

July 17
[copy] Enemys movements had given the Country such an Alarm that the few militia in our interest were tardy in turning out. I left the Army on the March for the Congaree and went ahead with the Cavalry to Collect our force to the best point for operating; We got intelligence by an intercepted letter that Col^l Stewart with a reinforcement of 400 or 500 Men was convoying a quantity of Provision & Stores from Charles Town up to Lord Rawdon. We made a rapid March with the whole of our Cavalry, and a body of mounted Militia under Marian to intercept them; but unfortunately we were too late: However Col^l Horrey took 3 of their Waggon's loaded with a variety of Stores—

On the arrival of the Enemy on the Congaree we drew our force together at Beaver Creek, Gen^l Pickens was detached towards 96 to watch the motions of the Enemy in that quarter—With the rest of our force being joined by Gen^ls Sumter and Marian with about 1000 Men composed of State Troops and Militia, We began our march on the 11th to attack the Enemy at Orangeburg. We arrived before the Town on the 12th but found them so strong and advantageously Posted that we had little hopes of succeeding, as our Cavalry from the nature of the Ground could not act to Advantage, nor could we have improved a defeat as the Enemy had a safe retreat over the Edisto river and the only pass defended by a large British Goal equal to any Common redoubt, in which & several other buildings they were posted; Could we have got them out into the open Country we could have cut them to pieces in a few minutes; but secured as they were on one side by an impassable River, and covered on the other by the buildings, little was to be expected from our Attack. In this Situation we got intelligence of the evacuation of 96 & that Col^l Cruger with the forces with him on their March in the forks of the Edisto for Orangeburg. There was no possibility of striking at him as the North Branch of the Edisto which lay between Us had no other pass for 30 Miles, either above or below—then that what the Enemy occupied. As the evacuation of 96 was one great motive of our manouvre, and as the Enemy were driven from the Congaree we thought it most likely by attacking their lower posts, at Monks Corner, & Dorchester (which are nothing but Churches occupied) we should prevent their return to the Congaree and oblige them to retire into the lower Country, for the Protection of those Posts. Gen^ls Sumpter & Marian with the Legion Cavalry were detached upon this Service and began their March from the Neighbourhood of Orangeburg on the 13th at which time we began our March for this place to refresh the Army & form a Junction with Gen^l Sumner and a body of Militia expected from Salisbury district. The day after we left Orangeburg the Enemy formed their junction & had not made any movements the day before yesterday.