

General Order No. 9
Appomattox, 10 April 1865.
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Hd Qrs Army of N^o. V^a
10th April 1865

General Orders }
No. 9

After four years of arduous service marked by unsurpassed
Courage and fortitude the Army of Northern Virginia, has been compelled to yield to
overwhelming numbers and resources.

I need not tell the brave survivors of so many hard fought
battles who have remained steadfast to the last, that I have consented to this result
from no distrust of them; but feeling that valour and devotion could accomplish nothing
that would compensate for the loss that would have attended the continuance of the
contest, I determined to avoid the useless sacrifice of those whose past services have
endeared them to their Country men.

By the terms of the Agreement Officers and men can
return to their homes and remain there until exchanged.

You will take with you the satisfaction that proceeds from
the consciousness of duty faithfully performed, and I earnestly pray that a Merciful God
will extend to you his blessing and protection.

With an increasing admiration of your constancy and
devotion to your Country and a grateful remembrance of your kind and generous
consideration for myself I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

R E Lee
Genl
