## 1863-03-28 Chaplain A. Bates writes about the muster out and return of the regiment

https://digitalmaine.com/cw\_me\_2nd\_regiment\_corr/515/

Transcription:

Camp near Falmouth Va.

March 28th /63

Gov. Coburn

Dear Sir

Steps are now

being taken (as perhaps you

are aware) to muster out the

original members of the 2nd

Me Regt- When mustered out

there will not be over a hundred

men left who are held for

three years, the result will

be a breaking up of our

organization unless some of the

two years men, with the officers

volunteer to serve another

year- If the mustering

out is performed here, there can

be no hope of re-enlistments.

The thought has been several times

suggested that if we could go

home as a Regt. & stop a month

or so many of the two years men

would- from choice- re-enlist

without bounty- this plan is

earnestly desired by our officers

& so I have taken the liberty

to write you on the subject-

I sh'd be sory to see so good a

reg't as the 2[0] disbanded; I am

sure it hardships on many hard

fought fields have earned for it

the privilege of going home once

under it our Regimental flag &

with it our officers- I trust Sir,

that you will be able to see a way

clear to exert your influence to

bring about so desirable a thing

the 25th of April is the time claimed

for discharge from the service

by the two years men- the oath,

which a portion of them took

at Willets Point, binding them

for three years is now looked

upon as a sham & will not

satisfy those who took it- they

cannot see it justice in as

much as violent threats were

used to induce it in many

instances- I think the boys

decided, loyal & willing to serve

their country will till the last but

exceedingly sensitive about their

rights, especially since the 7th have

had the privilege of going home

as a Reg't- I have already written

to Vice Pres Hamlin & Rep Rice

on the subject & so have some

others among the officers- Believing

you will do what is just & practicable

I remain

A.P. Bates

Chaplain

2 Me Vols

Chaplain Bates , 2d

Mar 28, 1863.

About the return of the 2d Regiment.

*Transcription produced by the DigitalMaine Transcription Project*