

340.

Capt. Patch

Camp Franklin Va.

March 22. 1862.

Governor Washburn,

Dear Sir:-

I will now write you again-

When I left Augusta, I had

in my charge Detachments

for eight of ^{the} Maine Regiments

numbering about 130 men -

I handed over the men to

their respective Regiments

and arrived here somewhat

fatigued - I reported to

Col Jackson, and the first

question was, "where have

you been all this time since

you received your Commission?"

I replied that I was kept

back by the Governor to

obtain recruits, and by

Major Gardner for other

purposes - Col Jackson then

said that the Governor nor Maj
Gardner had no right to
keep me back, and he required
a written statement of facts
why I had not reported to
him before - assigned me
immediately to Company G.
and insisted that I should
go on duty that very night,
but at last excused me from
that - So cold a reception by
the Col was anything but
pleasant to me - I cannot get
my men together - not even
one of them has any position
except as a Private - There is
nothing arranged as Col Heath
agreed - in fact Col Jackson
told me that Col Heath said
that we must have been mis-
taken in the agreement -
I can now see that I
made a sad mistake in not

going into one of those Regiments
at Augusta - I have labored
hard for weeks and obtained
Recruits - spent quite a sum
of money and now find my-
self in a position that I little
expected - My men are dissatisfied
and I proposed to Cal Jackson
that if he would get my men
released from this Regiment
I would resign my commission
immediately - But he said it
could not be done -

Lieut Harris, comma-
nding the Company to which
I am assigned, is a great favorite
with Cal Jackson, as I am
informed - hence the Cal desires
that Harris should be Captain
of the Company as I am informed.
Hence if I should take command
of the Company, Harris would
not assist me as he otherwise

would - and having but little
practical military knowledge
I should need the assistance
of such an Officer if I were
in command of a Company
until I became accustomed
to the commands - hence
perhaps it will be better for
me to have a first Lieutenant
and Harris a Captaincy -

It is rather humiliating
to me, but under the circumstances
no doubt it is the best course
I can pursue at present - I
may resign and leave the
Regiment before long - I
am told that Lieut Harris
is a well drilled Officer, but
not very well liked by his
men -

I ask, as a great
favor, that you will not let
Col Jackson know that I
have written to you, as I do
not wish to incur his displeasure.

Your Most Obedient Servant
Capt Geo. W. Patch
Company G. 5th Me Regt.