



On Picket below Fredericksburg
March 18th 1863

My Dear Father

Again I have taken
my pen to write you a letter from
the army no doubt but you are
anxious to hear from me quite
often for I know how anxious
I used to be to hear from
William when I was at home.
Camp life is a dull one and
it has been more than usually
dull this winter I think. But I
have had a great many letters
from home and letters you
know are bright spots in a
soldiers life no one but those
that have been away from home
a long time know what a

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Maine Historical Society
MMN # 97577

Date: Mar. 18, 1863

Description: Pvt. John Sheahan on bad morale for Union, Rebels

treat it is to hear from those
at home,

My Spirits have been very
low all winter and so in fact
it has been with all the army
of the Potomac, a more dishearten-
ed - lot of men you never saw
than they have been, defeated
in the field and knowing that
traitors at the north were allowed
to criticise the doings of the
Government in such a way
as they have been this winter
the army became disheartened
I tell you that traitors at
home do more injury to our
cause than Jeff Davis and all
his ragged army. If we ever
are forced to give up the
struggle it will be because
the north was not united.
Men are leaving the Rebels
every day and coming across

treat it is to hear from those
at home.

My Spirits have been very
low all winter and so in fact
it has been with all the army
of the Potomac, a more dishearten-
ed - lot of men you never saw
than they have been, defeated
in the field and knowing that
traitors at the north were allowed
to criticise the doings of the
Government in such a way
as they have been this winter
the army became disheartened
I tell you that traitors at
home do more injury to our
cause than Jeff Davis and all
his ragged army. If we ever
are forced to give up the
struggle it will be because
the north was not united.
Men are leaving the Rebels
every day and coming across

the river, full a dozen have
come across since we have
been on picket here they all
are willing to take the oath
of allegiance. They say that
the whole rebel army is sick
and tired of the war and would
willingly do any thing to end it
but the leaders are not willing
that it should end for they are
seeking for office and honor
one of them told me that he
could not see how they could
carry on the war a year longer
for they had nothing to eat or
wear. about all they get to wear
is what they get from our dead
and this you might plainly see
by the ones that crossed the
river for they all had on our
uniform but one and he was
dressed in home-spun One fellow
said that they were greatly in

the river, full a dozen have
come across since we have
been on picket here they all
are willing to take the oath
of allegiance. They say that
the whole rebel army is sick
and tired of the war and would
willingly do any thing to end it
but the leaders are not willing
that it should end for they are
seeking for office and honor
one of them told me that he
could not see how they could
carry on the war a year longer
for they had nothing to eat or
wear. about all they get to wear
is what they get from our dead
and this you might plainly see
by the ones that crossed the
river for they all had on our
uniform but one and he was
dressed in home-spun One fellow
said that they were greatly in

want of ammunition and
the powder they get is dreadful
poor.

So it seems to me that they
must come under soon I hope
and pray that they may

John P Sheahan

Enclosed you will find
two holly leaves and three laurel

I did receive the card
but have not a letter

want of ammunition and
the powder they get is dreadful
poor.

So it seems to me that they
must come under soon I hope
and pray that they may

John P Sheahan

Enclosed you will find
two holly leaves and three laurel

I did receive the card
but have not a letter