

to tell me what staff and non-commissioned staff officers are allowed to a battalion of six companies or less ?

I have received the greatest assistance from the officers under my command, and the quiet and good order now prevailing in the town is due to the Provost-Marshal, John B. Brooke, and to that excellent soldier, Captain J. Louis Smith, commanding the provost-guard.

I hope you received my letter relative to them ; also one requesting the appointment of Mr. McHenry Howard as ordnance officer on my staff, he being an officer of merit and aide-de camp to the late Brigadier-General C. S. Winder. Some three weeks since General Lee sent me over three hundred paroled prisoners (Confederate), to be kept in camp until exchanged, and as it required an officer of experience to keep them from wandering off, I detailed First Lieutenant Wilson C. Nicholas for that purpose, thinking he had a commission. He has taken remarkably good care of them, but the other day I received Special Orders No. 232. stating his resignation as drill master had been accepted. I earnestly recommend he may be again appointed to that or some other position in the Provisional Army — First Lieutenant or Captain.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant.

GEORGE H. STEUART, *Commanding Post.*

[INDORSEMENT.]

OCTOBER 21, 1862.

Inform him that after the first election in the Maryland troops, like others, the promotion will be by seniority, unless a board pronounces the next officer incompetent. A battalion of six companies has a Lieutenant-Colonel and Major ; a battalion of five or less has a Major only. A Quartermaster is allowed, who acts also as commissary. The Adjutant is detailed from the subaltern officers.

G. W. R.

Upon receipt of the above indorsement General Steuart ordered an election, and Captain James R. Herbert was chosen Major, and First Lieutenant F. C. Duvall was elected Captain, Charles W. Hodges was promoted to First Lieutenant, Thomas C. Tolson to Senior Second, and Joseph W. Barber was elected to fill the vacancy thus created.

In November General George H. Steuart was ordered to withdraw from Winchester, and the Maryland battalion was temporarily assigned to the command of General William E. Jones, who had just been appointed to Munford's Brigade of cavalry. General Jones received the Second Maryland in the vicinity of Strasburg, and until January 2, 1863, it was moved from point to point in the valley, as circumstances required.