

237.

Head 2nd 10th Maine Cavalry
Camp near White Oak Church Va.
December 21, 1862

Dear Governor

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 10th with duplicate of my commission, as also yours of the 12 inst, for which you will please accept my thanks. You suggest in one of your letters that such officers as are absent from the Regt., who ought to be with, ^{it} should be reported to the War Department. I would here say that some 2 weeks after reporting to Genl. Reynolds with the Regt. (who by the way is a regular army officer and a strict disciplinarian) required through his act A. A. G. that all officers of the Regiment who were absent from the same, and the order book did not show that they were regularly detached from it, should be reported absent without leave; and that if any or all of them could show that they were detached by competent authority, it would be all right with them. He also insisted that the order requiring the Regt. to report to him in Va. included all who were fit for duty, and released the Col from any further duties at Frederick Md.

upon referring to the order book, to my astonishment
could find no order detaching many of the officers then
absent, and I was compelled by force of circumstances
to report them absent without leave; not doubting for
a moment they could shew that they were detached
by competent authority. When I reported to Gen
Raynolds in Va. on the 5th of Nov. with nine companies
of the Regt., it was minus the Col., three Majors
Regimental Adjts & 2d Master, the rankin Captain
together with several other officers, leaving me very
destitute of aid, hence the strict inquiry of the Gen.

I write you the above particulars that you may
understand why, (as you undoubtedly know) that many
officers of the 1st Me Cavry have been reported absent
without leave.

In conclusion, I am happy to
say that I believe the Regt. to be in better
condition for service than any previous time
since we have been in Virginia, especially as regards
the sick, and we all dread winter quarters.

Yours Israel Washburn Jr
Governor of Maine

I am very Respectfully
Your Vt. Servt
C. A. Doughty