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Letter to John A. Andrew, 1862 July 31

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Camp 9th Regt Mass Vol
Harrison's Landing

July 31. 1862

To His Excellency John A Andrew
Governor of Massachusetts
Your Excellency

(At a meeting of the Officers of this Regiment, convened for the purpose of expressing their opinion of the fitness of Lieut Col P R Quincy to fill the Colonelcy of this regiment, left vacant by the death of our late gallant and lamented Colonel Sears, the following conclusion was unanimously arrived at

That Lieut Col. P R Quincy's conduct at the battle of Gaines Mill has been much too highly extolled: that he was not seen by any of the Officers now present for two hours previous to the close of the engagement - making his appearance just previous to the last stand made by the regiment on the Hill close to the Hospital, and which is so highly spoken of in Genl. Sherman's Official Report

That about thirty six hours previous to the Battle of Malvern Hill Lieut Col. Quincy was suddenly taken ill; he accompanied us close to the battle field in an ambulance and it was stated by those who saw him that he was much better able to take the field than Col Sears, who, nobly performing his duty, stayed with us the night preceding the battle and who, next morning, finding that his little remaining strength was utterly failing him, sent an Officer to Lieut Col Quincy asking him for God's sake to relieve him if only for two hours. Instead of doing which, however, he disappeared and was not heard of again until the arrival of the Regiment at Harrison's Landing after the battle where he made his appearance for a few moments. Again for a considerable time nothing was heard of Lieut Col Quincy and by direction of the General Commanding the Division he was returned on the report "absent without leave." Only a few days ago has the Regiment received from the

adjutant General at Washington, ^{official notice} of his having obtained a leave of absence. Previous to that we had heard of his addressing audiences in Boston while his Regiment was without a single Field and with very few line Officers, some Companies being under command of Sergeants.

We feel that Lieut Col Kinnay while appealing to the patriotic people of our Old Bay State to fill up the ranks of this Regiment, has been grossly neglecting his duty—instead of caring ^{for the wants of} the pennants who escaped from the seven days fighting has been making rapid speeches filled with spurious patriotism, and accepting the thanks of a generous people to which he was very little entitled.

Therefore we conclude that the laurels which this Regiment has earned under our late gallant and heroic Leader cannot be committed to the care of one, who, has so utterly neglected his duties; and we earnestly appeal to Your Excellency not to jeopardize the Honor of this Regiment or that of the noble old State to which we belong, by placing it in his hands.

We have the honor to be Your

Excellency's Obedt. Servants

signed. Timothy A. Leary, Capt. Comdg. 9th Regt. M.V.

John M. Tobin Adjt. 9th Mass. Regt.

Thomas Mearns Dr. Master.

Thomas R. Rich, 4th Li. Comdg. C.H.

Richard W. Phelan

Archibald Simpson 2nd Lt.

Edward Fenerty

Nicholas J. Raherty

Matthew J. Gay

William A. Phelan

William B. T. Lane