



H^dQrs. A. N. V.
10th April 1865

General Orders }
No 9 }

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed courage & fortitude, the Army of Northern Va. has been compelled to yield to overwhelming numbers & resources. I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard fought battles, who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consulted to this result from no distrust of them; but feeling that valor and devotion could accomplish nothing that would compensate for the loss that must have attended the continuance of the contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose services have so endeared them to their countrymen. By the terms of the agreement, Officers & men can return to their homes until exchanged. You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from the consciousness of duty faithfully performed; & I earnestly pray that a merciful God, will return to you his blessing & protection. With an increasing admiration of your constancy & devotion to your country, & a grateful remembrance of yr kind & generous consideration of myself, I bid you all affectionate farewell.

RELee
Genl

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Description: Robert E. Lee surrender general order No. 9