

*P.S. Direct 3^d Cav. Divis
Hosp. Aquia Landing*

Third Division Hospital Aquia Landing
May 17th 1863

Dear Sister:

I received the papers you sent last Friday but no letter. I have been looking for one for some time and delayed writing on that account but I begin to fear it is lost. I have had no letters yet since I came here although I have sent to the company for what mail there might be for me I know there were letters there as I had not received any for some weeks before we left camp.

I have not written to any one since I came here but you and Noble - have not heard from him yet. My correspondents are but few now as I have given up trying to keep up a correspondence all on one side. Those who were most anxious to hear from me have proved most lax in returning the compliments.

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
(Coll. S-1950, Misc. Box 93/11)
MMN #41193

Date: May 17, 1863

Description: Sgt. Horace M. White on food and rations

Third Division Hospital Aquia Landing
May 17th 1863

Dear Sister:

I received the papers you sent last Friday but no letter. I have been looking for one for some time and delayed writing on that account but I begin to fear it is lost. I have had no letters yet since I came here although I have sent to the company for what mail there might be for me I knew there were letters there as I had not received any for some weeks before we left camp.

I have not written to anyone since I came here but you and Noble - have not heard from him yet. My correspondents are but few now as I have given up trying to keep up a correspondence all on one side. Those who were most anxious to hear from me have proved most lax in returning the compliment.

[sideways at top]

P.S. Direct 3^d Cav. Divis
Hosp. Aquia Landing

My wound is doing well, apparently and I take as much comfort as is possible under circumstances. The tents and beds are very comfortable but the food is not just what would be expected at a hospital like this. I get along very well myself as my appetite is good but as I do not exercise much yet I of course do not require much, but I do pity those who are getting up from fevers and do not have an appetite for sour bread, beef, and poor coffee: there are little delicacies sent here by the Sanitary Com. but they are dealt out very sparingly to the patients but liberally to the attendants I think. It is a great pity the Commission cannot know what use is made of what they furnish for the benefit of the sick, but such is the case throughout every department of the army. The soldier is a subject for every body to infringe upon in some

My wound is doing well apparently and I take as much comfort as is possible under circumstances. The tents and beds are very comfortable but the food is not just what would be expected at a hospital like this. I get along very well myself as my appetite is good but as I do not exercise much yet I of course do not require much, but I do pity those who are getting up from fevers and do not have an appetite for sour bread, beef, and poor coffee: there are little delicacies sent here by the Sanitary Com. but they are dealt out very sparingly to the patients but liberally to the attendants I think. It is a great pity the Commission cannot know what use is made of what they furnish for the benefit of the sick, but such is the case throughout every department of the army. The soldier is a subject for every body to infringe upon in some

way - every thing we buy we pay 5 to
10 times its value, it matters not what
the price of a thing is, if a soldier
wants it he will have it if he has
money. Several regiments of this
division have been paid lately - ours got
4 months pay - we got our pay here.
Gutless bakers and fishermen are doing a
good business since payday. Biscuits
sell for 25 cents pr. dozen at the bakers
- about enough for one meal, shad
50 to 75 cents each and herring 25 to 30
cts. pr. doz. butter is 60 cts. and cheese 50
cts. pr. lb. Such are the prices we are
compelled to pay for any little luxury
we get to relieve the monotony of army
fare. If government will send
butter here to jew the soldiers it
should limit the extent of the
robbery in some degree I think. In
the first place soldiers are robbed
of part of their rations - such as

way - every thing we buy we pay 5 to
10 times its value, it matters not what
the price of a thing is if a soldier
wants it he will have it if he has
money. Several regiments of this
division have been paid lately - ours got
4 months pay - we got our pay here.
Gutless bakers and fishermen are doing a
good business since payday. Biscuit
sell for 25 cents pr. dozen at the bakers
- about enough for one meal, shad
50 to 75 cents cash and herring 25 to 30
do pr. doz. butter is 60 cts. and cheese 50
cts. pr. lb. Such are the prices we are
compelled to pay for any little luxury
we get to relieve the monotony of army
fare. If government will send
Sutters here to jew the soldiers it
should limit the extent of the
robbery in some degree I think. In
the first place soldiers are robbed
of part of their rations - such as

sugar, molasses, and vegetables by the Commissaries and the men are obliged to supply the deficiencies from the Sutts.

I have paid 25 or 30 dollars butter, cheese and papers the last 4 months and I have not been extravagant, comparatively.

The weather has been very fine for a week past and it begins to look quite summer like although the spring has been very backward and wet. I suppose the trees and grass begin to look quite green by this time at home I could send a bouquet of Virginia flowers but I can't get out far enough yet to get them.

I presume you are as well posted on the news of the army as I as the only reliable news we get here is by the papers; we hear all sorts of rumors but they are not to be relied upon at all. We could hear the cannonading of the last battle of Fredricksburg and Chancellorville very plainly and heard all kinds of rumors by the wounded that came here but did not know anything of affairs till we got the papers after the fighting was all over; no papers were allowed to be brought here for a week or more and no letters were allowed to go farther than Washington.

sugar, molasses, and vegetables by the Commissaries, and the men are obliged to supply the deficiencies from the Sutts.

I have paid 25 or 30 dollars butter, cheese and papers the last 4 months and I have not been extravagant. comparatively.

The weather has been very fine for a week past and it begins to look quite summer like although the spring has been very backward and wet. I suppose the trees and grass begin to look quite green by this time at home I could send a bouquet of Virginia flowers but I can't get out far enough yet to get them.

I presume you are as well posted on the news of the army as I as the only reliable news we get then is by the papers; we hear all sorts of rumors but they are not to be relied upon at all. We could hear the cannonading at the last battle of Fredricksburg and Chancellorville very plainly and heard all kinds of rumors by the wounded that came here but I did not know anything of affairs till we got the papers after the fighting was all over; no papers were allowed to be brought here for a week or more and no letters were allowed to go farther than Washington.

There was a rumor here today that our
regiment and the 10th N.Y. were
all taken prisoners but I do not think
there is any truth in it.

Our regiment went as far as Louisa
on the famous raid and returned —
only two regiments, the 2nd N.Y. and
12th Ill. went to Richmond and
Yorktown, — they have been transferred
to that part of the army and Col.
Killpatrick has command of the
whole cavalry force of the Peninsula
he was our brigade commander — a
dashing, go-ahead kind of fellow
and will make his mark yet if he
has an opportunity. One man in
our company had a finger shot off on
the raid and his horse (my old Ezekiel)
got three buck-shot in his neck — he
had staggered off from the compa-
ny to plunder and was fired upon
by citizens or guerillas — the country
is full of them and stragling men

There was a rumor here today that our
regiment and the 10th N.Y. were
all taken prisoners but I do not think
there is any truth in it.

Our regiment went as far as Louisa
on the famous raid and returned —
only two regiments. The 2nd N.Y. and
12th Ill. went to Richmond and
Yorktown, — they have been transferred
to that part of the army and Col.
Killpatrick has command of the
whole cavalry force of the Peninsula
he was our brigade commander — a
dashing, go-ahead kind of fellow
and will make his mark yet if he
has an opportunity. One man in
our company had a finger shot off on
the raid and his horse (my old Ezekiel)
got three buck-shot in his neck — he
had staggered off from the compa-
ny to plunder and was fired upon
by citizens or guerillas — the country
is full of them and stragling men

is wise he will rest upon his honors already gained or win fresh laurels
in a new position - perhaps he can get a situation in a colored
regiment if he is anxious to serve his country. I have not heard
anything of Aziel but once Alden Green wrote that he was sick -
could not stand hard tack and salt horse it was too coarse
fare for him I suppose. Well his time is most out now and.
Perhaps some of the nine month's men will have another oppor-
tunity to serve in this war yet. I must close or be too late
for the mail to day.

are pretty sure to be fired upon by them
some boys have been taken not more
than 12 years old bushwhacking.

I have not written to Henry nor
heard from him for a long time - one
reason for my not writing is that I
could not get 10 ct. stamps and I
don't think it much use to send
letters there without the postage is
paid but I will write to him this
week some time.

I suppose matters in our neighbor-
hood do not change much - Jed is at his
old buisness - loafing - I presume is he
not? I have not heard any mention
of him. I heard that Hawk had
tried to get back to the company
again as Captain, if it is so I suppose
he began to see his mistake - that he is
not received as a veteran or that Uncle is
Sam pays better than most masters. He
had not better come back if he can, for he
will not again gain the confidence. If he

are pretty sure to be fired upon by them
some boys have been taken not more
than 12 years old bushwhacking.

I have not written to Henry nor
heard from him for a long time - one
reason for my not writing is that I
could not get 10 ct. stamps and I
don't think it much use to send
letters there without the postage is
paid but I will write to him this
week some time.

I suppose matters in our neighbor-
hood do not change much - Jed is at his
old buisness - loafing - I presume is he
not? I have not heard any mention
of him. I heard that Hawk had
tried to get back to the company
again as Captain, if it is so I suppose
he began to see his mistake - that he is
not received as a veteran or that Uncle is
Sam pays better than most masters. He
had not better come back if he can, for he
will not again gain the confidence. If he

[written sideways over other writing]
is wise he will rest upon his honors already gained or win fresh laurels
in a new position - perhaps he can get a situation in a colored
regiment if he is anxious to serve his country. I have not heard
anything of Aziel but once Alden Green wrote that he was sick -
could not stand hard tack and salt horse it was too coarse
fare for him I suppose. Well his time is most out now and.
Perhaps some of the nine month's men will have another oppor-
tunity to serve in this war yet. I must close or be too late
for the mail to day.

Yours
Horace