

2-16-1863

## 1863-02-16 Letter from Lieutenant E.M. Shaw

E. M. Shaw

Head Quarter 10 Mo Regt -  
Stafford C.H. Va Feb 16 1863

My Dear General

I have the very great honor  
and pleasure of acknowledging the receipt of your  
favor of the 8<sup>th</sup> inst. and haste to reply - I agree  
with you in regard to not sending all of the copies of  
your report here as they will be liable to be lost and  
beside our report will soon be here - Please send  
those designs for us to Washington care of the Moni-  
toring Agency and I will get them from there - Please  
bear in mind that no member of the regt  
has a single copy of your last year report and  
if you can reserve a few copies of the till we can  
have do please - In regard to your remark  
concerning my official career as Adjutant of  
the Recruiting Service I can only say that I tried  
to do my duty there as elsewhere and think that  
they will have to seek some one else beside little  
Hubbs to fill my place - That I have never  
in any position I fill or ever filled I am  
willing other should try - Sometimes they  
succeed and sometimes fail -

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But enough of this. I am no particular  
ambition. My pride is our country and  
the 10<sup>th</sup> Merit regt. For this success I am willing  
to labor and devote my time and make any  
sacrifice consistent. You ask "What can  
have better be done with you regt? A very importa-  
question and one not easily answered. I have  
thought much of it and the question I cannot  
answer. Still I have a few ideas concerning the  
matter and will communicate. In the  
first place I agree with you perfectly in regard  
to the necessity of keeping in view those very important  
measures you speak of. My fears are that a  
general consolidation of regts will soon take place  
It is demanded for two reasons. The paucity of  
men in them and the want of officers. For that  
is the great crying evil of our army. Not but  
there are lunkheads enough who hold com-  
mission and wear "shoulder straps" but what  
I mean by officers is men who are willing  
to fight any where and any time and must  
obey commands wherever ordered. The officers  
of this army are many of them Mc Clellan  
to such an extent that they are derelictive

The men of this army the rank and file are all right. This consolidation will give a good chance to be rid of those demagogues who have so long ruckered the public tit. and given and comfort to the enemy. I would not dismiss them from the service. I would rip off their stripes and put them in the ranks. The place where an officer should go who after serving 18 months in the field cannot fill his position. Take the 16-17-19 & 20 and put the men in other. take all the good officers in both and make good use of them. There will be the 2-3-4-5-6 & 11<sup>th</sup> which will need all the men. Government will not send more men. Must have them or fail. and that will never do. More men must be had and that right speedily. The conscription bill will now pass congress and then come the tug of war. By means of that the regts can be kept full. Then the 10<sup>th</sup> can be filled up and not till then. When more men are called for from Mexico. then we can say again and file up the regts. We shall come home in good time for that purpose. It is useless in my opinion to undertake to fill us up under the present

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system of recruiting. There is one other plan  
which of mass use of could ensure the service  
of a large portion of the regt both office and no-  
and that is an item of no small importance.  
If arrangements could be effected by which "special  
recruits" could be guaranteed to the regt there will  
be no trouble of effecting a reorganization. Cannot  
this be done? In mass an issue is fort letters  
Gen Coburn and Gen Ulmer of N.Y. for some-  
thing of that kind. Our 3 yrs men would  
form a good basis for another regt. and he  
let me file my protest as well as others of  
other officers of the regt. against any disposition  
of the 3 yrs men till we know whether we shall  
want them. Let us have the first choice of  
them. They should go home with us and  
go with the regt. and then they will be satisfied.  
I agree with you fully that many of our  
will wish to return after staying at home a few  
weeks. particularly if they can be assured of the  
peace where they will go. I think they will prefer  
to go into the Balt Department. I beg of you to give  
this matter your serious attention and let me  
know at your earliest convenience your opinion.

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There are a few more but ~~provisional~~ for  
the commission. Try of D to be 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut  
Lilly as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut. and Delano of B. Why are they not  
furthering. I presume Col. Beal will see you regarding  
the matter. They should have them. as else very  
no more commission will be granted.  
Please send me a copy of your report as soon  
as published. I have all of the statistical returns  
of the regts now.

Remember me kindly to  
Patience and Tom and all others of the  
"Pudding head Guards". I saw the clerk who used  
to occupy the seat opposite yours. his wife long  
now. long hair. long head. and was she  
on his long now. could think of his name.  
in Washington Friday. Got into office I see.  
By the way why cant I obtain your office.  
When the new military bill passes congress  
I want to be Provost Marshall for the congressional  
district which embraces Lewis Co. Remember  
unto you.

Truf. you

Lieut. E. M. Shea

Adj. 10 Regt N. T. S.