

Head Quarters 5th Maine Battery,
Camp Augusta
GEO. F. LEPENE, Capt. Commanding.
March 4th, 1862.

Dear Friend Charles I seat
my self to scratch you a few
lines to let you know how I
like a Soldiers life I like
first rate am tough rugged and
Saucy I enlisted the twenty
Sixth of nov and came down
here the second day of Dec
we dont have to drill much
yet we drilled every day for
about a month when we first
came here our horses went
to day for Ship Island the
was sixteen cars full of them
and we shall go before long
the Soldiers are pretty well
thined out here now the is
five Batterys and the Cavalry
and a few recruits for the
tenth and fifth redgs here

Head Quarters 5th Maine Battery
Camp Augusta
GEO. F. LEPENE, Capt. Commanding
March 4th, 1862

Dear Friend Charles I seat
my self to scratch you a few
lines to let you know how I
like a soldiers life I like
first rate am tough rugged and
saucy I enlisted the twenty
sixth of nov and came down
here the second day of Dec
we don't have to drill much
yet we drilled every day for
about a month when we first
came here our horses went
to day for Ship Island the
was sixteen cars full of them
and we shall go before long
the soldiers are pretty well
thined out here now the is
five Batterys and the Cavalry
and a few recruits for the
tenth and fifth redgs here

Contributed to Maine Memory Network by Sebago Historical Society
MMN #71947

Date: March 4, 1962

Description:

Write often
 and I will
 answer your
 letters
 dont let
 eny
 boddy read
 this burn
 it as soon
 as you read
 it I will
 try and
 write better
 next time

now I should like to come over
 thare before we leave but we
 expect to go every day I saw
 old unale Charles Decker here
 the other day I have reformed
 some since I was thare another
 fellow here in the Battery with
 my self left off swearing and
 drinking and yestarday we
 signed the Sons of Temperance
 we was paid off about three
 weeks ago and shall be paid
 again in a week or two we have
 been mustard fur pay we camp
 within about ten rods from
 the State house I saw
 Stephen Porter here the first
 of the winter I happend to
 run a fowl of him to the State
 house I dont have as much

[sideways writing across top of letter]

Write often
 and I will
 answer your
 letters
 dont let
 eny [smudge]
 boddy read
 this burn
 it as soon
 as you read
 it I will
 try and
 write better
 next time

[end sideways writing]

now I should like to come over
 thare before we leave but we
 expect to go every day I saw
 old unale Charles Decker here
 the other day I have reformed
 some since I was thare another
 fellow here in the Battery with
 my self left off swearing and
 drinking and yestarday we
 signed the sons of temperance
 we was paid off about three
 weeks ago and shall be paid
 again in a week or two we have
 been mustard fur pay we camp
 within about ten rods from
 the state house I saw
 Stephen Porter here the first
 of the winter I happend to
 run a fowl of him to the state
 house I don't have as much

priviledge here as I did
before I enlisted but we
have company enough the is
twelve tents with me and we
have some pretty good times when
we are not on guard our tent
goes on once a week we are on
to day and shall go on next
Sunday night at four o'clock and
relieved at four monday night
we march to meeting every Sunday
and a Squad goes to theatre
every night the was a Squad
of us went one night to theatre
and the printing Office and
post Office caught fire and
the theatre was in the same
building the fire broke out
about eight o'clock and we
had a quite a fire and a quite
a sene in the bargin the City
masshall and Police undertook
to tacke one of our boys and

priviledge here as I did
before I enlisted but we
have company enough the is
twelve tents with me and we
have some pretty good times when
we are not on guard our tent
goes on once a week we are on
to day and shall go on next
Sunday night at four o'clock and
relieved at four monday night
we march to meeting every Sunday
and a squad goes to theatre
every night the was a squad
of us went one night to theatre
and the printing office and
post office caught fire and
the theatre was in the same building
the fire broke out
about eight o'clock and we
had a quite a fire and a quite
a sene in the bargin the City
marshall and Police undertook
to tacke one of our boys and

carry him to jail so we
thought we would not let
them carry him to jail about
a thousand of us took after
them and like to killed them
we tore the City marshalls
coat all off of him and his hat
and took his revolver and knife
away and he was glad to get
off with a whole head so he up
and went over the toll bridge
on double quick they dont
dare to take a Soldier since they
think it is best to let them
alone we are all drest just alike
and we can tell when they take
one and the is enough to
soil in about that time I cant
think of any thing ~~of~~ more
to write this time Onley write
as soon as you get this and all
the news Direct to fifth Battery
flying Artillery Edwin F Witham
Augusta me

carry him to jail so we
thought we would not let
them carry him to jail about
a thousand of us took after
them and like to killed them
we tore the City marshalls
coat all off of him and his hat
and took his revolver and knife
[smudge] away and he was glad to get
off with a whole head so he up
and went over the toll bridge
on double quick they dont
dare to take a soldier since they
think it is best to let them
alone we are all drest just alike
and we can tell when they take
one and the is enough to
said in about that time I cant
think of any thing [smudge] more
to write this time Onley write
as soon as you get this and all
the news Direct to fifth Battery
flying Artillery
Augusta me Edwin F Witham