

109.

Front Royal Va, June 26 1862

Gov. Washburn

Dear Sir, I trust you will excuse me for writing on this subject if it is out of place or uncalled for. You are undoubtedly aware by this time that our Battalion; consisting of Co, A, E, M, B & H, are very much reduced in numbers, averaging about forty men per Company. Each company is called upon to do the same duty as when full, we are expected to penetrate the enemy country just as far as we can, on scouting expeditions; privates feel that their company is weak and likely to be cut off; & officers know it, however much they may try to conceal it. We are sadly in want of horses an account of the loss at Middletown, the deficiency has been partly supplied by the Refuge & broken down rips on the hands of the various companies; but they are too poor to pursue the enemy, & to work, to escape if pursued. It is suicidal to put good men into service on such horses

If you want your soldiers to be
brave, make them strong in numbers
and give them good horses.

Will not the depart-
ment let the State fill up her regiments
by new enlistments, especially those
that have been badly cut up there by
giving new courage & new hope to both
privates & officers. It is not the no. of
regiments or companies that makes an
army efficient; but the no. of men,
rank & file. I am satisfied from personal
observation that my State can do nothing
better for her regiments all ready in
the field, than to fill them up to
the maximum no. I trust you will excuse
this suggestion if they are impracticable.

Yours Respectfully

Lt. Q. A. Ellis

Co. E, 1st Mo Arty

P.S. Col. Dauty is very sick with fever
the health of this Batt. is full as good as
usual