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GREENVILLE, S. C.

6.  
August 26, 1918

Construction Division,  
Quartermaster General, U. S. Army,  
7th and B. Sts.,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sirs:

Attention Major Gibbes.  
Subject: Additional Land at Camp Sevier.

Following my conversation with you and Captain F. B. Smith in Washington on Saturday morning I beg leave to advise you that in the limited time I have had today I have ascertained the following facts:

There was obtainable here a plat showing most of the contour lines on the tract west of the road leading from the Base Hospital to the Bankhead Highway. I got an engineer to go out and sketch in the remainder of the contours and herewith enclose copy. This land is dry and rolling. The most of it is in cultivation, cotton and corn. I am satisfied that it can be obtained for use of the government at an average price of \$10 per acre, plus damages to the land, crops and buildings. I am reasonably confident that the Chamber of Commerce of Greenville can obtain all of the land indicated on the blue print in red pencil by Captain Smith, which blue print is also enclosed.

We will obtain the options to rent these lands, in writing, at the earliest possible moment. It may take several days but you may take my assurance for it that if the government wishes this land we will obtain it and the exact figures will follow this letter tomorrow or next day.

On the south side of the Bankhead Highway and the Southern Railway we can obtain for you adjoining the present military reservation one tract of land of 65 acres. The owner assures me that he will take any fair price for this and I know him to be so reasonable that we can confidently say \$10 or less per acre for this. This would give a frontage along the railway track on the south side from Paris Station to where the Bankhead Highway crosses Southern Railway track on an overhead bridge. The frontage on the north side would about equal the frontage on the south side, that on the south side would be a shallower area and embrace about 40% of the acreage of the tract proposed to be acquired on the north side.

In reference to the suggestion from Captain Smith that Mr. Henry E. Knox, Jr., had promised a report to your office on the subject of the water facilities at Camp Sevier. Mr. Knox says he sent in a report to Major Cooper, Camp Quartermaster here, August 19th, and at my request gave me a copy which is enclosed. Since that date the following gentlemen from the office of the Secretary of War called on Mr. Knox and went over

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#2. Construction Division, Q. M. G., U. S. A., Washington, D. C.

all of the drawings and received from him a report: Prof. David E. Jackson, professor of chemistry, Columbia University, and expert of the New York City water supply; and Mr. E. F. Johnson. They approved Mr. Knox's plans and stated that the supply of water would be under these conditions entirely adequate and satisfactory. I might add that the water commission is pushing with all possible speed the completion of this auxiliary plant.

I will advise you further the details of the cost of the land and would be glad to have you call on me for any further information you may desire in connection with this subject.

Yours truly,

*W. J. Irvine*

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