

21476

OFFICE OF
Indian Affairs,
Rec'd JUN 14

1893

Capt. Pratt
Nov. 23. 1891

Recommends that
Capt. Brown's re-
quest for his own
company at Pine
Ridge be granted.

Capt. R. H. Pratt
Nov. 23. 1891

Carlisle, Penna.

Presents request of Capt.
Brown to be allowed to
enlist & command com-
pany of soldiers at Pine
Ridge.

[Handwritten signature]

Cour.

Yours sincerely,

[Faint handwritten signature]

Personal.

INDIAN INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL,
CARLISLE, PA.

Nov. 23, 1891.

Hon. T. J. Morgan,

Washington, D. C.

My dear General:

Capt. Brown desires me to write you in reference to allowing him to enlist, organize and command his own company of Indian soldiers at Pine Ridge. We talked this matter all over when he was here a few days ago, and it presented itself to me as being so entirely the best thing to be done that I assured him there would be no difficulty, in my judgment, in getting your consent and the consent of the Secretary of War. I think you yourself can readily understand how, from a military standpoint, it is most desirable that any troops serving at Pine Ridge should be entirely at the command of the agent. The cross purposes that grow up at Indian Agencies when military and Indian Department officials come in contact with each other are so numerous as to make it plain that, wherever it can be done, there should be no divided responsibility. The agent should be supreme. If another officer is sent there to organize a company, there may seem to be harmony, but in reality there

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will be more or less of friction. Were I in Capt. Brown's place, I should most certainly want to have my own company and to be its commanding officer. It might be generally in the care of my lieutenants, but I should want to be supremely in command of it.

I trust that Capt. Brown's application to enlist his company there will be fully approved.

Yours sincerely,

R. H. Pratt