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Gen. Joseph E. Johnston to Kinloch Falconer (21 October 1867)

Joseph E. Johnston

Kinloch Falconer

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Abrigdon Va

Oct 21st 1867

My dear Major,

On the army return of July 10th, in the Column of remarks, opposite Hardee's corps, is written in pencil: 107 officers & 2052 men, Prisoners of war, are reported among the absent without leave. In the same column, opposite Hood's corps, - 238 officers & 4597 men, Prisoners of war, are reported among the absent without ^{leave}. Below this you wrote, last winter, when this return was in your possession: "The officers & soldiers reported 'absent without leave,' & who are 'Prisoners of war,' include all captured in the army in all previous engagements, & some of whom have hitherto been incorrectly reported as 'Absent with leave,' or 'Absent.'"

Am I not right in believing that there is no evidence that any of the Prisoners of

were referred to were captured during that campaign? I have no recollection of any report to that effect. & the fact that no such remark is opposite Polk's corps on that return, is some evidence. It proves that no prisoners of war had been reported in Mississippi, absent without leave, or by the same troops, after joining us.

Am I not right in the idea that the "remarks" referred to were made in obedience to orders from your office?

You know that Genl Hood charges me with having, in my report, suppressed the loss of 7000 prisoners of war, doubtless getting the idea from these "remarks". I want to disprove that charge, & therefore beg you to write for me the "remarks" for each corps, on July 10th, & your note below them, given on the preceding page;

& if I am right in those two opinions,
add that there is no evidence that any
of those prisoners were captured that
campaign. Even reason to suppose that
none of them were.

Being compelled to leave the rail
road company to which I belonged about
the end of September, & having no other
means of support there, I was also compelled
to leave Alabama - to my deep regret.
Alabama & Mississippi contain nine tenths
of my friends. I was therefore anxious, ^{since}
^{the} war ended, to pass my remaining days
in that region. In leaving it, I feel like
an exile - even here, where my boyhood
was passed.

I heard in Selma that you have
removed to Holly Springs; & therefore shall

send this to Gen^l Peabody, to whom I am
also writing this morning.

Please give my respectful regards to
your mother.

Yours very truly
J. E. Johnston

Major Kenrick Falconer.