

Headquarters Army of Northern Virginia

19th Oct 1863

Richmond Va.

Lantern Brig. Gen. A. R. Quartermaster Gen.

General: I have received your letter of the 12th, and am very glad to find that your exertions to supply the Army have been so successful. The want of the supplies of shoes, clothing, overcoats, and blankets is very great. Nothing but my unwillingness to expose the men to the hardships that would have resulted from moving them into Loudoun in their present condition induced me to return to the Rappahannock. But I was averse to marching them over the rough roads of that region at a season too when frosts are certain and snows probable, unless they were better provided to encounter them without suffering. I should otherwise have endeavored to detain General Meade near <sup>the</sup> Potomac if I could not throw him to the north side. The supplies that you now have at your disposal for this Army will be most welcome, and I trust that your exertions to increase them

will meet with full success

Very respectfully, your obedient servant

R. E. Lee

General

Gen. Ripley, who commanded Charleston, and  
Gen. A. R. Landon, the commander of Fort Mifflin,  
ably seconded Lee in the execution of his  
plans, while Generals Evans, Drayton, and  
Mercer assisted at other points.

copied from lips of R.E. Lee  
by H.L. King.

Headquarters Army  
18th Jan., 1864

Lantern, Brig. Gen. A. R., Quartermaster - Gen Richmond  
General: The want of shoes and blankets in this  
Army continues to cause much suffering and  
to impair its efficiency. In one Regiment I am  
informed that there are only fifty men with  
serviceable shoes, and a Brigade that recently  
went on picket was compelled to leave several  
hundred men in camp who were unable  
to bear the exposure of duty, being destitute  
of shoes and blankets. . . .

The supply by running the blockade has  
become so precarious that I think we should  
turn our attention chiefly to our own re-  
sources, and I should like to be informed  
how far the latter can be counted upon. -  
I trust that no efforts will be spared to  
develop our own resources of supply, as  
a further dependence upon those from  
abroad can result in nothing but in-  
creased suffering and want.

I am, with great respect, yr. obt. Servt., R.E. Lee  
esen.