

Head Quarters 4th. Regt Maine Vols.
Camp at Courads Ferry, Md.
Oct. 9. 1862.

Dear Sir:

Your favor of the 30th. ulto. is just received. I have to say, in reply, that Isaac Prince was appointed Principal Musician of this Regiment before our left-Maine and was mustered into service as such. He has been included in every 'Monthly Return' and 'Musters Roll' sent from this office since that time.

He has been absent from the Regiment on account of sickness since May 19th. 1862, at which time he was left at Cumberland Landing. His name will be found among the list of "Absent Enlisted men, accounted for by name" in each of the several 'Monthly Returns' for the months of May, June, July, August and September. — I do not know his present whereabouts, but about a month ago he was said to be at the Camp for Convalescent Soldiers, near Alexandria.

I would be pleased to know to what "other inexcusable omissions" you refer — Our Returns have always received much praise at Brigade, Division and Corps Head Quarters for their uniformly neat appearance and correctness and I am sorry that you have found it necessary to criticize them in so strong language.

It would not be surprising if, at times, some slight errors were found which might perhaps be passed over or excused as during much of our 'life in the field' we have been deprived of access to our Regimental and Company books, records and papers.

At such times our Records have been kept in pencil and carried in the pockets and knapsacks of the officers. - Pocket memoranda have been ruined by fording streams to the armpits - Knapsacks have been left behind and burned, and it has often been a matter of much difficulty and labor to collect the information which we have been able to embody in our Returns.

Under these circumstances I think they have been all that could have been expected.

I am with respect

Your obedient servant

Elijah Walker Col.

Comd'g Hth. Main'g Co.

John S. Woodson, }
Adjutant General, }
Augusta, Maine. }