Pilot Knob Mo April 9th 1864 Colonel,

I have the honor to enclose the "morning report" of the Troops stationed here, which report, also shows the no. of Companies detached for duty in the neighborhood.. It will be seen that Cavalry, Infantry & Artillery, are stationed here..in excess of the requirement of the service, in my opinion.. A Regt. of Cavalry M.S.M. (12 Cos. and a Section of Artillery should be ample for this post. Patterson, Centreville, Farmington & Fredericktown and for guarding the line of Rail Road, if the Cavalry are kept on the move. The only enemy to be apprehended is the so called guerilla, whose mode of warfare therefore resorts to that system which proved most effective

[Page 2] against the Indian.

The system of Rangers moving constantly through the region infested. The Missouri State Militia are specially adapted to such a service. In any possible emergency temporary re-enforcements could be sent forward from St. Louis

by Rail in three (3) hours.

I have addressed a communication to Maj. Genl. Rosecrans. Comdg. the Dept. recommending for economical and sanitary reasons the construction of Barracks for a sufficient garrison, and as cheap shelter for Animals. The Cavalry horses I found exposed entirely to the weather & so they have been all winter. There has been gross negligence somewhere, a great share belonging to the regimental officers.

I have also submitted to the Dept. Commander a report concerning the arms of these troops. The Infantry have the Whitney Rifle & Sabre bayonet, an excellent weapon. The 3d Cav. M.S.M. is armed with a variety of carbine rifles & revolvers, among which

[Page 3]

are the Austrian Rifle, unfit for Cavalry service. Halls Carbine, second hand when issued, and a poor weapon at best. Star & Pettingils Revolvers, of little use.

The 6th Cav. Mo. Volunteers are armed with sabres and revolvers, but many of the men are not armed & many are not yet mounted. The Light battery is in good condition.

There is a Field Work armed with 4 32 pounders & 3 24 lb Howitzers. It seems to be perfectly commanded by a neighboring hill. -- I enclose report of means of transportation for the post.

I have the honor &c LC Hunt Brig Gen. Lieut Col. C.B. Comstock, AAAG HQ of the Army in the Field MO [Page 4] St. Louis, Mo., Apl 12th, 1864 Col.

Herewith I have the honor to transmit report of the means of transportation in this department.

From all that I can learn, I have arrived at the conclusion that an unnecessary quantity of troops is stationed beyond Rolla

at Springfield &c and that by breaking up those Posts a great quantity of of [sic] animals & teams can be made available

for service elsewhere-- I am satisfied that three times the number of troops would not prevent the outbreaks of guerrilla

parties * that the true policy is to make the state & is people rely upon its own militia for the putting down of such an

enemy. Certainly the experiment of such reliance can nowhere be better tried than in Missouri, surrounded by loyal

states.. I shall leave tomorrow for the inspection of those Posts.

I do not know how urgent may be the need of transportation elsewhere, but if any urgent I feel quite sure that 25 per cent

of the amount, herewith reported might be safely called for & spared from the Dept. without serious circumstances. The

Chief Qm Master might be required to draw from the principal posts pro rata, or use his discretion.

I remain & c L C Hunt Brig Gen Col C.B. Comstock AAAG Army in the Field

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