

Wt. Quarters 8th Brigade
August 18th 1861

To The Hon. Israel Washburn
Governor of Maine

Sir

I have received your letter with regard to enlistment in the 8th Regiment and have ascertained the number of men wanting to fill up each company as shown in the accompanying list. I have also received the communication of Colonel Wildes with regard to Captain Savage. I recommended his immediate discharge to Head Quarters, but have not yet received a reply from thence with regard to him. Can ^{not} the Governor withdraw his Commission for the following reasons.

1. That his company needs a Captain with it. Lieut Stearns is an excellent officer, but he has been afflicted with lameness and he does not think it right to do the duty of Captain through the Campaign & receive only the pay & emoluments of a Lieutenant.
2. If Capt Savage is still sick what guarantee has his Company or the Government that he will ever resume his duties. If he was in the Army for life a furlough of several months would not be minded in time of peace; but in time of war every man is needed & in his place.
3. His conduct with regard to bounties does not seem to be strictly honorable. At any rate he has withheld from three poor boys a bounty they were entitled to & only at last paid John Tautish his on solicitation.
4. When with the Company he was as I have already mentioned, inefficient. I would respectfully recommend, at least, that the Governor ask his discharge of the War Department that his place may be filled.

(over)

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I also send you a list of deserters with their places of residence.

We have been neglected by the Government with regard to supplies. Every thing is now reported to be in Washington ready for us, but I assure you, I have been soundly abused for this delay of a month, in providing shoes & clothes. but My dear Sir I have made every possible exertion to hasten the supply. I read your appropriate letter to the signer of a request for discharge. That with the sending of the men from the 2nd Regt. to Portugal I think has had a wonderful effect upon our troops. The 3rd Regt. has a great number sick. Exposure, change of climate & diseases previously contracted are among the causes. I visited each kitchen tent this morning and found with but one exception that the food was good. We shall see brighter days before long.

I wish to defend myself against some charges that the present state of our men have necessarily evolved.

First with regard to "Bull Run". I did not move my Brigade 7 miles at double quick. The double quick appertained to the rear of the column and was occasioned by opening out & straggling. The 4th Regt. lead & they do not complain of double quick.

When we did move at double quick the order was imperative to me to do so. Even then I saw it could not be done & stopped it before we had moved a half mile.

Second With regard to supplies the fault if there is one, lies with the contractors not with the officers in the field.

Third. Again the other day Wagon were sent & Genl Hearn & myself were ordered to move the same day. Genl

Hearny first. He used the wagons for two days. & they
came to us at 1 1/2 P.M. of the second day, also order
by telegraph to move at once. The 3^d Regiment & the
5th had a bad time. but if the men had been
in good spirits they would not have minded a
night march of 3 miles; but as it was the
night & the long previous waiting created a good
deal of feeling. I have to shoulder these things,
but I do not mind it provided the idea does not
obtain with you that I am inefficient, or
careless. You doubtless know that the honor &
welfare of our troops is nearest my heart; and
that I am jealous for the reputation of my
beloved State. I hear today that Major Primer does
not visit the position of Brigadier General of Volunteers
and am now hoping that I may be appointed to
that honorable position. I have just reorganized
my staff for the 8th Brigade, and for the
sake of the officers chosen on it & to prevent the
feeling that I have been degraded for some fault
I hope I may have the position. Mr Bent ^{will} ~~has~~
returned to the Regiment in the capacity of
Captain of Comp 10th.

I am glad to see that you are re-nominated for
Governor and am sorry to hear that secession
sentiments are uttered in Maine. I had a Sergeant
reduced to ranks for uttering just such thoughts
as those reported of our branch of the Draw. Conve-
tion at Augusta. The more I think of the
conduct of our troops at Bull Run, the more
am I convinced of their real efficiency. They
stood fire as well as regulars till the word for
retiring was given. With a battery ^{of the enemy} on either flank
& nearby & a sharp encounter of musketry from
the front, it is wonderful that we stayed where we did

so long. I think the 2nd Maine deserves all the praise
it has gotten for good conduct. (I mean from
responsible sources). but our portion of Maine
men deserve equal credit. Our March ^{was twice} ~~there~~
times as long & rapid. I say this because some
are discontented because they are not noticed.

You must excuse my large sheet as
I have no other just now. Commence me
to my friends

Very Respectfully

O. O. Howard

Col. Comdr. 8th Brigade

Col. Howard

Aug. 18

Head Quarters 8th Brigade
3 Reg^t Maine Vols.

Col. O. O. Howard Col. 3 Reg^t Me Vols
J. H. Tucker Lt Col " " "
H. L. Staples Major " " "

Comp "A."

Reuben Sawyer	Captain	} wanting 25 privates
John S. Wiggins	1 st Lieut	
George W. Harvey	2 ^d Lieut	

Comp "B."

E. A. Bachelder	Captain	} 30 "
A. B. Hall	1 st Lieut	
E. P. Donnel	2 ^d "	

Comp "C."

William E. Jarvis	Captain	} 25 "
James M. Colson	1 st Lieut	
Geo. E. Andrews	2 ^d "	

Comp "D."

Chas A. S. Sampson	Capt	} 35 "
William Watton	1 st Lieut	
James H. Tallman	2 ^d " (proposed)	

Comp "E."

Gorham S. Johnson	Captain (proposed)	} 30 "
J. Perry Lee	1 st Lieut (")	
George C. Hatchett	2 ^d " (")	

Comp "F."

E. H. Savage	Capt (absent)	} 30 "
R. B. Stearns	1 st Lieut	
J. Jefferson Savage	2 ^d " (proposed)	

Comp "G."

F. S. Hazeltine Capt

W. Hanscom 1st Lieut

F. H. Hatch 2^d "

wanting
35 privates

Comp "H."

William S. Heath Capt

Frank Heath 1st Lieut

Day 2^d Lieut

50 "

Comp "I."

Moses B. Lakeman Capt

Joseph S. Smith 2^d Lieut

35 "

Comp "K."

Edwin Burt Captain (proposed)

William H. Owen 1st Lieut (")

William Elder 2^d Lieut

45 "

Total privates wanted 340.

Account for
30th Regiment