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Date: June 28, 1863

Description: Sgt. Horace White from Philadelphia hospital

## U.S. Hospital Chestnut Hill Philadelphia June 28/63

## Dear Anna:

When I wrote you from here before I there was some talk of send the sick and wounded to their own states but I do not hear anything of it of late so I conclude it is not to be done. The hospitals in Washington were cleared out in preparation for the battles to expected to take place soon. I am getting rather tired of hospital life but if I must remain in one I am contented to remain here. This is a beautiful place, 9 miles from the Quaker city but they keep the patients very much confined – They are not permitted to go outside of the buildings. The hospital is built in a circle or a kind of a square with the corners rounded of and covers several acres of ground. The inside of the circle is a corridor or walk 12 or 14 feet wide and is a half mile or more around – I have never been

arount it gets This forms the hub and the wards, 60 or 10 in all, 125 feet long and 18 with are the spokes - The rim is a picket fines I or 10 feet high, There is a rail road around The corridor over which Mu vituals are transported from the Ritchen on hand can and which is used for various other purposes; Then is also a gass and water pipe and connected with the waterpipes are hose which can be made to bear on any hart of the building in case of fin. Then are benches all around the corridor when the men go to smoke or sit by The open windows and look out, In The inner end of each ward is a room 14 feet long and the wilth of If the ward for a dining room, ofuning our of this in a little wing is a kind of panty sink room to when the dishes are warhed and Rept: in the other end is the ward master's room, The both wash wom and bath room to in another wing supplied with hot and cold water. In the center of the circle is The Dispensory an apothecary shop on a

arount it yet. this forms the hub and the wards, 60 or 70 in all, 125 feet long and 18 wide are the spokes — the rim is a picket fence 9 or 10 feet high. There is a rail-road around the corridor over which the vituals are transported from the kitchen on hand cars and which is used for various other purposes: there is also a gass and water pipes and connected with the waterpipes are hose which can be made to bear on any part of the building in case of fire. There are benches all around the corridor where the men go to smoke or sit by the open windows and look out. In the inner end of each ward is a room 14 feet long and the width of of the ward for a dining room, opening out of this in a little wing is a kind of pantry sink room &c where the dishes are washed and kept. in the other end is the ward Master's room, the bath wash room and bath room &c in another wing supplied with hot and cold water. In the center of the circle is the Dispensary – an apothecary shop on a

large seale, Ritchen, laundy, chapel and several other building, I don't know what They are used for, The cooking and waste ing an done by steam, The buildings an all limporary mortar outside and sealed inside The roofs are covered with sheathing paper and larried-all are Mouroughly lighted and wentitated and whitwashed Throughout and Reft perfectly near and clean, altogether As is a well contribut and well managed hospilat, There is a room where all the bazzage is hop each knapsack having a card on It with the owners mame humber of ward and bed on It each ward being Rept separate. The beds - there are GO in each ward - are range on each side of the ward the heads to the wall own beddleads, a straw bed, hair or Excelsion pillow, sheets, double blanksh (white) and a figured cotton spread. There is a small lable and chair to low beds. Such is a partial description of this hospital; it would well repay one the trouble of a visit - provided they did not have to go too far, builtons are ad-

large scale,— kitchen, laundry, chapel and several other buildings. I don't know what they are used for. The cooking and washing are done by steam. The buildings are all temporary mortar outside and sealed inside the roofs are covered with sheathing-paper and tarred — all are thouroughly lighted and ventilated and whitewashed throughout and kept perfectly neat and clean. Altogether it is a well contrived and well managed hospital. There is a room where all the baggage is kept each knapsack having a card on it with the owners name number of ward and bed on it each ward being kept separate.

The beds — there are 60 in each ward — are ranged on each side of the ward the heads to the wall iron bedsteads, a straw bed, hair or Excelsior pillow, sheets, double blanket (white) and a figured cotton spread. There is a small table and chair to two beds. Such is a partial description of this hospital: it would well repay the trouble of a visit – provided they did not have to go too far. Visitors are ad-

milled mindays wednesday and fridays. The are allowed to passes to each wand from Tam. till 5 pm and can lathe the hain which leaves here at I and spend the day in The city and return by Mr 5 delock train, I have not been out get but Mink I will go this week. — Our regiments has had another some engagment - last sunday but I suppose you have sun an account of it in some of the papers. I sent on to Theo, bary which gave some account of it-dinh Know whether he will punt in Louis, Neville was reperted Killed, Lieux Himball did not belong to G. E. as reported - belonged to G. C. I have heard nothing farther of the loss in our company but fear it is heavy I don't Know when the regiment is more, in fact I guess it is a misley to must folks when The main body of both amies are; The papers give but vague and conflicting accounts of Lee's whenabout and keep al most entirely much about Hooker. The papers last night said that Banks

mitted mondays wednesdays and fridays.

We are allowed 6 passes to each ward from 7 AM. till 5 p,m. and cam take the train which leaves here at 7 and spend the day in the city and return by the 5 o'clock train. I have not been out yet but think I will go this week. — Our regiment has had another severe engagment – last sunday but I suppose you have seen an account of it in some of the papers. I sent one to Theo Cary which gave some account of it – don't know whether he will print it. Lieut. Neville was reported killed, Lieut. Kimball did not belong to Co. E. as reported – belonged to Co. C. I have heard nothing farther of the loss in our company but fear it is heavy. I don't know where the regiment is now, in fact I guess it is a mistery to most folks where the main body of both armies are: the papers give but vague and conflicting accounts of Lee's whereabouts and keep almost entirely mute about Hooker. The papers last night said that Banks

had been defeated at Part Hudson, Frank continues to work his way into the 'affect tions of the rebs at bicksburg I hope he may be successfule. Banko will have to do som thing soon or gur who for the time of a large part of his twops must be our now. Do you know anything of the Houlton company in the 22? Monda morning: The papers This morning give accounts of some spermishing about Harrisbury and anticipals an attack upon that city soon ales that Lee is across the Polomac with his whole army There is another change of commanders in the army of the Polimae-Hooker has been removed at his own request The paper states and Maj Een, Med has been appointed to the command, I never had so much confidence in Fighting for, as many I did not like his bragadocio et te and. consur of Mi Ballans penineular Campaign also of Burneich but I think it is a fad him just now to make any such change in commanders as each new commander wants to

had been defeated at Port Hudson. Grant continues to work his way into the "affections of the rebs at Vicksburg. I hope he may be successfull. Banks will have to do something soon or give up for the time of a large part of his troops must be out now. Do you know anything of the Houlton company in the 22?

Monday morning: The papers this morning give accounts of some skirmishing about Harrisburg and anticipate an attack upon that city soon – also that Lee is across the Potomac with his whole army. There is another change of commanders in the army of the Potomac — Hooker has been removed at his own request the paper states and Maj. Gen. Mead has been appointed to the command. I never had so much confidence in "Fighting Joe," as many— I did not like his bragadocio style and censure of McClellans peninsular Campaign also of Burnside but I think it is a bad time just now to make any such change in commanders as each new commander wants to

reviganise the army and just now seems to be a Time for action. The enemy are making feasful inroads when the property of the Rensysylvanian destroing bridges and other public property If this war is to last lite all our Maj. Tens, lake their lum in commanding the army of the Polomor when will I end? I have had no letter since I left aquio din't expect ever to hear any Thing from letters directed then. I don't know but The rebs will drive us from him get - 12 would not be more stronge man many of Their morments and you may not be sur prised to hear fun me at My, or some place farther math to next lime. motent had been thered has been P.S. Direct U.S. Haspilat Chestrus Heill Thiladelphia Fenn, ales of Burnain line I hink it is a lad him just in it make any such change in communication as last men community want to

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inroads upon the property of the Pen^ysylvanians destroying bridges and other publige property — If this war is to last till all our Maj. Gens. take their turn in commanding the Army of the Potomac when will it end?

I have had no letter since I left Aquia don't expect ever to hear anything from letters directed there. I don't know but the rebs will drive us from here yet – it would not be more strange than many of their movements and you may not be surprised to hear from me at N.Y. or some place farther north next time.

Yours

Horace

Ward 36

P.S. Direct U.S. Hospital ^ Chestnut Hill Philadelphia Penn.