



Camp near Bealton Station  
May 24<sup>th</sup> 1863

My Dear Father  
I now sit down  
not to answer any letter that  
I have received from you  
for I have not heard from  
you for quite a while,  
but to let you know that  
I am well at present and  
am in high hopes that this  
will find you the same  
I have been down to Potomac  
Creek for quite a spell for  
my horse was not fit to be  
with the regiment. day before  
yesterday we got orders that  
all the horses that could  
possibly join the regiment  
must go on immediately

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MMN # 97581

Date: May 24, 1863

Description: Pvt. John Sheahan letter on picket duty

so I had to come on and  
join the regiment yesterday, it  
almost spoiled my horse he had  
a very sore back where  
the saddle had chafed it I  
am in hope that it will not spoil  
him for he is a splendid horse he  
is one that one of our boys picked  
up and the Lieutenant gave him to  
me. We have pretty lively times  
here on picket the Gurrillas are  
as thick as black flies one cant  
go out side of the pickets a  
half mile before he is either  
shot or taken prisoner they are  
shooting at our pickets every  
night, they killed one man and  
wounded quite a number the other  
night, we have a great deal to  
do now full more than we  
had to do last winter I  
saw William while I was

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at the creek he was  
in good health, I must now  
close as I have another letter  
to write and my horse to clean  
tell John Shaw that he must  
answer that letter which I  
wrote him nearly a month  
ago.

John P Sheahan

Shaw

You will find in this letter a  
piece of army telegraph wire  
such as is used in battle,  
you will see them laying  
all along the ground in a  
fight and on the trees,  
keep it for a curiosity

John Parris Sheahan

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