


131.  
Camp Morile June 15<sup>th</sup> 1861

His Excellency Gov. of Maine  
Sir:

1<sup>st</sup> As to the knapsacks.

(a) The shape of them is not such that they can be packed in shape to carry - they sag, and compress the chest. They do not shed the water, and I could not easily arrange them so that the men could carry them without extreme fatigue; Again my men feel a little mortified that the Ohio & Massachusetts troops have such good looking knapsacks, while theirs rather disfigure them -

(b) I would recommend what is called the "box knapsack" (covered with enamel cloth)  - The straps start from the middle at top & end at the corners at bottom - The top roll is for the blanket - If you could get one from Boston for a pattern it would be well. I really think it would increase the appearance of our troops to have new knapsacks - one company has begged me to let them purchase, & I think I shall if you think the State had better not make the change; I am having lists prepared of deficiencies in every department. You must send us an apt. Surgeon. Please make the selection with reference to medical qualities & good personal habits.



Our field & Staff are therefore sober, industrious  
& efficient men and I wish to preserve the  
prestige we now have, Dr Palmer must  
be the Surgeon - We can't have a better.

Let us have five good female nurses. They  
will be paid without doubt - sooner or later.

I am going to have an election in the two  
Companies of officers to fill the places of Gr-  
Master & Adjutant. We cannot get on without  
them & I think you had better send a commission  
to Joseph S. Smith of Balth as Lieutenant &  
Commissary. I have made him acting  
Commissary - If you will give him a commission  
to the effect I name I will see that his  
Appointment is confirmed as Commissary -

20 horses with harnesses, we can take good  
care of, and with the few wagons to be obtained  
here our transportation would be complete.

Very Respectfully  
Yours Obdt.

O. O. Howard

Col. Comdg.



P.S. The men from Mintoof bring me  
letters to show that the Mintoof people who  
by vote agreed to see that their families did  
not suffer will now afford them no  
assistance - What can I do?

Please have the 3 Morning report Books  
left behind sent in & the 8 descriptive  
Books & 5 Comp Order Books.

Very truly  
yours  
J. D. H.



Col. O. O. Howard  
Washington  
June 15