Head quarters Army of Va.
April 10th, 1865.

Genl. Orders 3.

No. 9.

The 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
had not till the brave survivors of so many hard
fought battles who have remained steadfast to
the last that I have consented to this result
through no fault of them. But feeling that
Valor and devotion could accomplish nothing
that would compensate for the loss which
must have attended the continuance of the
contest, I determined to avoid the useless
sacrifice of those whose past services have
endured them to their countrymen. Of the
terms of the agreement, officers and men can
return to their homes and remain until exchanged.
You will take with you the satisfaction
that proceeds from the consciousness of duty
faithfully performed. I earnestly pray that
a Merciful God will extend to you his blessing
and protection.

With an unceasing admiration of your constant
cy and devotion to your country and grateful remembrance of your kind and generous consideration for myself I bid you all an affectionate farewell.

(Signed) P & Lic

General

Offic...
Head quarters A. W.
10th April 1865

Gentlemen

No. 9

General Lee

Farewell to his Army