

Inspectors Office 9th Cong. Dist.

Rock Mills Feby 3rd 1865

Circular

John W. Peyton, Esqu. Will sign for this office as Clerk.

H.C. Bowie, Capt

Inspr Con 9th Cong. Dist

To;

E.O. Rappahannock Co.

E.O. Page "

E.O. Warren "

E.O. Fauquier "

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Inspectors Office 9th Cong. Dist.

Rock Mills Va. March 7th 1865

Lieut Col. J. C. Shields

Comdt Conscripts for Va.

Col

I most respectfully beg leave to submit the following Statement concerning the conduct of Capt. A. C. Swindler Co. C 12th Va Cavalry in releasing some men (Conscripts) who were in arrest. The facts are as follows: John W. Ryan, W. M. Partlow and C.C. Hisle, all of them between the ages of 18 and 4__ years, had been evading the Conscript Guard of Rappahannock County Va for several months during the latter part of last February W. M. Partlow was arrested and carried before the enrolling officer of Rappahannock who granted him permission until the first of the _____ month to get ready to leave for the army, but before the time for which permission was granted him to remain had expired, he (Partlow) went to the Office of the enrolling Officer of Rappahannock and remarked to one of the guard who was present (the enrolling officer being absent) that he intended to join Swindler's Company and take the Consequences.

Swindler's Company was disbanded a short time since and the officers and men belonging to it have been staying in the County of Rappahannock, a Short time had elapsed after Capt. Swindler arrived in the county when he came to see me and requested that I allow him to enlist John W. Ryan in his company. I told him I had no authority to do this, that our conscript had to pass through the Camp of Instruction, he remarked that he was aware of all this, but wished me to allow him to enlist Ryan and not report the fact to the proper authorities. I had no further conversation with him on the subject and have not seen him since.

On Friday last (Mar. 3rd) I met with some of the men belonging to the Conscript Guard of Rappahannock and inquired of them concerning the three men I have named, and was told what I have Stated about Partlow, and that Capt. Swindler had given Ryan and Hisle each a certificate stating that they were members of his Company, I then gave the guard a written order to arrest Ryan, Partlow and Hisle, in which they (the guard) were directed if interfered with by any officer claiming to have enlisted them in his company, to notify them to appear before me and who by what authority they were recruiting in the County. This order was executed in person by the enrolling officer of Rappahannock accompanied by his guard, the men (Ryan, Partlow and Hisle) were arrested and carried to Washington Rappahannock County of last Sunday (Mar 5th) that they might be forwarded to the Camp of Instruction in Company with Some others that were there to be sent off, as they (the E.O. and Guard) were on their way to Washington they met with Several members of Capt Swindler's company who threatened to release the men they had in charge, but finally determined to refer the matter to Capt. Swindler and a messenger was dispatched for him at once. The enrolling officer fearing an attempt would be made to release the prisoners he had in charge determined to come and see me concerning the case, directing the Guard to retain the prisoners, and if Capt. Swindler during his absence demanded their release, say to _____ that he would meet him early the next morning (Mar 6th) and confer with him

relative to the matter. Capt Swindler received notice that the men referred to had been arrested, and came to Washington on Sunday evening (Mar 5th) and went to the house in which they were confined and demanded their release at once. This the Guard refused to do, and told him that the enrolling officer or myself would be present the next morning and that the matter could then be settled. He would not agree to this, and in a threatening _____ remarked what he would do if either of us were _____ he (Capt S) with pistol drawn, then ordered the men (_____ Partlow and Hisle) in arrest to leave at once, at the _____ time placing armed pistols in the hands of some of them. Ryan left at once, Partlow and Hisle had said they were willing to be sent to the Camp of Instruction then the matter might be fairly settled, Capt. S. again ordered them to leave and Partlow obeyed. Hisle appearing too slow in his movements for Capt. S, he (Capt.S) cursed him and told him if he did not leave immediately he would force him to do so, this had the desired effect and he left.

The Guard in charge of the prisoners consisted of two men who had arms, they did all in their power to prevent Capt. S. from releasing them except for firing upon him and this they failed to do from ignorance thinking they had no right to fire up an officer in any circumstances.

_____ accompanied the enrolling Officer to Washington _____ last Monday morning (March 6th) for the purpose of investigating any claim Capt. Swindler might put forth regarding the men, as belonging to ~~this~~ his Company and did not learn till I had reached the place that they had been released the ~~previous~~ evening previous. I have been told that Capt. Swindler has said that he was authorized by Gen. Early, Commanding the Valley District of Va, to enlist men in his company from this Section, but that he would not exhibit the order authorizing him to do so, to the enrolling Office of Rappahannock or myself.

If the conduct of Capt: Swindler is passed by unnoticed there is no telling how often the act will be repeated and it will be very^a/difficult matter to enforce the conscription laws in this section.

I am, Col. Very Respy
Your Obt Servt
H.C.Bowie, Capt, Inspr. Con. 9th Cong. Dist