War Department, Signal Bureau,

Richmond, Va., May 17, 1864.

The following dispatch was received at this office by telegraph from Milford Depot from an agent of the Secret Service:

Milford, May 17, 1864.

Maj. William Norris:

A special messenger left Washington yesterday for General Grant's headquarters, with instructions to him to hold his present positions at all costs, and he should be re-enforced by 60,000 men immediately. The plan is to call out the militia to do garrison duty all over the North and send the volunteers to the army. If time is allowed them this will be done.

Thos N Conrad
Agent sent by General Bragg

Respectfully forwarded to His Excellency the President for his information.

For and in absence of Capt William N Barker, in charge, &c.:

J Thompson Quarles,
Acting Signal Officer and Adjutant

The War of the Rebellion
Official Records
Series I
Volume LI
Part II
Page 941