

Circular addressed to Captains ~~Reynolds~~  
Captains ~~Brubaker~~ & ~~Captain~~ ~~Gravitt~~  
State of South Carolina,  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

Union. 23 February - 1865.

Captain.

I have written to Gen. Fairburn saying to him, that when he disbanded the other State troops, I desired that your Command, ~~that of Capt Brubaker & that of Capt Stevens~~ should be kept together. In doing so, I doubt however intend to interfere with the natural desire of the men of these commands to visit their homes, their neighborhoods for a time; & here to give such direction as may best be calculated to secure & save what the men may have left. It ever at any time more than now have public & private interests been so closely connected: they must mutually support & protect each other. And hope that the men who have been under you, & those who are in the other commands I have named, will see this as I do; & that such of them as desire to go to their homes, will return <sup>to their companies</sup> without unreasonable delay and ~~refusal~~ <sup>keep up</sup> their Company, to which so much credit is due for the vigilance & activity they displayed.

Altho' the main body of the enemy may have passed through & even out of the State there must be a force kept up for the protection of persons and property from those lawless persons who follow after camps, & the attacks of raiders. Under your present organization your men have acquired confidence & would naturally be more efficient in that, than in any other Company.

I know the difficulties which are in the way

of the men. I know how suddenly they were called  
out: how long they have been kept out: how their pro-  
perty is abandoned: & their families neglected; but  
when you re-organize these Companies, I intend  
that it shall be upon a system which will  
enable you to protect them from these disadvan-  
tages. By allowing a certain portion of your  
Command to be ~~at home~~ <sup>at home</sup> & having it regulated that it would be known, when & for how  
long a time each man would be with you  
or at his home, such an arrangement could be  
made as would greatly diminish the conse-  
quences of an absence from their homes.

Respectfully &c &c  
A. G. Magrath