

Surrender Correspondence at Ft. Donelson (Grant/Buckner)

Correspondence Between Ulysses S. Grant and Simon B. Buckner  
Discussing Surrender Terms at Ft. Donelson

HEADQUARTERS, Fort Donelson  
February 16, 1862.

Brig. Gen. U.S. GRANT,  
Commanding U.S. Forces near Fort Donelson.

SIR: In consideration of all the circumstances governing the present situation of affairs at this station I propose to the commanding officers of the Federal forces the appointment of commissioners to agree upon terms of capitulation of the forces and post under my command, and in that view suggest an armistice until 12 o'clock to-day.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
S. B. BUCKNER,  
Brigadier-General, C. S. Army.

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HEADQUARTERS, Fort Donelson  
February 16, 1862

Major Cosby will take or send by an officer to the nearest picket of the enemy the accompanying communication to General Grant, and request information of the point where future communications will reach him. Also inform him that my headquarters will be for the present in Dover.

S. B. BUCKNER,  
Brigadier. General.

Have the white flag hoisted on Fort Donelson, not on the batteries.

S. B. BUCKNER,  
Brigadier-General.

HEADQUARTERS ARMY IN THE FIELD

Camp near Fort Donelson

February 16, 1862.

General S. B. BUCKNER,  
Confederate Army.

SIR: Yours of this date, proposing armistice and appointment of commissioners to settle terms of capitulation, is just received. No terms except unconditional and immediate surrender can be accepted. I propose to move immediately upon your works.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

U.S. GRANT,  
Brigadier-General, Commanding.

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HEADQUARTERS,  
Dover, Tenn.  
February 16, 1862.

Brig. Gen. U.S. GRANT, U.S. A.

SIR: The distribution of the forces under my command incident to an unexpected change of commanders and the overwhelming force under your command compel me, notwithstanding the brilliant success of the Confederate arms yesterday, to accept the ungenerous and unchivalrous terms which you propose.

I am, sir, your very obedient servant,  
S. B. BUCKNER,  
Brigadier. General, C. S. Army.