

to Washington - That Hilly refused, saying they were true - and Swain then left telling him to prepare to go to Washington in the morning - though he did not afterwards make his appearance -

Now it is very unpleasant to me, as you may be assured, to annoy you with Complaints of this character, and perhaps it is hardly proper that I should do so considering the fact that Col. Swain is no longer connected with your Command - But whilst this may be so it would seem to be but another reason why his presence and proceedings in that neighborhood should be forbidden.

I know that Complaints like these are often made on very frivolous grounds, and frequently for a very different purpose than the ostensible one; but I feel satisfied from the representations which have reached me of the proceedings of this officer, that the Complaints are not without foundation and that his conduct according to all accounts is calculated not only to provoke the Citizens but to bring reproach on the Government, and that if he can be disconnected with all service to be performed in that region, you and I might both be relieved of a troublesome subject -

It is also represented to me that two of the Companies now stationed at Chappel Point were until recently on duty near Poolesville in this State where their bad conduct caused the Citizens of the neighborhood to petition the Secretary of War for their removal and they were ordered to their present position. There, it is alleged that their similar misbehaviour is one of the causes of the neighborhood Complaints - I of course, would not venture any suggestions as to the disposition of the various forces under your Command, but if there is any thing in the facts above stated or any thing particularly obnoxious in the conduct of these Companies, it might be worthy consideration whether they could not without inconvenience, and with a saving of trouble to all concerned, be exchanged for others - I merely throw out the suggestion without of course any purpose of disturbing arrangements of which you only can properly judge, but still feeling confident that where these arrangements can be made to harmonize with the interests of the Service and at the same time with the wishes of the Citizens - they will be taken into proper consideration

I am very Respy

Your obtt. Servt

A. W. Bradford

State of Maryland

Executive Department

Annapolis Feby. 10th 1863

Brig. Genl. H. H. Goldsborough
Commanding Camp Hicks &
General:

I heard yesterday that you were