

Sixth Mo Infantry

Grand Gulf Miss

April 27th 1863

Col. Respectfully, and with due deference to you as my commanding officer, I offer this my protest against the returning of private R. W. Winfrey of Co. "E" to duty.

I submit the following reasons.

1st By returning him to duty, without any investigation into the reasons of his absence, you do injustice to the better class of soldiers in the company, by placing him on an equality with them.

2nd You grant him a privilege, (that of absenting himself voluntarily from his command,) of which they would scorn to take advantage.

3rd You license others, should there be any so base, or so devoid of shame, to absent themselves whenever they may become some-what dissatisfied, or tired of camp.

4th You indirectly strip the good soldiers, (those who are prompt to obey all orders, cheerful in the performance of every duty), of all honor, praise, or merit for their good conduct.

Hence, there is no longer any reward awaiting the good soldier, but it is far more honorable to be a worthless one.

There are twenty others, who stand in the same relation to the company that R. W. Winfrey did before his return. Shall they return, receive their pay and commutation for clothing while absent, take their bounties and boast of their perfidy. I have not spoken to any of the company (except the officers) upon this subject, neither have I heard any of them express an opinion upon it; yet I am confident that they would feel deeply mortified