

hard usage they have met with will greatly discourage them from enlisting again under the new establishment struck out by Congress, which I wish had been earlier fallen upon, as by that means we might at this day have had a well disciplined army and which I now despair of being raised any more. As the Maryland and Independent Companies to be formed into Battalions, it is the desire of all the officers belonging to them they should. It is very inconvenient so many companies acting together in one Battalion and subject to the command of one man, do not suppose I am speaking for myself in hopes of promotion, but that would be better for the service they should, I think that melancholy day on Long Island convinced us of the want of Field officers, having none but Major West to command us, who behaved as well as we could do, therefore do again repeat I think they should as soon as possible be formed into Battalions: and if your honorable House should not think the service I have done and the line of promotion I now stand in sufficient for my advancement, I will submit to your determination. I take the liberty however of recommending my first Lieutenant Hudson as a man worthy of promotion and as good an officer as any in the Maryland Line, and have no doubt when his character is inquired into, you will find I say no more of him than he deserves. He is informed that a Committee is to go from each State to the Camp to know what officers will receive and their merit. I think they will generally find the Maryland Officers merit the trust and confidence heretofore reposed in them. I must beg the favor of your notice & attention to James Morgan, first Sergeant in my Company for promotion. Am satisfied he will merit any favor that may be shown him in that way, and have no doubt of his making a good officer. He has acted as such ever since he has been with me. I shall return with the Sunday articles I can procure in two or three days. Am very sorry to hear from my brother that a report is spread among Capt Stone's friends that my Company, the day we were engaged on Long Island, behaved very ill. I gave him by the earliest opportunity as true a state of the men's affairs as I could recollect, which he informs me he showed to Mr Chamberlaine, and which I believe the officers under me can aver to the truth of, as can the officers under Capt Stone. I cannot judge him guilty of writing any thing of the kind, have not had an opportunity of seeing him since I received my brother's letter, being gone to the Country very sick, such aspersions are base and ungenerous, and not giving men a fair chance of vindicating themselves. I have had the vanity to think the Company I have had the honor to command have behaved themselves as well as in the service, notwithstanding the dark insinuations that have been thrown out to their prejudice and will refer to Col Smallwood for their behaviour and conduct since they have been under his command. I lost only three men on Long Island. My Company wants but few men to complete it; they have been and still are very sickly, as are all our troops.

I am Your much obliged H^{ble} Serv^t

James Hindman.

Baltimore Sunday Morning Oct^r 10th 1776.

Gentlemen. Captain Norwood being out of town, I take the liberty of answering your letter, I have 18 men in the barracks in Baltimore, which has ried their bounty and some of them a month's advance, and I believe the 2nd Lieut has a which is all the men there.