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Title: Letters from Everard Bierer to Eli Slifer

Date: 1861 - 1865

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Union Town. Fayette Co. Pa.

May 17th 1861.

Hon. E. Drizer.

Secy of State.

Harrisburg Pa. Dear Sir. I called at your Office on Wednesday Evening to show you the Instructions which the Gov. gave me. and to have my Company entered upon the Books. as accepted but you were not in. and as I had to leave for home that night did not get an opportunity of seeing you. As the Governor may have made no Memoranda of his instructions to me. I send you a Copy. so that the matter not be overlooked and that I may get Marching Orders in time. I have in pursuance of the Governor's Instructions given my men Orders to be prepared to leave here on Thursday next the 23rd inst so that we may Report at Camp Wilkins on Friday the 24th of May which will be in ten days from the 15th ult. according to the Governor's Order. of which the following is a Copy.

Executive Chamber. Harrisburg Pa. May 15th 1861.

Captain Bierer.

Your Command the "Union Volunteers" will be Ordered into Camp in ten Days at which time you will be prepared.

A. J. Curtin. "

I do not know whether I should write you or the Quarter Master. Genl on this Subject, but trust that you will see that the proper Arrangements are made for the Reception of my Company in Camp. and that I receive Marching Orders in due time. as having my Company ready for departure on the 23rd - if Orders should by any delay not arrive by that time, it will be perhaps impossible to restrain my Company from going. over

I understood ^{from} the Governor that my Company was accepted under the State Reserve or 15 Regiment Bill.

any Instructions:

Will you please write me soon: and give all necess.

Very Respectfully

Yours. W. Bent.

Everard Bieres

Capt. Union Volunteers



Union Town. Fayette Co. Pa
May 17th 1861.

Hon. E. Slifer.
Secy of State.
Harrisburg Pa
Dear Sir.

I called at your office on Wednesday Evening to show you the Instructions which the Gov gave me and to have my Company entered upon the Books as accepted but you were not in and as I had to leave for home that night did not get an opportunity of seeing you. As the Governor may have made no memoranda of his instructions to me I send you a copy so that the matter not be overlooked and that I may get marching orders in time. I have in pursuance of the Governor's Instructions given my men orders to be prepared to leave here on Thursday next the 23rd inst so that we may Report at Camp Wilkins on Friday the 24th of May which will be in ten Days from the 15th ult. according to the Governor's order of which the Following is a Copy.

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[page break]

I understood from the Governor that my company was accepted under the State Reserve or 15 Regiment Bill.

Will you please write me soon and give all necessary Instructions.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
Everard Bierer
Capt. Union Volunteers

Union Town. Fayette Co Pa.

May 21st 1861.

Hon E. Duffer.

Secy of State.

Dear Sir. I see by the Newspapers that it is necessary applications for acceptance of Companies under the 15 Regiment Law or State Reserve must be made in five days. I presume as my Company the "Union Volunteers" has already been accepted on the 15th May by his Excellency Gov Curtin under said Law: it is not necessary now that any formal application be now made. If so it is hereby made. You will pardon me for troubling you so much with what may perhaps be unnecessary Correspondence: but my apology is that I have a fine Company of Young men who are very anxious to get into Service and who Expect me to leave nothing undone which shall promote the interests of the Company: and make due of their position in those 15 Regiments.

I wrote you a few days ago in Reference to Marching Orders. The Ten days limited by the Governor within which time my Company would be ordered into Camp. is up on Friday next - 24th inst - and it is necessary that my men should assemble and go to Pittsburg. the day before in order to comply with the Order and be ready to go into Camp. on Thursday or Friday.

That all things may be right. I trust that you will have marching orders sent me immediately. & transmit orders to Commanding Officer at Camp Williams to receive the Company & prepare Quarters &c. I leave here with the Company on Thursday.

Very Respectfully

Yours &c &c

Everard Bierer

Capt. "Union Volunteers"

Union Town. Fayette Co Pa
May 21st 1861.

Hon E. Slifer.
Secy of State.
Dear Sir.

I see by the Newspapers that it is necessary applications for acceptance of Companies under the 15 Regiment Law or State Reserve must be made in five Days. I presume as my Company the "Union Volunteers" has already been accepted on the 15th May by his Excellency Gov Curtin under said Law: it is not necessary now that any formal application be now made. If so it is hereby made. You will pardon me for troubling you so much with what may perhaps be unnecessary Correspondence: but my apology is that I have a fine Company of Young men who are very anxious to get into Service and who Expect me to leave nothing undone which shall promote the interests of the Company: and make sure of their position in those 15 Regiments.

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That all things may be right I trust that you will have marching orders sent me immediately & transmit orders to commanding officer at Camp Wilkins to receive the Company & prepare Quarters &c. I leave here with the Company on Thursday.

Very Respectfully
Yours &c &c
Everard Bierer
Capt. "Union Volunteers"

Camp Wright.

June 18th 1861

Hon Eli Sizer

Secy of State.

Dear Sir. I wrote you some days ago in Reference to Furnishing an Order. for Transportation of my Company - over Fayette Co. and Pittsburg & Cornellville Rail Roads. I came down with my Company to Camp Virkins without such an order having been furnished said Roads. The Superintendents of those Roads. are annoying me about getting such an order. for them. I came down with my Company in obedience to the Governor's acceptance which Required me to be prepared to go into Camp in ten days. from May 15th.

Please have the orders of Transportation sent either to me - or the Officers of those Roads as soon Convenient

Very Respectfully

Yours &c

Everard Pierce

Capt. "Union Volunteers"

Camp Wright.
June 18th 1861

Hon Eli Slifer
Secy of State.
Dear Sir.

I wrote you some days ago in Reference to Furnishing an order for Transportation of my company over Fayette Co. and Pittsburg & Connellsville Rail Roads. I came down with my company to Camp Wilkins without such an order having been furnished said Roads. The Superintendents of those Roads are annoying me about getting such an order for them. I came down with my company in obedience [one word illegible] I supposed to the Governor's acceptance which Required me to be prepared to go into Camp in ten days from May 15th.

Please have the orders of Transportation sent either to me or to the officers of those Roads as soon Convenient

Very Respectfully
Yours &c
Everard Bierer
Capt. "Union Volunteers"

Hon E. Sizer

Secy of State. Dear Sir

Camp Wright

July 6th 1861

Will you please send me my Commission?

My Company is Letter F. in Col. Thomas F. Gallagher's Regiment: the 11th.

My 1st Lieut. Peter A. Johns has been appointed adjutant of the Regiment. Will his appointment vacate or make it necessary for him to Resign his Lieutenantcy? And if so must a new Election for 1st Lieutenant be had or will my 2nd Lieutenant. John W. De Ford - become 1st by promotion? I hope not. Johns is a good man & I wish him to Remain 1st Lieutenant. Whitst. De Ford is exceedingly insubordinate and Troublesome to me. Besides I have not Confidence in him. His wife is a Southern Lady - and he is said to have two or three Brothers in Laws in the Southern or Confederate Armys. He has lived most of the time for 3 or four years past in the South - and his heart and feelings seem to be more with the South than I should like for my 1st Lieutenant to have. Some of those Circumstances I had not heard of until lately. In Case P. A. Johns must vacate his 1st Lieutenantcy I prefer that Thomas H. Hopwood. who is a very worthy and perfectly reliable young man be made 1st. When I first came into Camp Wilkins Mr Hopwood was Elected to the 3rd Lieutenantcy but it being afterwards ascertained that no such position was Recognized Hopwood was appointed Orderly Sergeant. which position he has filled to my Entire satisfaction.

I write you sir Confidentially and frankly for information and advice in this matter. feeling it my duty to do so. Please write me as soon as Convenient on the Subject.

I presume you have Rec^d. through Genl. McCall the Return of the Organization of Col Gallagher's Regiment. Election of Field Officers &c. also a List of Companies. Company Officers &c.

Very Respectfully
Yours Obedt Servt.
Oscar and Bierer
Capt "Union Volunteers."

Camp Wright
July 6th 1861

Hon E. Slifer
Secy of State.
Dear Sir

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Very Respectfully
Your obt servt.
Everard Bierer
Capt "Union Volunteers."

Union Town Fayette Co Pa.

Aug 22nd 1862

Hon Eri. Slifer

Secy of State.

Dear Sir. In Conversation with Gov Curtin on Wednesday in Reference to my application for a field office in one of the New Regiments of Pa. Troops. he said he would like very much to give me such a position. but that in the first place; the orders of the War Department forbade such promotion of officers in the service out of old Regiments; and in the next place - the appointments to the field officers of the new Volunteer Regiments had all been ^{made} since the promulgation of said Order. I conversed with you afterwards just before I left Harrisburg and you informed me that those appointments were not all made. That at least all the field officers of new Three years Regiments were not appointed. Now Sir I know from personal Acquaintance & Reputation that I can Confide in what you state. You promised me I should have your influence in favor of my appointment to a field office in case Secy Stanton's Order could be got around - & I have no doubt you will assist me; and I flatter myself if you take it in hand earnestly I shall get such a position. If I can only get a Field Officers Commission in one of the New Regiments I do not fear but that I can get Secy Stanton to permit me to accept the position. I trust you will use your influence to get me a Commission - and then as a matter of course - if the government would not accept my Resignation - of my present position. The matter would have to go on and the Commission amount to nothing. I shall be in Harrisburg again next week - & will see you. I left my Letter of Recommendation from officers of the 11th & other Reserve Regts. with Gov. Curtin. In addition to what is said therein of my Qualification for ~~being~~ ~~Resignation~~ of a Field officer. I will only say that I have done much hard marching on foot - and besides being considerably broken down otherwise in health and strength - I have a violent Pain of some kind in my left foot - which has for months past, made it unpleasant to walk & which I fear is increasing and bids fair in a month or two to disable myself.

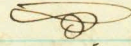
entirely from Marching on foot. I wish to Remain in the Service until the War Closes.
but will not be able to do so I fear unless I can get a position. where I can be on
Horseback.

Respectfully

Your old servt

Everard Bierer

Capt Co F. 11th Regt. P.R. & C



Union Town Fayette Co Pa
Aug 22nd 1862

Hon Eli Slifer
Secy of State.
Dear Sir.

In conversation with Gov Curtin on Wednesday in Reference to my application for a field office in one of the New Regiments of Pa Troops he said he would like very much to give me Such a position but that in the first place; the orders of the War Department forbade such promotion of officers in the Service out of old Regiments; and in the next place the appointments to the field officers of the New Volunteer Regiments had all been made Since the promulgation of said Order. I conversed with you afterwards just before I left Harrisburg and you informed me that those appointments were not all made: that at least all the field officers of New Three year's Regiments were not appointed. Now sir I know from personal Acquaintance & Reputation that I can confide in what you state. You promised me I should have your influence in favor of my appointment to a field office in case Secy Stanton's Order could be got around & I have no doubt you will assist me; and I flatter myself if you take it in hand earnestly I shall get such a position. If I can only get a Field officer's commission in one of the New Regiments I do not fear but that I can get Secy Stanton to permit me to accept the position. I trust you will use your influence to get me a Commission and then as a matter of course if the government would not accept my Resignation of my present position the matter would have ~~and~~ To End and the Commission amount to nothing. I shall be in Harrisburg again next week & will see you. v. I left my Letter of Recommendation from officers of the 11th & other Reserve Regts with Gov. Curtin. In addition to what is said therein of my Qualification for [three words illegible] a Field officer. I will only say that I have done much hard Marching on foot and besides being considerably broken down otherwise in health and strength I have a p-violent Pain of some Kind in my left foot which has for months past made unpleasant to walk & which I fear is increasing and bids fair in a month or two to disable myself

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Respectfully
Your obt servt
Everard Bierer
Capt Co F. 11th Regt. P. R. V C

Camp at Arlington Heights

Hon E. Slizer

Sept 3rd 1862.

Secy of State

Dear Sir. Your favor of 2nd Inst is received. It

might have been better for me to have remained in Harrisburg, as you write. But the Governor advised me to hasten on to Washington - and get Mr Stanton's permission to accept a Field Office - in a New Regt. and that if I got it and informed him of the fact - he would make my appointment. He said he would give me a Colonelcy, and that I need not trouble myself about the matter, he assured me I should have it. I told him I would as leave have the Lieut Colonelcy in the Regt which it was understood Cummings would Command; but he told me he would give me a Colonelcy.

What is left of our Regiment I understand will remain here for some time. In a few days I will - if nothing happens be in Harrisburg again. Please write & advise me whether I had best come on.

I Rely upon you as my Friend

Yours Respectfully

Everard Rieker

Capt Co F 11th Regt. P.M. v

P.S. I sent to Gov Curtin on Sept 31st

Mr Stanton's Permission - in writing -

to accept a Field Office -

Instead of returning to Harrisburg I felt it my duty at that time to go on & join my Company

Please show this to The Governor

Camp at Arlington Heights
Sept 3rd 1862.

Hon E. Slifer
Secy of State
Dear Sir.

Your favor of 2nd Inst is received. It might have been better for me to have remained in Harrisburg as you write but the Governor advised me to hasten on to Washington and get Mr. Stanton's permission to accept a Field office in a New Regt and that if I got it and informed him of the fact he would make my appointment. He said he would give me a Colonelcy and that I need not trouble myself about the matter; he assured me I should have it I told him I would as leave have the Lieut Colonelcy in the Regt which it was understood Cummings would Command; but he told me he would give me a Colonelcy.

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Your Respectfully,
Everard Bierer
Capt Co F 11th Regt. PRVC

N. B. I sent to Gov Curtin on Sept 31st Mr. Stanton's Permission in writing-to accept a Field office-

Instead of Returning to Harrisburg I felt it my duty at that time to go on & join my Company
Please show this to the Governor

Union Town. Pa.

Oct. 9th 1862.

Hon E. Slifer

Secy of State.

Dear Sir. Your favor of 7th inst was received yesterday

In Reference to the men-Selecting Officers &c. I knew such was the Law in promotions in ^{the} Reserve Corps but was under the impression the Gov made appointments of Field Officers in the other Pennsylvania Regiments and especially in the new ones. Indeed the Governor led me to suppose so himself - for in a conversation I had with him when in Harrisburg the last of August on my way to Washington he told me he would give me a Field office - in one of the new Regts if I could get permission of War Dept to accept. I told him I had not time to remain and electioneer - for a position. He said emphatically - that was not necessary at all; he did not wish me to do so; that he knew my Qualifications &c. and that if I could get permission of War Dept and send it on to him - he would give me a position and that I need not trouble myself further about it. He said he wanted to give me a Colonelcy - and asked me if I would accept a Colonelcy of a Cavalry Regt; I told him I would. Certainly after such conversation it was natural for me to suppose the Gov was making appointments of his own Judgement & Selection. Relying upon the Governor's assurance I went on to Washington. obtained permission of War Dept. to accept a Field

Office and sent it on to the Gov. When I got to Washington I found Mr Stanton had given me an Extension of my leave of absence for 10 days more - and might have returned to Harrisburg: but with the great Events then transpiring in front of Washington, and the whole Rebel Army beleaguering the very gates of the Capitol - I felt it to be my duty to Rejoin my Company & stay - which I did until wounded at South Mountain. But I fear I am troubling you too much with my long letters.

My Arm is still improving - but I suffer at times a great deal of pain.

The fractured bone is growing together: So the Surgeon attending me says.

I hope I shall be fit for Service before long.

I am very Truly

Your Friend

Everard Bierer

Union Town. Pa
Oct 9th 1862.

Hon E. Slifer
Secy of State.
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The fractured bone is growing together; So the Surgeon attending me says.

I hope I shall be fit for Service before long.

I am Very Truly
Your Friend
Everard Bierer

Union Town Pa

Oct 16th 1862.

Hon E. Duffer

Secy of State

Dear Sir. Your Telegraphic Dis-

patch of yesterday came to hand to day - but
too late for the mail. I will try the position
you speak of. Please inform me as soon as
this comes to hand where the Camp is and
when my Services will be required

Respectfully

Yours &c

Everard Bierer

Union Town Pa
Oct 16th 1862.

Hon E. Slifer
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Respectfully
Yours &c
Everard Bierer

Union Town Pa.

Hon E. Slizer

Oct 18th 1862

Dear Sir. Your dispatch of 15th inst -

Came to hand day before yesterday. Missing the mail I sent a note by Mail Agt. to Pittsburg answering it - But as you may not get it - I write to say that I will accept the Position tendered me: Under present circumstances tho it is not what the Gov promised me - nor what I had a right to expect. I preferred and ought to have had a Colonelcy or Lieut Colonelcy & active Service in the Field as soon as able.

As Commandant of a Camp, how will I arrange matters in Reference to my present position with War Dept? Will it be a promotion - & if so what Rank? What Camp will I Command & when will my Services be Required

Please write me soon

Very Respectfully

Your At Sent

E. Bierer

Union Town Pa
Oct 18th 1862

Hon E. Slifer
Dear Sir.

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Please write me soon
Very Respectfully
Your obt servt
E. Bierer



Union Town Pa

Hon E. Slicer.

Oct 24th 1862.

Dear Sir. — Your favor of 21st inst came to hand yesterday. Your Explanation makes me satisfied with position tendered, and I hope the little delay will not prejudice my case. Your Telegram of the 15th was not received until the 16th, and then too late to Reply that day. I wrote you two notes and sent a dispatch — but having from various Causes missed Mails — had to send by private hands to Pittsburgh — and presume from the date and tenor of your Letter you got but one of them and that perhaps the last one sent.

Can't the Gov give me Command of Camp Howe Pittsburgh? I would prefer it as Militia from Western Counties are being sent there. I will be at Harrisburgh to morrow night or Monday if nothing happens, ready to enter upon discharge of my duties if appointed. I hope to find { Truly Your friend
the Gov is my friend { Edward Pierce

Union Town Pa
Oct 24th 1862.

Hon E. Slifer
Dear Sir.

Your favor of 21st inst came to hand yesterday. Your Explanation makes me satisfied with position tendered; and I hope the little delay will not prejudice my case. Your Telegram of the 15th was not received until the 16th and then too late to Reply that day. I wrote you two notes and sent a dispatch but having from various causes missed Mails had to send by private hands to Pittsburgh and presume from the date and Tenor of your Letter you got but one of them and that perhaps the last one sent.

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Truly Your friend
Everard Bierer

Union Town Fayette Co Pa.

Oct 20th 1863.

Hon E. Duffer

Dear Sir. I write to ask you to inform me what will be done about raising Volunteers in this State this fall: The Gov told me some three or four weeks ago on my way with him from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg that he intended raising some Volunteer Regiments after the Election and wanted me to take one. I am frequently importuned by many Officers not only of my own but of various other Regiments who have served under or with me to get up a regiment - but have been putting them off - in consequence of what the Gov told me and from the fact of being engaged in the Cause myself - until after the Election. I did not care much about going into the Service again with a Regt. as I think I have a pretty fair prospect of getting a Brigadiership next winter. but I have been at home as long as I want to be while the war is going on. I feel it my duty to stay in the Army until Rebellion is crushed out. Please see the Governor and let me know what is going to be done or what I had best do. Give him my Congratulations on his Victory over the Copperheads. I think we can manage them easily now. In a few years none will own they were such.

Hoping the Gov & Yourself are very well I am Very Respectfully

Yours obt servt

Everard Pierer

Union Town Fayette Co Pa
Oct 20th 1863.

Hon E. Slifer
Dear Sir.

I write to ask you to inform me what will be done about raising Volunteers in this State this fall? The Gov told me some three or four weeks ago on my way with him from Pittsburgh to Harrisburg that he intended raising some Volunteer Regiments after the Election and wanted me to take one. I am frequently importuned by many officers not only of my own but of various other Regiments who have Served under or with me to get up a regiment but have been putting them off in consequence of what the Gov told me and from the fact of being engaged in the Caucass myself until after the Election. I did not Care much about going into the Service again with a Regt as I think I have a pretty fair prospect of getting a Brigadiership next winter, but I have been at home as long as I want to be while the war is going on. I feel it is my duty to stay in the Army until the Rebellion is crushed out. Please see the Governor and let me know what is going to be done or what I had best do. Give him my congratulations on his Victory over the Copperheads. I think we can mange them easily now. In a few years none will own they were such.

Hoping the Gov & Yourself are very well I am Very Respectfully

Your obt servt
Everard Bierer

Union Town Pa.

Feb 23rd 1865.

Hon E. Slifer
Secy of State.

Dear Sir. Understanding that Hon J. K.

Ewing has resigned. or intends soon resigning the Judgeship of this District. I write at the solicitation of my friends. to say that. in case a vacancy occurs I would accept the appointment and should be much pleased at such a mark of esteem & friendship - if the Governor should consider me qualified - and deserving the appointment. Believing that I may rely upon your friendly interest in the matter -

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully
Yours obt. Servt.

Everard Pierer



Union Town Pa
Feb 23rd 1865.

Hon E. Slifer
Secy of State.
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Your obt. Servt.
Everard Bierer