

Washington Jan. A. 1849

To The President.

The undersigned Senators of the State of Illinois, respectfully represent to the President that they are of opinion, a very meritorious officer of the Army, Breast Major J. B. Backenstos <sup>M.R. Rife</sup>, has been, in the distribution of Breasts for gallant services in Mexico, unintentionally overlooked, and the object of this communication is, to draw the attention of the President to his Case -

Major Backenstos was appointed Captain of Rifle from Illinois and is a citizen of that State. He was brevetted <sup>Major</sup> for gallant conduct at Contreras or Churubusco whilst for similar conduct at Chapultepec & the Garita de Balcon on the 13<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1847, he is unnoticed.

By reference to the report of Major Genl. Luston commanding the division of Genl. Pequin F. Smith, comdg. Brigade of his immediate Col. Loving & of Major Panderson of the same corps on file in the War Dept. it will be seen Capt. Backenstos' conduct is highly commended - he was, as <sup>the</sup> under-

It and engaged with his company against  
the enemy from 8 o'clock in the morning until  
night just ~~and~~ had a stop to the action  
& was often very close to them. He, with  
Capt. Simonsen, & Lieut. Streat were the  
three first Americans within the gates of  
the city of Mexico - They entered at the  
head of about forty Riflemen and captured  
two pieces of Cannon, driving the Mexi-  
cans into the citadel -

Of that gallant Regt. the following  
officers have been brevetted for gallantry  
conceded on the 13<sup>th</sup> of Sept. 1847:

- Bvt. Lt Col. Living to be Col. by Pres't.  
Capt. J. S. Simonsen to be Major by Bvt.  
" S. S. Parker to be do -  
" B. S. Roberts do.  
" A. Porter do.  
Bvt 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Geo. McLane to be Capt. by Bvt.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Lieut Robt. M. Morris .. 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut "  
" S. S. K. Russell " " "  
" James Thack " " "

The undersigned now ask that the name  
of Brevet Major Backenstop may be added  
to this list as Bvt. Lt Col. & respectfully  
refer the President to the official

repts before alluded to  
numerous persons  
remained  
Sidney Breese

I cordially & earnestly wish the above  
recommendation is behalf of Major Rocken-  
stopp. By & from the official reports it  
will be seen that Major Rockenstopp performed  
the most gallant duty in connection with his  
brother officers, one that all were brevetted  
except him. We ~~had~~ only ask the same mass of  
justice to him which has been awarded to  
them.

J. A. Douglass

I was acquainted with Maj. Rockenstopp as a  
private citizen and civil officer; in both  
of these capacities he was highly and just-  
ly respected. His services during the  
late war were eminently brilliant &  
useful - Such is the testimony of  
his superior officers, and such  
is the estimation of his numerous  
friends in Illinois. I hope, Sir,  
you will promote him.

I concur with all the above  
J. H. Cernaud  
W. A. Richardson

W<sup>th</sup> & C<sup>o</sup> engaged to handle my property  
We concurred in the foregoing recommendation  
which he is likely to make in view of the  
way of his being dismissed  
and expect to find in  
the same

Tho. J. Farmer  
Orlando P. F. Jackson

Jew Wentworth  
Robert Smith

If it shall appear by the reports of the proper  
officers, that the good conduct of Major Backins-  
ters, was such as to entitle him to further  
promotion, according to what is customary in such  
cases, I very cheerfully and my request, that  
his case may not be overlooked. Of the  
facts of the case I know nothing.

A. Lincoln

President U. S.  
John G. Nicolay  
in favor of Major Backin-  
ters, for May 1<sup>st</sup>.  
Promoted to General

P. H. See Ostroff

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