

Head Quarters 1<sup>st</sup> Reg E S Vol  
Spensborough Md  
Oct 15<sup>th</sup> 1862.

Hon Augustus W Bradford  
Governor of Maryland.

Sir

Your Commu-  
nication of the 9<sup>th</sup> Covering an order from the Secretary  
of War authorizing you to consolidate and transfer  
the first & second Eastern Shore regiments, and the  
Purcell Legion, by transferring such members thereof  
as may volunteer to be transferred to the first  
second & third Maryland regiments of infantry so as to  
fill them up to the maximum standard, has just  
been received, and your request that the order be  
published to my Command, shall be complied with.

I regret that I had not the honor of being con-  
sulted before you determined upon this line of  
policy, & secured this order. Fear the effect will  
be contrary to what you expect. Instead of  
securing the "efficiency" of the regiments, my Con-  
viction is, that if you withdraw the finest ma-  
terial of the regiment you will demoralize the  
residue. So far as my own Command is concerned.  
I know that the men who are willing to enter the  
general service, uphold our flag every where, are  
the best material I have, & they give life to the balance.

I do not see how by this proceep you can promote the Efficiency of this Regiment. We have been in active Service for Eight Months, During that time we have done the duty of an entire Brigade. We have Marched & Counter Marched over this entire Peninsula of Del, Maryland & Virginia. We went with the advance Last November into Accomac & Northampton Counties, & since March Last we have held them alone & guarded a coast, penetrated in Every direction by creeks, intets, rivers, & bays, stretching over a space of one hundred or more miles, Secured many valuable prizes, & broken up the Contra band traffic with the enemy across the bay, more Effectually than all the Gun boats on the Chesepiak. Not only are my Men along the Coast, standing Sentry at every Creek, intet, river & bay that enters the Chesepiak from the Nanticoke to the Capes, but along & around the Islands & Sounds of the Atlantic side of our peninsula do they keep their vigils. We also have several Vessels manned that cruise along the shore and among the numerous Islands. Those that are not thus engaged on the Coast, act as a reserve in the interior, preserve order, enforce the Law & keep down sedition in every town from this place to Capeville. A Battation of this Regiment has within the last month, marched one hundred & fifty miles, visited every disturbed district in Maryland Del & Virginia

from Eastville to this place, Made numerous arrests, Crushed out the rising spirit of rebellion that was showing itself upon the recent invasion of our state, I have given renewed confidence to the Union Men wherever we have been. Now we are here in the midst of a district agitated to the point of an outbreak, looking up a party of outlaws, residing along the line of Delaware & Maryland, who have been burning Churches, residences of blacks, <sup>+</sup>cutting out, shooting & maiming inoffensive negroes & swearing vengeance against the Union Men of the vicinity. These are only a part of the duties <sup>for</sup> that have been & are performing, and I cite them in order that you may judge whether the Regiment is "Efficient" or not. And yet while performing all this detached service calculated to demoralize any body of men, drill & discipline have been kept up & I am willing to test their "Efficiency" with any Regiment that the State has produced.

My Regiment Sir is not full; for the service we have to perform we need more men. We ought to be recruited rather than depleted. If you take my best men from me, you will demoralize the residue. If the Government has no use for, or does not desire, or appreciate the



Dear Sir, Wallace,  
1. E. D. Key.

In reference to Secretary  
of War for transfer  
of money etc

There will also be the transport of the regiments  
then over officers, but I do not believe the  
you to go into those general houses, unless  
there almost disappears. A goodly number will  
be brought to be from the hands of the men, that  
but do many contrary opinions have been  
for those packages however for a month or two  
The have been trying to be organized  
them were taken away.

It has been reported that the  
of the regiments, who do not volunteer  
to be conscripted. I shall be pleased  
you further upon this matter.  
I am respectfully  
Yours  
Col. James A. ...