January 23, 1926

Custodian of War Records
War Department
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:

May I trouble you for certain information in regard to the make-up of the Army of the Potomac in March of 1864? The questions to which I want an answer are these:

1) About how large a numberof the soldiers which went into the campaign in May had been with the Army from its first organization? Is it safe to say that a considerable number were at Bull Run, had made the Peninsular Campaign with McClellan, had been at Fredericksburg and Chancellorsville?

2) What officers in the Army in May of '64 had been with it from the start?

3) Can you refer me to reliable material as to the method of taking the vote in the Army for the elections of '64?

4) I have been informed by a newspaper correspondent who was with Sheridan when he approached Appomatox in April of '65, that just before Lee's surrender, Gordon's cavalry dashed down a slope to attack Custer, that Custer's cavalry was sheltering a line of infantry, and that as Gordon came down, he side-stepped so to speak, leaving the infantry face to face with the approaching cavalry. According to this man's story, at that moment the flag of truce was unfurled. The movement was ended by the unfurling of the flag of truce, but when Gordon stopped the line of infantry that he faced was made up of negro soldiers. That is, the last attempted action of Lee's army was against black men.

This story has been printed, and I have never seen it contradicted; but I have not been able to put my hands upon reliable confirmation. Can you give it to me?

Thanking you in advance for any information you can give me on these points, believe me

Very truly yours

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