

H<sup>d</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> Army N Va  
16<sup>th</sup> Aug: 1864

General Braxton Bragg  
Comd<sup>r</sup> Armies C.S.  
Richmond,  
General,

I have the honor to enclose a copy of an extract from a letter received by me from Gen Echols Comd<sup>r</sup> Dept E Tennessee<sup>1540 Va</sup> to which I invite your attention in connection with my letter of this date on the subject of conscription.

I beg that you will cause steps to be taken without delay to reform the conscript service in the district referred to, and to have the law more energetically enforced. I think this is one of the cases in which the importance of putting officers not natives of the country in charge of the work, and confining them to the single duty of sending men to the field, is most apparent. I call your attention to my remarks on the inexpediency of combining the duties of conscription with those of detail and exemption.

Very respectfully  
Your ob<sup>t</sup> serv<sup>t</sup>

R E Lee  
Gen<sup>l</sup>

H<sup>d</sup> Q<sup>rs</sup> Army N Va  
16<sup>th</sup> Aug: 1864

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Comd<sup>r</sup> Armies C.S.  
Richmond,  
General,

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to enclose a copy of an extract from a letter received by me from Gen Echols comd<sup>r</sup> Dept & S W Va E Tennessee ^ to which I invite your attention in connection with my letter of this date on the subject of conscription.

I beg that you will cause steps to be taken without delay to reform the conscript service in the district referred to, and to have the law more energetically enforced. I think this is one of the cases in which the importance of putting officers not natives of the country in charge of the work, and confirming them to the single duty of sending men to the field, is most apparent. I call your attention to my remarks on the inexpediency of combining the duties of conscription with those of detail and exemption.

Very respectfully  
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R E Lee  
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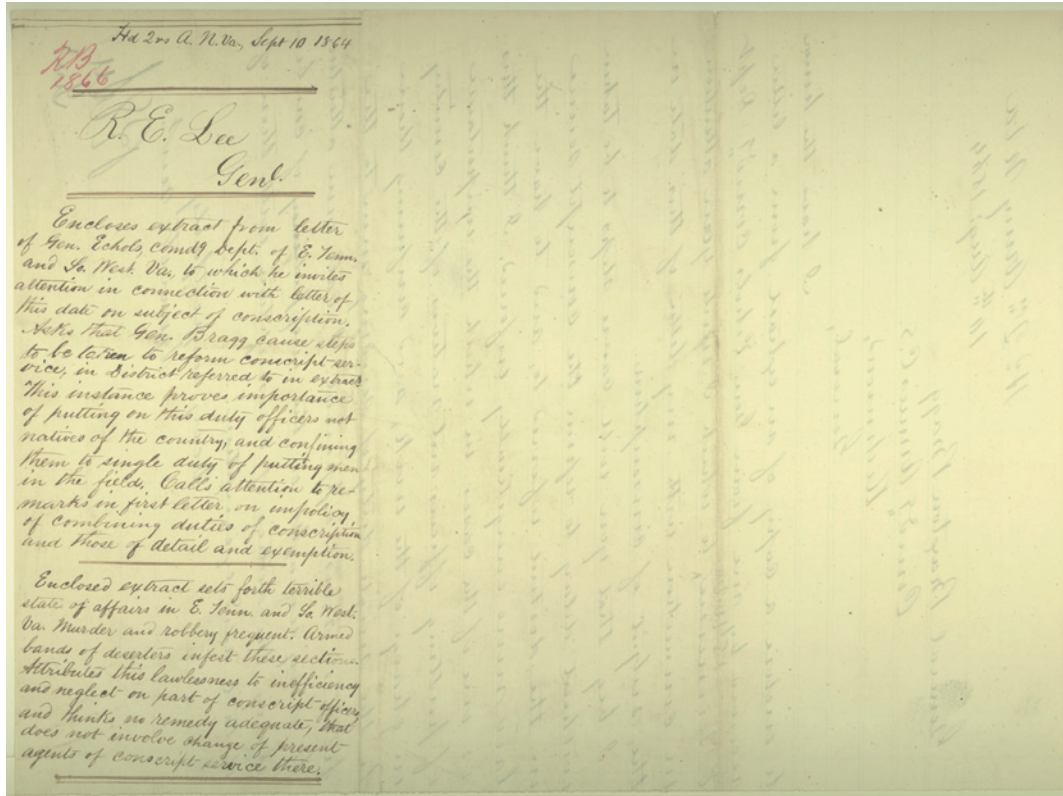
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Date: Aug. 16, 1864  
Description: Letter from Robert E. Lee to Gen. Braxton Bragg

Hd Qrs A. N. Va., Sept 10 1864

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R. E. Lee  
Genl.

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Encloses extract from letter of Gen. Echols, comd<sup>g</sup> dept. of E. Tenn. and So. West Va. to which he invites attention in connection with letter of this date on subject of conscription. Asks that Gen. Bragg cause steps to be taken to reform conscript-service, in District referred to in extract. This instance proves importance of putting on this duty officers not natives of the country, and confining them to single duty of putting men in the field. Calls attention to remarks in first letter on impolicy of combining duties of conscription and those of detail and exemption.

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Enclosed extract sets forth terrible state of affairs in E. Tenn. and So. West. Va. Murder and robbery frequent. Armed bands of deserters infest these sections. Attributes this lawlessness to inefficiency and neglect on part of conscript officers and thinks no remedy adequate, that does not involve change of present agents of conscript service there.

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