



Portsmouth Navy Yard. N. H. Apr 26th 1863.
Genl George F. Shepley
Dear Sir pardon me for
addressing you on this occasion - When you left
the State of Maine, in command of the 12th Reg^{mt}
my Son Charles E. Nealley was one of your Soldiers
He was Recruited at So. Berwick where he was at school
By Oscar Grant - who recruited some sixteen men &
They were put in Company B. Capt Chadwell
of Portland -
Soon after he arrived at New Orleans
he was taken from the Regiment & put in the
Signal Corps - he was under the command of a
Lieut Dana, he often wrote me while under his
Command, that he liked well, When Gen Welzell
was ordered up the River, Lieut Russell
who I infer, from what my son wrote is the
Head officer of the Signal Corps - would not
let my Son go with Dana - nor lett him join
his Regiment - he Remained with Russell
at New Orleans till about the first of January
when he became so tired as he Represents of his
unkind treatment that he left him and
procuring a suit of clothes shipped on Board
of one of the Blockading Gun Boats
the Owasee under an assumed name - and
in this letter to me said he had no idea

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MMN # 75476

Date: April 26, 1863

Description: Charles Nealley wrote to George F. Shepley about his son Pvt.
Charles E. Nealley who had enlisted in 1861 at age 19.

of Deserting the Cause of his Country & was willing to serve out his time where he was or in his Regiment - but to Remain under the Command of Lieu^t Rusele he could not -

I have been thus particular in Representing his case to you - for I desire your assistance if possible, to enable him to Remain where he is, and assume his own name, for you will perceive that it is unpleasant to have a son in the service known by an other name than his own -

I write you with grate liberty because he went out in your Regiment I placed him personally in your care at Portland, the day you marched into the City to Embark on the Constitution - I was unwilling he should go then on the account of his mothers sickness she has since died - I Resided then in Biddeford & he was attending school at Soberwick when he Enlisted, although he was under age, yet as I could not persuade him not to go, I signed his papers & let him go and in all my letters to him I have Endeavored to Encourage him to be patient and do his duty faithfully - I Regret the course he has taken - but since he has taken this course, the object of this letter is

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to ask your influence if possible
to make it honorable for him to serve
his country where he is - and let
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may write by the same, for it is very
unpleasant for me to be obliged to
think of him under an assumed name
if you will write me if you can
do anything for me, and what you can
do, I shall be under grate obligations
to you & if matters can be so arranged
for him to remain in the Navy under his
own name I shall be relieved of grate
Anxiety - please write me on the Receipt
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Yours Respectfully
Charles M. T. Nealley

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