

*Historical Notes* to accompany letter dated:

10/18/62: 045

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Cyrus Hardaway's letter of October 18, 1862 provides a very different analysis of Company D, Berdan's Sharpshooters, 1st Regiment than other contemporary historical military records. Hardaway relates that his companions are in a "very healthy place now" and "all the boys are feeling first rate and getting as fat as pigs." In contrast to Hardaway's opinion is a slightly earlier report by Berdan's 1st Regiment, Lt. Colonel Caspar Trepp dated October 2, 1862 to the Adjutant General of the V Corps, which indicated that Hardaway's company, "Company D-organized in New York. Number of enlisted men was 33. At present 20. Captain's position is vacant. First Lieutenant Charles McClain. Second Lieutenant Albert Ferrer was promoted from First Sergeant of Company A in October 1862."

On October 3, 1862, President Lincoln reviewed portions of the Army of the Potomac encamped near Harper's Ferry. Included within his review was Berdan's 1st Regiment. The soldiers were apparently a sorry lot to behold. Described as "brown as a berry" and "tattered banners and faded clothes" they looked nothing like the elite special tactics unit of the spring of 1862. Regimental historian Charles A Stevens later described the condition of the regiments as, " their visages depicting sadness and want, presented a most gloomy aspect, while their depleted ranks bespoke their hardships and suffering. All of which brought forth the fullest sympathy of the President."

At his review of the Army of the Potomac at Harper's Ferry in October 1862, Lincoln once again attempted to encourage and motivate General George B. McClellan into an immediate pursuit of the Confederate army. Since his tactical victory at the *Battle of Antietam* on September 16-17, McClellan was once again stationary and waiting for his army's complete refurbishment to occur. Even after his army was supplied, McClellan claimed further progress was disrupted by J.E.B. Stuart's celebrated cavalry raid behind his lines. To his private secretary, Lincoln confided that his decision to remove McClellan as Commander of the Army of the Potomac, occurred when McClellan continued " . . .delaying on . . . pretexts of wanting this. . .I began to fear that he was playing false. . .that he did not want to hurt the enemy." McClellan did not cross the Potomac back into Virginia and begin the pursuit of Lee until October 26, 1862, five weeks after the *Battle of Antietam*.