

Headquarters, Company F of the 1st Infantry, Cal.V.  
On the March, New Mexico Territory, July 27, 1862.

Sgt. D. Smith,

I have been ordered to send a detachment of ten men in advance of the main column to make certain that the route is passable and the water secure. The privilege of leading this detachment has fallen to you. Take a corporal and 8 men of your choosing. You will need to draw 4 days worth of Rations and set out from Dragoon Spring immediately. If you encounter anything of note send the corporal and two men back to the main column. It is important that you not send men out in any smaller groups as this area is subject to frequent Indian depredations.

Be extra vigilant when approaching the Mountains near Apache Pass as this area is particularly rugged and has been a favorite site for ambush by the Apache. Be careful not to telegraph our presence through unnecessary discharge of firearms or of large fires as this will assuredly draw undesired attention upon you. Make certain your camp is secure and well guarded at night as the Apache are particularly adept at approaching silently and attacking without warning. In the area beyond the Apache Springs stage stop take extra time to scout the hills along the route to make certain that the column can pass through unmolested. This is the area where Cochise attacked St. Pascomb and first went on the war path

The lives of your men and security of this column are in your hands, be extra diligent in your duty as we move towards the seat of war.

St. Edward G Taylor

By order of Capt. Washington L Parvin,  
Co. F, 1st Infantry, California Volunteers, emigr.