

Trent University Archives

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TRANSCRIPTION OF THE CORRESPONDENCE

Cover: "Orders and correspondence of the Midland Regiment, North West Rebellion, 1885"

Inside front cover: "With this was allied the 45th Battalion (at that time the designation of Regiment had not developed), of which Col. Deacon was Commanding Officer. He commanded the Midland Regiment in the North West."

1.

Maple Creek 6 May 1885

To the Station Staff Adjutant, [---] Canatt

Sir: I have the honor to report for the information of the Major General Commanding chief on my arrival here. I made particular enquiries as to the state of the public feeling on the part of the people residing in the Village and its immediate neighbourhood and particularly among certain gentlemen whom I have known in Ontario for several years and the invariable report everyone of a feeling of perfect security.

The Village is situated on the south side of and about 150 yards from the rails and platform of the CPR track station and freight shed - there is a long row of cattle shipping slides on the west side of the platform. The Village is commanded on the north side by rather rising ground. The Barrack of the NWMP [North West Mounted Police] is situated on a [wall] running south and about 2 miles from the Village. A creek runs its very irregular course thro the settlement and is bridged at about 650 yards from the east side of the barracks quadrangle. I was induced to pitch my tents on the north side of the creek, the old camp ground of the Police Force during the period of constructing the Barrack[s]. I very reluctantly selected the ground as the creek in its expected course is thickly wooded with scrub, soft maple, and shrubs affording cover to an approaching force. My reluctance is to some extent overcome by the fact they have an ample of excellent water from a pump put in while the place was occupied by the Police - and the fact that the water at the Barracks is reported to be unfit for use - the Police force having to bring water supplies in barrels for their own use.

I have ascertained that a volunteer company has been organized here, Mr. W. R. Abbott late Sgt. Major in the Mounted Police holding a first

degreecertificate of the school of gunnery elected Captain. I shall feel obliged if you [---] [---] me orders as Captain of the Home Guard Company [---] confirmation - Mr. Abbott's sources will be invaluable as he knows the [---] one of the people and exercises due influence among the farming settlers.

[With] a view of affecting a proper measure of protection, the vast pile of building, stabling etc. for use of the Barracks the services of two companies will as fully result. I propose with your permission which if approved please notify me by telegram to keep the Barracks in a full state of defence by digging curved water trenches at the several angles of the quadrangle thereby commanding the approach in all directions from 600 to 1000 yards. As they duly will involve the necessity of my removal to the inside square of the Barracks and the conveyance of water from the pump at the present camp, I am now trying to separate the force at my disposal for the purpose of protecting the Village from any Indians or others that may be on trail to or from points north or south of the post. I therefore venture to suggest that you will detach a Company from one of the Battalions at Swift Current to this place. [last line of page illegible]

I shall have such arrangements made and [---] selected as will render the Village, the stations, and surroundings comparatively safe. I have double sentries to patrol the wooded creek from 10 pm till Revillee next morning and due watchfulness exercised.

The health of the men has been excellent. I have encouraged every kind of recreation not interfering with a fair amount of drills, parades, etc.

I beg to say that we have experienced every attention and kindness from Capt. [McIllica] and all under his command.

I have just seen Mr. Abbott who recommends they should be authorized to employ 3 men as scouts who should have orders to report directly to me here.

2.

Headquarters Brigade Office  
Swift Current  
7 May 1885

Sir,

I have been directed by the Major Genl.: Commg.: the Base, to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 6th inst. and to thank you for the valuable information contained therein which he will have much pleasure in forwarding for the information of the Major Genl. commanding the forces at headquarters.

I have the honour to be,  
Sir, Your obt. Servant, Wm. Hudson, Capt. Staff Adjut.

Addressed to Lt. Col. Deacon, Commg: Detach: Midland Battalion

3.

Headquarters Detachment Midland Batt.  
Unit West Field Force  
Swift Current  
April 22/85

Received this day from Lt. Col. Deacon on a/c of pay sheet of H. Co. Midland Batt. the sum of two hundred dollars (\$200) to be accounted for in detail upon readjustment of payroll.

Edw. Hamison, Capt.  
Command. H. Co.

4.

[Telegraph]

5th May 1885

Telegraph from: Swift Current  
To: Lt. Col. Deacon

Engagement on  
3rd, Otter and Poundmaker  
former returned to Battleford  
thirty five miles with loss of  
Killed Police Corpl. Laurie  
Sleight - Brigade Burke - Guards  
Rogers - Osgoode - C Co. Foulkes  
Battleford Rifles Dobbs - Teamster  
Winder - Eight = Wounded  
Police Sergt Ward - B. Battery

5.

[Receipt]

Camp at Swift Current  
April 22 1885

Received from Lt. Col. Deacon the sum of Two Hundred Dollars on account of pay and allowance of "G" Coy. Miland Regt.

\$200.00

Thomas Burke  
Capt. "G" Co.

6.

[Telegraph]

[continues item #4]

Pelletier

Sergt Gaffney  
Cpl. Morton

Gunner Reynolds  
Co. Sergt Major Jackson  
Guards Sergt Winter -  
McQuilken - G.O.R. Sergt  
[---] seriously Charles  
Perry - Watts = Battleford Rifles  
Gilbert twelve - Particulars  
later

J.W. Laurie

7.

Swift Current 2/5/85

Sir,  
At the request of the Leut. Col. Commanding I am sending to you  
Private McKeeof your regiment who was left behind [---] at McKays  
Harbor and who has been attached to us for rations and drill purposes  
since 19th April.

I have the honor to be  
Sir  
Your ob't Servant  
E.G. Kenry  
Capt. & Adjt.  
[---] Battery

To Lt. Col. Commanding  
Midland Battn.

8.

Ft. Pitt  
via Shauber

Col. Deacon

Have supplies for Grenadiers and others been forward here (Baroness). Incharge of Sgt. Mowat. There is another Grenadier with you. Could you not sendhim up first opportunity.

B. van Straubenzie

9.

D.H. Battleford  
Lt. Col. Deacon Comdg. Midland Detach.,  
Fort Pitt

Arrived here with my detachment yesterday afternoon. Go forward today byboat and take bag of mail for Middleton with me.

[name obscured by binding]

10.

Saskatoon  
May 24/85

Col. Deacon,  
Commanding at Clark's Crossing

Dear Sir,

I have today discharged for duty from the hospital 3 men belonging to theMounted Infantry Corp. (Boulton's Horse) and in order that they may be in theway of getting to the front immediately I send them to Clarke's Crossing.

During their stay there will you kindly have them attached for rations toone of the regiments andon the first opportunity have them forwarded to thefront. If necessary please furnish them with a transport order.

Yours resptty

G. Roddich  
Dep. Supy. Gen.

(over)

C. King  
Langford  
2 Thompson

Bolton Horse

attached to 7 May

11.

[Form]

Brigade Office  
Moose Jaw  
24 May 1885

Return of N.C. Officers and men ordered to join their respective Regiments at the Front.

Rank and Names

Col. Sergt. Wm. Watts - Midland Regt. - paid to 15 April 1885  
Sergt. Geo. Wilson - Midland Regt. - paid to 21 April 1885  
Sergt. Wm. Mowat - Grenadiers - no pay rec'd  
Corpl. Wm. Ross - Midland Regt. - paid to 30 April 1885  
Pt. James Austin - Midland Regt. - paid to 16 April 1885  
Pt. Fred Payne - Midland Regt. - wife draws pay  
Pt. Frank Gooch - Midland Regt. - no pay  
Pt. Fred Mitchell - 7th Fusiliers - no pay  
Pt. J. Walker - 7th Fusiliers - paid to 30 April 1885

[All men were rationed to 3 June 1885. The remarks column states "The clothing and kits of these men nearly worn out - the dates as to pay is taken from the men's own statement, no number one report having been handed over with them by officer coming here."]

Report signed by:  
Wm. Hudson, Capt.  
Staff Adjutant

Addressed to:  
The Officer Commanding  
at Clarke's Crossing

12.

Maple Creek  
May 7/85

Col. Deacon, Swift Current

Dear Sir,

Since you left here this morning we hear that two of our settlers have been[---] by hostile Indians who have run off 16 horses. Most of the few police stationed here as you know are away from our settlement

doing scout duty so that our town and settlers are at the mercy of the rebels who are liable to swoop down on us at any time. I trust you will place our proper position before the officer in command and that we will be sent immediate relief.

Yours in haste,  
Jno. Dixon  
Postmaster

13.

Qu appelle  
Geo. Hanwell

I want you here now. We will go [---] and put up house. If not all is gone other party taking hold think can bluff him till you get here. Answer quick.

E.W.W.

Thought perhaps better forward this direct.  
J.S.M.

14.

The Fort Victoria Road  
29 May /85

My dear Deacon

Thanks very heartily for your kind letter. I hoped George did his work creditably and that he will soon be able to rejoin his Company. You were a brave old man with your experience to join in such a march to rout those rebels out of almost impregnable rifle pits and coolees. I hope you will not find the spirit too willing and the flesh too weak and that at your age you will not risk too much in the way of exposure and fatigue. I suppose the work is practically over and the pen will be substituted for the sword. I am much pleased with Gen. Middleton's conduct of the campaign and trust he will come home safe and well to enjoy the appreciation of the country in store for him.

If you see anything that you may desire in connection with the service you are engaged in, and if you think I could be of any use to you in the premises let me know and I will try. That is all I can do.

I will be glad to hear from you again with your impressions of the conduct of the "Midland" at Batoche. The deadlock at Ottawa is about over. I think the franchise bill will pass and the country won't care sixpence. Spring was late. I am busy sowing and will be for a week yet. We had a local famine in feed for cattle. Don't get a cold and if you do treat it heroically first. With my best wishes for your self and

command, I am yoursfaithfully.

G. Laidlaw

15.

Telegraph Coolee 18 June 85

Col. Deacon

Left Telegraph Coulee at 4 pm today by team for Battleford.

Lieut. Brennan

[Addressed to]  
Col. Deacon  
Fort Pitt

16.

[---] 4 June 85

Deacon

Will send one hundred dollars to Ontario Bank Lindsay Ontario for yourcredit today as an advance against Midland Batt.

W.H. Forrest  
Lt. Col.

17.

Moose Jaw  
May 26 85

Dear Col. Deacon

Thanks for your excellent and interesting report on the voyage down the river. I meant the boats to keep together as much as possible under Mr. Boyd's and J.W. Kerr's directions and am sorry they separated as mutual help would have saved a deal of struggling and hard work. I am hoping to get the Northcote upto take away the rest of the stuff from the Landing - the water is reported as rising fast.

Yours sincerely,  
L.W. Laurie

(over)

One reason for keeping the rations in bulk on one boat was to keep the flotilla together.



18.

6 May 1885

Fish Creek via Clark's Crossing via Qu'Appelle and Swift Current

To: Col. Deacon

We arrived here yesterday dropping two companies at Clarke's Crossing. When are you coming on? Our trip down river most laborious. All well.

Arthur F.H. Williams

Col.

19.

Kingston

May 11 1885

[left side of letter obscured in binding- have marked missing words with "X"]

My dear Deacon,

I was indeed glad to get a X from and know that you have gone through very great hardship after you left Kingston and the whole country is watching every move and anxious for the least information but X sorry to say that the newspapers are X extras which may contain a grain of truth but often mere invention X make sale.

I at once went to see Donohue relative to your box and he tells us that he sent it away about four days after you left. Mrs. Deacon may have received it since you wrote but if he has not done so, let me know and I will go for him. When you wrote you were at Swift Current and your other cos. had gone North but ere this reaches you you may all be in the North. I hope sincerely the whole business will soon be over as it must be darned nasty work and by rights ought never to have occurred. The Force seems by all accounts to be behaving splendidly and doing some big marches. I hope the people of Canada will henceforth appreciate their Volunteer Force - if it has not been efficient it is on account of the small encouragement it has received and their equipment has been vile - all this will tend toward doing good to the Force hereafter. In the meantime my dear friend you have a rough time of it but please God you will all return home soon. All the cities, towns, villages are collecting supplies to be sent forward for the Midland Batt. I am going up to Bowmanville next Wednesday to see Cubitt about his rifle range as also about the deserter Keely who jumped off your train - Cubitt says he is a bad fellow and a few months would do him good. No orders have as yet been issued for Annual Drill and I do not suppose there will be any. We have had very cold raw wet weather and all think of the troops when it rains. Remember me to all my dear old friends of the Midland from the Col. down and if I can do anything

for anyone only let me know as it will be a pleasure.

How have the putties turned out?

Goodbye and wishing you all safely back again to Mid. District No.3.

Believe me  
Dear Deacon  
Yours sincerely,  
H.C. Villiers

20.

[date obscured by binding]

J. Flock

Train with coaches to take troops from Maple Creek to Swift Current leaves Med. Hat about 6 a.m. and should reach Maple Creek 9 a.m. Notify officer in charge.

C.D.K.

21.

[left edge of letter obscured by binding, missing words indicated by "X"]

Sask. Crossing  
2nd May 1885

Dear Col.

Under recommendation of medical officer I am sending herewith Bugler Christian X to hospital at Swift Current - ill with swelling of knee. I fear he will not be fit for duty for some weeks and that you will have to leave him behind. I understand that we are to undergo to Clark's Crossing by steamer Northcote but I do not expect to see you before the 9th or 10th inst. The water is rising rapidly here and we have had some trouble to save the stores - will endeavour to secure the best possible accommodation for our men during the run down the river and hope water will continue favourable for trip.

Yours very truly  
Henry R. [---]

22.

Fort Henry  
April 2nd 1885

Colonel. Deacon

What do you mean by sending new uniforms to [wins---] and only 9 suits to me and noovercoats. Now, we must have some if not all new overcoats, as we have severalmen without coats.

I require

Haversacks 43

Overcoats 45

Ball Bags 45 as we have none  
and also 36 tunics and trousers.

Send them up at once.

John Hughes

Major 45th [Batt.]

23.

Port Hope

Colonel J. Deacon

Received your telegram as I thought you were not well enough to go. MajorSmith of the 47th has been appointed Senior Major. If you will accept positionof Battalion Junior Major I shall be proud to have you with me. Please join meat Pt. Hope at once.

Arthur T.H. Williams

24.

[Telegram]

March 30th 1885

From: Colonel Cubitt

To: Colonel Deacon

1 Sergeant & 24 men - Col. Cubitt says hold in readiness to go tomorrow morning - make R.R. arrangements of Wallace with rifles uniforms, and everything they have and make arrangements with train.

25.

[March] 31, 1885

Col. Deacon

[B---] says Logan sold his horse to a man in Midland last January.

R.J. Matchett

26.

[written from the Bradburn House, Omemeel]

March 30th, 1885

Col. Deacon  
Lindsay

Dear Sir,

The courier (by Quartermaster Hughes) with orders and in response to same, full coy. and officers in readiness. The same I reported to you personally through telephonic communication. A great disappointment to me and my men through your suggestion only requiring ten men (10) and no officer. In reply to this, a meeting of the officers, we called a meeting of the Non Commissioned officers and resulted in a decision that the men would not leave here without an officer with them. I dismissed the Coy. with a full understanding to be in readiness at a moments warning. Receiving no order from Col. Cubitt. If I have done anything wrong according [---] [---] I hold you personally responsible for expenses and will not call the men together again unless receiving word from Col. Cubitt the proper authority.

Captain J. [Eracis]

27.

Canadian Pacific Railway Co., Construction Department, Nipissing  
Division  
Train times commencing March 23, 1885

28.

D.H. [Department Headquarters], Ottawa Ont.  
[May] 21 [1885]

The Officer in Command of Troops  
Clark's Crossing

Send Riel & other prisoners to Regina instead of Winnipeg; if escort and prisoners have left Crossing report this order without delay.

A.P. Caron  
Minister of Militia & Defence

Ac's at 3.20 PM  
[---] Major Young - Moose Jaw  
[---] Gen. Laurie - Swift Current

[---] answer Hon. A.P. Caron

29.

Officer Commanding  
Escort of Prisoners  
Moose Jaw  
21st May 1885

The murder of Meleka has ordered that Riel and other prisoners be sent to Regina instead of Winnipeg - escort him to Regina direct and [---] to Ottawa for further orders.

J. Deacon Liet. Col.  
Comg. at Clarke's Crossing

30.

General Middleton left Prince Albert yesterday morning by steamer Northwest with Midland Battalion, Bolton's Scouts, gatling 19 pounder and half of A Battery. Balance of troops follows on "Marquis" "Baroness" and "Alberta". Soon as they arrive from [round] G. Forks. Col. Straubenzie is in command. I forgot to say that Winnipeg Field Battery remains here to garrison along with Mounted Police.

B.  
Prince Albert  
23 pm

31.

[bottom of letter obscured by binding; missing words indicated by "X"]

Prince Albert 23  
Col. Deacon

General Middleton left yesterday on steamer for Battleford. Remainder of force will probably leave tomorrow. General left no orders respecting your command. Mail matter for Midland had better xxx via Humboldt xxxxxx.

32.

Prince Albert 23  
Col. Deacon

Retain saddles. I am leaving for your post.

John A. Barron

33.

Clark's Crossing  
23 May 1885

Office Commanding  
Prince Albert

My telegram to headquarters today sent to General at Battleford have here 7th Batt. and 2 Companies Midland, in all 29 officers 319 men. Can use barges as ferries. Please send me any information you can as to our future movements. Large supplies of forage here now. Also mail matter for Midland. Men wounded at Saskatoon all doing well.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

34.

Clarke's Crossing  
23rd May 1885

The Adjutant General  
General Middleton's Headquarters  
via Prince Albert

The 7th Battalion and 2 Companies of the Midland arrived here with 12 barges and 250 tons supplies under my command on the 20th - in all officers 29, N.C.O. and men 319 - supplies landed. No means of forwarding letters yet. Please send me orders as to future movements.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

35.

Clark's Crossing  
24 May 1885

I have 12 barges here tonight from Upper ferry which I can use to ferry supplies or men over to opposite bank if required.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

36.

Clark's Crossing  
24 May 1885

General Middleton  
Battleford

I have twelve (12) barges here which I brought with supplies - can use them as ferry boats if necessary.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

37.

Memo

Under instructions from Headquarters, transport having been provided, Principle Veterinary Surgeon Duncan will proceed to the Front forthwith via Clark's Crossing.

By order  
J.S. [Miller]  
Lt. Col.  
Staff Adjt.

Moose Jaw  
May 25th 1885.

38.

Battleford 25

Lt. Col. Deacon

Am glad to hear that you are at Clark's Crossing. Hope you will soon be with us.

Arth. H. Williams  
Lt. Col.

39.

Battleford 25

Lt. Col. Deacon

Trail to this place will be clear in a couple of days. Poundmaker coming into me tomorrow. Will send orders to you then. Can use barges as ferry boats if necessary.

Fred Middleton  
Maj. Genl.

40.

Battleford 25  
Officer Commanding  
Clark's Crossing

On arrival of steamer Northcote at Clark's Crossing direct Captain to proceed at once to Hudson Bay ferry 18 miles from Prince Albert and unload there, not in Clark's Crossing.

[signature obscured]

41.

Battleford 26  
Lt. Col. Deacon

Yes, have Northcote loaded as you propose and send her to Hudson Bay ferry with orders to proceed as directed in my telegram this morning.

Fred Middleton  
[rank obscured]

42.

Battleford 27  
Lt. Col. Deacon

Is Hooper my servant and pony with you. Please answer.

Henry R. Smith

43.

Battleford 27  
Lt. Col. Deacon

Is Hooper with you with my pony.

Henry R. Smith

44.

Battleford 27  
Lt. Col. Deacon

With reference to my other telegram direct Captain of Northcote as soon as she has discharged cargo at the Hudson's Bay crossing to proceed to Grand Rapids and await orders from Mr. Wrigley as I have no further use for the steamer.



Fred Middleton  
Maj. Genl.

45.

Battleford 27  
Lt. Col. Deacon

Poundmaker and his band have come in to me today. He and three of his principal chiefs together with the two murderers of Payne and Tremont are prisoners. The rest are going back to their reserve so that the trail between this and Clark's Crossing is open and safe. If Northcote has not left Crossover 150 tons of provisions and ammunition together with the two Companies of the Midland and I will

[bottom of letter obscured by binding]

[back of letter]:

Hudson Bay Crossing and she can then go on to Grand Rapids as ordered in my last.

Fred Middleton  
Maj. Genl.

46.

27 May 1885

General Middleton  
Battleford

I am rigging sweeps to barges and hope to make an efficient ferry early tomorrow morning. Exclusive of cargo of Northcote this a.m. we have 3780 bags of oats, 317 bales hay (bad), 785 boxes of corned beef, 310 packages of biscuits, 40 boxes of sugar, 20 chests tea, 9 pgs of beans, 32 sacks flour, 11 cases ammunition with more ordered here from Humboldt - will advise you as to ferry which I hope to make underway early.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

47.

Clark's Crossing  
27th May 1885

General Middleton

Battleford

Orders relative to "Northcote" carried out - left loaded at 7:30 this a.m. Instructed to pick up supplies left down river by other steamers - river rising rapidly. Troops here healthy.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.  
Clark's Crossing

48.

Clark's Crossing  
NWT

27th May 85

General Middleton  
Battleford

As already reported the "Northcote" left this morning with orders to discharge at the Hudson Bay Ferry. Can't now catch her. Will try crossing the stores in barges tomorrow early and report the practicability after the first trip.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

49.

Battleford 27

Lt. Col. Deacon

As the Northcote has gone away what means have you of crossing the river. I suppose you have barges that would do for that. Let me know about this as I want to get supplies over this side so as to team them to Telegraph Creek where they will be met by the steamer and brought up here. Also let me know the amount of stores and description.

[notation on back of letter]:

oats 3780 bags  
317 bales of hay (bad)  
785 boxes of corned beef  
163 brls. of biscuit  
40 boxes sugar  
20 chests tea  
2 [barley] 7 sacks beans  
32 sacks of flour

5 sacks bacon  
11 boxes ammunition

Exclusive of cargo of Northcote

50.

Clark's Crossing  
27th May 1885

Memo

In compliance with orders received from General Commanding the N.W. FieldForce the Officer in command of the steamer Northcote will on the completion of her loading to the satisfaction of the supply department proceed to the Hudson's Bay ferry 18 miles from Prince [Albert].

[signature obscured by binding]

51.

Humboldt 28

Col. Deacon  
Clark's Crossing  
or Supply Officer -

Supplies for Midland here going on in morning. How can I get them on to your men at Battleford. Retain my saddle.

Jno. A. Barron

52.

Clark's Crossing  
28th May 1885

General Middleton  
Battleford

My barge ferry a practical success - shall have large quantity of supply over by evening - rigging four barges as permanent ferry boats - hard work but we are equal to it - I venture to suggest that all supplies be placed on your side of river. Midland men now working - shall employ the entire force under my command as work party. Please send your orders relative to Northcote to Prince Albert so as a messenger can meet her at Hudson Bay Ferry.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

53.

Battleford 28

Lt. Col. Deacon

It being the intention of the Govt to organize a force to remain on duty inthe Northwest for a short time after the suppression of the present troubles.Officers, NCO and men desirous of volunteering for such service will at oncesend in their names through their commanding officers to the assistant AdjutantGeneral of the field force.

By order of the Major General Commanding

H. Smith  
Major  
Asst. Adjt Genl.

54.

Clark's Crossing  
28 May 1885

General Middleton  
Battleford

Sixty tons over today and shall have one hundred and fifty tons across bytomorrow evening.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

I have one hundred fifty rounds per man for the two companies of theMidland.

55.

Battleford  
30 May [1885]

Col. Deacon

Bolton's 25 men can come with you when you [---] for this place.

Fred Middleton  
Maj. Gen.

56.

Battleford 29

Lt. Col. Deacon

If Private William Cook of G. Company wishes to go home you can let him do so as his father is dead and his mother wishes him to go home. I am very glad to hear you are doing so well in getting over the stores. I hope to start the team tomorrow or next day. Have noted your offer to remain in this country. Bank and government clerks are not to be allowed to volunteer to remain.

Fred Middleton

Maj. General

57.

79 D.H. [District Headquarters]

Moosejaw 28

Lt. Col. O'Brien or Senior Officer

Please call for report from senior officer on board each barge coming downriver with seventh fusiliers and Midland battalion as to whether any stores and if so what quantity & description were removed from barge & if so by whose instructions they were removed, where they were placed & what was done for the protection from bad weather or rise of water, and how they can be recovered and furnish me as early as possible.

J.M. Laurie

58.

29 May 1885

Lieut. Col. Williams

Comd. Midland Batt.

Battleford

Volunteers to remain in the Northwest.

Lieut. Col. Deacon

Captain Bucke

4 sergeants

4 corporals

2 buglers

12 privates

[remainder of memo consists of ranks and numbers unexplained]

59.

Battleford 29

Lt. Col. Deacon

The Vet Surgeon must remain at Clark's Crossing till your companies come on.

H. Smith  
Major  
A.A.G.

60.

Clark's Xg  
30 May 1885

General Middleton  
Battleford

25 men and 20 Horses, Bolton's Horse, reported to me this morning. I have ordered issue of supplies - [---] receipt of your orders - I have about 200 boxes over now and shall continue the work.

J. Deacon  
Lt. Col.

61.

Battleford 30

Lt. Col. Deacon

Many thanks for your telegram. The Colonel wishes you to send mail with Hooper if possible, kindly send my saddle and bridle if Hooper comes. When are you likely to join us.

Henry Smith

62.

Battleford  
6th 85

Col. Deacon  
Telegraph Creek

All steamers at Fort Pitt. Nothing known as to their return - better come by the trail.

W.D. Otter  
7 o'clock p.m.

63.

Battleford  
7/6/85

Col. Deacon

Telegraph Coulee.

No answer can be got from general in less than five days. All the steamers except Northcote up at Pitt. Know nothing of the arrangements. You had better remain where you are.

W.D. Otter

64.

Fort Pitt  
10/6/85

Col. Deacon

All steamers fully employed here. Genl after Big Bear some 70 miles from here. There is not much chance of your being ordered up at present. Your Battl.gone to the Front to join Strangers.

B. Strawbenzie

65.

Camp at Battleford

I am at nearest point to Genl's Camp which is 70 miles and the Genl is moving north all the time.

B.

66.

C.C.  
2/6/85

Col. Deacon  
J.M.

Telegram received. River rising rapidly. Have had some stores spoiled. Nonews of [Poney].

67.

Clark's Crossing  
12/6/85

Deacon  
Lieut. Col.

All right - when the boat comes in sight please wire me. I want to send Adjutant Grovley on to his regiment. I may be up tomorrow evening. I am seeing about [Poney].

M.[W.] [Kiswan]

68.

Fort Pitt  
12/6/85

Lieut. Col. Deacon

Give me result of enquiry in connection with the destruction of hospital stores consigned to troops at the Front as I am informed they have been interfered with enroute.

E.A. Grovley

69.

Fort Pitt  
13/6/85

J.H.E. [Secreton]

Put horse of [Chambers of star on]. He is with A. Battery. Bring some tools, brushes.

S.L. Bedson

70.

J.M. 13/6/85

Col. Deacon

Baroness is to be here tomorrow morning and I understand is to go through to Fort Pitt. Please take charge of message to S.L. Bedson & oblige etc.



J.J. Hall

71.

Battleford  
13/6/85

Lieut. Col. Deacon

Leave here tonight in Baroness for your camp. Will reach there tomorrow morning to load supplies for the front. Would like strong fatigue party to assist.

Secreton

72.

3 p.m. 13th

Lieut. Col. Deacon  
Tel. Coulee

Bring your two companies here in the Baroness. If she has left come in the next steamer.

Fred Middleton  
Genl. Commanding

73.

Clark's Crossing  
13

Col. Deacon

Please leave my coat which I left in front of your tent with the tel. clerk, am still on hunt for [Poney].

M.W. Kirwan.

74.

Military Hospital  
Saskatoon  
May 19th, 1885

Col. Deacon  
Clark's Crossing

Dear Sir,

The two tents for which I gave receipts today and which you had placed on the river bank, were taken on board another scow after you left, and are now probably at Clark's Crossing. Will you kindly place them in charge of the Supply Officer there to be returned by first team coming this way.

Yours truly,  
J.H. Cwilloughby  
Asst. Purveyor

75.

[chart indicating military situation at Clark's Crossing, 20th May 1885]

Midland detachment "G" Company: 7 field officers, 6 captains, 9 subalterns, 23 sergeants, 13 buglers, 199 privates (4 sick from hospital attached)

Midland detachment "H" Company: 2 field officers, 2 captains, 3 subalterns, 7 sergeants, 2 buglers, 75 privates (1 sick from hospital attached); 3 men of "H." in hospital, 2 absent on command

7 a.m. Monday 11th May Saskatchewan ferry, arrived at Clark's Crossing  
8 pm Tuesday 19th May via barges

76.

[left margin of letter has been destroyed]

[written on back of previous chart]

Clark's Crossing  
21 May 1885

To the officer in charge the Adjutant General's Department with Major General Middleton's Field Force

Sir,

In compliance with orders from Major General Laurie a copy of which is hereto attached I have the honor to report for the information of the Major General Commanding that the troops marginally noted and shown in detail in [---] [---] were embarked under the [---] and orders of Major General Laurie at the Saskatchewan Ferry at 8 am on Monday the 11th inst. arriving here on Tuesday the 19th Wednesday the 20th. During the run down [---] of the officer in charge of barges deemed it expedient for the safety of these men to place on the beach half of the stores [---] [---] with which these barges are laden while some threw it overboard. In reference to this material I beg to say that the barge

which made the trip was subjected to the same [---] influences as the other heavily laden with the pumps going day and night and yet we did not lose a pound of the rations [---] or ammunition placed in our charge. A barge in charge of

[next section of letter illegible]

this could have been done to the other barges which discharged their stores the previous day but I found it impossible to get the barges to the side of the river, the officer in charge stating that they had misunderstood the bugle sound.

I have obtained from each officer in charge a detailed statement and report of each day's progress which reports I shall subsequently forward to the Major General as they may be of some use for future reference. Having heard that some Indian [---] had been [---] on the way down, I gave orders peremptorily forbidding this practice. Arriving at Saskatoon on the 19th I made a temporary halt to get the barges together. During this halt I visited the hospital and found everything very well arranged. The wards were models of neatness, the men wonderfully cheerful, proud of their General and officers under his command. On arrival here I sent to the P.M.O. at Saskatoon every article of spare camp equipment I could spare including material for a large marquee a course which has met with the thank of Dr. Roddick and which I trust will meet with the Major General's approval as it must add materially to the comfort and convenience of the sick. The rain since coming in to camp has been almost incessant and heavy. Feeling that the oats would take more damage in the barges I have had them taken out and piled on the beach protecting them in the best possible manner. I have handed all the men's rations entrusted to my charge over to the supply officer here and continue now to add a daily ration for the men. I have also kept 12 head of cattle for slaughter in order to have an issue of fresh meat.

The wire being down I have not been enabled to communicate with General Laurie and send this by special messenger hoping to receive orders as to the future movements of the troops now here.

Having had many years experience of soldier in the Field Camp [---] Quarters in all parts of the world I speak from experience and am happy to say that I never saw more cheerfulness and obedience as shown by the men under very arduous and trying circumstances - 14 hours daily either as the [scouts] or naked in the water pulling and hauling the heavily laden barges off shoals and sandbars. In some cases the men were [---] for hours naked in the water. All this was done well from a willingness and cheerfulness as it was represented to us by General Laurie. Half the stores entrusted to our charge were [---] required by the Major Force Commanding.

May I request you will kindly send me the orders of the Major General

at your earliest convenience. I have the honor etc.

77.

Brigade Office  
Swift Current  
9 May 1885

Extract from Brigade morning orders of the above date

No.4

Referring to No. 3 Brigade orders of yesterday's date the 7 Fusiliers on arrival at Saskatchewan Crossing the Headquarters and 3 Companies will embark in Mr. Boyd's barges for conveyance to Clark's Crossing. Two Companies and Major Smith will remain on duty at the landing until further orders. The detachment Midland Batt. under Lieut. Col. Deacon will also embark on board the barges for Clark's Crossing, the senior officer assuming charge of the whole force embarked, and the men will be distributed under arrangement with Mr. Boyd, but will proceed with the utmost expedition to their destination and on arrival the Commanding Office will report to the Major General Commanding.

By order  
William Hudson  
Capt.  
Staff Adjutant

To:  
The Office Commanding at Saskatchewan Landing

78.

[Loose in back of book]

Brigade Office  
Moose Jaw  
24 May 1885

Sir,

I have been directed by the Major Genl. Commanding the base and hence of communication to hand you the enclosed No.1 report of N.C. officers and men who have been sent forward in charge of supplies to join their respective regiments.

I have the honor to be, Sir, Your Obt. Servant,  
William Hudson  
Captain  
Staff Adjutant

To:

The Officer Commanding at Clark's Crossing