

This Excellency. — Colburn Gunn. Boat Louisville
Governor of Maine Agoo. River April
Augusta Me. 12th 1865

Sir

Having left the
H.Q. of my Regiment on or about the 17th of
February 1862. for the purpose of manning the West-
-ern Flotilla with the understanding from my
Commanding officer. Colonel. F. D. Staples. that I
was going on detached service that I would not
be absent from my Regiment for a longer period
than ninety days.

It been close on to one year
and 2 months since I left my Regiment and no
prospects of been discharged or recalled to the Regt.
I having not received what pay was coming to me
from the Regiment nor having not had any settle-
-ment of clothing money since I left the Regiment

Previous to the reduction of Fort
Callow our term of detached service expired
we, the Potomac men, when the ninety days been
up sent in a petition to Commodore Foot stating
in it that the time we came to the flotilla for

having expired we wished to be returned to the
Regiments each of us belonged to. and told him we
were willing to stop until Fort-Pillow was taken
after the reduction of Fort-Pillow we were going
to see the Commodore again. one of the men seen
by Captain Phelps then Fleet-Captain, who told
this man that we would not be returned to the
Regiments. that the Secretary of war and the
secretary of the Navy, had come to the conclusion
of discharging the Potomac men when we served
1 year in the Flotilla.

We having served a
year and reported my time to the officer in
command of this Boat. he said he could not
discharge me without authority from the
admiral and the Admiral will not send me
to my Regiment or give me any discharge without
authority from the secretary of the Navy.

When I joined the Flotilla I was led
to believe it was a branch of the Army and
under military rules and Regulations. On
the 1st of September it was turned over to

the Navy. and became and Arm. of the
Regular Naval service.

Now Sir I volunteered
my service and joined the 2nd August a Com-
pany in the 3rd Maine Regiment. after having
served close on to two years. I don't think it is
right or just that I should be pressed into
the Regular service against my will me being
a volunteer.

The majority of the Potomac
men has refused to do duty any longer in the
Flotilla. They are all in double irons and are
going to be court-martialed. I thought I
would not following their example. but
would write to you sir and state the case
to you. there been only 4 members of maine Regim^t
left in the Flotilla. and they say they would
rather almost be in state prison as to serve
another year in the Flotilla.

Hoping you will forgive
the liberty I take in addressing you sir and
trusting you will send an answer. I sign
your humble servant, ^{myself} William Swift
On Board gun Boat. Company B. 3rd Maine
Louisville. Regiment.

Gun Boat, Louisville & Ohio River

Apr. 12, 1863.

Swift, W.

Complains that he is kept in Gun Boat
over his time of detail —

Write Swift. "1" 3rd me
at
Apr. 12. 63.
Complains that he is kept in Gun
Boat over his time of detail.
"Write him that there is no
use for Solomon's letter as matter"