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Camp of 5th Maine Regiment,
Near Alexandria Va. Aug. 15th 1861.

To his Excellency, Gov. Washburn:

Dear Sir:

It is with the deepest regret that we, the undersigned, are under the necessity of laying before you the condition of the soldiers under our command, and the manner in which they have been neglected since the recent engagement at Bull Run; but our duty to them will not permit us longer to remain silent. A few days before the battle of Bull Run, the knapsacks, containing all everything belonging to the soldiers except what they wore upon their backs, were sent to Fairfax C. H., and on our retreat fell into the hands of the rebels. Most of our camp and cooking utensils shared the same fate. Requisitions were in due time made for such articles as were wanting, but week after week has passed, and we have received nothing except a partial supply of camp and cooking utensils, and blankets.

Compiling R.
Commanding Co. A

In consequence of this neglect the soldiers have been several weeks with no change of shirts or stockings, and many are now without either one or the other, or both. Many are also without coats, having rolled them up in their blankets on their march to the battle field, which they were ordered to throw aside before going into action, and consequently were lost. We have been promised from day to day that these wants should be supplied, but have waited until forbearance ceases to be a virtue. You can imagine what must be the condition of our soldiers, with no change of shirts or stockings, many of them with none at all, some even without coats, and with not a half supply of camp and cooking utensils and dishes to eat from. We have the material for an excellent Regt., as good as has left the State of Maine, or any other State, but if the men are used hereafter as they have been used heretofore, the work of demoralization already begun will go on, until the Regt. will become unfit for service. Having exhausted

all our patience in awaiting some
action in regard to the matter by the
authorities here, we humbly pray your
Excellency to see that those brave hearted,
patriotic men, who have ^{left} all the comforts
of home, and the society of families and
friends at the call of their country, to en-
gage in this glorious struggle in defense of
your Government, be treated as men, as
soldiers, and not as beasts.

Very Respectfully Your
most Obedt. Servts.

Lt. Col. E. Hsley Comd. S. R. & May S. C. Hammit

Lieut. H. T. Bucknam, Capt. C. Edwards

Lieut. Burbank Spiller Lieut. C. M. Munnell

Lieut. R. S. Barrows Commanding Co. C.

Lieut. R. C. F. Stevens " "

Lieut. Dan. Sanborn " "

Lieut. A. Scamman Capt. Company "H"

Lieut. B. Walker Lieut. "I"

Lieut. E. W. Thompson Capt. Company D.

Lieut. A. S. Daggett, Commanding Co. E.

Lieut. Nathan Walker Commanding Co. F.

George E. Alwood Lt. Comp. F.

Lieut. R. M. Stevens Commanding Co. B.

" Wm. C. Pillsbury Company B.

Henry R. Killett Commanding Co. A.