

History 225

Source: Davis, Jeff Davis

Re: Jeff Davis' plans after the fall of Richmond.

After the CSA capitol fell, Davis and the remnant govt. left on a train. Davis began to imagine the new kind of large scale partisan warfare that the Confederacy should ready itself for. He expected that the Con. army would break into guerrilla bands and pester the occupying Yankees until they left the South alone!

Davis imagined that these armies of partisans would take the war into the Appalachian mountains and would enjoy the support of the people. It was all a pipedream. It was in the mountains that the CSA had the weakest support. It was among the plain folks and non-slaveholders of these upcountry regions that were opposed to the war and in some cases were militantly opposed. Moreover, there was no prospect of the Appalachian mountains providing enough food for CSA partisans.

After word came in April of Lee's surrender, Davis still wanted to continue the war. His plans were to salvage Johnson's Army of Tennessee and combine it w/ Taylor's in Alabama and somehow get across the Mississippi into trans-Mississippi Louisiana. This would give the rump CSA an army of 100,000.

General Joe Johnston would have none of Davis' bitter-ender plans of continuing the war. He notified his generals (not bothered w/ Davis) that he would get terms from Sherman. He would release his cavalry to help get Davis out of the country. But he would not ask any more from the Army of Tennessee.

While all around him in his entourage were frank with him that the cause was lost; the war was over, Davis still determined to resist somehow. He was determined to get to Alabama and rally General Taylor's army (which had already surrendered). And Kirby Smith's army had no fight in it. Smith would surrender his army in New Orleans on May 26th.

It all ended for Davis in late May when Union cavalry caught up with his train Irwinville, Ga.