

answer

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Head Quarters 20th Maine Vol.
Camp at Rappahannock Station Va.
Dec 14, 1863.

Brig. Genl. John L. Hodgeson
Adj. Genl. State of Maine.
General.

The commission of John M. Sherwood issued by the Governor in Sept. or October, was returned at request of his Excellency on account of error in name. Lieut Sherwood was mustered on the commission with the name changed. It is very desirable that another copy be granted him, in the place of that returned.

I beg leave also to ask that some action be taken that this regiment may be filled this winter or next spring. This regiment alone of the four (16th 17th 19th 20th) whose term of service is now nearly two years more, has received no conscripts. Its numbers as will be observed by our reports are seriously diminished. The whole number present

is three hundred and forty seven (347) If the draft should be postponed in Maine beyond the 5th of Jan. the interests of the regiment and a fair distribution of the men, would seem to demand that we be permitted to send home officers & men to recruit, which I suppose could be effected by some representation of this ^{matter} to the War Dept. by the State Government. This has been done in the case of one New York regt. in this Brigade.

I have taken the liberty to call your attention to the subject because this regiment which is to continue longer in the service than any other now in the field is yet smaller than any, except perhaps the 5th Maine.

Very respectfully

Your obedt servt.

Ellis Spear.

Major Comdg,

2^d Maine Vols