

2-14-1863

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In camp near Falmouth Va.
2nd Maine Regt, Feb. 14, 1863.

Gen. Woodson

Dear Sir,

Wishing to reach the
 end of the Government upon a single point, I take
 the liberty to address you. I hear that Doct
 Palmer one of my assistants has been ap-
 pointed Surgeon of 9th Maine and has gone
 South. Dr. Mann now here and a most ex-
 cellent man in every respect, I think, is
 exceedingly feeble and will very soon go
 home on leave of absence, and it is doubtful
 whether he will be able to perform such ar-
 ticular duty should he return at all, so I am to
 be left, for a time at least, entirely alone
 with the regiment. This would be very well
 whilst in camp but for the fact, that I
 am Acting Brigade Surgeon, the duties of
 which are now much more arduous, than
 those formerly required of Brigade Sur-
 geon, for in addition to receiving, con-
 solidating and forwarding all the
 Reports of his regiments besides my
 own, I must procure and distribute
 all the medicines and Hospital stores
 needed, I therefore wish to submit to the

as the good of the service does not require
that an assistant should be appointed
to supply Doct. Palmer's place.

My health is now pretty fair though I
am growing old two years in one, and
am anxious not to be broken down entirely.
Much is said in the papers about some
of the Maine regiments - ours is rarely
spoken of for which I feel thankful
as we do not desire praise, and think
we don't deserve censure. We have but
four men in Hospital, and only one of
those much sick - but there are about
forty in the regiment unfit for duty
most of whom are either new recruits
or have recently returned from General
Hospital wounded or sick with chronic
disease, as to the recruits sent since
July about seventy five, less than thirty
are now fit for duty. The large bounty
paid was in my judgment not only a loss
of money but a curse to the service.
I am making an effort to get discharges
for those unfit for service or being over
their number. We have not lost a man
in Regimental Hospital since about the
middle of last June, when we were
floundering in the swamps of Chock-
town.

I send you a Morning Report of this day, which will give some idea of the Brigade. 22^d Man was raised by Col. Seneca, Wilson and went to Hall's Hill a year ago last fall with 1200 men. 25th N. Y. was recruited principally at 5 points by the notorious Col. Kerigan. 1st Michigan joined our Brigade last June with nearly 900 men. 118th Penn. at Arlington Heights in Sept. last with 1000 men. This regiment had about 140 killed when we were driven across the Potomac, at Shepherdstown, so ingloriously just after the battle of Antietam.

Though our regiment is put down at 352 as present strength, we have probably but few if any more than 200 men fit for active duty in case of battle except those detailed for quarters &c. and this I judge is about a fair average with the other regiments. The men in our regiment generally feel that they have done about their share of fighting, and are anxious to go home, and yet they are brave men and true, and if again called to the contest will I doubt not fully sustain their former reputation, and manifest a spirit even if need be, equal to that of the 300 Lancashiremen, whose memory is destin-

id to continue as long as mankind show
reverence for those who quit up their
lives upon the altar of their country
I speak thus freely in praising the
soldiers as neither my duty or inclina-
tion calls me to such positions of danger
as they occupy ~~that~~ I must confess
that I have sometimes been where
the deadly missiles come quite too
near, and fell quite too thickly around
me to give any pleasurable moments

Thus have I have written you a
very hasty letter in the midst of con-
stant cares and interruptions, which
I am sure will be a sufficient
apology for its length as want of
time is the reason for not hav-
ing it more concise -

With great respect

Very truly yours

S. B. Morrison

Surgeon

Surgeon Morrison, D^o

Feb 14, 63

asky for an Associate Surgeon of 2^d -