



Yorktown Va March 5<sup>th</sup>/64

My Dear Father and Mother

Although I wrote  
you a short note this morning  
I cannot resist the temptation  
of writing again tonight. We have  
had a very hard and dangerous  
time, so much so that we are  
to stay here for some time to re-  
cruit both men and horses in  
fact I have heard that we are  
not to go back to Warrenton but  
this report is not generally be-  
lieved. I sincerely hope we may  
go back for I do not like this  
part of the country. No one need  
say to me McClellan killed his

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Date: March 6, 1864

Description: Pvt. John Sheahan on fighting near Richmond

men in the trenches it is in my opinion a report of those who envied him as a general. Come here and see what he had to do and where he had to do it. I have not a doubt had it been any other General they would have lost more the whole country around here is one continual bog and has the appearance of an exceedingly sickly place.

I would like if I could tell you how many dangers we have passed thro' but I cannot untill some future time. we lost a large number of men both in prisoners and killed. Soon after we crossed the Rapidan a detail was made to march on the rear of Richmond. I was <sup>so</sup> unfortunate <sup>as</sup> to be one of their number it was a great work and must be

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done, and no one of our little  
band ever thought of reaching the  
main body of our Cavalry again it  
was like marching into a tomb  
and hearing the heavy door close  
behind. We continued our march  
both night and day untill we  
came to a place where no knew  
the roads, a negro came up and  
offered his help as guide. never  
shall I forget the night he lead  
us, through swamps, over fields,  
across rivers. ah how miserable is  
man without hope! hope had left  
me I never dreamed of having the  
pleasure of writing you dear  
father again. I am no coward, I  
am proud to say I am called brave  
and am often referred to as one  
always at his post in times of danger  
but here I trembled for to be  
taken prisoners was in my mind  
worse than death. One Rebel Lieut-

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that we had captured told me  
that our men were actually starving  
in Richmond but says he "it is  
not the fault of the Government  
they have not the means to feed  
our own soldiers."

I will give you some  
Richmond prices and close

Flour per bbl. \$350 @ \$500

" " lb \$7 @ \$10

Fresh beef per lb. \$8 @ \$10

Eggs per doz \$6 @ 8

Molasses per gal \$40 @ \$50

Sugar per lb \$15 @ 20

Laboring men get \$8 dollars per  
day in Richmond. see how they  
have to live. These prices may be  
relied on as I had them from  
two different persons one a citizen  
the other a Lieut in the Reb  
Service

Your affectionate son  
John P Sheahan

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