

Abraham Lincoln papers

From John C. Fremont to Abraham Lincoln, October 26, 1861

Private.

Head Quarters, in the field near Humansville, Mo. Western Department.

October 26th

My dear Sir,

I have the pleasure to inform you that Maj. Zagony, of my Guards, at the head of only one hundred and fifty men charged and routed two thousand of the enemy drawn up in line of battle in their own camp at Springfield.

I know that you do not like acting against odds, but it is not always possible to restrain the high spirit of the troops, and this action is a noble example to the army which will aid rapidly in bringing it to the standard which I desire for it. In making a desperate charge an officer reflects that if he is killed he will not bear the censure; and if he succeeds his bravery may procure him the honor for which and for his country he is willing to give his life. My object in this note is to ask that you will let these considerations weigh with you & that you will confirm Maj. Zagony in the rank to which I had appointed him subject to your approval and that you will give him such farther promotion as you may judge his good conduct deserves. In his official report my Adj. Genl. will send a list of his officers. It may interest you to know that the Guard is composed of a carefully selected body of men, one hundred from Kentucky and one hundred from Missouri & other states. It is considered a school for cavalry officers. This will to some extent account to you for their distinguished conduct.

I shall occupy with my advance Springfield to night. Details I do not trouble you with here as you will be fully informed through other channels.

I hope that the conduct of this Division of yours will be such as to give you satisfaction. We are poorly supplied with what are usually considered necessaries but, under the circumstances, it was difficult to have it otherwise. Meantime the Spirit of the army is high. It is daily becoming better ordered and acquainted with its duties, and when you have any special service which you desire to have it execute I am confident that it will meet your fullest expectations.

Yours truly,



J. C. Frémont

Maj Genl Commdg.