadier General L. THOMAS,  
*Adjutant General United States Army.*

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[Extract]

UNITED STATES FLAG-SHIP WABASH,  
*Port Royal Harbor, S. C., January 3, 1862.*

SIR: \* \* \* \* \*

Lieutenant Cogswell, an acting signal officer of the army, was directed to report to me for duty, and furnished me with the means of constantly communicating with General Stevens, with a facility and rapidity unknown to the naval service. I take this opportunity of recommending that the code of signals invented by Major Myer be at once introduced into the navy.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. R. P. ROGERS, *Commander.*

Flag-Officer S. F. DUPONT,  
*Commanding South Atlantic Blockading Squadron.*

General Orders No. 24.]

## HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF VIRGINIA.

The major general commanding takes occasion to acknowledge the very valuable services rendered by the signal officers of this army, and the parties under their charge, during the recent operations of this command against the enemy, and the engagement with them at Cedar Mountain.

Second Lieutenant Joseph H. Spencer, (acting signal officer,) who, during this period, was stationed on Thoroughfare Mountain, overlooking the camp of the enemy, was at one time driven with his party from that post by a regiment of rebel cavalry, but returned thereto at great personal risk, and re-established his station within two hours thereafter. The information furnished by him from this station was of an important nature, and assisted materially in the prosecution of operations.

First Lieutenants Brooks and Adams, (acting signal officers,) during the entire action on Cedar Mountain, were posted on the battle-field. First Lieutenant E. C. Pierce, (acting signal officer,) stationed at Culpepper, and First Lieutenant Wilson, (acting signal officer,) by their energy and universal attention to duty during this time in furnishing and receiving signal messages, rendered valuable service to the major general commanding the army.

By command of Major General Pope:

GEO. D. RUGGLES,  
*Colonel, A. A. General, and Chief of Staff.*

Official.

MYER ASCH,  
*Captain and V. Aide-de-camp.*

## UNITED STATES STEAMER MAHASKA,

*December 3, 1862.*

GENERAL: Having learned that Lieutenant Andrews, of the signal corps, has been detached from this vessel, I deem it proper to state that I consider the presence of a signal officer on board this vessel highly necessary for our efficient co-operation with the army under your command.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

FOXHALL A. PARKER,  
*Commanding and Senior Officer, York River vicinity.*

Major General E. D. KEYES,  
*Commanding 4th Corps United States Army.*

[Extract from official report of General I. I. Stevens, of the battle of James Island, June 16, 1862.]

My signal officers, Lieutenants Tafft and Howard, are worthy of honorable mention. Lieutenant Tafft took his station in an advanced and exposed part of the field, and kept constantly in communication with Lieutenant Howard, at the gunboats.

The gunboats Ellen and Hale came into action at a late hour, but by their excellent range, obtained by the assistance of Signal Officer O. H. Howard, who had been upon the Ellen for several successive days, did very great execution

among the ranks of the enemy. \* \* \* \* Much credit is due them for the precision with which their fire was directed, at such long range. \* \* \*

I. I. STEVENS,

*Brigadier General.*

[Extract from General A. E. Burnside's report of battle at Newbern, N. C.]

NEWBERN, NORTH CAROLINA,

March 16, 1862.

\* \* \* \* \* By signals agreed upon, the naval vessels, with the armed vessels of my force, were informed of our progress, and were thereby enabled to assist us much in our march by shelling the road in advance. \* \* \* \*

I have the honor, general, to be your obedient servant,

A. E. BURNSIDE,

*Brigadier General, Com'g Department of North Carolina.*

General L. THOMAS,

*Adjutant General United States Army.*

UNITED STATES STEAMER YANKEE,

*Off Acquia Creek, December 21, 1862.*

MY DEAR SIR: When I learned that the portion of the Potomac flotilla under my command in the Rappahannock was no longer needed there, I left the river on Friday last; and as the communication with headquarters by the road was uncertain, and transportation difficult to obtain at Brisco mines, I deemed it advisable to bring the signal officers you so kindly detailed for my command to this point, where there is transportation by rail to your camp.

I cannot let this opportunity pass without telling you of how much service these gentlemen (Lieutenants Paine, Halsted, and Camp) have been to us during our stay in the Rappahannock.

The code, without a single exception, has worked admirably, and we have used it daily to keep up communication with the different vessels.

During our engagement with the enemy I had occasion to communicate by the code with my vessels, and notwithstanding the heavy firing and smoke, there was no failure to communicate promptly and correctly.

Your kind letter of to-day is received. Although there now exists no positive necessity for any of your corps remaining with me, an emergency might occur when their service would render us effective aid. For instance, if the enemy should make a dash on the quartermaster or commissary stores, or public property at this place, a signal officer on shore, and one on board, would enable us to use our guns; without them we might fire into our own troops. I should, therefore, like to have two or three (the same party) if they can be spared.

Should you require them, you can telegraph, and they can go by the next train to camp.

If this suggestion meets with your approval, please communicate by telegraph.

Yours, very truly,

SAMUEL MAGAW,

*Lieutenant Commanding, &c., &c.*

Captain SAMUEL T. CUSHING,

*Chief Acting Signal Officer Army of the Potomac.*

Respectfully forwarded for the information of the chief signal officer, United States army.

SAMUEL T. CUSHING,  
*Captain and Chief Acting Signal Officer, Army of the Potomac.*

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HEADQUARTERS SECOND BRIGADE, E. C.,  
*Beaufort, S. C., January 3, 1862.*

DEAR SIR: I desire to express my great confidence in your code of signals, from my actual experience on the field of battle, and to call your attention to the great skill and merit of the signal officers of my command, Lieutenant Taft and Lieutenant Cogswell.

In my official report of the affair at Port Royal ferry on New Year's day I have stated that the signaling was a perfect success. It was, indeed, an extraordinary success. So far as I am advised, this is the first time it has been tested in actual battle.

It affords me the greater satisfaction to be able to give this testimonial from the circumstance that I had faith in your code in the beginning, as you will well remember, and lent my humble name in favor of your appointment to your present position.

Truly, your friend,

ISAAC I. STEVENS,  
*Brigadier General Commanding.*

Major ALBERT J. MYER,  
*Signal Officer of the Army, Washington City.*

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POTOMAC FLOTILLA, UNITED STATES STEAMER YANKEE,  
*Off Aquia Creek, December 21, 1862.*

SIR: On the 1st instant Captain Cushing, chief signal officer of the army of the Potomac, detailed for duty under my command Lieutenants Paine, Halsted, and Camp, and while in the Rappahannock the facility with which they communicated, and the correctness of their communications, elicited the admiration of myself and the officers of the several gunboats under my command.

On the 10th six of our steamers were attacked by two batteries of the enemy just below Port Royal, they attempting to drive us down the river, or from our position. Amidst heavy firing and much smoke the signal officers conveyed constant and correct information between myself, van, and rear. I take the liberty of calling your attention, &c.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

SAMUEL MAGAW,  
*Lieut. Com'r, Com'g 1st Division Potomac Flotilla.*

Major A. J. MYER,  
*Chief Signal Officer U. S. A., 158 F street, Washington, D. C.*

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UNITED STATES MILITARY TELEGRAPH.

To Adjutant General U. S. A.:

Staynes, Ludwick, Wood, and McNary are transferred (orders three hundred and eighty-eight) from this army to Memphis. This order breaks up my small

signal corps, which I had just in working trim. Cannot believe it intended to deprive this army of signal corps. Therefore, earnestly ask order to be rescinded.

W. S. ROSECRANS,  
*Major General.*

Received December 22, 1862, from Nashville.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
*December 22, 1862.*

Respectfully referred to the signal officer.

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

OFFICE OF THE SIGNAL OFFICER,  
*Washington, December 23, 1862.*

Upon the within representation of Major General W. S. Rosecrans, it is requested that so much of Special Order No. 388, current series, recommended by this office, as relates to the signal corps in the department of the Cumberland, be rescinded.

It becomes the duty of the signal officer to now state that it is impossible for him to properly supply the many demands for the services of signal officers with active armies, and to urge upon the honorable Secretary of War the propriety of recommending immediate legislation for the organization of the corps.

ALBERT J. MYER,  
*Signal Officer of the Army.*

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HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,  
*Adjutant General's Office, Washington, January 21, 1862.*

SIR: I take great pleasure in executing the instructions of the general-in-chief by enclosing, for your information, an extract from the report of Brigadier General I. I. Stevens, commander of an expedition against the enemy's batteries opposite Port Royal island, South Carolina, dated the 2d instant, in which your system of signals is very highly commended.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Major A. J. MYER,  
*Signal Officer United States Army, Washington, D. C.*

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WOODSTOCK, VIRGINIA,  
*April 2d, 1862.*

MAJOR: In reply to your communication it affords me sincere pleasure to be able to state that Lieutenant W. W. Rowley, acting signal officer, and his signal corps, have been of essential service to myself and my command, previous to, during, and since the battle of Winchester. They kept me invariably informed of every movement of the enemy, and thus enabled me to make dispositions to counteract him.

One thing has struck me in relation to this corps, and especially as it regards its chief, Lieutenant Rowley. I have never witnessed more fearless courage than has been displayed by them in the discharge of their duty; such has been the

rapidity and gallantry with which they dashed forward and hoisted their signals, at points that I still thought occupied by the enemy, that I sometimes mistook for a moment their signals for the flags of the rebels.

Take it all in all, I consider this signal system in the hands of skilful and resolute men, like those of this corps, as one of the most extraordinary devices for obtaining intelligence of the enemy's movements, and for continuing our own movements simultaneous, that has appeared in our age and country.

I truly regret that I was not better acquainted with its full capacity at the battle of Winchester, for I now think if I had I could have employed it in a manner to have insured the entire destruction of the enemy.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

JAMES SHIELDS,  
*Commanding Division.*

Major R. MORRIS COPELAND,

*Assistant Adjutant General, Department Shenandoah.*

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HEADQUARTERS 18TH ARMY CORPS,  
*Newbern, North Carolina, December 31, 1862.*

MAJOR: It affords me great pleasure to bear witness to the generally efficient and faithful performance of his duties by Captain David A. Taylor, chief acting signal officer in this department, and especially during the late march to Goldsboro' and the action near that place, where he was constantly in the advance, and was very efficient in the selection of proper positions for the artillery, &c.

I remain, sir, very respectfully,

J. G. FOSTER,  
*Major General Commanding.*

Major A. J. MYER,

*Signal Officer United States Army.*

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HEADQUARTERS 5TH ARMY CORPS,  
*White Plains, Virginia, November 7, 1862.*

\* \* \* \* \*

From the moment Captain Babcock and his party joined me, near Sharpsburg, to the present time, the party has been actively, energetically, and, in many cases, perseveringly engaged in opening communication with general headquarters and other points of observation, and has been of the best service to me and the corps. \* \* \* \* If it were in the power of the commanding general to provide signal parties at each corps headquarters, the value of the system would be more highly appreciated and their presence always desired if they work as faithfully and intelligently as Captain Babcock and his party. Their services at the present time, when there are so many prominent points of observation, are especially valuable in aiding communication with different points of the army, and inestimable in case of a general action.

F. J. PORTER,  
*Major General Commanding.*

Indorsement on report: Paul Babcock, jr., captain and acting signal officer.

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA,  
*Newbern, North Carolina, May 2, 1862.*

Your communication of March 27 was placed among my private papers, and thereby escaped the prompt attention it should have had.

The signals referred to in the sentence of my report quoted in your letter, were made either by or under the immediate direction of Lieutenant Fricker, the chief of my signal corps, and were of the most efficient service in keeping open communication with the navy.

The efficiency of his code of signals has, I think, been most fully established, and is held in high esteem by all who have become acquainted with or have seen its operations.

I cheerfully bear testimony to the invaluable aid they have been to me in this expedition, and do not hesitate to recommend the introduction of a general system of field signals throughout the army.

I will add that at Roanoke, Newbern, and during the siege of Fort Macon, by placing the signal officers on the boats and at different points on shore, I was enabled to keep up a constant communication with the navy.

Very respectfully, yours,

A. E. BURNSIDE,

*Major General, Commanding Department of North Carolina.*

Major ALBERT J. MYER,

*Signal Officer, United States Army.*

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The accompanying communication from Commander Foxhall A. Parker was indorsed as follows:

“Respectfully referred to Major General Dix. Lieutenant Andrews has telegraphed that he is ordered on duty at Fort Monroe. No orders to relieve him from duty have been received here. I consider Lieutenant Andrews’s services absolutely necessary here. He has acted in concert with Lieutenant Benson, and has been posted on the gunboat. At no place have I seen greater necessity for two signal officers than here.

“E. D. KEYES, *Major General.*

“DECEMBER 3, 1862.”

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ON BOARD UNITED STATES GUNBOAT CURRITUCK,  
*Upper Pamunkey River, June 17, 1862.*

Lieutenant George J. Clarke, 62d New York State volunteers, acting signal officer, reported to me for duty May 7, 1862.

The system of signals used by him (Major A. J. Myer’s) has been of great service, working always with invariable success.

From experience I am convinced that Major A. J. Myer’s system of signals is unequalled for simplicity and rapidity of working.

WM. F. SHANKLAND,

*Acting Master, Commanding United States Gunboat Currituck.*

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH,  
*Hilton Head, Port Royal, South Carolina, November 22, 1862.*

MAJOR: It affords me much gratification to be able to bear testimony to the value and efficiency of the code of signals introduced by you in this army, as also to the zeal and ability of First Lieutenant E. J. Keenan and the officers of the signal corps in this department under my command.

I have had opportunities during the late expeditions under my command to St. John's and Pocotaligo, especially when co-operating with naval forces, of remarking the fluency and correctness with which even the most comprehensive messages were conveyed by this admirable system. In the field, also, this corps is of great importance in regulating the fire of artillery and insuring the accurate co-operation of troops, while the simplicity of the signal apparatus adapts it to any position where the least elevation can be obtained.

The signal corps in this department is further of great use to, and conduces much to, the safety of the command in general, by insuring headquarters speedy communication with the outposts.

I have the honor to be, major, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. M. BRANNAN,

*Brigadier General, Commanding Department.*

Major A. J. MYER,

*Signal Officer, United States service.*

BEAUFORT, NORTH CAROLINA, *May 11, 1862.*

I take great pleasure in acknowledging the very efficient services rendered by officers of the signal corps on duty with the third brigade during the action of Roanoke and Newbern, and especially during the investment and reduction of Fort Macon.

JOHN G. PARKE,

*Brigadier General, Commanding Third Division.*

HEADQUARTERS FIRST DIVISION,

*Newbern, North Carolina, May 18, 1862.*

I can bear full testimony to the value of the services of Lieutenant Gordon, both as signal officer and aide-de-camp to myself during the whole time he has been serving on my staff.

At the battle of Roanoke island and Newbern he displayed marked bravery while acting as my aid in carrying orders under a very hot fire.

While advancing towards Newbern from the place of landing at Slocum's creek, Lieutenant Gordon was always in the very advance with me, and ready at any moment to send up rockets, which we used as we advanced to inform the fleet of our movements.

I make the above full statement as a simple act of justice to a brave and efficient man, who has been of decided service to me.

J. G. FOSTER,

*Brigadier General U. S. A., Commanding Division.*

FLAG-SHIP WACHUSETT, *September 28, 1862.*

DEAR SIR: I cannot part with Lieutenant Clum and his associates of your corps without expressing to you, and through you to them, the high opinion I entertain of their character as gentlemen and officers. It will always afford me great pleasure to have them again under my command should circumstances make it necessary,

I am, very respectfully, yours,

CHARLES WILKES, *U. S. N.,*  
*Commanding Potomac Flotilla.*

Major MYER,

*Chief of Signal Corps, United States Army.*

[Extract.]

*Official report of General Weitzel of battle of Georgia Landing, Louisiana.*

HEADQUARTERS RESERVE BRIGADE,  
*Bayou Lafourché, near Thibodeaux, La., October 29, 1862.*

MAJOR: \* \* \* \* \* \* \*  
The signal corps, also, has been of great service to me.  
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Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. WEITZEL,  
*Brigadier General United States Volunteers,*  
*Commanding Reserve Brigade.*

Major GEO. C. STRONG,

*Assistant Adjutant General,*  
*Department of the Gulf, New Orleans, Louisiana.*

[Extract.]

*Report of the march of the first division, fifth corps d'armée, from Strasburg, Virginia, to Williamsport, Maryland, on the 24th and 25th days of May, 1862.*

HEADQUARTERS ARMY SHENANDOAH.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \*  
The signal corps, Lieutenant W. W. Rowley commanding, rendered most valuable service on the field and on the march. There should be some provision for the prompt promotion of officers and men so brave and useful as those composing this corps.

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N. P. BANKS, *Major General.*

Hon. E. M. STANTON,  
*Secretary of War.*

HEADQUARTERS MIDDLE DEPARTMENT,  
*Baltimore, Maryland, April 7, 1862.*

SIR: It is my desire to have Lieutenant William Yamblyn, assistant signal officer, permanently assigned to this department, on signal duty. Nearly all of the old regiments have been ordered away, and there are constantly arriving new regiments that require instructions. It is my desire, therefore, that Lieutenant Yamblyn should be assigned to the duty, as he has given good satisfaction while under my command temporarily.

The major general commanding suggests that it would be advisable to have one officer at each of the forts, McHenry, Federal Hill, and Marshall, instructed in the system of field signals, so that each post could communicate with the other in case of need.

By request of Major General Dix.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. T. VAN BUREN,

*Assistant Adjutant General.*

Major A. J. MYER,  
*Signal Officer, United States Service.*

WASHINGTON, D. C., August 11, 1862.

MAJOR: I am directed by Brigadier General Silas Casey, United States army, to inform you that acting signal officers First Lieutenant Wm. S. Stryker, 12th Virginia volunteers, First Lieutenant J. W. Hutchinson, 3d Virginia volunteers, were of essential service to General Casey in the evacuation of White House, Virginia, on the 28th June, 1862.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. WALTER WEST,

*Lieutenant and Aide-de-Camp,*

Major A. J. MYER, *United States Army,*  
*Signal Officer Army of the Potomac, Harrison Landing, Va.*

ORDNANCE OFFICE, NAVY YARD,  
*Boston, May 19, 1862.*

SIR: I cheerfully state my convictions of the great utility of the system of flag communications, as practiced on board the Wachusett, under my command, at York river, during the past month of April, in establishing and keeping up in the most satisfactory manner the necessary intercourse between the army and naval forces; and that the above services were performed in the most prompt and intelligent manner by yourself as senior, and your assistant associated with you in the duty.

I would commend the system in the strongest terms as a military necessity of the present day.

Respectfully, sir, your obedient servant,

J. S. MISSROON,  
*Commander, United States Navy.*

Lieutenant J. W. DE FORD,

*Lieutenant and Signal Officer, United States Army.*

UNITED STATES STEAMER SEMINOLE,  
*Norfolk, Virginia, June 11, 1862.*

SIR: While the United States steamer Wachusett, under my command, was operating in York river in the month of May last, before and after the evacuation of Yorktown, Lieutenants De Ford and Clum, with four privates of the United States army signal corps, were on board. I found their services very valuable in communicating promptly with the army, and also with the vessels of the flotilla, on board of which signal officers were stationed.

Particularly on the 7th May, at Mess Point, when General Franklin's division was attacked by the rebels, the services of the signal officers were of great advantage to me, enabling me to communicate with the forces on shore much quicker than I could have done by boats or any other means in my power.

From my personal observation, I think that the services of the army signal corps have been of great value to us in our co-operation with the army in the rivers of this neighborhood.

W. SMITH,  
*Commander United States Navy.*

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UNITED STATES GUNBOAT MARATANZA,  
*James River, June 17, 1862.*

MY DEAR SIR: I desire to express to you my thanks for the valuable assistance you have rendered while on board this vessel as signal officer.

More particularly upon the occasion of the battle at West Point, when General Franklin's command was attacked by an overwhelming force, your services in this capacity call for marked recognition and acknowledgment, as it was through your assistance I was enabled to take up exactly the right position, and pour my fire into an unseen enemy with precision and effect, tending greatly to his discomfiture and repulse.

I hope the department will speedily recognize the value of your services, and that the day is not far distant when some such code as that used so advantageously by the army will be introduced into the naval service.

Wishing you full opportunities for usefulness to the country and yourself, I remain, very truly, yours,

T. H. STEVENS,  
*Lieutenant Commanding.*

Lieutenant PAUL BABCOCK,  
*United States Signal Corps.*

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OFFICE OF COMMISSARY OF SUBSISTENCE,  
*Headquarters, Army of the Potomac, December 7, 1862.*

CAPTAIN: It gives me much pleasure to inform you that the signal telegraph line from these headquarters to Belle Plain has been of great service to me in transmitting messages to and receiving them from the subsistence depot at the latter named place.

The messages have been transmitted quickly and accurately, and I regard the line as of much importance to operations in the field.

I am, captain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. T. CLARK,  
*Colonel, and A. D. C. and C. S.*

Captain S. T. CUSHING,

*Chief Signal Officer, Army of Potomac.*

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HEADQUARTERS ARMY OF THE POTOMAC,  
*Office of Chief Quartermaster, Camp near Falmouth, Va.,*

December 8, 1862.

CAPTAIN: I desire to thank you for the very prompt manner in which you extended your field signal telegraph line from this camp to Belle Plain, and to express to you my perfect satisfaction with the great usefulness and accuracy of the line. I have used it daily, and have found it a rapid and efficient mode of communication with that depot.

It must necessarily be of infinite service and importance to an army in the field, furnishing, as does the signal telegraph, a prompt and sure means of communication between the different depots, corps, grand divisions, and general headquarters.

I am, respectfully, your most obedient servant,

RUFUS INGALLS,  
*Lieut. Colonel, and A. D. C. and Chief Quartermaster.*

Captain CUSHING,

*Chief Signal Officer, Army of the Potomac.*

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The reports of the signal officers, which were also placed before the committee, make a record of great interest, and the committee recommend also that they be printed.

