



This illustration of Colonel Baker, planning the capture of John Wilkes Booth, is based on a photo by Alexander Gardner. Included in the *Harper's Weekly* issue of May 13, 1865, the drawing conveys the government's intense effort to find Booth.

Weekly, we see the following description:

...represents Colonel BAKER giving orders to Colonel CONGER and Lieutenant BAKER in relation to the pursuit of BOOTH. He has the map of Eastern Virginia before him, and is pointing out the probable route taken by the assassins.

Pointing with a pencil to Port Royal he said: "You will find BOOTH within five miles of this place. I will give you twenty-five cavalry and a boat to land you at or near Belle Plain. If you find no wharf, throw your horses overboard and swim them ashore.

You must not lose a moment. The cavalry will be under yours and Lieutenant BAKER'S entire control and dictation. Don't shoot BOOTH, but take him, alive."

In the illustration, Colonel Baker is in the middle, flanked by Lt. Baker (his cousin) on the left and Colonel Conger (on the right).

Click on the image for a greatly enlarged view. Credits:

Image online, courtesy Library of Congress.

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