

Hospital Aquia Landing  
May 31<sup>st</sup> 1863

I received your letter of 24  
 inst. yesterday, the first I have had from  
 you or mother in almost three months.  
 Time has passed so lightly since I  
 have been here that I did not think it  
 was three weeks from the time I wrote you  
 first till the second. I have been perfect-  
 ly well all the time and the time has  
 passed almost imperceptibly. My  
 foot is still doing well - the bottom  
 where the ball was taken out is healed  
 up and I think sound, and the hole  
 on the top is growing 'beautifully less'  
 daily; it will probably be several weeks  
 yet before I can walk upon it with ease  
 although I can bear considerable weight  
 on it now. I presume I might have  
 got a furlough for 15 or 20 days but none  
 are granted now on any terms - the order

[written sideways on left and at top]  
 Your letter was directed right so were the papers.  
 It is necessary to  
 direct "Cav. Hos-  
 pital" because there  
 are infantry hos-  
 pitals here too. The  
 hospitals here are  
 built like Ancient  
 Rome - on seven  
 hills and each  
 hill a division  
 hospital.

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Dear Anna:

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Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society  
 (Coll. S-1950, Misc. Box 93/11)  
 MMN #42145

Date: May 31, 1863  
 Description: Horace M. White on progress of wound

was issued a few days ago not to give any  
men furloughs. The surgeons here have  
been doing something about men discharg-  
ed and giving furloughs. I do not think  
it will be long before sick furloughs  
will be granted again. I would like  
very well to go home but probably could  
not get a furlough for more than 15 or 20  
days and then I should dread coming back  
It will cost 60 or 75 dollars to go and  
return but if you and mother wish it  
I will try and get a furlough. As for  
nursing and care which mother is so anx-  
ious about I am very well off here - a  
comfortable tent and straw bed is good  
enough for a man who has spent 18  
months in rough camp life and as  
for nursing all I have required is to  
have my foot dressed once a day and  
vituals brought and I do not know  
but I have been more comfortable here  
and perhaps better for me than if I had  
been at home in a good and had the

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more tender care of a mother and sister  
at least I shall be better prepared to  
return to camp life again. Some of  
the sickest ones I think must have  
suffered for want of little delicacies and  
nourishing food — more from neglect of  
the surgeon in charge than from lack  
of means as the Sanitary Committee  
have a depot here for the benefit of the  
hospitals. There are but few wounded  
in our hospital, the other two cavalry  
Division hospitals are and the 12<sup>th</sup> Army  
Corps. The cars were bringing in wounded  
all the time during the fighting, but  
I think most of them went to Wash-  
ington on the boats. Board Spaul-  
ding was here a few days ago — he is in a  
hospital at Potomac 6 or 7 miles above  
here and came down to the landing on  
a pass; he ran across Chas. Past Putnam  
and found I was here so he came up; he  
has grown a great deal since I saw him  
is quite a tall boy — he talked quite

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large of what the regulars did - he was wounded by a piece of shell on the foot but I do not think it amounted to much - only a bruise I guess he was not lame any. B. spoke of Downs - I think he said he had gone to Washington. The weather has been warm and dry - there has been but one shower this month, but our hospital is on a hill so that there is a breeze most of the time - some of the time it has been so strong as almost to blow the tents over.

I wrote to Henry last week but had no stamp and don't know as he will get it. I do not know any way to account for the missing letters None of the Maine boys got any letters here for 3 or 4 weeks. Some of our mail went up to Stoneman's head quarters. All the dismounted men of our regiment are at Potomac creek - the whole regiment was there since the raid, but I cannot hear of any letters or can't get any - some of the boys said they saw letters for me but when

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has coughed and will leave in a few days - his health was poor. There was another woman. I see you was in Germany. The gun which Eddy had was on the collar-beams near the kitchen chimney, there was another one belonging to his father there. The gun is not a safe one for him to have or I would give it to him but it is a rifle and he can't use it he is not old enough to have a gun any way. I will send a few dollars to him and you can give it to him in small sums for pocket money or buy something for him if he is a good boy and works well and I will send more another time. How do you get along for money for the family? can you collect enough of the debts to use and have plenty. By the way who is settling the estate? I have never seen any advertisements. I can send you some money if you are in any need

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[written sideways across other writing; continued from next page] has resigned and will leave in a few days - his health was poor. We have had female visitors in the tent joining ours - There is one here now with her husband - she is a german. There was one here last week with a baby 12 or 15 months old; she was german too and could not speak a word of english she came to attend her husband who has a broken leg. It was quite a novel thing to see and hear a child cry. We get daily papers from Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and new York - by paying 10] cents per copy but I would like to see some of our state papers, particularly the Times, I got one package you sent. I will write oftener in future  
 Hody

but you and mother both seem to be very careful not to use any I have sent. I do not think it safe to send much in a letter but I can send by Express.

Mother is very anxious to have me come home - she seems very much afraid I do not get careful nursing enough, but I can assure you that I am comfortable and well cared for here and as for my foot, it certainly is doing well as it can but for her sake and yours I would be glad to go home if you still wish but feel perfectly easy about me. Mother inquired about the surgeon; there four of them in the hospital - one of them - Stevens - is from Me. - he is one of the new assistant surgeons to our regiment; he is a very clever, kind man and takes an interest in the welfare of the men - he is one of the kindest in fact the kindest here, but he is trying to get to the regiment - I don't think he is satisfied with the management of affairs and is too humane to remain a party to such abuse in matters over which he has no control. One surgeon who has been in attendance here - a clever man and successful physician

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[remainder on previous page]