

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 & its 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

65-2006-002-0001

Pilot Knob Mo.
April 9th 1862

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. E. M. (12 Co's), and a
Section of Artillery, would be ample
for this post. Patterson, Caturville,
Farmington & Ferdricksstown and for
guarding the line of Rail Road,
if the Cavalry are kept on the war
The only enemy to be apprehended
is the so called Guerrilla, whose
mode of warfare is the Judean. We
should therefore resort to that
system which proved most effective

65-2006-002-0001

against the Indian
the System of Vangers moving constantly
through the region infested. The Missouri
State Militia are specially adapted to
such a Service. For any possible Emer-
-gency Temporary Reinforcements could
be sent forward from St Louis by Rail
in three (3) hours

I have addressed a Communication
to Maj. Genl. Rorer, Comdg. the Dept.
(recommending), for Economical and Sau-
-ety reasons, the Construction of Barracks
for a sufficient garrison, and of Cheap
Shelters 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 ex-
-cellent weapon. The 3rd Cav M.S.M.
is armed with a variety of Carbine
Rifles & Revolvers, among which

are the Austrian Rifle, unfit for Cavalry
Service. Hall's Carbine, second hand, which
is good, and a poor weapon at best;
Star & Pettengill's Revolvers, of little use.
The 6th Cav. Mo. Volunteers are armed
with Sabres and Revolvers, but many
of the men are not armed & many 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

Shave the honor &c
Lieut Col CP Coustock Army L C Hunt
Adj Gen of the Army in the Field Brig Gen
Mey

65-2006-002-0001

St Louis Mo April 22nd 1862

Col.

I 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 Animals & teams can be made available for Service elsewhere - I am satisfi'd that three times the number of troops would not prevent the Out breaks of guerrilla parties & that the true policy is to make the State its 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 to morrow for the inspection of those Posts

I do not know how urgent may be the need of transportation elsewhere, but if very 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 inconvenience. The Chief Quar Master might be required to draw from the principal posts pro rata, or use his discretion

Col A D Constock
Adj
1st Mo Army in the field

J. C. Mearns &c
S. C. Mearns
M. J. Mearns

65-2006-002-0001