

November 23, 1940.

SUBJECT: Acquisition of Maneuver Area and Site for Field Artillery Service Practice.

TO : The Adjutant General, War Department, Washington, D. C.

1. Upon request of the Commanding General, First Army, it is recommended that the tract of land described below and indicated on the attached map be purchased for use as a maneuver area and site for field artillery service practice by units to constitute the II (Tactical) Corps.

2. The area, which lies in Caroline County, Virginia, was inspected in some detail by Lt. Col. Oliver F. Marston, F.A., by direction of this headquarters about September 30, 1940. A copy of Col. Marston's survey of the area is attached. The area was inspected on November 19, 1940 by the Chief of Staff and Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, First Army, and the Assistant Chief of Staff, G-3, Third Corps Area, who made a sufficiently detailed reconnaissance to assure themselves that the area is suitable for the purpose for which it is desired. The area is sufficient in extent to provide a maneuver ground for a unit as large as a Division and could be utilized in rotation for this purpose by the divisions to constitute the II Corps. It also would provide service practice facilities for the light and medium field artillery of the 29th Division, the training area assigned to which, Fort George G. Meade, Maryland and its currently purchased addition, is not sufficient in extent to afford facilities for service practice except during the cessation of all other divisional training except for very small sub-divisions.

3. General Headquarters is aware of the desire of the Commanding General, First Army, that this tract be purchased and has been furnished with a copy of the report of Lt. Col. Marston and with a copy of the map accompanying that report. The area indicated on the map attached to this communication is slightly in excess of that shown on the map submitted by Lt. Col. Marston, as it was the consensus of opinion among the officers of the First Army and Third Corps Area staffs making the

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reconnaissance on November 19th that the area should be extended the slight distance necessary to the northeast and southwest to make it contiguous to the Rappahannock and Mattaponi Rivers, respectively.

4. The advantages of the existence of a Federally owned tract large enough for division maneuvers without the artificiality continually imposed by the existence of "Off Limit" areas and providing the necessary terrain facilities for service practice for light and medium artillery are so obvious and the restrictions that will be imposed upon the training of the sub-divisions of the II Corps by the lack of such an area present such difficulties in the accomplishment of suitable division training that it is urgently recommended that the acquisition of this tract by purchase be effected at the earliest practicable date.

5. It is recommended that the towns of Bowling Green and Port Royal, and the villages of Guinea, Milford and Woodford Post Office (shown on Geological Survey Map as Woodslane) be excepted from any purchase of the land.

For the Commanding General:

A. G. KELLY,

Major, A.G.D.,

Assistant Adjutant General

2 Incls.

- 1 - Report of Reconnaissance by Lt. Col. Marston.
- 2 - Map showing area recommended for purchase.

Copy to:

Commanding General, First Army.

(Retained by Col. Flynn)

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