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Item: Taylor, Zachary, Fort Snelling, Minnesota to R[oger] Jones, Washington, D.C., July 1, 1828. ALS.

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777
Fort Snelling St. Peters

1st of July 1828

Sir

I have the honor to transmit herewith
muster rolls of the three companies of the 1st
Regt. of Infy. under my command for the
months of May & June last.

Permit me to call your attention for a mo-
-ment to the situation of the command at
this place; there are nominally here three
companies, but only in effect about two, & what
with keeping a command at the public
mills eight miles distant, & a party con-
-stantly with the cattle belonging to the
Company is dept. (which party we are
compelled to keep at some distance from the
Fort, I shall be barely able unless some
recruits are sent up before the Mississippi
closes in the fall with us, to mount a
the guard by the next spring, so as to post
& sentinels at halting distance around
this extensive work, which is sufficiently
large
& to contain eight companies, with the necessary

store houses Hospital, Magazine, shops &c, as a number of the men ~~now here~~ will be discharged before that time, & it is not to be expected that any of them will re-enlist here.

You will also observe by referring to the Muster rolls that there is a great deficiency of officers, being only one Capt. ^{one} 1st & one 2d Lt present. The Capt is in daily expectation of an order directing him to repair ^{to} Jefferson Barracks where he may be detained some time, & I am instructed to send one of the Lts with several men to the Capital of Missouri next month to attend the trial of a soldier confined there for murder. This unless some other officers arrive ^{previously} to their leaving will leave me with one officer belonging to the Regt & 1st 2d Lt member of the 5th who I found ^{here} on my arrival doing the duties of Asst Comy. of subsistence & who I detained until the arrival of some officer to relieve him.

I cannot for a moment believe that the situation of this post is properly understood by those making the disposition of the troops, or it certainly would not have been left with its present garrison, for what with taking care of the mills, & public cattle, & providing

forage for them ~~during~~^{for} the winter, & get
-ting^{fuel} which has to be procured at a consid-
-erable distance from the Fort, one half of the
Command at least are ~~at~~ frequently at
the mercy of the Indians were they disposed
to commence hostilities

Very Respectfully

Sir

Your Obedt St

Z. Taylor Lt Col
1st Regt. U.S. Infantry
Comdr

To
Col R. Jones
Adjt Genl U.S. Army
Washington

P.S.
My letter is only intended to be official so far
as it relates to absent officers, & the sending on re-
cruits
Z. S.

For Snelling
1 July 1828
Lt. Col. Z. Taylor
1 ltr

Report the state of
his command as regards
his wants of Officers &
Recruits.

Encloses Muster Rolls

Aug. 2. 1828

For

bot R. Jones

Adj't Genl W. D. Smith

Washington City