

255.

Head Quarters 1st Maine Cavalry
Camp near Rappahannock Station Va
November 16th 1862.

To Your Excellency,
Hon. General Washburn
Sir

Having learned of an expedition being fitted out for Texas and to be under the command of Major General Banks I have caused a petition to be drawn up in behalf of the Regiment to join his command in that expedition, and that petition has been signed by every officer present with the regiment.

We are all very anxious to join his command and would very respectfully ask that you use your influence in our behalf - as it would go farther towards securing our anticipated position than any other favor that we might hope to receive.

The reason we have petitioned for this change is because our regiment is in a very bad condition - that we are not rendering any marked service, but are broken up into squads of from four to twelve men each and scattered throughout our army on the Potomac as "orderlies" and cattle drivers, and our companies are by these details - reduced to about twenty men each for duty. There are also five companies separated from us, and upon the same duty. Viz. - Co "G" is at the Head Quarters 1st Army Corps on Provost duty. Co "I" is at the same Hd Qrs as "Orderlies". Co's "H" & "K" are with General Porter's command - another Army Corps - as "orderlies" - they have been with the command since August last. Co "J" is with Gen Burnside's on the same duty. The remainder of this regiment which I now have

the honor to command remains with Gen Reynolds - And the 1st Army Corps as a reserve and are subject to frequent details by different commands. I cannot describe our position in a better way than by comparing it with some errand boy who is used by everyone, and for every purpose, and receives no reward for his services, except that once in a while his masters say to him - "Well - you have done that to suit me - now I wish you to do something else." - Our State receives no credit for our services - the regiment receives no credit for our services. If our friends at home did not receive intelligence concerning us through some letter from those among us - they would not know that the 1st Maine Cavalry was in existence. Its name is never mentioned in any official report - where it has a just claim in place of other regiments, nor are we accounted for - only as "orderlies."

I have thought - "what a misfortune it is, that we have smart, intelligent men, who fill our ranks, instead of those nothing Dutchmen - men of all nations and classes - some of whom cannot read or write, nor speak the English language so as to be understood as other cavalry regiments in the service have." - This "misfortune" is the cause of our disorganization. Our men make good 'orderlies' - they are smart, and intelligent - they are Maine men - they can read, and write - and they can act equal to any men in the service, and for these "misfortunes" our regiment is completely broken up.

My object in asking your assistance in the acceptance of our petition - is that the regiment may, once more, be brought together, so that it may be effective, as a regiment, and the best way, and the way that will be the most satisfactory to the officers and soldiers of this regt - in which we may be reunited is by joining Maj Gen Paul's command. He may then have an opportunity to act, and help sustain the good reputation of our State's troops, and to make a good 'mark' for ourselves as one of Maine's Regiments.

The petition was forwarded - yesterday - to Maj Gen Paule of Washington City.

Other advantages that we may be favored with - should we be fortunate in our design - may be understood by yourself without any unnecessary explanation from me - as you are somewhat acquainted with some of the affairs of this regiment. - Hoping that you will favor us with your just consideration

I remain

Very Respectfully

Your obdt Servant

C. S. Doucety

Lieut Col Comdg 1st Maine Cavalry.