

Camp near Brownstown, West Va.
April 1st 1864

His Excellency Gov. A. I. Boreman

Sir, I have the honor to report to you again since I reported you last I have taken one of the hardest tramps I have ever taken since the war began. I served fifteen months in the 8th Va. Regt. late the 7th W. Va. Cavl. And have been on several hard fatiguing raids during the time I was a member of that renowned Regt. But never traveled so far in the same length of time. But I regret I cannot give a more favorable accounts of success & more accomplished. Not withstanding it is impossible to accomplish but little when the object of our intent could not be found. (IE) rebel scouts & guerillas. The condition of my county is this at times the county is full scouting from there encampments about Princeton & New River narrows. On thieving & plundering expeditions &c.

On the tenth day of March I selected eighteen (18) men of my company those who were in the best situation for traveling, being all that possibly could render any service. On account of clothing &c. and started to Raleigh County for the purpose of capturing & cleaning out a band of marauding rebels reported to be ten or twelve but the rumor proved to be unreliable. We scouted the distance of one hundred & forty miles from Brownstown including our return. A part the time took a steady fall of snow & rain. I succeeded in recruiting & mustering into my company three (3) men, making a total of forty (40) men. A copy of my company roll I transmitted you or the Adj. Genl. by Senator Wm. S. Dunbar on the 26th of March as directed by your dispatch which I received on the 27th May &c. I received your letter of Feby. 19th written by Q.M. Genl. Brown referred to him for answer giving me information in regard to quarries made in my letter to your Excellency of Feby. 11th &c. the above mentioned letter informed me any officer of independent companies violating his instructions would be dismissed the service at once &c. one suggestion of mine is this, I will carry out my instructions to the letter at least I shall use my endeavours to that end &c. my notice in raising this independent company for Raleigh County is a pure one. I.E. to protect the citizens and their property against the predatory bands of thieves & guerrillas that infest our county & plunder our citizens. I will make the very best use of all the means at my command & disposal to keep the county cleared of guerrillas. All that I or my men wishes is to be well fed clothed & paid, also plenty of powder and lead. And the work shall be accomplished at least a full portion for a number no greater than mine &c.

I received your dispatch of March 26th informing me everything I asked for would be sent at once, except guns that you understood there were guns at Brownstown. If not to let you know &c.

I have received from Wm. Morine? Esq. thirty six (36) guns & accoutrements except cap boxes thirty three (33) cap boxes &c. There are at Brownstown some few more guns & cartridge boxes. But they have no belts or cap boxes the guns now at Brownstown are deficient owing chiefly to weak locks. Out of the number I have there are some ten or twelve which shoots bad & locks uncertain weak &c.

I would like if consistent to make such demands to have about twenty (20) good new guns forwarded me to Brownstown also about fifteen (15) accoutrements and those I now have which are deficient I can return to Mr. Morine? There is no ammunition at Brownstown belonging to the State. I received an order from Q. M. Genl. Brown on January 22nd to Wm. Moinne? for 2000 cartridges for the use of my company. I received eighty (80) cartridges, being all he could find belonging to the state. Arising my scouting expeditions I am absolutely in need

of ammunition. I applied to Capt. McQuigg commander recently of this post, Camp Piatt, and obtained five hundred cartridges. I stand in need of ammunition, could a few thousand rounds be forwarded me here immediately &c.

I here have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a letter together with requisitions on the post quartermaster at Charleston for clothing for thirty seven (37) men as shown by my muster roll on file in his office. Also provision requisition for thirty seven (37) men for the month of April &c. Of March 25th from Q.M. Genl. Brown you will please to cause the Q. M. Genl. to forward me immediately requisitions for clothing & subsistence for four (4) men for this present month April, providing I am included. If I am not entitled to clothing & subsistence as one of the rest in the state service, holding the position I do as Capt. & less wages than an officer in the U. S. Service, this being a question undecided I should be happy to receive an answer from you. If I am not entitled to my clothing & subsistence as one of my men a requisition for three (3) is sufficient pleas forward it at once.

I yesterday the 31st ult. Received from the Q. M. at Charleston clothing for 37 men, this day I received from the C.S. at Brownstown subsistence for thirty seven men for the month of April.

As my company is chiefly composed of poor men in destitute & needful circumstances mostly farmers having families whose reliance for a subsistence is dependent upon the men. It devolves upon me to solicit you at their earnest request for a payment at the earliest possible moment which would relieve their wants and enable them to be of much more service to the cause & country being situated as my Co. is on the border to render the service, and to give protection & safety to our citizens. It will require the company or the hith of there actively engaged all the time. Consequently prompt payments is the vital & important past questions shall I make off payrolls from the day of organization or from the day of enlistment as the U. S. Service &c. 2nd shall I make them off due two months from first organization 11 Feby. Or at a different date. 3rd shall I present my rolls in person or send them by some reliable person &c. please answer immediately.

In a few days I will start to Raleigh with the full No. of my company & transport provisions sufficient as best I can to remain this month out and endeavor to clear out and destroy the guerrillas and also to remain in the county all the time. If possible consequently I do not expect to be at Brownstown myself until about the 1st of May when I will be compelled to be at Brownstown for the purpose of drawing provisions for the coming month. My 2nd Sergt. Will be retained at Brownstown for the purpose of transporting subsistence & receiving and forwarding on to me immediately all communications &c.

At the end of this month when I report to your Excellency again I hope to report a full company of fifty men. Also I shall hope to be honored with the pleasure and satisfaction of reporting something beneficial to the country & more deserving the praise of the public bestowed upon the several enthusiastic men under my command &c.

By hoping you will be pleased to approve all needful & necessary requisitions for clothing & subsistence for this month & the next May.

So I will conclude by invoking the omnipotent power above to guide me aright also your Excellency's approval of all my good performances &c.

I am your Obedient Servant
William Turner Capt. Commanding
Raleigh County Scouts, U.S. State Troops