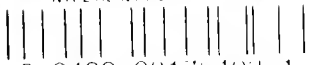


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**CIVIL WAR**  
**LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS**

OF

**FREDERICK TOMLINSON PEET**

WITH THE SEVENTH NEW YORK REGIMENT  
PRIVATE IN Co. H, APRIL 18TH—JUNE 3RD, 1861

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WITH FIRST (BERDAN'S) SHARP-SHOOTERS  
SECOND LIEUTENANT OF Co. H, AUGUST 1ST, 1861—JULY 2ND, 1862

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PRISONER TO THE CONFEDERATES  
JULY 1ST—JULY 18TH, 1862

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IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
SECOND LIEUTENANT, JUNE 14TH, 1862—AUGUST 31ST, 1864  
FIRST LIEUTENANT, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 1864—AUGUST 28TH, 1869

FIFTY COPIES—PRIVATELY PRINTED

NEWPORT

1917





## PREFATORY NOTE

The following letters, having been given to me by my uncle, it appears to me that they should be printed, in addition to the Reminiscences which I had the pleasure of printing in 1905. Any such simple and spontaneous expressions of feeling from one engaged strenuously in the war must always be of intense interest, and added in this case are the numerous evidences in the letters of the affectionate feelings existing between the members of the family, which it is always pleasant for his relatives to recall. It is most unfortunate that these letters should end so abruptly, and that none should be available which were written during the interesting cruise upon the

Niagara, in which he was engaged during the last year of the war.

The other papers which are printed, including commissions and orders, it is believed will add to the interest of the letters.

R. T.

Newport,

December, 1916.

The Phila., Wilm. and Balto. R. R. Co.  
Office of Master of Transportation,  
Apl 20th            Philadelphia            1861  
10 O'Clock A. M.

Dear Mother & Father

We arrived here (Phil) about 3. this morning the Mayor of Baltimore has refused to let us pass, and so we have waited until the present time none knowing whether we were to fight our way through Baltimore or take a road from Haverdigrass to Washington. If the former we expect to *fight* if the latter we may get off a little better. I am all right and so is Henry. A girl named Margaret Matcollm or some such name gave me her handkerchief. We have had all kinds of things showered upon us prayer books and bo-

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NOTE--The 7th Regiment of N. G. S. N. Y. left New York April 19th, 1861, for Washington.

quits etc. etc, but I have no more to say except that believing am doing right I go forward with God's blessing.

Your affectionate son

FRED

Give my love to all.

I have no time to write more

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Apl 21 & 22, 1861      *Apl. 61*

Annapolis Harbor      Monday

Dear Mother & Father,

So far so good if we except the accommodations, which are more like the middle passage of a slaver than anything else I know of. But I forgot to tell you. We left Philadelphia on the Steamer Boston Saturday afternoon at 3. and have been on the water ever since. The Boston is a small steamer made to hold about 700 persons so you may imagine what a display we make

about 12 o'clock at night; every available spot is covered with a soldier. I have not taken off my clothes since we left, to give you an idea how we sleep would be beyond my power, last night I had on beside my overcoat my knapsack, bayonet, a great tin canteen, a body belt Cartridge Box, cap box, & cap, besides having my pockets filled with all kinds of things. The first night we laid over at Philadelphia not being able to go on through Baltimore. I did not sleep the least, and about 3 in the morning most of us were astir and paraded through the outskirts of the city with a drum, calling for Coffee, the people put their heads from the windows in their night caps, (and I never saw such an ugly set of people) and soon came down and gave us all we wanted. In the afternoon we marched from one side of the city to

the other and there embarked on board the Boston. Sunday was passed on the water. We had a sermon from Chaplin Weston which I liked pretty well, although have heard better from Dr. Cutler. Yesterday we expected to sail up the Potomac to Washington but as one gun from the Enemy could knock our machinery useless, and we had no armed escort we find ourselves at Annapolis instead of the Potomac. Not one of us knows which way we are to go, nor have we since we left. The Boston Regiment is here in the harbor, and they keep drilling all the time. Every moment you can see the bayonets gleam as they are shifted from one side to the other; the upper deck of their boat is covered with them. The frigate Constitution is here and looks finely. Col Lefferts has had an interview with her Commander

& also with the Commander of the Boston Regiment, Mr. Butler. On the fort in Annapolis the Stars & Stripes are flying, while little boats are humming around and remind me very much of Bridgeport Harbor. We expect to go ashore & march to Washington but nobody knows anything about it. The drum is now beating the Sergeants call, to give them the necessary commands. We should have been in Washington yesterday morning if we had not been obstructed by the pulling up of rails. I will write you more when in Washington. I wish I could give you a faint description of what we sleep on. A great many of the men had mattresses while others managed to find some tents stowed away and used them for beds. I was lucky enough to get one of the latter, and laid down all right, although rather

cold, to take my sleep, but as a fellow I knew came along I gave him half and it wasnt long before I was crowded almost off, half on the dirty floor & half on the dirty canvas; the next night I sleep on the hard boards; but I must leave off as we are called to posts to receive orders.

Give my love to all

Your affectionate son

FRED.

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I have numbered the pages, I hope you can read it.

Washington D. C. Apl 29th 61.

Dear Father.

We arrived here last thursday morning after the most fatiguing journey I have ever experienced and are now safely anchored in the Hall of Representatives,



where I am now sitting with some hundreds of others engaged in writing letters & cleaning accoutrements; while I write Harry Hubbell is cleaning his on the steps of speakers desk; this appears to be almost a desecration. We sleep in the Room & Halls around it. and recline on beds of damask curtains & Turkish carpets laid down as best suits our inclinations. But I will take up my account where I left off when I wrote you last, which letter I was almost ashamed to send, but I had no opportunity to write one more satisfactory. We entered Annapolis on Monday afternoon about 4 o'clock. & would have been ashore sooner had not the boat which held the Massachusetts men been aground. As it was we landed, & then sent and took them from their boat; and when sufficiently lightened drew her off. Before we had de-

terminated where and how to land the commandant of the yard came aboard & had some conversation with Col Lefferts. As his yacht touched our boat his fore top mast was carried away by coming in contact with some of our tack. He (the commandant) is a fine looking old gentleman rather short with white hair and broad high forehead and dressed as neatly as a pin. Oh how I appreciated his clean linen, for during the last week my portion had truly been among the pots & kettles. I had been sleeping on the bare floor with may be a half dozen boots near my head and dirty barrels scattered promiscuously around, lying sometimes in water and mud, drinking bad water and worse coffee without milk or sugar, and having for dinner pork or a little dried stringy beef, & crackers hard as rocks; and to clap the climax

having to wait patiently about an hour & a half, jammed up in a line of men, holding in my hand a tin plate & cup. Such is the misery of a New York volunteer; although it has rather improved since our arrival, as we have dined at the Hotels and called for almost everything we wished; but I believe we have had our last meal of that kind as provisions are running short. But to go back to my story we bunked on the floor in the naval school buildings with our arms by our sides expecting an attack. The night before we left we had quite an excitement. About ten O'clock the drum beat to arms and in eleven minutes we were all drawn up on the ground, with our artillery in readiness while all the middies were out in full force armed with two cannons while each had a sabre & revolver. It all happened on account of some mistake about

the signals sent from the Frigate Constitution, relative to the approach of the enemy, The fleet of vessels sent from New York, "Baltic." "Harriet Lane" etc. having arrived we misunderstood the signal and took them for a fleet of the enemy. Our mistake was soon found out however, and we seperated with orders to be packed and in readiness to march at a moments notice. I did not sleep any that night, nor had I since I left had three or four hours comfortable rest. The grounds at Anapolis are very beautiful. but not quite as much so as West Point. The day we arrived the superintendant shut up shop and called all the children in, expecting an attack, but as they found we were not so inclined they soon made their appearance with all kind of eatables and sold them at a price that would astonish any sensible man; 6 cents

for a small apple, 50 cents for a little pie. but a little broader than the width of this sheet, and other things in proportion. I should think we left them quite a little fortune, especially as Uncle Sam was obliged to buy some dozen carts and a score of horses, which I heard were sold at equally exorbitant prices. On Wednesday morning we left Anapolis, the Massachusetts men having for two days previous taken possession of the depot and laid rails to the length of five miles or more which had been pulled up; they also put a locomotive together, which had been taken to pieces by the secessionist. and then steamed it themselves. They are great boys, they can put their hand to anything. As I was saying we started about nine or ten on Wednesday morning and such a tramp as it was it would be impossible to give you


an adequate idea of it. Our march for the first part of the day was through the hottest sun I ever felt. I suppose we felt it more as we were loaded down with belts tin cans & a musket. at all events it almost killed some, many of them falling down and being picked up by the Locomotive which with three cars brought up the rear; our knapsacks were packed in the cars, otherwise we could not have walked half the distance. Two or three men were partially sun struck but by four o'clock we were blessed with a thunder storm after which, it grew more and more chilly until we arrived at the Junction. I wish you could appreciate my feelings but I know you cant unless you hire somebody to stir you up with a stick when about to fall to sleep and on the way keep you awake for five days and nights, and then cover your-

self with all kinds of straps and march over twenty miles, all day and all night. As we stopped at the different station several horsemen could be seen watching us. We marched two abreast, in all about 2000 strong, and as we wound around a curve in the road it was a beautiful sight to see, as far as the eye could stretch on either hand a long bristling line of bayonets glittered in the moon light and at a halt the scene would instantly change from an army in motion to one in camp, the boys would fall down on the damp ground in all kind of postures and scatter as far as the sides of the road would permit. And when the order would come down the ranks to "forward," those on the ground would have to be stirred up by the other and sometimes preferred staying. One of the drummers was left in this way and when found he

was retracing his steps towards Anapolis, having in his sleep been turned about so completely that he did not know which direction to take. I caught a stiff neck and had a slight headache but was free from any trouble about my ankle. The line of March was as follows: Two companies were sent ahead to clear the way, after them came the engineers to rebuild the bridges by the tracks, and lastly the main body with scouts sent out on either side. Ahead of the main body were two howitzers. Although we all expected an attack as the nature of the ground would have permitted one with a good chance of success, none occurred; we have subsequently heard that some 2000 men were hovering on our flanks all the way but dared not venture to attack us. We reached our journey's end, about five o'clock Thursday



morning, took cars from the Junction to Washington where we arrived in due course of time. We were escorted by the Washington Riflemen, a fine looking corp of men, who said we had been expected for some days and the people were much excited about us. We remained in the depot forming into column for about a half hour and then marched up Pennsylvania Av. to the white house, where we were honored by the presence of Mr & Mrs Lincoln; we then retraced our steps and were soon lodged in the different Hotels, the one which had the honor of the 8th Company was the National. After dinner and a wash we were marched to the Capitol. Saturday Lincoln his two little sons, Sec Cameron and some others reviewed us when we all took the oath. it was one of the most solemn sights I ever beheld. the

men were drawn up in this shape  and then a Major in the U S A read it while we repeated it with our right hand raised. the closing sentence was, "So help me God." all the men spoke out plainly and deliberately as if they meant what they said. In the oath we swore to uphold the Constitution obey all the officers placed over us and to battle for our Countries honor & against all enemies of the government whosoever they might be. Yesterday "Sunday" we had divine services at 10 1-2 A M & 7 1-2 P M. in the morning by our Chaplin and in the evening by some strange preacher, whom I liked very much. The Times correspondent gave us quite a speech, also a member from New York. I have forgotten his name. In the afternoon Abe Lincoln & Wm H Seward came in and addressed us, after whom Cassius

M Clay favored us with his presence accompanied by his batallion. One of the Mass. men shot himself in the foot, which was subsequently amputated, a subscription was raised by our boys for him ; also one of our boys shot himself while on the march to the Junction. We have five or six men now in the Capitol who were caught stuffing bombs in the Navy Yard with sand, one was shot on the spot as he attempted to draw a revolver on the men. My watch has gone I dont know where, if I had some money to spare I would put up an advertisement, with some slight hopes of getting it, as it is I see no hopes as toward ten thousand men are now in the Capitol. Charley has arrived and is at the navy yard although I have not yet seen him. If he has any money to spare I will borrow of him and then repay him if it is found.

I forgot to tell you that When we arrived the Washingtonians were delighted to see us; half of them would not take any money from us, but gave us all we wanted, every body came up shaking hands and saying "God bless you" as if they had known us all for years; they were in a great state of fever before our arrival, expecting a visit from Jeff Davis, but if I dont stop now I dont know when I will. Tell Hattie, Mother, John, Mr Taft, & Sarah, & William that I have received their letters which were very welcome; send them this as I think it is large enough for all.

Your affectionate Son

F. T. PEET, JR.

Direct my letters to 8th Co.

Camp Cameron May 10, 61

Dear Father,

The bearer Charles Juny is one of my messmates & a very fine fellow. as he came on on furlow I gave him your address & asked him to stop in and see you. I received your letters, the latter having enclosed ten dollars, which was very acceptable as I have to pay for my washing. Tell Wm. I received his letter & will answer it as soon as I possibly can do so. I have tried for three or four days to get time to write a long letter. but I have as yet been unsuccessful even now I am all cramped up, & the boys are commencing breakfast.

I will write soon to you and Wm.

With love to all

I am your affectionate son

FRED

Camp Cameron May 22 61

Dear Father.

I received your letter a few days ago. It is now 4. P. M. Inspection has just passed and for a wonder we are not called out this afternoon until 4.30. when we will fall in for our evening parade which has become quite an institution for the ladies and gentlemen of Washington, even now I am interrupted by Charleys coming in and telling me that Forrest fr New York is on the parade ground. You would be surprised to see the crowd of ladies that come to see us drill. I have been introduced to several but the trouble is that the best looking is so passé as to have been married several years.

I went down town today on purpose to pay a visit to Mr. Corbin, but as Charley was with me we agreed to go to Mr. La-

lowe first, when we bid him good by; it was 15 minutes to 4. the time when we were to be at quarters, so I have been obliged to postpone it. and may not have time to go again to town.

May 23

I have not been able to finish this, but I write now to tell you that we have just been presented by a flag for the New York ladies & also that we are under marching orders to be ready in half an hour for active service; it is now 10 m pas 7 P. M. & at 8 we must be ready; there are many surmises about our destination, and we may not go at all but my time is almost up and I must say Goodby

Your

Affectionate Son

FRED

P. S. Tell Wm I received a letter from him today. I expect to ans him next week.

love to all



NOTE—June 3d the 7th Regt. was mustered out of the U. S. Service. Soon after he accepted an offer of a position as 2d Liout. in Berdan's Sharpshooters.

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Colonel H. Berdan having been authorized by the War Department to raise one or more regiments of Sharpshooters for three years or the war, with authority to designate company officers and authorize them to recruit, and having designated me as Captain with authority to recruit a company and to appoint subaltern officers thereof subject to the approval of the War department,

I hereby appoint Fredk. T. Peet Jr 2d Lieut. of the company now being raised by me and authorise him to recruit men for the corps known as the U. S. Sharpshooters commanded by Col. Berdan, such recruits to be attached to the company to be commanded by me as Captain.

16th Sept. 1861

GEO. G. HASTINGS

Capt. 3d N. Y. Compy U. S. S. S.

Camp of Instruction Oct 24, 61.

Dear Father,

I received your letter to night. I have been to see See Welles he said that if he should see Cameron he would speak to him of me. I thought that was rather slim, at all events there is but little chance for me, so I think you had better send me my green uniform and have it made as warm as possible. I am satisfied as I am: I may as well see the Union go to smash when in the volunteer as in the regular. We all feel rather discouraged here to night. Rumours are afloat that McLellan is taken prisoner, Banks division has been cut to pieces, and himself taken, while there are 5000 rebels on the Maryland side of the Potomac. The North has not and will not be awake until it is too late. When in Washington I called on Miss

Wright. and Cousin Ned.\* I am much better pleased with an officers life than with a privates. The only trouble is that there is no one for me to have any fun with. Last evening there was some singing in Capt. Johms tent but I was away and did not participate. I met Mr. Andrew Nisson at the Navy department and gave him a note to Wm. to have my boxing gloves sent on. I wish you would send some warm gloves when you send my clothes. Capt. Hastings has had some good things sent here, such as sardines ale claret etc; as I dont drink anything but water it is all lost to me. I am very glad to hear that Rebekah is working for the soldiers but I would rather fight than work as I told Libby when she wanted me to pick berries for them. Be so good as to

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\*Col. Edward H. Wright on Gen. Scott's staff.

send my green suit on as soon as it can be done, and let me know the day it is shipped as I must go to the depot and attend to it myself if I wish it done for some bundles have remained for weeks at the Express Office. Send boxing gloves & woolen gloves in the same bundle; I am obliged to go on dress parade with my blue sack.

Mr. Coit is our Chaplin but the Second Regt has none yet.

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

Did you wish me to write to Mr Morgan if I was unsuccessful in getting the appointment

Can you send me some silk handkerchiefs

Camp of Instruction Oct. 26th 61.

My Dear Father,

Things look brighter since my last letter I neglected to tell you when writing, that while talking with Cousin Ned in Gen Scotts Headquarters he mentioned that there was a vacancy in the Marine Corp He was then about writing to a friend to obtain it if possible for him, at least to mention the facts of the case, although I suppose he could do but little towards the obtaining of it. I told Welles that I should highly prize a position in the Marine Corp if it could be had as I had heard that there was a vacancy. He replied that there was none, so I gave up for lost. Cousin Ned came up to see me this afternoon and said that a personal friend of his, a Capt in the Marine Corp had told him again yesterday

(25th inst) that there *was* such a position vacant. Ned then asked about the examination; the Capt replied "that if Ned recommended any one he (the Capt.) would see him through, as he (Capt.) was the Chairman of the Board of Examiners."

Cousin Ned tells me not to give it up but to write to you & have it *put through*. It is a situation if anything better than in the Common Infantry I believe there is better pay; at all events there are but two or three regts of them in the service. You will understand it is one of the best stations in the Regular Service. Be kind enough to *put it through* Ned says he understood that there would be some two or three other vacancies in a little while.

Dont let this hinder my Green Suit, as I am getting very shabby looking. I paid a call on Miss Mary Wright last night.

I guess that you will be surprised when Harry Hubbell comes back an Aid to Gen Wright; he must not get ahead of me, so pray have the Appointment in the U. S. Marine Corp for me.

Your affec Son

FRED.

Send on my green clothes as soon as possible and also some buck gloves. Ned said he would withhold his letter to his friend until I had tried my luck.

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Camp of Instruction Oct 31, 61.

My Dear Father,

Your letter of the 30th I have just received. The letters from Mr Morgan Mr. Terry and yourself I received last Tuesday afternoon. I immediately acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Terrys. I intend writ-

ing to Mr Morgan as soon as I can conveniently do so, thanking him for the interest he has taken in me, and telling him of my unsuccess.

Wednesday morning at 1-4 before eleven I was ushered into the presence of Mr Welles; he was engaged for a few minutes during which time I was engaged in one of the clerks rooms. In a short time owing to the kindness of Mr Welles I stood in the presence of the Secy of War. After passing a few brief compliments Mr Welles introduced me saying I was wishing a commission in the Regular Service and then followed it up by saying that I was remarkably well qualified for the position, etc. I then told Mr Cameron that I had been endeavoring for some time to enter the Service and that through the influence of Mr Weed my name had been placed on



the appointing list some two or three months previous. I then spoke about my wishes to serve my country etc etc, to all of which he replied that New York had had her share and that he very well remembered Mr Weeds speaking of me, but the best thing for me to do was to leave it all in the hands of the Secretary, (meaning Mr Welles) as he could do nothing until Congress met. He spoke encouragingly, and I told him should the commission be tendered me he would not see it disgraced. He replied "that he did not think it would," "that he believed me," or something to that effect.

Mr Welles advised me to go on as usual, once in a while stop down and see Mr Cameron as I now knew the way there. He also advised me to find out when Mr Weed came in town and ask him to be kind

enough to stop in, or when in the Secretary of Wars Office to see that it was going on as well as possible. After thanking Mr Welles I bid him good morning.

I did not speak of the Marine Corp appointment, as the vacancy of which I wrote you had been filled. I happened to meet the fortunate individual in the Clerks office, while waiting for Mr Welles.

I then went to see Cousin Ned Wright & told him of my circumstances. He advised me to write to Mr Morgan again as Major Russell, President of the Board of Examiners for the Marine Corp, had written to him saying that he expected the Vincennes in, and that there were some southerners aboard who would throw up their commissions. Of course he does not want this knowledge scattered around promiscuously, as it is not known outside of the Naval Department.

Private

He advised me to get Mr Morgan to have my name booked, or in other words get Mr Welles to promise the very first vacancy to me; then for me to send in my application and very likely I would have the desired position.

The only trouble is that I dislike to trouble Mr Morgan any more, he has been very kind & I am sincerely grateful; if it can be done, I will be very glad indeed.

Ask Mother to send me some good towels we may remain here for some time, also to have my clothes thickly padded My pay will commence from Sep 16th 61.

Your affectionate son

FRED.

Tell Wm I am very much obliged for the papers.

Dont forget to send my boxing gloves, and to let me know when to meet them as

they have frequently been known to remain for weeks at the express office. If this reaches you before my clothes are sent I wish you would send my shoulder straps double instead of single, they are much handsomer and I will pay for them. If you will look at the different ones you will very readily perceive the difference, most are the common size but the double ones are larger and very much finer looking.

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Camp of Instruction Nov 4th 61.

My Dear Mother,

I am very much obliged to you for the letter. You must excuse my seeming negligence in not answering it sooner, but to tell the truth, time flies so quickly and my time is so much occupied that I, who am a very indifferent writer and correspondent

at the best, find it hard to obtain time, when perhaps another would think he had an abundance. I wish you would have your cartes taken, so that I can carry one around with me, it would seem more as if I was among you all at home. It seems hardly a week since my departure yet three have passed. Should we winter in Washington I may be able to obtain a furlough for a few days, otherwise I may not see you for some time, at least until I can give an account of myself in the field, for I dont care about returning before. Every day we can hear the roll of musketry and the thunder of cannon, by this time I have become quite familiar to the sound; when I first came however I kept continually thinking it was an engagement.

I heard very distinctly the booming of the rebel cannon about three Sundays ago,

when they obtained the schooner from us which parted her cable. You will remember reading an account of it in the papers. I occupy a tent next to the Captain's with Lieut Winthrop, I like him very much, and would the Captain better, did he not mention my peculiarities such as drumming, knocking over things etc a little too much; he is very pleasant however, and down on Coit, D, D, I wish you could come here and see me I have two little kittens and after meal time I feed them, then the performance commences; they first hug each other jump into the air and all but stand on their heads, it is great fun to see them it gives a home look to the else strange things. You must not think that I am homesick for I never enjoyed myself better. We work all day and sleep well at night. It would astonish you to see the

amount of food which I consume, it even astonishes me, which is the best way I know of to let you appreciate the full amount. We have one of the most beautiful views from our drill ground which I have ever beheld. We overlook the City, the Capitol and fading away in the distance stretches the Potomac; although sometimes mist covers the City, the Capitol will always be seen looming up its proud marble walls as if to bid defiance to Jeff and his rebel pack, for encamped around it for miles on either side is our army, all willing to battle and remain on the battle field if needs be for the Union.

but I must now bid you a good bye.  
With love to all dear Mother I remain

Your ever affectionate boy

FRED.

Bundle not yet arrived, need it very much especially the boxing gloves.

Camp of Instruction Berdans U S. S S.  
Washington D. C. Nov 12, 61

Dear Wm

I received your songs a few days ago. I am very much obliged, quite a number of us congregated in my tent last Sunday night and sang for an hour or two. We liked your song very much; I saw by the paper that it was sung in Bdway. When the new words are written you must send them to me.

The Colonel hinted last night that we might go to S. Carolina in about two weeks.

I hope we do. I am entirely played out on the money line. I wish you would ask father to send me some if he can if not I will get along without any. I find I can get no pay for my last two months. Be kind enough to ask father to send me immediately my receipts for money spent on Re-



cruiting Service. they are in my bureau draw or in my writing desk. I think I can get the money back.

Your affectionate brother

FRED

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NOTE--Owing to his father's business connections with the South, the war caused him severe losses, though he eventually recovered his business. This accounts for the many references to financial troubles in the following letters.

Camp of Instruction Berdans U S S S.

Washington D C Nov 17, 61.

Dear Father,

I have just received your letter with the vouchers I draw pay from *November 1. 61* for the reason that I was then sworn in as a private at that date into the United States service, I draw Lieut. pay because I act as Lieut. My *position* as Lieut *is sure* in the Sharp-Shooters. The Capt himself is mustered as a private and draws pay from

Nov 2d. We have now sixty odd men. Ned Wright has not been seen by me; is he in Washington or in Newark?

I did not see Mr Morgan. Tuesday night I could not find Mr Welles residence. Wednesday & Thursday I sent men to see if Mr M. had arrived but was unable to find out. I did not ask for a pass as I was not certain he was in town and the Colonel is very particular about granting passes as the officers have in many instances taken advantage of it. Friday I received your last letter, and obtained a pass on the strength of it. Went to town; this time found Mr Welles residence but Mr M had gone on the 2 P. M. train. Yesterday I wrote to Mr Terry telling him the circumstances and wishing him to tell Mr M of my disappointment in not seeing him.

I am sorry to hear you talk so disconsu-

lately about earnings. Your trouble on my account may be at once dismissed. I expect to remain in the U. S. A. I did not come for money but to serve my country and God helping I will do it; be it in South Carolina or Virginia, with money or without, whether officer or private. My expenses since my arrival will cost you nothing. Capt will lend me money until I can repay it with my salary; the five dollars you sent I will return as I can get along without it; the only thing I want is a navy revolver, my old pistol is broken and does not go off once in five times. If you would pay Mr John Scott \$10 for me, I shall be obliged and will return it to you as soon as possible. My coat arrived on Friday, it fits very well. I am in want of shoes but will get along until something turns up.

Creighton is now here in my tent. I do

not know where I can address Ned Wright  
Shall I hand in my application for the Ma-  
rine Corp?

love to all.

Your affectionate Son

F. T. PEET, JR.

I received Hatties letter yesterday, was  
very glad to hear from her, & one from  
Wm.

I have no pen & ink excuse the writing  
as I wish Creighton to carry it down town  
and I have not time to copy it.

---

Camp of Instruction

Berdans U. S. Sharp Shooters

Washington D C Nov 20th 61

My Dear Mother.

I have a few minutes to myself which I  
shall take advantage of by writing you a

letter. I have just returned from practising shooting and bugling, in the woods near by; as my learning to bugle may some time hence be of benefit, should anything happen to the buglers.

I have been well since I last wrote you with the exception of a day or two.

I received a very well written letter from Fred Terry last Sunday accompanying it was a crayon sketch of his "french teacher," in the shape of a Bullfrog on his hind legs with an umbrella over his shoulder.

Libby has promised to send me some pictorial papers which I intend distributing among the men. We have in our company (Long Island Company) a fine set of men with a very few exceptions; they seem to like me very well and I am certain I can return the compliment. I have com-

manded the company on Batallion drill very often the Capt being away. As this is a camp of instruction, each Capt takes his turn in drilling the Batallion; I was in hopes that the Lieuts would be allowed to do so likewise, as I wanted to see Col Pect manovering one thousand men, but I have heard that the privilige would be confined solely to the Capt. I believe I can manouver the Batallion now as well as I could the Company when I arrived.

There is a Grand Review on the other side of the river today, I heard the cannon firing some time since. I suppose you are all thinking about Thanksgiving where you will assemble and who will be there. I wish I could be with you for I always enjoy it so much. That was a terrible calamity which befell the Hydes. the little girl I remember very well, she was their youngest and was very much petted.

Now dear Mother I must say good by ;  
you must not forget me when you are con-  
gregated at Libbys.

With much love

I remain

Your affectionate son

FRED.

Tell Father that the Marine Corps is a  
big thing, the best in the army.

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Camp of Instruction

Berdans U S Sharp Shooters

Washington D. C. Nov 23 61.

My Dear Father

It grieves me greatly to hear of your  
trouble but I suppose I can not fully ap-  
preciate the greatness of your misfortune  
as I have always been free from trouble  
owing to your care and the kindness with

which you and Mother have watched over me. I hope you did not think I was at all vexed when I returned the money which you sent; it was done because I can get along without, for a time at least, until my next pay day comes.

But what matter is it if you have lost your money so long as you can have a house where you can live in quietness the rest of life. Your children have all grown up, honored & respected with the exception of myself, who can hardly yet be spoken of thus as I have but commenced the voyage of life. I hope not to prove a disgrace, although Mother used to fear I would be the black sheep.

Wm writes quite often. I received five letters one night and have written three this evening. As to my shoes, I think you had better send me some money and have



them made here; it would be better than having it done in Brooklyn as it will take the Express a week or two to carry it; if we go into Winter Quarters I shall not need any until my next pay day.

I wish you would send me my rifle as soon as possible in order to practice. I can leave it at Gen Wrights when I leave Washington. The Captain expects to be in, should he be able to obtain a furlough, in the course of a week or two. You might have Mr Terry or Morgan see him and from him learn what kind of an officer I make.

I have three more letters to write so I must say good by, with much love to you & mother & the family

I remain Your affectionate Son

FRED.

Camp of Instruction Berdans USSS

Washington D. C. Nov 29, 61

Dear Father

Your letter inclosing the Bishops arrived a day or two previous, another one received last night from you. Wm wrote me saying my pistol would be sent on in a few days, it being the combined present of Aunty, Taft, Torrance, & Wm. As soon as received I shall answer Wm's letter, thanking them through him. I go to day to see Col Wright. Capt Hastings went to N. Y. day before yesterday. Thanksgiving day was celebrated here in the regular New England way. Service in the morning at which time the Colonel took occasion to say a few remarks, and ended by offering \$5 for the best shots—each man to shoot twice, at 40 rods, the man who made the smallest no. of inches in the shots was

to take the prize. The shots were all fired off hand, or on the knee. I shall send an exact fac-simile of the target to you as soon as possible.

A dinner was given by the New Hampshire company, of which the Col. & Wife, Major & his Wife, Adjutant & his Wife, together with the Line officers were present. We had turkey pie & pudding, all cooked in camp; after dinner several little speeches were made by the officers and it all passed off pleasantly.

The shots at the 40 rods have not yet been examined, so I can not tell you which was the best. I must now leave off as Mrs Berdan has sent me an offer to ride in her carriage down town. I suppose you had a very pleasant time at Libbys. Give my love to all and I remain with much love,

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

[Letter from Bishop Melvaine to President Lincoln.]

N. York Nov. 21, 61

My dear Mr President—

A young man, son of an old & special friend of mine & nephew of Col. Wright, late of Gen. Scott's staff & now a Lieut of Col. Berdan's Regt. of Sharpshooters—& educated at a Military School, earnestly desires a Lieutenancy in the Marine Corps—Gov. Morgan has strongly recommended him to Mr Welles—& Geo. D. Morgan nephew of Mr Welles has made a special point with Mr Welles about it, who is well disposed to favour it. The name is Frederick T. Peet Jr. of Brooklyn N. Y. I vouch for his high character in every moral & other respect—earnest devoted to his country—& *just the man*—May I beg you, my dear Sir—to remember him when a vacancy occurs.

I sail on Saturday by the Edinburgh for Liverpool & pray daily for God's guidance & blessing to you & all who with you bear the great burdens of our great cause.

Yours very respectfully

CHAS. P. McILVAINE.

The President of the U. S.

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Camp of Instruction

Berdans USSS

Washington D. C. Dec 6, 1861

My Dear Father

I am in receipt of two of your letters. I saw Ned Wright yesterday & took dinner with him, he was as good natured as possible. Creighton came to camp with Mr Smetharst. He says Ned has explained it all. I did not ask for particulars as you will no doubt hear from him in a day or

two I gave Ned Wright my letter from the Bishop about a week ago; he says that he will give it to the President in person and request that it be attended to as a favor for himself; he has not been able to see him as yet, but hopes to soon. He will draw up an application for me, as he thinks it will be a reminder to Mr Welles. whenever he looks over the list of applicants. He also says that the only way for me to do is to keep pushing it, to have Mr Morgan or Terry, or any other influential man write continually. It is the only way. He says Tatnall's case has been arrested some time, still I have hopes that with the President's consent and Mr Morgan to push me I shall succeed. I received Mother's Photograph; it is excellent, it could not be better, tell her that I have the knife which she gave me all right.

Ask Aunty to send me her photograph soon as I may go away before long.

Yours I expect also.

Thank Hatty for her letter and tell her that she must not be discouraged at my not writing as I drill all day, but I shall write my next letter to her. I received one from Sarah last night. Creighton left me \$7 for shoes. I practice with my rifle & pistol both, as often as possible. I ran 150 bullets from my pistol a few nights ago. There is to be another Shooting Match tomorrow for \$5; the old target was not given to me, as I wished it, or I should have sent it on; should the one tomorrow be a good one I will send it.

With love to all I remain

Your Affectionate Son

FRED.

Please send me another suit of Under-

clothes, also my Aspinwall which I used in the 7th Regt, and I wish some of the girls would knit me a cap. F.

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Camp of Instruction Berdans USSS  
Washington D. C. Dec 15, 61

Dear Father,

It is Sunday evening, I have a fine fire burning in the fire place and as I may not write for some time, if I miss this, I take this opportunity.

Rebekah's carte has been received; it is very good, and just such a one as I wanted. I showed it to Cousin Ned with whom I took dinner yesterday, he was delighted and wanted to know if his Wife was not to have one. I showed him the letter from Mr. Humphry, and took a copy of the "Bishops to the President," he not having



yet been able to see Mr. Lincoln. I purpose sending my application with Mr. Humphrys letter & a copy of the Bishops, enclosed, to Secretary Welles, & I think also the one from Geo. Morgan this week, and let it remain on file. Cousin Ned says the Officers which you spoke of on the Hartford were Navy Lieutenants, not Marines. I should like an entire suit of underclothes, flannel Shirt, under Shirt, drawers, little smaller than the last, & stockings, also my old black woolen coat (dyed), with my vest that buttons up high in the neck, and if possible a pair of white woolen gloves such as was the fashion last Winter. Ask Mother to be so good as to pad my coat & vest as warmly as possible, and to send on a mince pie if possible.

I called on Miss Bartow & saw her. Miss Sneedeen was there also, but as I had

spent the evening with her a few nights previous, I did not see much of her, that evening. Cousin Dora is expected here before long as Cousin Ned has engaged rooms. I skirmish the men every day from 9.30 to 11.30. We generally get through some six to ten miles of the country, every day in a different way; one day we went to Fort Bunker Hill, and from thence saw six other forts on the surrounding heights. I am well & as happy as I ever was. Remember me to all at home, with love I remain Your affectionate Son

FRED.

I want such a cap as Henry Torrance's. What relation is Mr Geo D. Morgan to Mr Welles?

## Camp of Instruction Berdans SS

Washington D. C. Dec 22 1861

My Dear Father

I have been waiting for some days to answer your letter. My application is I hope safely housed in the War Dept. I enclosed letters from Hon Wm Humphreys & Col Berdans, together with copies of those from the Bishop & Geo Morgan. Col Wright says I must keep stirring you all up in New York & keep you pushing & shoving until I obtain the position. There is a Jerseyman trying his hand & pushing himself very hard, for the same appt I am very well situated. Winthrop is one of the best fellows ever lived, and we are to obtain our commissions from the U. S. direct. I cant see the difference between us & the Regulars; can you? Col Grover U. S. A. takes his position tomor-

row. Our Lieut Col. is Capt. Ripley of Vermont a very fine fellow. We expect to make the Capt of the Wisconsin Co our Major. As the Adjutant will leave us for a few weeks Lieut Winthrop will take his place and I will act as Ist Lieut. Since I commenced this letter I have received one from Mother. I enjoy receiving letters from Mother as they come so seldom. Tell Mother I did not take any but my yellow vest, and the old plaid must be home, also that I wanted my black coat merely to save my dress one. Your photograph is excellent, I received it some days since ask Aunty to send hers soon, as I may be ordered away if there is a move.

Our orderly goes home on a furlough for the holidays, and will return, it is expected, with recruits. I will attend a wed-

ding in Washington, Tuesday night, a Miss Maxwell. She to be married to a Mr. Eastman of the Navy; I formed the acquaintance at Gen Wrights. My white vest will come in play once at least. Cousin Dora with her baby & Uncle Wright were expected here on Saturday evening.

Unless you can match my coat exactly, I think it would not be advisable to have it changed.

I send photograph of Lieut Winthrop. I will send one of the Capt soon. With a Merry Christmas to all I remain

Your affectionate Son

FRED

## Camp of Instruction

Berdans U S Sharp Shooters

Wash Jan 17, 62.

My dear Father.

All right at Camp. Our rifles are ordered by Assistant Sec of War Scott; the Colonel read the order a few days ago on the parade ground, I dont see how there can be a mistake now. We are to have Sharpes, double trigger and angular bayonet (30 inch). Our sickness is decreasing only one died last week. Most of our company invalids are safely and pleasantly situated in the Indiana Hospital, (Patent Office) I visit the sick of our company every day in Camp, and generally stop a moment at the Patent Office when in the city.

I intend going down tomorrow. I have endeavored to see Mr Odell but as yet

have been unsuccessful in meeting him, or finding him in, he is residing at Willards. I remained over night last Monday with the Captain who has taken a room in F. St, and endeavoring to get the better of a cold which has been hanging on for some weeks. I went to Mr. Odells room but he was not in. Wm sent me a letter to Mr Roscoe Conkling, from Oneida county, N. Y.; he wishes me not to mention my marine affairs.

I am glad to hear that the Miss Morrells are to be in town I shall not fail to see them.

Our men are in want of prayer books. If the Tract or Bible Society can send us some I wish you would forward them immediately. We have had none given to us. Tell Mother I want to see her but wont get a furlough until we have a fight.

I shall have some photographs taken tomorrow if it is a promising day. My pantaloons if I wish any can be made in Washington. I have bought a very nice silver watch for \$13.50 Creighton intends to buy one like mine for Charley. I shall see him tomorrow and if possible sell him mine and then send you the money to buy a better one. I must now say good by. With much love to all

I remain Your Affectionate Son

FRED.

To Mr F T Peet

Brooklyn

Creighton has Hatties watch.



Camp of Instruction  
Berdans US Sharp Shooters  
Washington Jan 25th 62.

My dear Father

I have not answered your letter sooner because I anticipated that Lieut Winthrops refutal of the paragraph you mentioned would reach you as soon as my letter, it appeared in the Thursdays Tribune. I suppose you all read it. I go to town to day, I shall see Mr Morgan or Miss Mulholland. I tried several times to see Mr Odell but have been unsuccessful he is now in New York.

I shall endeavor to see Mr Conkling from Oneida County, also Miss Mary E. Baldwin Jr. I received a note from Creighton last evening acquainting me with the fact of her being in Washington and of her staying at Browns. The Captain is much better and returns tomorrow to Camp.

I met Miss Fanny Morrell last week and had a few minutes chat. I intended to send Robert some money but I find I can not spare it. I am very sorry, but I had so many little & great bills to pay that I find I must economise to get through the ensuing two months.

I have bought my watch, a very good one, silver hunting case with a compass on the plate which covers the works. it is rather objectionable on this account, that to look at the compass I must expose the works.

I sent Hatties watch home with Creighton who intends to return the latter part of next week, and be in Brooklyn by Saturday or Sunday.

If I should write to Harry Hubbell when will it go and when may I expect an answer? Wm I hear is to be on Monday.

I am very glad of it. I will show him the skirmish drill if possible.

The weather lately has been raw & damp if such a thing is possible. the sky looked muddy but the streets beggar description. An officer at Willards a few days ago was talking of the mud; he said that a cannon got fast in it on the other side of the river, and could not be moved, all the horses on the Potomac were hitched on but without effect and it remains there yet.

I received the hymn books which will do very well. Will send the money soon. Love to all, I remain

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

F. T Peet

I received a letter from Rebekah yesterday, I thought I had answered Sarah, I will do so soon.

F.

Head-Quarters,  
First Reg't Berdan's U. S. Sharpshooters,  
Camp of Instruction  
Washington, Jan. 27 1862.

General,

I have appointed Frederic T. Peet, Jr  
2nd. Lieut. of Co. H. 1st Regt. Berdan's  
U S. Sharpshooters.

I have the honor General to ask that he  
may be mustered into U. S service from  
Jan. 1st, 1862 at which time the Co. was  
full, and to remain

Very Respectfully

Your Obd't Servant

H. BERDAN

Col. Com'd'g U. S S S.

Brig. L. Thomas,

Adj't. Gen. U. S. A.

MUSTER-IN ROLL OF *Lieut. Frederic J. Peet, Jr.*, Company "A" in the 1st Regiment of *Berdan's U. S. Sharp-Shooters*, commanded by Colonel *Berdan* called into the service of the United States by the President from the first day of *Jan.* 1862, (date of this muster,) for the term of *three years* unless sooner discharged.

Number of each grade.	NAMES. Present and Absent (Privates in alphabetical order)	RANK	AGE	JOINED FOR DUTY AND ENROLLED.		
				When	Where	By whom enrolled
	<i>Frederic J. Peet, Jr.</i>	<i>2nd Lieut.</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1862 Jan. 1st</i>	<i>Washington</i>	<i>Capt. Hastings</i>
						<i>3 years</i>

I CERTIFY, ON HONOR, That I have carefully examined the men whose names are borne on this Roll, their horses, and equipments, and have accepted *him* into the service of the United States for the *unexpired term of service of the regiment* from this *1st* day of *January.* 1862.

*This muster to date from  
Jan. 1st, 1862.*

Date: *Feb'y 10th, 1862.*

Station: *Washington, D. C.*

*John Elwood,*

*U. S. A.*

*Mustering Officer.*

Head-Quarters,  
First Reg't Berdan's U. S. Sharpshooters,  
Camp of Instruction

February 11, 1862

Dear Father

I have just received your letter with the list of articles sent.

I am quite well have had a cold & sore throat for the last week or two but am all right now. I have been unable to go to the city for two weeks before yesterday, when I was sworn in as an Officer, at 12 O'Clock M. On your sending the Bishops letter to the Prest, I gave it Coz Ned; he promised to deliver it to Mr Lincoln on his receiving the position on McClellans Staff. When he obtained the appointment he wanted me to meet him at 12 or 1. O'Clock any day and he would go with me to see Mr Lincoln. I have been

unable to see him at the time named but will go down if possible this week. I have been several times to see Mrs Welles; twice met Mr W. I have also been six times to see Mrs McClan but she is always engaged. She spoke to Mrs Welles of me who told her of my unsuccess in seeing her. I have been vaccinated, it has not taken, I shall try again. I am sorry to hear that about George E—, he was rather wild, this may sober him down.

I enjoyed Wms visit very much he seems enjoying good health. I was somewhat surprised as he wrote me that he was not very well just before.

Tell Fred Terry to write to me.

I have just preferred charges against a man in the Vermont Co. for disobeying me. He was sitting on the rifle pit; when ordered by me to get up he refused, he

was on guard at the time, then a man has no right to speak or sit but must walk his post, and always keep the muzzle of his gun up.

You are rather hard on Henry S—. I have no doubt but that he will reenlist. I send Sarah my photograph; if Julia likes my first better I will send her one. Our rifles will arrive in about two weeks then we will be off. If in Banks division we will lead the army as no doubt our Rgt will be next to the enemy on picket. Now I must say good by. Give my love to Mother, and the rest.

With love I remain Your affectionate

F.

To Mr F T Peet.

Will you be so good as to ask Harry Torrance to send me 10 lbs of English Breakfast tea as soon as possible. I will



send back the money as soon as I receive it and know the cost. I will send you the money for the hymn books next pay day. At our last meeting the tent was full, there must have been 150 persons present, that is quite an improvement as the first meeting consisted of some ten or twelve.

F

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Head-Quarters,  
First Reg't Berdan's U. S. Sharpshooters,  
Camp of Instruction

March 3, 1862

My Dear Father

I am sorry that I have not written for so long. My finger was very sore. I was afraid I was to have a felon, it passed off in a few days as I applied caustic. My finger is now as black as can be, while it was sore I did not write. Henry Torrance sent me

some tea the 17 last month, pkges are always sent up, but I sent to the Office today and found it there. He also sent the field glass, for which I am very much obliged. I can not tell you how pleasant it is to find I am not forgotten. I know the glass, although a necessary thing, is still an expensive one, and I promise you all that good care will be taken of it.\*

I shall send for it tomorrow. I received an invitation to Mrs Welles party tomorrow night. Mrs McClellan had one some two weeks ago.

Our rifles are expected here this week.

I was Officer of the Guard twice last week and twice officer of the Patrol.

My duty as Officer of the Guard is to superintend the guard, see that the Reliefs go & come regularly, and that they all do

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\*It was taken by the Rebs at rifle pits Yorktown, Va. - F. T. P.

their duty. We are on duty from Guard Mounting 8.30 a. m. 24 hours.

When officer of Patrol, I take a squad of men and wander about the camp endeavoring to catch any one who has been absent or is not in his tent. One night about two months ago immediately after pay day, I caught 17 men.

Last night I took no men but went the rounds alone. I came to one post and could find no sentinel, at last I called for him, and he with the man on the next post emerged from a tent near their line of march. It was raining and they had sheltered themselves, but were a little too soon, as I reported it to the Officer of the Guard who will make a note of it in his report. I forgot to say that last Monday when Officer of the Guard I caught two more men. They were absent from their

Company Street address. I placed a man at each end of their street, from eleven to one, when if the men were not then caught, the guard would be relieved by two others from 1. to 3. About 12. they were brought in. I took their names, and then sent them to their quarters. Reported them next morning.

It is raining very hard, sometimes making such a racket on the canvass that one can scarcely be heard speak.

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Head-Quarters,  
First Reg't Berdan's U. S. Sharpshooters,  
Camp of Instruction

March 6, 1862

My dear Mother

Your letter I received to day. I have concluded to do as you propose and write

a part every day, having my regular days for sending them.

As for tobacco I dont see how you heard of my using it. You have no idea how pleasant a pipe is. I dont smoke segars, as they are too expensive, but confine myself to pipes. I attended Sec Welles party last night and remained in town over night. I had a pleasant time, met some friends of Miss Sneeden also met Miss Bessie Casey. She is exceedingly pretty. Mrs, Miss & George Morgan were there.

The coat Cousin Ned gave me is a very fine large dark blue army coat, without cape, worth I suppose \$35 or \$40. My large boots I gave away having made a bargain with Mr Winthrop for a pair which he had which were lighter. but the latter after a short time proved too tight, so he took them back. I have been with-

out boots for the last month waiting until pay day. I find that we will not be paid for six weeks in order to allow the Missouri troops the money, they having been unpaid for six months. I want about 25 or 30 dollars lent me until pay day. We expect a movement almost every day, so please dont delay. The U S Government is debtor to me to the amt of 100 or 200 dollars, so you see I am good for the money.

I have just received my glass, it is a very fine one, every one who sees it praises its quality. I must get a strap for it. I did not intend to write but a few lines when I began but I find quite a long letter has been written.

So I will say good by, and commence my new plan tomorrow. Don't delay sending

the money, as every moment is precious.

With love I ever remain

Your affee Son

FRED.

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Head-Quarters,  
First Reg't Berdan's U. S. Sharpshooters,  
Camp of Instruction

March 7, 1862.

March 7.

Dear Mother

To day I commence my new method of writing a few lines daily, I think it quite a good idea.

The day has been fine ; drilled two hours in the morning, men drilled very well. Received a letter from Father this afternoon he was greatly mistaken about my smoking qualities, and not less about its effect. I have gained instead of loosing

weight ; when I arrived weighed some 143, now weigh 154 lbs an increase of 11 lbs. Our tent smoked 200 cheroots made of a mild tobacco, in 3 days, instead of 300 in one day. Tonight is very pleasant, stars shining and moon as far as it goes is beautifully bright. I am writing by the rather dim light of an adamantine candle. Captain away in Washington. Winthrop looking as much like a mummy as possible is wrapped up in my red blanket asleep on the couch.

I will now close tonights part. Have one letter to write more, then after finishing the remainder of my lemonade I shall stretch myself on the floor and go to sleep.

The camp is perfectly still, nothing is heard but the barking of a dog and the tread of the sentinel.



**March 8th**

Day was fine, drilled two hours in morning. Captain returned at 12. m.

Passed a pleasant nights rest, up at reveille, had a good breakfast. Received letter from Father in the afternoon, I am tired & will go to bed.

**March 8th [9th]**

I am Officer of the Guard today. Have five prisoners, two came today. Sun has been out all day quite like spring. Col received a despatch from Sharp Manufactory yesterday saying that our rifles will be in in the course of a week. Saturday the 2d Rgt was to leave camp for Falls Church, but the order was countermanded by Gen. McClellan. About two hundred of the 3d Rgt arrived here yesterday, more are expected this week.

It is now past nine O'clock P. M. A

corporal and myself are the only occupants of the tent at present. The Sergeant of the Guard has just gone to get my Old Dominion Coffee pot to make coffee to keep us awake.

Received a visit from Charley Guild with a friend to day; he & his mother came to see me some weeks ago. I wish Mother you would call upon Mrs Guild, she is staying at the Mansion House, Brooklyn. Charley is in the Navy Department. The Gentleman who came with him attends particularly to the Marine affairs in the Navy Dpt; he says that all the officers have been appointed, the men now being advertised for are merely to fill up Rgts.

Looking over the list of prisoners released from the 1st California (Col Baker) I saw John Blacks name. I wonder if he

is our cooks son. I wish I could find out. We might do something for him.

March 10.

We have had another rather pleasant day no drill however as the mud is so deep. To night news came that the army is in motion, while the chances are that the Sharp Shooters will be left behind, being unarmed. Our officers are greatly excited, two companies will, it is expected, offer to take any arms so long as we are ordered forward; two companies are already armed with target rifles, they also will go; the four other companies are working that way. I am in hopes that our Rgt will be sent on, even if armed with only broomsticks. If they do not give us something I will be utterly disgusted, almost discouraged. Our officers will make no effort in the matter as to do so would be to kill it

utterly, so many lies have been told the men that they are in turn disgusted. What an awful thing it would be if we are to be left behind. Think of it, been here *five* months without arms, and then when the great fight of the war comes off to remain in the rear. We must obey however, come what will.

All last night the rumbling of the wagons and artillery could be heard as they passed into Virginia. To day Penn Av & N. Y. Av have been one long string of soldiers; while I write I can hear the marching music in the other camps. The Col has been in town all the day, he remains there to night, he had an interview with Gen Marcy, Chief of the Staff, I hope he pushed our matter.

A letter has been received to day stating that the rifles will be here on the 20th, just

about three weeks after the time appointed. Well we must wait. I wont write any more, tell Father I received the money and am much obliged.

With love to all I remain

Your affectionate Son

Fred.

Augusta sent me a box of eatibles some time ago. I received a letter from her a few days ago. Tell Father he spelt until, untill!!!!

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Camp of Instruction

1st Rgt U S S S,

Wash March 15, 62.

Dear Father,

I have just received your letter. I have been so excited about the move that I forgot to keep up the new method of writing. I shall commence again to night however.

Sunday I was Officer of the Guard, and obliged to remain in the Guard tent all day and night, except when off on my duty, such as looking after the sentinels etc. That is the reason why I gave no account of the day. I hope it will relieve Mothers mind. Yesterday, the day was not clear, nor yet rainy, it was one of those brown days (peculiar to this climate). I was detailed to superintend the wood cutting. As all the men have stoves or fireplaces, much wood is consumed; the amount given by Uncle Sam is not generally enough, so once or twice a week five or ten men are detailed from each company to go back into the country, generally near a fort, where the trees are already cut down, and there cut and split 16 or 20 load.

I went yesterday, had a very pleasant time, walked some five miles to Fort Sara-

toga ; had 35 men, & 8 teams, we sent 16 loads.

It rained a little at dusk. Had a very pleasant speaking meeting in the evening, room was crowded. This morning it was very dark, it has rained nearly all day, the floor of my tent is soaking wet, I dont mind that as I have on an excellant pair of boots.

I do hope that our rifles will arrive next week. I am *going* to fight unless things look brighter soon. I wrote to Mr. Bancroft some month or six weeks ago but have received no answer. Give my love to all, tell Mother I am all right.

With love I remain

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

Can my rifle be exchanged for a hunting one? it was bought of Fish. Received a letter from Hattie this week.

Camp of Instruction

1st Rgt. U S, S, S,

Wash March 18, 62.

Dear Father,

I sent Wm a few lines yesterday saying we were under Marching orders. I write now to you to refund the money borrowed and to communicate a few particulars.

I drew the money from Briggs banker, who knows you. Mr Winthrop introduced me to him. W & I drew two months pay by giving 2 1-2 p. cent.

We leave here tomorrow morning for Alexandria, from there we will take transports and proceed to Fortress Monroe. I have been in town to day buying nicknacks and bidding good by to my friends.

I called on Mr Welles & saw him, Mrs Welles, Mr, Mrs, Miss & George Morgan.

Mr Morgan by way of a joke in the



presence of Mr Welles asked me if I was ready to take a position in the Navy, I suppose he ment Marines. I answered that I certainly was, had become infatuated with military life etc.

Our Rgt was at first ordered to Gen Porters Division; the order is countermanded, and now all the Sharp Shooters 1st & 2d Rgt are in McDougals. I heard from pretty good authority that the expedition would number some 120,000 men. McClellan & Staff will go, quite a number of vessels now are anchored off Alexandria, Banks only remains behind. Although we start tomorrow we may not be shipped for a day or two.

Our rifles are not yet done, we will have Colts rifles sent to Fortress Monroe with us. Should the Sharpes come while we are there, we will take them. I send \$10

to Wm, I owe it to him. Will you be so good as to see that he receives it.

I send a lock of my hair to Sarah as she wished, had I not sent it to day she would have been obliged to go without, as I have been *plushed*, that is my hair is all cut off. The barber at Willards said it was shorter than any yet cut there. Give my best love to Mother & the girls, tell Henry I will send him the pay for tea tomorrow.

I shall leave my trunk here, at a house in the neighborhood, but will send the rifle home by express; if possible get it changed for a hunting rifle & give it to Fred Terry.

I bought a bag to carry my traps in as we are not allowed a trunk. With love to all I remain

Your affectionate Son

FRED T. PEET.

To F T Peet Esq

Will write on arriving at Alexandria. This pen gets full of ink being a long soft gold one, so you must excuse the blots.

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On board Transport Emperor  
U S S S March 24, 62

Dear Mother

We are now in sight of Fortress Monroe, the day has been delightful, sea smooth as glass, nothing has yet been seen of the Merrimac. Some of the Potomac flotilla escorted us down. Although the rebels have a battery at Aqua Creek they did not fire at us. Capes Charles & Henry we have just passed on our left, a light house was built on Cape Henry last Spring but has never been lit.

Fortress Monroe the Rip Raps and Hampton Seminary are directly seen ahead

of us. The red light sloop, which some months ago was captured by the rebels, lays on the left of the Fortress, carrying the Stars & Stripes. The sight now is beautiful, our fleet stretching for miles before & behind is following the Daniel Webster (Flag Ship). Our glorious old flag is flying on every side, while the bands are playing enthusiastically; it stirs a man's blood up to see such a sight. Every spot is covered with the blue coats of the soldiers. Do you know that the Fortress & Rip Raps were built of stone taken from Massachusetts? It is completely encircled by vessels, some are men of war.

I never enjoyed a trip so much before, nor ever did I see a more beautiful sea, just sufficient wind to make it pleasant. The water all day has been covered with ducks; our men have shot at some but

have killed none as yet. I can hardly keep account of the days. To day being Sunday has been rather quieter with me than yesterday. I took the Testament Sarah gave me and read some chapters. We are among the War Vessels so I must cease for a while and find out what is to be seen.

March 25. th We arrived opposite the Fortress at 3 or 4 P M; there lay the little Monitor. The best description of it was given by the rebels when they compared it to a raft with a cheese box on it. I will give you an idea of it by this rough drawing (Drawing of Monitor).

The rebel flag on Sewells Point can be distinctly seen with the aid of my glass.

We received orders and immediately proceeded up the roads to Hampton Village; we are now in Hampton Creek op-

posite the remain of the burned Village. I slept all night well, rose at 6.30 had some coffee, cold potatoes & bread. We are about to land so I must wait a little longer before closing my letter.

I guess I had better send this & write again on arriving at our bivouacking ground. I send my letters ; one written on the voyage to William.

With love to all I remain your  
affectionate Son

FRED.

I have no time to read over this letter so pray excuse all blunders.

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Camp Porter 1st Rgt U S S S,  
Near Hampton Va. Porter's Division  
March 30, 62.

Dear Father.

I will just copy some lines from my journal. This is the third letter I have written

since leaving Washington March 24. We arrived at Hampton some time during the night. Left the boat near nine o'clock. A. M. next day, and strolled about the ruins of this once pretty village. I picked up some violets and made quite a little bouquet. The day was warm, and reminded me more of the *sunny south* than any thing yet seen. Some of the men occupied their time in finding souvenirs of the late fight— One found a button marked H. M. A. in a ruin; must have belonged to a member of the Hampton Military Academy. The old flag pole which the rebels had is still here. We left at twelve marched a mile, and encamped with Gen Martindale's Brigade. Next day we struck tents and marched to our present camp, which we have named Camp Porter.—Gen. Morrell's head quarters are on the road a few hundred feet

above us. Gen. Martindale comes next, General Butterfield's brigade is stationed about two miles farther on. Gen. Porter's head quarters are near here. We are all (Gen Porter's division) on the road to Yorktown. The men's tents consist of two or three india rubber blankets of an inferior quality pinned or buttoned together, and laid over three stakes: the tents when made are about three feet high, and six feet long. Each tent accommodates two men.—Our men are armed with Colt's rifles; two companies from Michigan & New Hampshire have target rifles. Our men have been on picket every day and night since our arrival. We are used only as sharp shooters; two or three of our men are stationed with each group of pickets, merely to shoot. Wednesday night we were awakened at twelve o'clock, and or-



dered to arise at 4. A. M. pick twenty men for duty, and report at 6. A. M. the next day, also to have one day's rations cooked. Winthrop was out on picket. The captain gave me permission to go, so the next morning we started, under command of Col Berdan, Lieut Col and Major. Our men together with those from the other companies making some 150 men. It proved to be a reconnoissance in force. After marching some distance and passing (I should judge) ten thousand men, our command was separated in two divisions— A part of the —— company some twenty target rifles, with telescopic sights from New Hampshire company, and the detail from our company composed our division. We were under command of Col & Major; the men were dressed in green, and appeared well. At 9. A. M. we took the

lead—The other division of S. S under the Lieut Col separated from us and lead Gen Morrell's brigade, on the other road, both which as you will remember meet the one which was travelled at Big Bethel. It was at this junction, where the regiments fired into one another, last year when we attacked Bethel.—Our company & company A. led off—Company A. on the right (Swiss). Our company had the left wing of skirmishers. I was with the left group. The Capt was some distance behind the centre with the reserve. We skirted the woods, beat the woods, travelled through swamps, got wet, dried again, still saw no rebels. Our company & company A. (Swiss) were ahead of every thing, and well did they do their duty. The men did not give out though not relieved once all day. I was ordered to search a house on

the left, so I took four men, but found nothing contraband. I saw one man who declared himself an old line Whig, Union etc etc. It took some time to find the column again, owing to a change in the direction of the road. We doubled quick. One man gave out, so with the three others we caught up to the line of skirmishers in about half an hour. On arriving I was ordered off again to the right of the road, our company having changed position with company A. Well we marched to Big Bethel, at 12 M. the rebels had become aware of our approach, & had left.—We saw some cavalry. Our men were first on the forsaken ramparts, and had the fun of shooting a rebel horseman.—The works here are quite extensive; had they made a stand here there would have been some hard fighting. Here the main column re-

mained—we with some cavalry pushed several miles further, and had some good shots, and killed a few, (the men say) and at last discovered another fortification.—Some of our company went so near, that they could plainly see the rebels putting on their knapsacks. Our men behaved well, and received the praises of the General. General Porter sent for a body guard of sharp shooters, which he kept with him all day. After finding the fortification we waited, expecting reinforcements, as it would have been an easy matter to have shelled them.—They did not come and we were ordered back, & marched home. It was fun to see the rebels run.—One time a company of their cavalry was stationed near a house. We sent some twenty of our men by the side of a fence, to get a shot at them. Our men gained their posi-

tion. The rebels saw them, but took no notice, as they did not think they were within range. As soon however as our target rifles spoke, and struck one, or two, it would have done you good, to see them run. There was a notice in the Richmond papers that we had arrived here. I wonder if they knew us.—After marching this long distance, we marched back to our camps. I suppose no man in the army marched as much as I did, that day, it was certainly 28 or 30 miles.—Just before starting, in the morning, after we had passed our pickets, the word came down the line, from the General, “the Sharp Shooters, to the Front,” and we did go double quick—Our regiment was the only one that had any skirmishing with the enemy.—I send a quarter of a dollar to Fred Terry, which was taken from a safe, when the rebels burnt Hampton. Some 100 men Sharp

Shooters, were in a barge being towed from Washington to Old Point when on account of the gale, a few nights since, they were obliged to be cut loose from the tug, and have drifted off, and have not since been heard from.—The tug arrived here yesterday.—Our chaplain is not here.—We expect soon to march on Yorktown. We have here some 80 or 100,000 men. I expect our destination will be Richmond. I am well and happy, and hope I shall be kept in God's hand, through the danger of battle. However none can tell what may happen, so whether I am taken or left, I hope it will be well with me—in either case rest assured I will do my duty. My trunk, box, two coats, are at Mr Moore's, near the camp of Instruction, Washington.—Love to all I remain

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

I have just received a letter from you & William, the direction is correct. I am sorry that you are laid up.

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In camp near Yorktown.

Co H. S. S. Ap. 8. 62

Dear Father

I sent a few lines to William this morning. I did not know how long we should remain here, which must account for my not writing before. Friday morning we struck tents, and by five o'clock were on the march until we arrived at Bethel; two companies of cavalry were ahead of us. The day was fine much like the one when we last visited Bethel. On arriving there our regiment was sent off some miles to the right of the road to cut off some of the enemy's cavalry. After stumbling through

mud and briers we struck the road but to our discomfort we found the enemy had flown. We were some distance behind the head of the column, so we doubled quick, and reached our position just as the column came up to the first fortification, which I spoke about in my last letter. Co. H was immediately sent ahead to skirmish. On approaching the rebels two shots with their cannon which had the effect of calling the several brigades into position, the 14th regiment Col McQuade being drawn up immediately in front of the batteries. One of our batteries fired a number of shell among them & succeeded in dislodging them. Our company continued to advance feeling the way slowly, and to our surprise coming to the fort found it deserted. The first intimation we had of its being vacated was seeing the banner of our country



planted upon the ramparts. As the regiments passed the men cheered, and Gen Porter raised his hat to them. The regiment now advanced again, Co H skirmishing ahead, each man bearing a heavy packed knapsack which in the first part of the march was the cause of much grumbling, but in the excitement was not thought much of. The regiment soon fell in line and recommenced the march. We passed some quite extensive woods, and had they been well manned would have proved quite an obstacle to us. Some of the regiments halted the other side of them but we were marched on several miles, through a dense wood, and finally encamped near four houses, some six miles from Yorktown.—Captain Hastings, Dr Snelling, and myself obtained supper and breakfast at the house of a secesh near by,

by giving the sum of 25 cents to the cook—  
Next morning we again commenced our  
march. At eleven A-M. we became aware  
of the nearness of the enemy by the whiz-  
zing of a shell which struck quite near us.  
The second fell six feet behind an officer,  
who dropped just in time to avoid it. He  
dropped so suddenly, and lay so still, that  
I was taken by surprise to see, what I sup-  
posed was a dead man, rise up slowly, look  
around, & then make tracks for his com-  
pany. From that time during the most of  
the day, the shells flew about us. We  
were ordered forward, and onward we  
went—On arriving at a house on the left of  
the road, and about fifteen hundred yards  
from the enemy, we deployed, two compa-  
nies to the right, two to the left, leaving a  
sufficient reserve in the rear of each, in  
case of an attack of cavalry. I will not go

more into detail, but suffice it to say, that for some time when marching in full sight of the fortifications, the bullets from the rifles whizzed all about us, right-left & beneath us, yet not one was injured.—Upon one occasion we approached so near the enemy, that one of our batteries mistook us for rebels, and fired some shots at us.—Our men on the left, under cover of a peach orchard, almost completely silenced the enemy's guns. Towards evening in order to load their cannon without exposing themselves, they were obliged to place some bags above the cannon.—This battery was but one of several extending some miles from York to James river. During the day we lost two killed, and several wounded. One of the former was of my company, & one of the best men we had. He was always a still quiet fellow, never

troubling any one, and always doing his duty. It occurred in this way. Our company was acting as a reserve. We had been lying in a hollow of the road, and field, under some trees. It was towards 4. P. M. and as I had remained with the company all day I concluded to walk about, to see what was to be seen. The infantry with the exception of one regiment was out of sight, the artillery and sharp shooters, having done all the fighting, at least so far as I could see, and I had heard no musketry from our side all the day. I had left my position but a few moments, when the enemy, attracted by some smoke from a fire, which one of Co B had made, threw at first a small shot, which ricocheted right over the heads of our men, striking to the one side of them, & bouncing over. They next threw a shell, which burst over them,

killing Phelps, and wounding a man of Co B slightly. Our men have been out on picket duty every night, and last night we had one of our men shot by a rifle ball, through his finger; it has since been amputated. As we reached here Saturday, we all expected that the battle would commence, Sunday; but Gen McClellan thought not; so we have been here yesterday & today lying still. McClellan, we are confident, is hard at work. Perfect confidence is placed in him by all, & when the fight again comes, I have no doubt that victory will attend us. The enemy have many large cannon, a strong position, & a large army to keep it. I have no doubt that God will bless our cause with success. Give my love to all at home, and should I write again I trust to be able to speak of the taking of Yorktown. I am glad to hear

that Father & William are better. Did you receive the quarter of a dollar I sent to Fred Terry.

With much love I remain

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

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Camp Porter 1st Rgt U S. S. S.

Near Hampton Va Apl 3, 62.

Dear Mother

The last letter was written so unintelligibly that I am sure it hardly paid one to read it. I will try however this time to write plainer. I have a better pencil. The weather has been very pleasant since our arrival. I hear from Wm that Father is quite ill. I cant tell you how I feel about it but it is a comfort to me to know that whatever I have done or been in the

past, I am now doing as he wishes and approves. Knowing as I do that my duty lies in the part I have chosen I can march to battle and have no fear of the consequences.

We start tomorrow at daylight, no doubt to meet the enemy. I suppose, as McClellan has arrived, it is the first move in the direction of Richmond.

There is a rumor that Big Bethel is being fortified anew by the rebels. If so we will be obliged to take it, this will be but the commencement of their fortifications.

We must have over 100,000 men, the picked men of the grand army; the rebellion must fail when we march on! Yorktown is reported to be strongly fortified; here it is expected they will make their strongest stand on the Peninsular. At Norfolk some 100,000 rebels will oppose

us should we attack it. It is said to be strongly fortified.

Ask Wm if he has yet given Hattie her present, also if Father & he received the money which I enclosed them.

Some cartes were ordered by me before leaving, not being finished I left the requisite money with a friend Miss Potts, in Washington; I believe she lives in 17th St between H & I. If I go through the battles without injury she will keep them for me—if not you had better write for them.

Dont think I am low spirited for in the last reconnoissance I felt no fear, although the breastworks did appear rather queerly when [I] first caught sight of them.

Give my love to Rebekah, Father, Robert, Julia, & Hattie, and the rest of the family; tell Aunty I have her pistol all ready. If I tumble over give Fred Terry



my target rifle, and Tom Peet my breech loading rifle.

My concience is pretty clear & my shoes are very easy, so

Good bye with love I remain

Your ever affectionate Son

FRED

Lt. Co H

1st U. S. S. S.

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Camp before Yorktown, US S.S

April 13-62

Dear Sister.

I received your letter last week. Since its receipt we have changed our camping ground—indeed all the army has moved back, about a mile. Before our removal we could have been shelled any time the enemy had taken a fancy to do so.—I am

not certain but that [it] is possible even now. —We are still before Yorktown, and daily expecting the arrival of our siege guns. I understand that we are to have, or have now, an immense number of cannon & mortars, some of the siege guns are 100 lbs.—I heard from an officer of the 2nd infantry, U S A. that the first parallel had been commenced yesterday.—I received letters from Father, Mother & Fred Terry —on the 11th & 12th inst. I have been on picket duty since I last wrote & have been fortunate enough to have had quite a little brush with the chivalry.—I did not keep a duplicate of my official report to the colonel —I wish I had, it was sent to Generals Porter, Hirntzelman & Hamilton—I will try to give you some idea of the position of things, by a sketch of the ground & the vicinity, where it occurred day before yes-

terday—I reported myself and twenty men to Gen. Hamilton, was ordered by his A A Gen. to report to Gen Jamieson—who would detail me, with some of his regiment 63. Penn—Col Hays—After some trouble I was conducted to the woods. (C\*) where I found the reserve—some three companies—I reported myself to Col Hays, and was ordered to take my men to the rifle pits, in the peach orchard, where the S. Shooters, had distinguished themselves the first day. I deployed the men five paces apart, and crossed the open plain, and road, without drawing any shot & shell from the rebels. The operation was rather dangerous, as all pickets are relieved at night, so as not to be seen & fired on. It was near 10. A. M. I should have been on the ground sooner but owing to the removal of the camps I had [not] been able to

find Gen. Hamilton, to whom to report myself & men. The pits were already occupied by some of the 63rd regiment.

Copy of one of my letters.

F. T. PEET.

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Fortress Monroe Apl 28th 62.

Dear Mother

In the language of Webster "I aint dead yet." I arrived at Baltimore\* about 7.30 Sunday morning walked about a mile & half and brought up at the Maltby House where I took breakfast & dinner.

I hunted about to find an Episeopal Church, but was unsuccessful; so I listened to a Presbyterian for about twenty minutes and then fell asleep. In Baltimore

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NOTE—\*Lt. Peet left the army Apr. 20th passed the examination for the Marine Corps at Washington, went to his home in Brooklyn for one night and was back in camp Apr. 28th.

the women are the only ones who still show secession proclivities. I was going from one side of the Meeting House to the other just before I took my seat when on passing a young woman she stepped aside and drew in her skirts as much as to say "You villanous fellow, Keep away from me." I laughed and passed on.

After church I was standing near the entrance watching the people, but especially watching for the one who seemed so disgusted with my appearance before church, when some of the women began talking and laughing at me. I over heard one say, "Well I guess his coat will be greener when he gets into Virginia." I smiled and would have touched my hat, but they passed on I left Baltimore at six P M the boat having been detained an hour. On board I met a Col Grant, he has no Rgt

but merely the rank of Col, he is the man that invented the Calcium light. very intelligent and I listened to his arguments on the *Nigger* with great zest, his ideas are new and I think very plausible; he seems to know every thing I never met a man so well posted on every subject. I met also a Major. who commands a Battalion of Sharp Shooters, *Mounted*; he is or appears very young and is very handsome. I found by conversing with him that he had just returned from Europe having been there some years. He goes on immediately to join Burnside.

My boat from Ship Point leaves here at 12 or 1, and the mail leaves immediately so I will say good by,

With love to all I remain

affectionately Your Son

FRED.

Tell Wm that the expense of coming on has been more than I expected, and I will need some fifteen or twenty dollars to be able to return. F.

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Camp Winfield Scott Near Yorktown  
1st U S Sharp Shooters  
May 2, 1862

Dear Father

Your letter was received yesterday. I paid a visit to Cousin Ned in the evening he agreed with me that my chances in the Army would be very slim, not one in a thousand that I could get a position with the Regulars. I concluded to write to Secretary Welles for the leave of absence, should I be called home before the commencement of the seige. I am of the opinion now however it would preferable to

wait until confirmed before I make the application. What do you think of it?

I was on Picket the day before yesterday and to my astonishment found the parallels, so far as I could judge, nearly completed. The day was cold, wet and disagreeable. I arose at 2. A. M. and returned to camp at 7 P. M. The firing on neither side was very spirited, at one time I was within one hundred yds of the rebel pickets, the foliage which lined the banks of the creek, on the other side of which they were, concealed them from us. They could be distinctly heard talking and chopping wood.

Towards evening just before leaving I allowed one of my men to try his hand at a group of traitors which had been on the fortifications all the afternoon, watching the effect of their, and our batteries, (ours was



stationed on my right and to the rear of me about a mile,) which were hammering away at each other like good fellows.

Although they were distant over a mile from me, yet my shot received an answer in the shape of a six pound rifle cannon ball, which whizzed over us within a few feet of our heads.

I then took a large target telescope rifle and popped away at them, again they returned the compliment with a shell which lucky for us did not burst. It was then time to return home so the Sharp Shooters fell back into the parrallels. We were no sooner safely in than another 6 lbder came singing along, passing over the very spot where we had crossed the Merlon, but a foot above it and went through a tree about ten feet from me.

I would rather have a shell fired at me

than a little cannon such as they used then, for the reason that they can be shot almost as strait as a target rifle, when aimed with a glass. Nothing has occurred since then worth mentioning except that one of our 100 lbs parrot guns keep a fire most all day and night in answer to one of the rebel 150 lbs.

We have 5 100 lbdrs, and one 200 lbr, which are placed on our right, so as to command the enemies left and Gloucester point. Yesterday we fired the 100 lbr and shivered the Yorktown doek, then hammered away at the dock on Gloucester Point. The shipping had all been driven behind the Point when to their surprise a 200 pound shell was dropped among them, when they left for a safer place.

To day one of the enemies big guns burst; we dismantled another smaller one.

Will you send me my cartes. I forgot them when I came away. Also send a carte of myself to Sarah Coffin; direct it to her and let Mr Terry take it.

Cousin Ned wished to be remembered to you all. I have received two letters from Hattie and Wm each.

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

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Camp Winfield Scott. U. S. S.

Sunday May 4, 1862

Dear Sister

To-day we rejoice over the evacuation of Yorktown by the rebels—just one month from the day we struck tents at Camp Porter & marched forth to meet the enemy. It is a glorious day for the grand army of the Potomac, and still more so for the Sharp Shooters. We were the first in

Yorktown. Our Sergeant Major, who had been on picket for the last week had charge of our detail. The approach of a man from the fortifications was made known to him, about 6 A. M., and by him reported to Gen. Jamieson, (the same General who had charge of the outposts when I had the skirmish the 12th of last month), who ordered the Sergeant Major—to go out with some of his men & capture him. He obeyed, reappearing in a short time with the individual—who proved to be a deserter. Then first information was given to us that Yorktown had been evacuated.—Gen Jamieson & Col Black, with two regiments (the 62nd Pennsylvania, and one other whose number I have forgotten)—to back him, preceded by the Sharp Shooters, then sallied forth & captured, after a bloodless struggle, the re-

nowned fortifications of Yorktown. Gen Jamieson, owing to the courtesy of the Sergeant Major—who waited until the general arrived—was the first to place his foot on the deserted ramparts. Our men followed, and the general praising the good behaviour of our men gave them the privilege of roaming wherever their curiosity led them. The other regiments were stationed inside the lines. The enemy left in their retreat from fifty to seventy-five guns, many of them of large calibre, one as I stated in my letter of yesterday was found burst. The Sergeant Major who gave me the facts, then strolled around the deserted town, & picked up many little souvenirs. He found at a general's head-quarters (supposed to be Gen Rains) a general's cap, from which he took some gold trimmings—a part of which I send you—I wish

it cut in half, & one piece sent to Fred Terry for his collection. I also learned that as our men were about to enter the entrenchments, a deserter who was skulking about the premises, on whom some of the Sharp Shooters had drawn a bead, came forward—and disclosed the fact, that the ground on all sides near the entrance was mined, also the magazine. The discovery was well timed, but not soon enough, to save the lives of some half-dozen of our men (not Sharp Shooters however) — Guards were immediately placed over the torpedoes. I understand that Gen Joe Johnston commanded at Yorktown. The reason for the evacuation, as given by the deserters, was that they had heard, that their much loved Merrimac had been blown up and gone to thunder. Also that on learning the fall of

New Orleans, the Louisiana and other Carolina troops had become mutinous, and wanted to go home. The times of many having expired, mutiny seemed the order of the day; all were more or less infected. The army generally complained of want of food—so nothing remained but to fall back, which accordingly they did. There was a rumor this morning that General Heyes has captured 8000 prisoners.—When we first arrived it is said but 8000 men garrisoned the fortifications of Yorktown—I hardly credit this. They tell us, they had no idea, when we arrived, that we would go to work in such a systematic way, but expected a dash or something of that sort —This fact comes to prove, that Gen McClellan by his superior management, has driven the enemy from their strong hold, and scarcely with the loss of a man. I suppose the croakers will make this an-

other cause for their grumbling, but we are satisfied, that the young Napoleon—is all O. K. in the fighting line—One more piece of news & I end. A rebel cavalry officer, reported that during the first day's fight, when we occupied the peach orchard (April 5th) our *men shot all but eight* of one company, and our bullets fell so thick upon a camp half a mile beyond the entrenchments, that they were obliged to move off; also that the Sharp Shooters are regarded with the utmost fear & horror by the chivalry.

Hurrah! for the Sharp Shooters!

We expect to march soon—are all packed up & ready.—To day is Sunday, and a more beautiful day, I never saw.—Last night the rebels kept up a continuous fire, as a parting salute.

With love to all

I remain your affectionate brother

FREDERICK T. PEET.



Camp West Point Va.

1st Rgt US Sharp Shooters

May 10th, 1862.

Dear Mother

I think I wrote my last letter or note to Mr. Taft enclosing the piece of Gen McGruders flag. Before I forget I wish you would ask Wm to buy a wormer for my rifle and with it extract the flannel from the barrel then oil the inside of the barrel carefully with some canton flannel afterwards dry it and leave the rammer with a piece of flannel in it oiled. Also ask him once in the weeks when he comes to our home to have a new piece put in. On one end of the rammer is a notch cut, which keeps the rag on. When home I pulled out the rod but left the flannel inside. If Wm will do this it will save my rifle if not it will rust and soon be utterly useless as a target rifle.

We left Camp Winfield Scott on the 8th all armed with Sharps rifles; the men were in the best of spirits all eager to try their new rifles on the traiters. We embarked on the State of Maine; before it was bought by Uncle Sam it used to run to Fall River. Gen Porter & Staff were on board. I sat on the deck until near ten P. M. listening to the different bands on shore and viewing the scene generally. The moon was out; each vessel of which there must have been two hundred displayed a light on her bow, all helped to make the scene one of the most beautiful I have yet seen.

I turned in at ten, and when I arose the next morning I found myself at West Point. We landed at eleven and encamped near the river. Gen Franklyn's division left us last night for a new ground some four miles farther up. I am today

officer of the Guard, and now am in the Guard tent writing.

I have just this moment been informed that we have been ordered to cook 3 days rations, which amounts to marching orders. It seems there was quite a fight here when Gen. Franklyn's Division attempted to land some three days ago. The Enemy under Wade Hampton & another general with two divisions attempted to stop the landing, when our troops, in all amounting to but one division, after a fight of several hours drove the enemy from the woods and since then have been unmolested.

Our gun boats are here, the enemy seem to have the greatest possible fear of them.

Some of our men were found after the fight with their throats cut, reported to have been done by the negroes one or two of the latter were hung yesterday, and

some more will be executed soon for their crimes. This is but rumor but I guess most of it is true. Last night just as we were going to bed, a voice was heard screaming out that he was being murdered; it came from the woods where the enemy had fought on the first day of Franklyn's landing. Some men went off and found that a negro had stabbed one of the soldiers, the reason of which is not known. Our men say that they will give no quarter to the negroes if they are caught in arms. It is also said that two regiments of Niggers were engaged on the rebel side. Should the enemy stand this side of Richmond it will be, it is expected, at Bottom Bridge where the Yorktown & West Point road crosses the Chickahomony River.

The weather here is *very* hot. I went in swimming yesterday and will do so again to day.

I am not as lucky as Henry Hubbell for with me coolness is an impossibility.

I hope soon to write from Richmond; with much love to all I remain,

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

Unless I am paid off before my appt arrives I will not be able to go home as I am out of funds.

---

Camp at White House Va  
1st Rgt U S Sharp Shooters  
May 18th 1862

Dear Father & Wm

I direct to you Wm but send it to Father when it is read for of all disagreeable things the writing letters on a hot day is the top of the notch.

I think I wrote from West Point last; at all events I will take up my narration from

that place I will also set aside dates as I am so hot I cant remember the true numbers. We left West Point at 5 O Clock A. M. travelled all day through the hot sun and brought up by night at Cumberland. I carried my heavy over coat and a part of a tent besides my haversack and glass.

Our journey was much longer than need have been as we took the wrong road, an unexcusable mistake when there are so many here who know the country.

We encamped about 1-4 mile from the Pomonkey River. As soon as Camp was arranged Mr Winthrop & myself took a swim in it which I enjoyed to the fullest extent.

We remained there one day during which time it ceased not to rain. Rain being the order of the day—we made our-

selves as comfortable as possible in our little powder tent about 4 feet high & six feet long. The Sec'y of State reviewed our division so we were obliged to turn out, went half an hour, got wet, gave three cheers and double quick back to camp.

McClellan & Mr Seward rode side by side followed by Gen Porter with his & McClellans staff.

The next morning the men were up at 3 A. M. expecting to start at 5, two hours later, but owing to the tardiness of Gen Franklyns Div—we did not go until 11.30—all the time our men were standing in line of battle ready to move, with rifles stacked and the rain coming down drenching them to the skin.

When we did start the roads were in an awful condition. Mud was generally ankle deep and sometimes up to our knees; we

stumbled along & at last by walking through woods and cutting of roads we reached White House.

It rained that night and a part of the day following—but since then has been as warm as they get it up in even this miserable portion of Dixie. I have been twice bathing since I arrived and intend to go again to night. We get the papers here sooner than they can be sent by you so I would advise you thanking you for what you sent me not to send more. I received some letters from you and two from Father. I hope you all will write every day for I never enjoyed them so much as I do now. We may start to night & we may not start for a day or two but when any of you are not certain abt my address write to Fort Monro and it will be forwarded.

You all seem to think that we have noth-



ing to do but march in and take possession of Richmond. Why it may be weeks before we attack the rebels. Gen. McClellan does nothing in a hurry; besides we can not move until every thing is in perfect order, ammunition, baggage wagons must arrive first; even then we must wait until we know exactly the purposes of the enemy, so dont be in a hurry. I think that the fight will come off soon—in a very few days—still we can not tell. We are encamped on the bank of the Pomonkey on one of the large and beautiful plains which are common in this part of Virginia. It is almost square with but one or two trees on it. It is bounded on three sides by Woods and this fourth by the river. Gen McClellans head quarters—at the White House—formerly the property of Gen Lee situated on the banks of the river. He is always

up in the head of his army and not behind as the Tribune has it.

Don't forget to send my rifle.

Your affectionate

FRED

The Capt & Mr Winthrop wish to be remembered to you all, but I generally forget to tell you.

Mr Winthrop met his cousins Mrs Holland & Miss Woolsey to day, they return to Fortress Monroe immediately or I would go and see them. F

Dont stop writing. I received a letter from Rebekah which I enjoyed.

In Camp at Barkers Mills  
12 M from Richmond  
1st Rgt U S Sharp Shooters  
May 24, 1862.

Dear Father

I have just received your letter of the 19th, which I have read with pleasure. Why dont you all at home write oftener. I enjoy them much more than formerly: the reason why I cant tell, unless it is that at any moment we may be called upon to fight, and its pleasant to hear from you all then My last letter was written from White House which we left on Tuesday as near as I can make out, for here Sunday is the only day I keep any track of.

We left there about 5 A. M. and arrived at Tunstalls station at 12 M here we encamped for the night in a dismal rain storm. We remained here two nights and

one day. The country about there is perfectly enchanting. Instead of the even prairie like flats of the Peninsula there are little hills deep ravines and rich meadows stretching away for hundreds of acres. The foliage is very thick and green, and formes a pleasant shelter from the hot sun. You would be surprised if you could see a Rgt marching along seemingly in good order and on the word "halt" being given, see them disappear in the woods to obtain a moments rest and coolness. For when marching the hot sun is perfectly scorching, it seems to almost knock one down.

I will go back to where I left off marching from Tunstalls Station, we marched some five miles that day and encamped at Cyrus Hill. Next day we struck tents and after a very though days work pitched our camp where we now are. Strawber-

rics are only 12 cents a quart, and very good ones at that; sweet potatoes never were better than these, they make up for our want of beef & pork. Our servants this morning eat up every thing we had fit to eat and so we sent and bought a few eggs, which with some coffee constituted our breakfast. All day we have heard cannon firing in the direction of Bottom bridge. I dont suppose it amounts to much, at most but the shelling out of some rebels over the Chickahom (as the contrabands say). Bottom Bridge is some three or four miles from us also Newbridge about the same distance in another direction. Gen Porter now commands a Corps Gen Martindale has taken his place, commanding the division. Col Berdan has been quite unwell and was left behind at a house in Cumberland; he returned yesterday. Did Mr Taft receive the piece of flag, and did Re-

bekah receive her gold braid, and did Fred Terry receive a piece of each. If they did why dont they write and let me know; tell Fred I want to hear from him, if he has received the several little mementoes I from time to time have sent. If he dont think enough of them to let me know of their safe arrival, I will send them to somebody else.

It seems queer why the Marine Appointment dont come; however I have as much as I can now well attend to.

When we get to Richmond I shall expect it certainly. I am very happy to know that you are none the worse. Why dont you keep quiet; its no wonder you dont improve if you keep continually moving. Give my best love to Mother and the rest of the family.

and I remain Your affectionate Son

FRED.

Camp near Chickahominy Va  
1st Berdans U S Sharp Shooters  
May 30th 1862

Dear Hattie & Rebekah

Since I wrote my last letter our camp has been moved once or twice. We arrived here at noon on Monday last and encamped in the rain. That night at 9 or 10 orders came to cook two days rations and be ready to start at 5 next morning each man to have 60 rounds of cartridges.

I was up Tuesday morning at 3 A. M. and at 5 we all started in a dismal rain storm.

Our march was through such a series of small puddles and bad roads that I never hope to see such another day. It seems that we were ordered to proceed to Hanover Ct. House and break up the railway or burn bridges, thus destroying the con-

nections between Fredericksburg and Gordonsville with Richmond. We arrived at the C. H. at one P. M. met the enemy and had quite a battle. Our Rgt had some 8 men wounded one or two severely. None were hurt in Co. H. We did not take as active a part as some of the other Rgts namely 25 & 14 & 44 N. Y also 2 & 4 Maine. I suppose before this reaches you a full account will be given by the papers. It seems that the enemy were some North Carolina troops on the way to Richmond. Our forces consisted of about ten thousand men under Gen Porter. We slept at night on secesh blankets which the "Butternuts" had thrown away. Their blankets guns and in fact everything they had were thrown away in their efforts to skedaddle. I was near the 25th N. Y when Lt Col Savage (formerly a member of N Y 7th



Rgt) was wounded also the Col, Major, and I believe, the Adjutant, & Doctor. This Rgt lost more than any other, they lost one half of their men.

Our march and its effect was perfectly satisfactory, and we returned to camp last night. We left at 2.30 P M and reached here at 9. O Clock. the roads were dry our march being about the cool of the afternoon we were not as fagged out as when we reached the C H. from here. I am well, never was better although marching some 14 or 16 miles is pretty tough on a hot day. On our march from here I met and had a moments talk with Lt Spaulding 6 Reg Cav.

I received Mr Tafts letter and was glad he wrote. I shall write to him when I get some more time. We were ordered but about an hour ago to see that each man

had his 60 rounds of cartridges and be ready to start at a moments notice—so I will wait until I see if we are to march before I again write. I received a letter from you two this morning, which I read with pleasure. You must not be afraid that my letters will miscarry. Just put Sharp Shooters, Gen Porters Corps, Gen Morells Div, on the envelope and it will reach me wherever I may be.

Tell Mother she must not be worried about me. I dont think I shall be killed and if I am slightly wounded I will be sent to N. Y. I have been taken care of so far and I doubt not that it will be so all through this war. Also tell Mother not to be frightened if after a battle she does not get a letter, for should I be hurt the Capt & Lt. will let you all know of it immediately. If I am all right I wont get time to

write, so keep up spirits until you know I am gone. I have not the slightest fear.

With my best love to Mother, Father and you all I remain affectionately

Your brother

FRED.

Ask Wm to send me some money as I have not *one cent.* also some postage stamps.

---

Camp at Gaines Mills Va

1st Berdans U S Sharp Shooters

June 10. 62

Dear Libby

I am indebted to you for two letters, the last one I received but a few minutes previous.

I received one from Fred a day or two ago and will answer it soon. How delightful it must be at Pinkstone now. I wish

Richmond was taken, and my Marine appointment confirmed so as to give me a few days with you on the Hudson.

In your letter you seem to imagine that my diet consists of strawberries & sweet potatoes, delicious thought Oh! that it were true. I have eaten berries but once and potatoes are very hard to obtain even at one dollar a peck.

For two weeks we have had scarcely anything but fried rice and fresh beef. still I am as strong and well as ever. My weight is 8 lbs less than when at Yorktown. Fred tells me that he weighs now 123 lbs. What a terrible fellow he must be, tell him he must get the gloves ready, for when I return I shall give him a chance to thrash me.

Gen Prim the Spanish General reviewed our division to day. I being officer of the

Guard did not see him. Cousin Ned Wright was his interpreter for Gen Porter. Several of Gen McClellans staff were with them.

Some days ago I think that I misinformed you as to the Commandant of our Div. Gen Morrell not Martindale took Gen Porters place, who now commands a provisional corps.

It requires some patience to get along with these rain storms although I suppose it is all for the best.

I was not engaged in the battle of Saturday or Sunday but could distinctly hear the firing from our Camp.

You speak of McClellans superior force, if you mean in numbers we are superior to the enemy, you must be mistaken.

I cant think of any thing to tell you so I will say good bye, with love to Mr. Terry, Fred, Erick, and Johnny,

I remain Your affectionate brother

FRED.

Tell Fred & Erick that our Pickets (S. S.) have to stand in water up to their waists all day, and then come home with rheumatism. F.

---

Camp Near New Bridge, Va.

1st Rgt Berdans U S. S. S.

June 15th 62

Dear Father Mother & Sisters,

I have this afternoon received six letters, consequently I feel gay.

Dont let the above news of six stop your writing for I would like as many every day.

You must not be troubled about your letters not reaching me wherever I am, as I am with Gen McClellan they will be forwarded all right.

It is amusing to see the way my letters & papers are directed one came a day or two ago, with "Capt Martindales Div." on it. I hope Gen Martindale did not see it.

My direction is this,

1st Rgt Berdans U. S. S. S.

Gen Morells Div.

Gen Porters Corps

Near Richmond Va

Mother writes she was glad to hear that our Company was not in the Hanover fight, but with the reserves. Our Company was but about one hundred feet from the line of skirmishers on the battle field: there is not much reserve about that I should judge. I was not off the field all day. I intended sending a piece of a dead rebels *ear* to Wm but when I saw the poor fellows, I gave up the idea so suddenly that it almost made my hair curl.

If you all were here I would tell you of sights that would make Aunty shut herself up in her room for a week. Tell Aunty that segars are so hard to get that I have hardly smoked a dozen in a long time.

Wm & Libby sent me papers.

To day is Sunday; a thunder storm has just passed over us, and cooled the atmosphere making our tent now a paradise to what it was this hot, hot morning, when I almost expected to evaporate and "vanish into thin air" as some of Virgils heroes were in the habit of doing when excited.

I was on picket again yesterday but was not allowed to cross the bridge in my uniform as the rebs have orders to shoot only officers so I put on a privates coat & cap shouldered my rifle and went over.

There was no picket firing during the



day ; the enemy opened on the bridge with the concealed battery, but were silenced by our battery which was stationed on the right of the bridge.

One of the Officers of this battery (4th R. I.) was a member of the 7th and tented next to me ; his name is Buckley, he asked after Charley. He, with another of his Lieutenants, is coming to my tent at 7 to night, and we three are going down to bathe.

Tell Mother that we were to have divine service this evening at 7 or before. We have no meeting now as there is no tent but what is full of stores.

I have spent the Sabbath reading some from my testament and in the interim *trying to keep cool*. It is very hard for me to keep my thoughts pinned down to *any* subject five consecutive minutes—in the midst

of my thoughts I will find my mind wandering in Brooklyn or New York or Bridgeport. I like to write to you all on Sundays and it is right I should. I would like to hear something from Washington relative to my Marine appointment. Tell Wm that Col (now Act. Gen) MeQuade wished to be remembered to him.

I will now say good bye. It is wonderful how I keep so well. I hope we will be in Richmond soon then possibly I will be ordered to Washington, after which time I will get a furlough.

Your affectionate Son

FRED T. PEET.

To Father Mother Rebekah & Hattie Peet.

*Abraham Lincoln,*

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

TO ALL WHO SHALL SEE THESE PRESENTS,

GREETING :

KNOW YE, that reposing special Trust and Confidence in the Patriotism, Valour, Fidelity and Abilities of *Frederick J. Peet*, I have nominated, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, do appoint him a *Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps, from the 14th June 1862* in the service of the United States. He is therefore carefully and diligently, to discharge the Duties of a *Second Lieutenant in said corps*, by doing and performing all Manner of Things thereto belonging.

And I do strictly charge and require, all Officers, Seamen and Marines under his Command to be obedient to his Orders as a *Second Lieutenant in said corps*. And he is to observe and follow such Orders and Directions from time to time as he shall receive from me; or the future PRESIDENT of the United States of America, or his Superior Officer set over him: according to the Rules and Discipline of THE NAVY.

This COMMISSION to continue in force during the pleasure of the President of the United States for the time being.

Given under my Hand at WASHINGTON,  
this *Fourteenth* day of *June* in the year of  
our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and  
THE PRESIDENT *Sixty-two* and in the *Eighty-sixth* year of  
the Independence of the United States.

*Abraham Lincoln*

*Gideon Welles*

Secretary of the Navy.

Registered No. *Nine*.

*The lowest number of same date takes rank.*

*Wm. P. Moran*

Col Berdan will write William

Headquarters Army of the Potomac

11 AM Hours, — Min. July 2 1862.

Wednesday

My dear Uncle,

It is my sad duty to have to inform you that your gallant boy, Frederick, was seriously wounded on Monday afternoon while protecting the passage of "White Oak Swamp." His Col speaks of his modesty & his courage in the highest terms. He held the post of honor and while bravely defending it, fell with his face toward the enemy. His comrades rushed to his assistance, but he begged them not to remain. He told his Sergeant "*not to mind about him*"—The enemy are always kind to our wounded, and I trust your brave boy is now a prisoner in their hands—I will use every effort to aid him—In the rapidity of

our movements, I have not yet been able to get any further news of him—We are full of heart, and although the enemy outnumber us, will go to Richmond in spite of everything—I pray God with my whole heart that you may receive good news from your Son—

Your aff Nephew

E. H WRIGHT.

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Camp—On James River 3d, July 1862

My dear Friend—

I am compelled to write in great haste and therefore to be abrupt in announcing bad news. Your brother Fred was wounded in the fight on Monday last and like many of our wounded in this rapid retreat was left in the hospital to fall a prisoner into the rebels hands. I cannot

say that there is not great danger that his wound was mortal, a musket ball entered at the shoulder and lodged in his lungs. He believed himself that he could live but a few hours, and the doctor said that very likely he might not live a day while he considered it not impossible that he might recover, but he would have to lose his arm. Had I been without any responsibility of a company and the duty of bringing them safely as possible through great danger I would have remained with Fred—As it was I had to take a short and sad leave of him, but two of the Company voluntarily staid with him expecting to be taken prisoners but unwilling to leave him without friends. I had them detailed as hospital nurses so that they might remain with him and our other wounded and be themselves kindly treated. Fred was convinced that

his wound was mortal—though it was less painful than many gun shot wounds, it made breathing very difficult. He could not speak without increased suffering—He had no important message to send home he said except to tell his mother that he thought of her when he was in action, that she was always in his mind during the fight and that he died in the faith of Christ. I wish I could encourage you to hope that he might recover but I fear his own forebodings were too well founded and that he is no more alive. I loved him very dearly, and feel this blow grievously. He was a brave frank noble fellow, everybody liked him, the Company would do more for his pleasure than for that of any of their officers and were affectionately attached to him. He bore himself bravely and with coolness and encouraged others to stand

up bravely in the action when bullets were pouring in like a hail storm. My Company suffered badly in the fight. I know of seven wounded some of them prisoners and others missing probably killed or else wounded and in the enemy's hands. With the tenderest sympathy for yourself and poor Fred's afflicted parents I am your

affectionate friend

GEO. G. HASTINGS.

William Peet Esq.

Miller's brother is well and unhurt—  
When I get time I will write again and tell you of the action in which Fred received his wound—At the hospital when I left him everything was done that could be to relieve his suffering.



Headquarters Co. H. 1st Reg. U. S.  
Sharpshooters.

Camp at Harrison's Pt Va 5 July 1862  
Sir,

In obedience to the order of the general Commanding requiring reports from commanding officers in this division of the several actions at the Allen's Farm, Savage Station, Nelson's Farm & Malverton, (?) I have the honor to report—

That on Sunday 29th June as soon as our line of battle was formed at Allen's Farm I reported in person to the general commanding, who ordered me to deploy my company in such manner as to command by an enfilading fire the road from the Chickahominy I deployed my company accordingly where the road entered the field occupied by our troops about 300 yards to the right & rear of our line of battle. No

enemy appearing in sight in that direction, but information being brought me that our Cavalry Scouts had been fired upon about three quarters of a mile further down the road I advanced my men as skirmishers through the woods on the left of the road about three quarters of a mile to an open field, and took a position in the edge of the woods bordering on the field, which position commanded the road & enabled me to observe any movement of the rebels from the direction of the Chickahominy—Communication between me and our main body was maintained by cavalry pickets posted at intervals—I observed only some two or three parties of armed men of three or four each in the edge of the woods on the opposite side of the field, but saw no organized body of the enemy nor was any hostile demonstration made from that quarter. I

sent report of these facts to the general commanding, who ordered me to remain in the position I then occupied. I did so during the entire action. When our troops had all withdrawn from the field I assembled my skirmishers & overtook the rear of the column on the road to Savage Station. Then I reported with my command to the general commanding, who ordered us to remain where we were until further orders. Receiving no further orders we had no part in the action which took place there—From that time I had no orders except to march my command with Gen. Caldwell's Brigade. I kept that position in the column of march through White Oak Swamp & formed in line of Battle with it on the right of 61st N. Y. on Monday 30th June in support of our batteries and remained in line with them until the

brigade went into action at Nelson's farm on the evening of that day. I reported to Col. Barlow, commanding the 61st N. Y. who requested me to keep my company on the right of his regiment, which I did and took my command into action with that Regiment placing myself under Col. Barlow's orders. His report of that action will render it unnecessary for me to speak of the part which my command bore in it, but I cannot forbear to state that my men stood nobly in the open field with the 61st under a terrific fire of musketry from an enemy concealed in the woods, evidently far outnumbering our own force then immediately engaged—The conduct of my men was fully satisfactory to me. Lieutenant Peet of my company entered eagerly into the battle & conducted himself with great bravery & perfect coolness—He fell

wounded while encouraging & cheering on our men—I report the following casualties.

Killed. None

Wounded. 2nd Lt. Fredk T. Peet, Jr.  
dangerously

Sergt. John I. Slifer in the  
shoulder & wrist

Private John Valleau in the  
hip

Private James Lawson in the  
foot

Private Woodward Hudson, in  
the head

Corporal Edwin Lynde, in the  
hip slightly

Private Richard Boyd in the  
head slightly

Of the wounded the Lt. (if he survives)  
the Sergt. & the two first named privates  
are probably prisoners, being left in the

hospital near the field—The three last named privates were brought safely within our lines.

Prisoners, Private Edward J. Carmick & Private Martin V. Nichols

These having taken Lt. Peet to the hospital were detailed for duty there during the night by the Surgeon in charge to take care of the wounded & have probably fallen into the enemy's hands.

Missing Private Henry Bartless

Recapitulation—

Wounded	1 Lieut.	
	1 Sergt.	
	1 Corpl.	
	4 privates	7
Prisoners	privates	2
Missing	—	1
		—
Total loss		10

In the action at Malverton (?) on the 1st  
Inst. my command was not engaged.

I am sir very respectfully

Your obedient servt

GEO. G. HASTINGS

Capt 1st U. S. Sharpshooters

Compy H.

To Lt. Draper, A. D. C. &

Acting Asst adjt genl.

Head Quarters Army of the Potomac  
Camp near Harrisons Landing, Va.  
July 9. 1862.

Special Orders }  
No. 198 }

X X X

5 The following named officers, having  
tendered their resignations, are honorably  
discharged from the Military service of the  
United States :

2nd. Lieut. *F. T. Peet.* 1st. Regt. Ber-  
dans Sharpshooters.

X X X

By Command of Major General McClellan  
(signed) S. Williams  
Asst. Adjt. General.

Head Quarters, 5th (Provl) Corps.  
Camp near Harrisons Landing, July 9, 1862

Official

(signed) Fred. T. Locke.

Asst. Adjt. Genl.

Head. Qrs. Morell's Division July 10, 1862

Official R. T. Auchmuty

Asst. Adjt. General

NOTE—I had my Commission as 2d Lt U S Marine Corps—  
dated June 14, 62—and served in the army until wounded &  
taken to Richmond, after exchange & recovery went on duty  
at Washington in les *Marines*. F. T. PEET.



Head-Quarters, Army of the Potomac,

July 11th 1862.

My dear Cousin

I wrote you by yesterday's mail in reference to brave Fred—This morning I was ordered out to meet a flag of truce from the enemy—It was borne by Lieut Wood of the Confederate Navy, a son of my old friend Dr Wood of the Army—From him I could learn nothing of Fred, but I sent word to Col Chilton, Dora's Uncle, and aide to Major Genl Lee of the rebels, giving him a description of Fred and asking that some news might be sent to us of him. Lieut Wood assured me that all means should be used to find out the whereabouts of Fred—If I should receive a reply, I shall not fail, my dear Cousin, to inform you of its import at the earliest possible moment.

With love to all at Brooklyn, I am

Your aff Cousin

EDWARD H. WRIGHT.

Camp near Harrison's Landing, Va.

16 July 1862.

My Dear Sir—

I cannot refrain from writing you a few words of sympathy in the loss of your brother and my dear friend & comrade.

Familiar as we are here, with such events, yet nothing has impressed me more, since my own brother's death, than the fact of his probable end. Not only do I lose a constant companion & daily tent-mate & mess-mate, but in your brother's physique, in his unusual health and strength during all our hardships, there was nothing to suggest the idea of bodily harm, much less of death—

And I cannot yet give him up. If any constitution *could* be hardy enough to resist the effects of so dangerous a wound, *his* would certainly seem to be.

But if he is indeed gone,—we—who saw how he never neglected his morning & evening prayer and reading of scripture—who knew his uniform kindness and ingenuous frankness of heart as well as his devotion to principle—(which was most marked)—we can fully believe that he is gone to the land where there is no war, no anguish, no mourning, but always rest and peace.

Personally I was strongly attached to your brother—We occupied the same tent together for many months and had no differences—we seemed to suit each other—I always found him generous. Often has he taken my place on duty when I had been detailed for some regular service, on my desiring to devote my time to some other business or to social pleasures—

It is gratifying to me, as it will be to you

to know that on this occasion as on all others on which he has been under fire before the enemy, your brother behaved like a true and gallant soldier and leader of men.

Your family has made its sacrifice—given its best blood to the cause of Liberty. Mine can deeply, sincerely sympathise with yours. May you feel, after the first great pang is over, that which we felt on a similar occasion,—a pride in having given a life to your country—

With kindest regards to the parents & family of my dear comrade, believe me  
Most sincerely your friend—

W. W. WINTHROP—1st Lieut.

Co. H. U S. Sharpshooters.

The two young men of the Company left with your Brother were *Martin V. Nichols* (care Aaron Nichols, Willsborough, Essex

Co. New York) and *Edward J. Carmick*, (care Capt. Stephen Carmick, Lakeland, Suffolk Co. L. I.)—two of the most faithful soldiers and reliable men in the Company—

W. W. W.

Your Brother's Carpet Bag, containing all his effects, has been this day delivered to Agent, Adams' Express, addressed to you. The Agent would give no receipt.

W. W. W.

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Head Quarters Army of Potomac

July 19, 1862

My dear Cousin—

You have doubtless heard that our brave Fred is alive—Yesterday, through the kindness of Col Chilton of Gen Lee's staff, Fred was sent off among the first of the wounded from Richmond and is now on board of the Louisiana off this place—I

shall go out and see him to day—I congratulate you all on our brave boy's escape, may he soon recover and be able to enter service in his new corps. Lt. Col Sweitzer, who had charge of the wounded, says Fred looks quite bright and is moving about—You will soon see him, and under your devoted care his recovery must be rapid—I join with you all in grateful thanks to God for his safety. Not even you are more proud of him than I am, for he has behaved splendidly, and always had his face toward the enemy—

I ought to have known better than to have believed Dr. Coit's story—I never knew a parson that if danger was near was not frightened out of his wits—I met this man on Wednesday morning, just after I saw Col Berdan & wrote you. He stated positively that "Fred had died in the hos-

pital after great suffering." I felt it my duty to tell you of what I believed to be the truth—

I send you copy of Col Chiltons note—

July 16. 62

Sir—

Just received your memorandum respecting Lt F. T. Peet—Had I known of his condition before, kindnesses shown by your Father and Mother to Miss Mason, would have induced me before leaving the field to have ministered to his wants—As it is, I have engaged Surgeon Cullen, employed in removing the paroled wounded & sick, to look him up to day, and send him off with the first—The Dr recollects his name as among the wounded. Temporary sickness deters me from giving personal attention to this matter.

(signed) R. H. Chilton

Col E. H. Wright  
Aid-de-Camp-

Endorsed on the envelope is the following—

“Dr. Cullen please oblige R. H. C by forwarding Lt F. T. Peet. N. Jersey Troops, amongst the first.”

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I will try to see Fred before closing your letter—

2 p m—My dear Cousin—I have just seen Fred on board the steamer Louisiana, I find him looking quite bright, full of heart and courage, Such good natured pluck as he has is sure to bring a recovery—I have tried my best to find some nice things on shore at the Sutlers stores to send him, but have failed—All I could do was to send him a jar of black currant jelly I had—Fred was sitting up, having his wound dressed by his faithful Sharpshooter Nichols—Sisters of Mercy were on board,



the most gentle, brave, women I have ever seen, and as Fred said, "so handsome too"—Certainly I never expected to see anything so close to angels. They are indefatigable, to them all things are pure, and you should see the wistful, grateful eyes of the sick and wounded as these angels of mercy pass by—I am unable to tell you, whether Fred will go to Philadelphia or New York, perhaps to Baltimore—But I told him on arriving to telegraph you—He thinks he is strong enough to get home alone, but it would cheer the brave boy up to see you as soon as possible—The ball still remains in his right lung—Let him have quiet, but always be cheerful with him, make him contented and happy always—Let him go to the country soon—If he goes to Bridgeport I can assure him at our house, the pleasantest room and the

coolest place on the porch—Dora will devote herself to him I am sure—I would send a despatch, but we have no telegraph—Col Berdan has just called—He says he did his best to have Fred removed, I believe he did—Fred says it was fortunate he was not removed, his life might have been the forfeit—

I write you with a light heart, dear Cousin—We of the “Army of the Potomac” are full of courage, determined if the Country and Government will do right by us, not to return home but by the way of Richmond—With love to all

Your aff Cousin

EDWARD H. WRIGHT.

## Carver Hospital Aug 4th 1862

Lieutenant ;

When I saw through the papers, that my Lieutenant was wounded and a prisoner, rest assured *one* of your company felt that besides losing a good Officer, he had lost a friend.

It was with peculiar satisfaction and pleasure, that I learned through friends in New York that you were mercifully spared to return to your friends at home, and were recovering, from what all feared, was to be a fatal wound.

I hope that now you are receiving the kind attentions of loving friends, and can have the best medical and surgical aid, you may soon be blessed with returning health and strength.

As you will perceive I am still an occupant of the Hospital. I have been advised

to take a discharge, but I have waited, in hopes that I might get strong enough to re-join my Regiment. But my health is far from good and I suppose I must be content endeavoring to fulfil the duties allotted me here.

I do not want to get out of the service until "the last ditch" is found.

I trust you will pardon me for writing to you when I know not that you are able to read my letter.

Yours respectfully

GEO. F. HALL.

Lieut. F. T. Peet.

Carver Hospital

Meridian Hill

Washington D. C.

## Executive Mansion.

Washington Nov. 5th 1862—

The President, Commander in Chief of the Army and Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the Officers and men in the Military and Naval service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian Soldiers and Sailors and a due regard for the Divine will, demands that Sunday labor in the Army and Navy be reduced to the Measure of strict necessity.

The discipline and character of the National forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperilled by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High.

“At this time of public distress” adopting the words of Washington in 1776,

“men may find enough to do in the service of God and their Country, without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality.”

The first General Order issued by the Father of his Country after the declaration of Independence, indicates the spirit in which our institutions were founded and should ever be defended:

*“The General hopes and trusts that every Officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian Soldier, defending the dearest rights and liberties of his Country.”*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

To the Editor of “The Country”—

NOTE—Lt. Peet was wounded at the battle of Frazers Farm June 30th., left behind by the Federals, captured by the Confederates, taken to Libby Prison; exchanged July 18th and sent home. Having recovered from his wound he assumed the duties of 2d Lt. in the Marine Corps at Washington Dec. 8th.

### Washington Barrack

Dec 8th 62.

Dear Father

I arrived here Sunday morning at ten A. M. and now am very comfortably situated in my new quarters.

Mr. Adams and myself occupy two rooms. One we use as a sleeping room which has two beds in it and the other which is a corner room & quite a large one is used as a *sitting room*. I reported myself to the Col this A M; he asked after you.

I did not say anything about my being sent to Bkln as I thought my chances would be better if I delayed it a few days.

I bought myself a Mattress this afternoon. I must also have some sheets & quilts. Can you not send me on some? as

I dont know anything about buying them.

Adams rigged up a bed for me, but there was so few clothes on it, that I almost froze. I caught a little cold also by the operation. I drew my last Months pay to day and will send home some this week to pay for my watch.

It seems to me that the farther South I go, the colder it becomes, the snow is deeper here than in Brooklyn and in New Jersey I saw a party sleighriding.

I cant imagine what else to say except that my pipe has just begun *to color*.

Give my love to Mother, Aunty, Rbkah, Hattie, & George, & Creighton.

I will write soon again. *Dont forget the sheets.*

With much love Your

affectionate Son

FRED.



Headquarters 1st U. S. S. S.  
Camp near Falmouth Va  
22 Dec 1862

Dear Peet—

You will be glad to hear that our Regt was not among the victims of the great butchery of the 13th inst. Part of the Division was in the fight, but *we* were not ordered over the river until the 14th. We were out on picket on the night of the 15th and recrossed at daylight next morning bringing up the rear of the retreat.

The Regt numbers over 490 present, having been largely recruited. Health of the men generally good, though they are suffering from the cold. Col Tripp & I have a Sibley tent & stove and are quite comfortable. He & Winthrop & I mess together subsisting chiefly on soldier's rations. Col. Berdan has returned and taken

command. So affairs of the Regt are about as they used to be. For your sake I am glad you are out of this concern.

I see the lying newspapers represent the army as still having confidence in Burnside. They have no confidence in anybody from the President down—It is unjust to the troops to represent the fact otherwise—They are not eager for another fight and winter quarters would please them better than anything else.

I suppose you sometimes see Weston who is at home recruiting.

When you left you owed me a balance of \$15, which if you have not paid you can leave with my brother or Mr. Little at 7 Wall St.

I should be glad to have a letter from you—I answer frequent inquiries about you from your numerous friends here and

in Hancock's (late Richardson's) Division  
—With love to William and kind regards  
to all your family, I remain

Very truly your friend

GEO. G. HASTINGS.

Address—

1st U. S. Sharpshooters

1st Division 5th Army Corps

Army of the Potomac

Lieut F. T. Peet Jr

U. S. Marine Corps

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Marine Barracks

Washington Dec 26. 62

Dear Sister

I suppose of course you all passed a Merry Christmas. I am sorry to say that mine was about as stupid as could be. Most all day, at least until six P M after which I called on Molly Wright and left

there at 10 P M. I find that I must wait until New Years before I give any presents.

Tell Fred & Erick Terry that I will have to wait for a month or two before I give them their presents. I think that Hatties is the only present I can get.

What do you think of the Marine Corps being consolidated with Army and formed into the 20th Regulars. If it is done it will be a disgrace to the country.

Dec 27, 62

I have just finished a letter to Wm do you know that I have returned to my old love McClellan? the testimony in the Court Martial shows that he left 70,000 men around or within call of Washington, also the rebels themselves state that they were nearly beaten on the Peninsular, and would have been, had McDowal been allowed to cooperate with us.

I had a letter from Major Hastings who says that the army have no confidence in Burnside and none in the Government.

I hope that McClellan will return to command the army. If the Government did not send supplies to his army after Antietam he was right in remaining until he was supplied. Also it was excusable in remonstrating against the order taking him from the Peninsular. I wish you would tell Charley & George this, and tell them to tell Dora Wright.

I shall send some presents next week.

Your affee brother

FRED.

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Marine Barrack

Washington Jan 1, 63

Dear Rebekah.

I enclose \$20 for Hatties Watch Chain, if you think best I will give you more next

month, but this is all I can spare now as I have to pay \$25 for mess and \$20 for my watch. Get the chain as soon as possible; get some one to advance more money if you cant get a good one for this and I will pay them next month. I cant pay Father anything this month or next, for next I pay Creighton, \$22.

I am on duty as Officer of day, it is rather hard luck to be on Christmas Monday & again today, but it cant be helped. I suppose you all had a nice time to day.

Tell Mother I will write to her next.

I have forgotten whether I answered Wms letter, however I have nothing to say but that I am all right. love to all

Your affec brother

FRED.

Camp near Falmouth, Va.

2 Jany. 1863—

My Dear Peet—

I cannot tell you how pleased I was to hear from you a few days ago—Your letter, so fresh, so gay, so lively, so characteristic—was indeed a new sensation, and you may be sure, a most agreeable one—I rejoice in your good fortune & good position—We here have suffered a good deal of fatigue, exposure, disgust and pain—since we left Sharpsburg; and I can most earnestly congratulate *you* that you are elsewhere than with us:—for all our exposure on the march, in the camp—in the field—has been without profit or honest result to us or to the Country—At Fredericksburg, though not sent in, upon any of those suicidal charges,—we did a good deal of hazardous outpost duty—the roughest picket

practice I ever went through with—and I never passed a night more anxious than that last one when in the dim gray of a cold rainy morning we silently withdrew our picket line, expecting every instant to be attacked—I never knew a more *intense* battle than this was; for our poor boys it was a charge—“into the jaws of death, into the mouth of hell”—But perhaps the most dreary point of the whole eventful five days—was the desolation of the City:—nearly every house riddled with canister or spherical case—many consumed by fire—all standing with doors & windows open—furniture, books, crockery, provisions scattered far and wide. But I should not grieve over Fredericksburg and its Battle—The President tells us we had a “success” there—the Congressional Committee say—“no one was to blame”—and we find



Halleck, Stanton, & Burnside still in their places—All this proves that the episode was a healthy and satisfactory one, I suppose.

What do they in Washington suppose we are—we of this Army? Do they think we are babies, or milk sops, or darn fools—to listen weakly while they gloss over our terrible disaster and their egregious folly and mistakes!

We returned yesterday from a reconnoissance in force across the Rappahannock, which was very fatiguing but quite lively—The principal and daring part was done by the 1st Brigade—with 3 companies of S. S.—“B.,” “G.,” and “H.,” as skirmishers in the front, under the Major. We forded the River in the face of their picket fire—at Richard’s Ford—then marched six miles on the other side to

Ellis' Ford, where we recrossed & bivouacked—On the march we had frequent firing with the enemy's cavalry scouts, and took several prisoners—Three of my best shots Lawson, Olds, & Westervelt ("California") had some very good practice, and brought me a cavalry sabre, and pistol which they took from a prisoner, both with the mark of the palmetto, and made in South Carolina. Forging the River up to the waist was frightfully cold—my high boots were filled with Rappahannock—and it took me nearly all night to dry them—Thus I saw the old year out & the new year in. How differently *now*, my boy, must have seen the same!

Miss Potts is certainly very kind to remember me—Please acknowledge to her my gratitude.

Have you seen my brother's book—

"The Canoe & the Saddle"—it is just the book you will like—We have been entertained a good deal with the volumes of "Les Miserables"—Also the Pamphlets of the Prince deJoinville, & Gurowski, the testimony at the McDowell & Porter Courts Martial—and the Report of Gen Halleck to the Secy of War—and not least the statement of the Seven Days fight by the Prussian Colonel in the Cologne Gazette—have combined to give us a good deal of light upon the events of the war in which we have taken a part.

A chap goes into a campaign or a battle, and comes out deeply mystified—Pretty soon some official reports, personal annals, courts of inquiry, etc. etc. etc—and we find out what we did and what we didn't, on a certain day. Thus, in this impatient age, History follows close upon events.

Weston returns soon to the Regt. I will write him to find you when he goes through Washington—There will be “an instance” of “Buhler’s,” I think—when you two meet! *Quis concursus!*

The Major has read your letter—Write to us as often as you are in the humor; remember how glad we always must be to hear from you—Thank you for liking my sisters - they had written to me about meeting and liking you—

Answer my dear Peet.

Your friend & comrade

W....W. Winthrop

Capt. Comdg “H” Co.

1st Rgt. U S S S.

1st Div. 5th Corps

Army of the Potomac.

## Marine Barracks

Washington Jan 9. 63

Dear Mother

I have not yet answered your letter so I will attempt it now.

Every thing goes on here as usual, I am on duty every three or four days.

I received letters from Major Hastings & Capt Winthrop; both are well, and having a pretty tough time on the Rappahannock.

My New Years was very dull, it having been spent at the barracks. I was invited to a party last Monday but being on duty could not avail myself of it. I shall try to get to Brooklyn this spring. I understand that Miss Sneeden is to come on before long.

She will not find it as gay here as she did last Winter.

I am surprised that you all like my last *carte* I think it is horrible.

Tell Rebekah *to get Hatties present before she writes to me again. My Merchaum is coloring beautifully.* You will be pleased when you see it; dont you think so?

I am now in No 3, with such a blazing fire in the stove that I am reminded of my room in Brooklyn—George—& his gas stove. I had a letter from Harry Hubbell last week. Also one from Robert. Major Hastings has just stopped in to see me on his way to N. Y. I had a pleasant time talking over the fights etc etc on the Peninsular. If possible I will go back for a day or two with him to the Sharp Shooters, and see how they get on.

I receive letters from Charley & George every few days, tell George I will answer his letter in a short time.

Lt Col Ripley who was in our S. S. & wounded at Malvern Hill, wrote me a few days ago.

I wonder why Wm dont write, I have received no letter from him since I notified him of the fact that I had returned to McClellan again. The weather lately has been brown in the mornings but lighter towards night. Tell Father that the trouble with the *Monitor* was that she was not braced where the upper deck extended over the lower.

[Drawings given here]

so when the sea raised her bows up of course she struck the water heavily as she sunk again and so wrenched off the upper from the lower hull She sunk in 2 hours from the time the leakage commenced. The other Iron Clads are heavily braced,

so there is no danger of an occurrence of the same sort again.

With love to all I am

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

Mrs. F T Peet.

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General Orders } Navy Dept Feb 10. 63  
No 5. }

The following general order of the President is published for the information and government of the officers & others of the Naval Service.

GIDEON WELLES

Sec of Navy.

Executive Mansion

Wash<sup>ton</sup> Nov 15, 62

The President, Commander-in-chief of the Army & Navy, desires and enjoins the orderly observance of the Sabbath by the



officers and men in the Military & Naval Service. The importance for man and beast of the prescribed weekly rest, the sacred rights of Christian soldiers and sailors, and a due regard for the Divine will, demands that Sunday labor in the Army & Navy be reduced to the measure of strict necessity.

The discipline and character of the National forces should not suffer, nor the cause they defend be imperiled, by the profanation of the day or name of the Most High.

“At this time of public distress,” adopting the words of Washington in 1776, “men may find enough to do in the service of God & their Country without abandoning themselves to vice and immorality.” The first General Order issued by the Father of his Country after the declaration of In-

dependence, indicates the spirit in which our institutions were founded and should ever be defended :

*“The General hopes & trusts that every officer and man will endeavor to live and act as becomes a Christian soldier, defending the dearest rights & liberties of his Country.”*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

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Marine Barracks

Wash<sup>ton</sup> 21, Feb 63.

Dear Mother.

I am on duty to day, & have just finished a letter to Adams my old chum. How sad it was about Dr. Cutler, but of course it is all for the best. I suppose he was as good and earnest a Christian as any living, and he no dout has reaped his reward ee'r this. As I am off duty tomorrow I shall go to

Dr Halls. Mrs Potts has made me promise to take dinner with her.

I did so the last Sunday I was off duty, she was kind enough to ask me to dinner *every* Sunday, they are all—even Old Potts himself members of Dr Halls church.

Lent has stopped all parties, I stopped into the church near here, a few days ago, where there were only 3 people including myself. The minister is a good but not a brilliant man, he is the one who reminds me of Pickwick. I am expecting a letter from Robert every day, received one from Julia, Wm, Charley, & John Rutherford yesterday. I dont care if John is the greatest exquisite in town, he is a mighty good fellow. Capt McCauley asked to have me sent to Brooklyn but the Col said there were enough there at present, so I am booked for a month or two yet. I in-

close an account of Capt. Woodhulls funeral, where I officiated. We were all in full dress, epaulettes plumes etc; we astonished the natives.

I had forgotten that Robert had *two* babies, the fact is I cant keep the run of our family.

What Miss Peet was that married in New York lately?

I have forgotten whether there were any questions to be answered in your last letter, so I cant answer them even if there were.

With love to all

I remain Your affectionate Son

FRED.

## Marine Barracks

Washington Apl 11, 63

Dear Father

I am on duty to day so cant go to church.

To day is very warm although cloudy.

All the Officers are in town and I am rather bunged up, I suppose the change of weather has that effect on every one.

I take the pen to answer your letter, but have no news to tell except that Capt McCauley & wife arrived yesterday and are up stairs at this present moment if I may judge from the way their bell has been ringing for the last few minutes. Gen Wright has been assigned to a Dpt in Tennessee, so I suppose we can not expect Harry for some time yet.

Two officers are to be sent from Brooklyn to sea so I may have a chance yet of seeing you.

I cant think what else to say, nothing is going on here.

Give my love to all the family.

Your Affectionate Son

FRED.

I am glad to hear that Libby is improving.

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Marine Barracks

Washington Apl 19, 63.

Dear Father

I am about to go to bed but will try to write you a few lines before that happy event is accomplished.

The day has been very warm towards evening however it was quite pleasant. I walked up town this morning and heard Dr Hall preach a very excellent sermon, his assistant preached in the afternoon.

Mr. Humphreys has just reported here

for duty he is a pleasant, gentlemanly and steady fellow, he graduated at the Naval Academy and when he received his com-mish—in our corps was acting Lieut on the Frigate Potomac.

He and I are to study together the “parlez-vous” like a Frenchman. His family are from Hartford.

We met Sec Welles and son on Penn Av this afternoon and stopped to talk with them some few moments.

Tell Mother that I guess her dream was a hum bug for I am at present “*all right.*” I am not dead yet. What was the dream about. I should like to know for I am a believer in dream *sometimes, viz when they come true.*

I am having a very pleasant time. My dogs are well and growing. Tell Fred Terry if he will tell me how to send one to him I will do so.

At present I am the owner of three spaniels—valued (by me,) at \$25 each. When they are full grown and trained they will be worth \$50 each.

I go to sleep sometimes with all three of them on me. Lt Wallace stretched himself out on three chairs one day and dropped to sleep, when he awoke he found two dogs on his chest and one under his chair. I took them on the Potomac Friday and two of them became sea sick.

I have to answer letters from Wm, Charley, Rebekah, Lt Adams, Harry Hubbell, and another friend, so I will write one a day until they are all cancelled.

Give my love to all

Your Affectionate Son

FRED.

F T. Peet Esq



## Marine Barracks

Washington Apl 29, 63

Dear Mother

I had a letter from Rebekah a short time ago who says that you dont exactly fancy my writing such short and unsatisfactory letters, but I cant excuse myself except by saying that I hate letter writing especially when nothing occurs but things which I know you dont care about knowing such as new acquaintances, flirtations with pretty girls etc etc. however I will see if I can by any possible way make this letter more acceptable.

Lt Nye now stationed in Brooklyn I heard has been ordered to Norfolk if so, I may get a peep at you all before long. Yesterday I received a letter from Lt Adams, my old chum, he is at present off Mobile, on the Colorado flag-ship; he re-

ports himself well and sober not having tasted any whiskey since he left Washington, he has charge of a 11 inch gun.

I called on Miss Wright yesterday and learned that Gen Wright had returned, but did not see him as he was out.

Harry is I suppose in New York. I hope I may get a chance to see him before he takes the field again.

I serenaded with the help of Lt Wallace night before last several young and charming females. We had a beautiful night for it, plenty of star light and a good share of the cheese. Our band numbers 29 pieces but six were absent, and you may well believe we made "night hideous" and "Rome howl." One of the ladies threw me the sweetest kind of a little spotted and worked handkerchief, which I have now in my drawer. I take it out and smell it every

now and then just to remind me of the time when it came floating down from the balcony. I was at Admiral Dalgrens that evening, so on the way home we gave him or rather his daughter two little pieces. In all we serenaded 4 houses between 12.30 & 1.30 A. M.

I have some thing to tell which no doubt will be appreciated—viz—for two days I did not smoke, on the 3d I came down to one pipe and two cigars, and to day I have smoked but one pipe and three cigars.

Lemons and sugar I still adhere to which with four cups of coffee is about my daily drink. My Mess bill for this month will be, counting unpaid debts for the last two months, \$46. We have now so few officers and so many servants that it takes about thirty odd dollars a month, which is more than 1-3 of our pay. I should judge that I

must be regaining my strength for I put up a 6 lb dumb-bell to day with the greatest ease.

I wish you would send me a history of England and France.

Tell Harry Hubbell I wont write until he returns to the army as he cant have time when in New York to answer it.

How do you like my new carte which I sent to Wm.

It is past 11 P. M. so I will say "Good night" and turn in.

Love to Father, Libby, Aunty, Hattie, Cn, & Ge. I dont ask after Libbys health for Wm keeps me posted. I have written two or three times to him since he had a daughter and each time forgot all about it.

Your Affectionate Son

FRED.

**Marine Barracks****Washington May 9th 63****Dear Father**

We have had great news from the Potomac Army, for the last few days there has been quite an excitement here among all classes from the "intelligent contraband" upwards. Our expectations were at their highest when the news came of our retreat. The rumor is again about that Fighting Joe has recrossed and is again at work. This seems to me to be the only way left, for now is the time to operate successfully against Lee, before the latter can repair damages.

I met Mr. Beecher in Willards yesterday; he was of the opinion that Hooker would have hard work in crossing the second time, as the reb's would be on the lookout for him. He mentioned having seen

you a day or two ago. Henry Beecher 4th U. S. Artillery was engaged in the Suffolk fight, but was uninjured.

The weather since Hookers return has been rainy, to day however is again like spring, the trees are in full bloom and the Capitol grounds are looking beautifully. The statue of America, by Crawford, is to be on the top of the dome by the 4th of July. Tomorrow I shall go to Dr. Halls church and return before dinner. I see the man bringing the letters; I hope there is one for me, for however great my dislike to write, receiving of them is equally pleasant.

Wm writes me that his boat is nearly finished. I shall still hope to some time this summer sail in it. I should like to have my dogs sent to Brooklyn as they are getting large and a little troublesome. I have

invitation to the reception of Major & Mrs Smith, who stood up with Capt McCauley, they are to be married next Thursday. She is a Miss McBlair, he is a son of Gen Smith of Buffalo. My coat is getting so shabby that I will soon be obliged to either get a new one or stay in my room, both alternatives being particularly disagreeable, for you know I hate confinement of any kind, and I think you are aware that my bank has long since stopped specie payments.

Give my love to all at home & to Harry, when you happen to see him.

Affectionately Your Son

FRED.

(turn over)

I saw Major Hastings before he left for N. Y. he is wounded in the knee.

Lt Baker of our corps will be in Brook-

lyn for a week or two, I have given him our direction. I suppose he will call on you. he was on the Congress when the the Merrimac came out and sank the Cumberland; ask him about it. F

The Majors wound is not very serious, he was struck Sunday morning.

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Marine Barracks

Washington May 23d

Dear Father

Today is Sunday and very warm. Dr Richmond who created quite a furor some time since has turned out to be a crazy man. I was sitting on the front porch this morning talking to some of the officers when the Dr passed and went in the gate to the mens barracks. A few minutes after a carriage drove up and a man stepped out. I being on duty rose to



meet him. He informed me that he was in search of Dr Richmond so I sent a man to direct him where he was. He was arrested by order of Sec Stanton. I went up to see the affair and found him giving testaments to the music-boys. They took him to the Insane Asylum over the river. I understand that he was an Austrian prisoner, and obtained his relief on the certificate of insanity.

It is as hot now as it is in Brooklyn in August. I wish you would send me my old brown straw hat and everything else I may have home that can replace my heavy clothing. Wm has found a purchaser for my watch. I hope with the proceeds to pay you my debts. It is a better watch than I will have again for a long time I fear. I had the band out Serenading on Friday night.

I played for Miss Wright, Potts, & Kinney; arrived home at 2.20 A. M. The only results of my labour being a bouquet which Miss Kinney threw me. I was sitting on her front steps. We had played the "Duet from Norma" and as I did not see any light in the window or hear any noise in the house I said to the leader, "The lady was to leave town tomorrow morning its quite possible she may have gone to night, so play a little waltz and we will go." I had not more than finished the sentence when down came the bouquet, so I gave them the benefit of another schottiche. If I have any white pantaloons or thin underclothes send them ere I melt. I have smoked much less this month than formerly. I saw Harry Hubbell some time, before his departure. How much do I owe you? Give my love to Mother and

the girls, and tell Hatty to thank Mrs Salters for sending my gloves.

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

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Marine Barracks

Washington June 8th 63

Dear Father

The weather is quite chilly. Saturday was warm Sunday was cool to day is cooler still. Your letter reached me last week. I dont think Miss Hydes death was as unexpected as you imagine. Several months ago, when I saw her I was told by her friends that she had a very suspicious cough, and I knew that she had been riding for her health. She was a very sweet girl and must be a great loss to her family as they thought every thing of her. I received the cards of Mr Whighthouse & Miss Worthington. I have ordered two

blue coats, one cloth & one flannel as my *Lesurer* was getting about as seedy as the law allows, it is eaten up with moths, and a patch in it as large as this sheet of paper. I will have to get some more underclothes soon. I bought 3 pr pants (white) from one of our men; as we are not allowed to draw them, we get the men to do it for us and then pay them, they cost me 1.25 each.

I have no room mate now as Lt Humphreys has been ordered to Cairo, which is considered the most undesirable post in the Service. As soon as there is a vacancy I expect to be ordered to Brooklyn. I sent my two dogs on last Wednesday. Charley wrote me from DesMoines last week. I smoked but about 1-2 as much tobacco last month as usual. I have inquired about Mr Morsells church & Sunday-school, he has quite a large school and

his church is well filled on Sundays. I went there on Ash Wednesday, when three persons including myself composed the congregation. He is a very good man but not a genius, by any manner of means, far from it! I understand that Col Harris left his church because he was a little Seceshy. I called on Sec Welles twice last week, and met him on the Street Sunday. He inquired after you all.

I study two hours a day when not on duty I am now brushing up on Ancient & Modern History and French. I guess I will stop writing. Give my love to Mother and the rest of the family. I almost forgot about the paper you sent me. I think the extract you allude to is a very good thing, may do good, I hope it will.

With much love I remain

Your affectionate

FRED.

## Marine Barracks

Washington June 17, 63

Dear Mother

Your watch came to me yesterday. I cant tell you how grateful I am, but what will you do without it. I am afraid you will need it and I know you will miss it. You cant imagine how many reminiscences are brought up by looking at it, especially on the back where the hunter and dog are engraved. It takes me back at least ten years when in church tired with a long sermon I used to take it and imagine where the hunter was going, and whether he would kill his game. I will take good care of it and return it before long. For some time however I can not buy a new one for I have just been getting two new coats.

I understand that some officers must go to Pensacola. I hope I wont be one. I

went swimming in the Potomac yesterday, water was very pleasant. I suffered no inconvenience from it. Received a letter from Mr Hubbell this morning. Gen Wright & Div had not been in the fight up to yesterday. Every thing goes on as usual, the band is practising under my window, they play this evening at the Capitol, Thursday here, Saturday at Lafayette Square.

Is my straw hat in a good state of preservation, if so can you send it on. Tell Father that I always keep an account of my washing, I dont loose "them" in that way.

I have just bought a bottle of Benzine to clean my black coat. I dont wear my uniform once a week in town. How does Wms boat sail? I must leave off now as my time for reading has arrived. Again

thanking you for remembering me I am  
with love to all

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

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Marine Barracks

Washington June 27, 63

Dear Father

It is Saturday afternoon and not at all pleasant. Wm wrote to me Thursday. It seems you must have forgotten me for I have not had a letter for some time from home. Robert wrote about two weeks ago. The Rebs may soon cut off our communication with N. Y.

Today we are pressing every one into the Service for the defense of Washington. Part of Hookers army crossed into Maryland last night. Is it not shameful the way the Pennsylvanians respond to the call for troops.



They deserve to be invaded. I wish the 7th had been ordered to Harrisburg instead of Baltimore.

Last Sunday I went to Mr Morsells Sunday school anniversary or exhibition, it was well attended. Reports were read, hymns sung and class-offerings given with emblems, names etc. There are 150 & odd girls and 100 & odd boys together with 10 male and 19 female teachers in the school. Mr Morsell is a very good man for he gave me a chair in the vestry-room near the chancel where I could see all that transpired. Mr Syles was expected but did not arrive.

It is very dull in Washington nothing going on. I go up town in the night to pay a call once in a while. The band plays at the Presidents Square this afternoon. What do you think of the rebel invasion,

will it turn out well or badly for them. I may possibly get a crack at them if Washington is attacked.

We have just adjourned a Gen Court Martial to day, two men were tried. I shall learn the sword and bayonet exercise also the howitzer drill as soon as possible.

Have you a book on Grecian or Ancient Mythology.

I wish you would send me Plutarch's lives if you have it at home.

Give my love to all, tell Creighton to write.

Affectionately Your Son

FRED.

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Marine Barracks

Washington July 3, 63

Dear Father

Your last letter was received. There are two mails a day and as I had not re-

ceived a letter for two or three days it seemed very long to me.

June 30th I was ordered to take 20 men and guard the Naval Magazine situated about 1 1-2 miles from here, so I passed the night from 10 to 12 on the bridge looking at the river and moon thinking of the past year. (of our Corps)

Capt Hebb's Mother & sisters live there and have charge of the Magazine. I arrived there at 7.30 P. M. and after posting the sentries made love to an old lady, the best looking of them; there are in the family as well as I can make out, four or five ladies from 50 upwards. Mrs Hebb is the only married one. I worked at a guitar they had but could not get it in order, lucky for them for I should have made a conquest certainly. They gave me a bed in the house.

Yesterday I went sailing and lost the center-board, which being of iron sank remarkably quickly where it now lies on the bottom of the Potomac a warning to all sailors not to go to sea without having the center-board fast.

Quite a number of my friends were down here yesterday to hear the Music. While the band played we danced, appropriating the Captains Office for the purpose.

Last week I lost one of my white pantaloons & three stockings. Yesterday I bought four of the last named articles, so I am one better than last week. If I had only known that there was to be a sail of Marine clothes I could have bought white pantaloons for 16 cents a pair. I suppose the Hubbells and Creighton will be in Bridgeport tomorrow, if I was in Brooklyn

I would go too, but as I am not I guess I will postpone my visit.

Give my love to all.

Affectionately Your Son

FRED.

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Marine Barracks

Washington July 14, 63

Dear Father

You are having rather gay times in New-York. why are the riots not put down, and the rioters shot, it seems to me that the authorities are doing nothing.

What do you think of Gettysburg? I am inclined to think it was not as great a victory as some suppose; it is true we had a much less number of men than they and we repulsed them, but there was not the slightest indication of a rout on their part. Capt Hart of a New York battery (for-

merly a Sgt of Marines) was engaged during the hottest part in the left-center; he says that the rebs came within 8 paces of his howitzers, but did not get any nearer, they were fighting for 1 1-2 hours to get as near as they did. Hart says that the rebel infantry outfight our infantry. I dont believe it. I see by tonights paper that Lee has crossed the Potomac. I hope the Army will follow him up and not allow him time to intrench.

Our band *plays* every Thursday at the barracks. I have last week lost one pair of my "Lesure white pants," and a file and a half of stockings. (3) I will send my boy away next month. I wrote to Robert but he has not yet answered it. Tell Creighton his letter has been received, I will answer it soon.

I am very warm so I will say good bye.

Give my love to Mother and the family.

Affectionately Your Son

FRED.

This was written on the 14th, but for some reason or other I did not mail it.

Your letter has been received I cant tell you how terribly I feel about the news of your becoming deaf. I only hope it may not prove as bad as you suppose.

Write soon with much love

FRED.

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NOTE—July 23—Lt Peet was ordered to Brooklyn Navy Yard ; and soon after he was joined to the Marine Battalion which was bound for Charleston Harbor.

U. S Transport Arago

Off Charlestown-bar

Aug 4th 63

Dear Wm

Here we are at last somewhere between Charlestown and Port-Royal.

Our voyage has been as pleasant as

could be; for the vessel, captain and even the weather has been all that we could wish. After I had shaken the last good-bye from the stern of our vessel, I managed to find something to occupy myself with until bed, or bunk-time, when I turned in and enjoyed a very good sleep in spite of the dear little creatures who by the effect next morning I judged must have made the most of their time for I was covered with their marks from my neck to my ankles. I hope soon to get accustomed to them for I understand that they abound in numbers and "excel in strength" on Morris-Island. But to return to my voyage. Sunday was a beautiful day. We all sat upon the deck. For although there are a few finer ships than the "Arago" yet the staterooms are intensely warm and to day my water in the bowl was nearly boiling (literal truth).



Monday was passed in reading some papers which I had bought and in loitering around the vessel. To day we descried several vessels, one apparently making for us. She caused quite an excitement for she was the image of the "Alabama." She turned out to be, as near as we could judge, an English Gun boat. At 6 o'clock P M we arrived off Charlestown. The blockaders were all there ready to "slip cable"—at a moments notice. We could see distinctly Fort Sumter, Moultrie, and Morris Island, with Charlestown in the back-ground. We stopped at or near "Os-sipee" and gave them their mail. Guns are now being planted on Morris Island. In about ten days the arrangements will be completed when Sumter will be knocked to pieces, while the Gun boats settle Morris Island. The Marines from one of the

frigates are on the Island now with a naval battery.

I will now bid you good bye. We go to Port Royal and from there report to the Admiral.

My next I guess will be written from Morris Island.

Affectionately

Your brother

FRED.

Send this to the girls at home.

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You must excuse mistakes if there are any, it is so hot in the cabin I must go on deck.

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U. S. S Frigate Wabash

Off Charleston Bar Aug 9. 63

Dear Hattie

I wrote to Wm several days ago but as the Arago has been detained I expect to get this off to-morrow. I am at present

and will be until the assault is made upon Wagner on the Wabash. Our quarters are much preferable to those of the Army. The programme for the attack is as follows; Sumter is to be reduced by land batteries and Iron Clads, after which, or at the same time, Wagner will be attacked by Gilmore in the front and by our battalion of Marines in the rear. We are to lay along side of the Ironsides in boats. At a signal we will land and form on the beach between Wagner and Gregg, under fire from Moultrie, Wagner, Gregg Cummings Point and possibly Ft Johnson on James Island and Ft Sumter. After landing we will storm Wagner in the rear. In our attack the iron elads will attempt to keep Fts Sumter, Wagner, Gregg & Cummings Pt silent while we land & form on beach. If the expedition is not successful we will

all be gobbled up or killed, for you see we cant retreat or we will get into Ft Gregg & Cummings Pt. The fate of Wagner will be decided by this time next week before you can get a letter to me. We had service on board to-day, the Admiral favored us with his presence. The weather here is mighty hot, if we only had ice we might get on very well.

Tell Rebekah & Libby that I was very sorry not to have seen them. I could not see Libby as we passed we were too far at sea. Does Mother & Father know that I am here. Tell Sarah that she forgot to put in my trunk any nightshirt. Write by next steamer for if I get through all right I would like to receive it especially if wounded. Send this to Wm. when it is read. I shall not take Mother's watch in the fight.

With love to all I am ever your brother

FRED.

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On Morris Island

September 7. 63

Dear Father

Your letter came to hand yesterday I had written an answer but as I have a little piece of news I concluded to give it to you in full. This A. M. the long roll was beaten and soon we were marching on Wagner. By day light (4 o'clock) we entered it having endured a pretty brisk shelling from Moultrie while on the march. News came to the brigade doing duty last night in the trenches by an Irishman, who swam from Wagner through the creek to our trenches, that the rebs were evacuating I was surprised to see how our guns had knocked the Fort. nearly all the guns left had been disabled by our incessant

fire. Our trench was *up to the rebel moat* not 30 feet from the parapet, had the rebels not evacuated we would have stormed it to day, and captured them all.

Greg also is evacuated. To day Johnson and Moultrie are keeping up a sharp fire on our troops stationed in and near the forts. The Admiral has sent a flag of truce to demand that the rebels surrender Sumter. I suppose it was refused as his boat was fired on.

I have brought off a sword bayonet and Canteen as a trophy. Our troops went in Wagner at 2 this morning. Our Monitors are nearly up to Sumter; a rebel battery is anchored behind Sumter.

I think it quite likely that we will be sent home soon for they certainly cant get on without us much longer up north, and if we recommence a campaign on James Isl-

and it will be some time before we can get off. Every one is talking in my tent and I cant write as I wish.

Tell Rebekah and Libby that I intended to see them but through a mistake in my reading of the time-table. We expected to leave on Monday but got off on Saturday the day I expected to see Libby. Tell Mother that I will write her a letter soon. Can you not send any stamps. The Arago & Fulton are the regular steamers to Port Royal Direct them to Lt Peet *Marine Batallion South Atlantic Bl (ockading) Sqn.*

I hope Mother is well. How did you enjoy your visit to Iowa? Can you send me any paper collars 14 1-2 inches.

Give my love to all at home

I will write soon again

with love I am

Your affectionate Son

FRED.

Morris Island S. C.

September 8, 63

Dear Rebekah.

I have intended answering your letter for some time. For some time I waited expecting to receive some stamps but as none are on the way I will write this and borrow one. *Yesterday* was a gala day for us. We were turned out at 2.30 A. M. and marched up under fire from Moultrie & Johnson into Wagner which the rebs had evacuated at 12 Midnight. The Officer Com (manding) the trenches was informed by a man who had deserted from Greg, and reached us by swimming, that the last of the rebels were then leaving the forts. Six men were immediately sent into Wagner, then twenty more followed; creeping in the moonlight they stealthly approached silently glided down the ditch and soon were



peering over the ramparts, waiting here but a moment to see that all was clear, they disappeared; after some fifteen minutes, during which time the old fort had been occupied and one or two men taken, they reappeared with the welcome (or rather unwelcome in some respects) report that the rebs had skedaddled and Morris Island was ours. Had not they left as they did, we would have stormed the fort the next morning, our traverses were run up within *two or three feet* of their ditch. Not a man during the day preceding the evacuation could put his head above the ramparts. Our Navy boats or launches which hold about forty men with a howitzer in the bows had been out for several nights cruising between Johnson Greg & Sumter, saw the Butternuts depart and put after them, had they not got aground every rebel

would have been ours, as it was we captured two boats of them. Three nights ago an expedition was gotten up to take Greg. The Army and Navy with a few marines were to land in boats and storm it. They were to meet at 1 a. m. as the Army was not up to trim, the Navy, not knowing exactly what was on-foot, set off before the Army arrived and captured a boat or yacht belonging to Gen Ripley, including a Major, Dr, and eleven men. This put the rebels on their guard and, the Army declares defeated the project for we were fired on and obliged to retire. There is a heavy fight going on between the batteries on Sulivans Island and our Iron Clads, comprising the Ironsides & six monitors. It commenced last evening at dusk. Subsided at nine P. M. and was recommenced this morning. It has been by all odds the

heaviest firing of the war here abouts. The roar is (the most) terrific I have yet heard.

I am I suppose about to go on a rather hazardous expedition. I have just sent in name as a volunteer. We are to be on the Flag Ship with 100 picked men by 4 P. M., it is now about 12.30 P. M. Sumter we all expect is to be attacked. The great risk is in being blown up by an electric battery from Sulivans Island attached to the Magazine. The men are few for they can not keep many on it while we are bombarding. You will know by the Steamer which takes this letter, so you will know when you receive this whether we have been successful or not.

If I dont come back tell Father I did as he told me when leaving in the 7th Rgt; to volunteer for any forlorn hope that came

up. I hope soon to read a letter from you I send my love to Mother, Father, Libby, and the rest of the family. Tell Fred I have captured a sword bayonet and belt from Wagner the morning of the evacuation which I will give him when I return.

I received letters from Hattie written from Katskill, and one from Mr Hubbell, enclosing a letter to Kate which I think I can get through the lines.

Again good bye—Tell Libby I intended to see her before I left but our departure was sooner than we expected.

Your Affectionate brother

FRED.

P. S. I open this to say that Lt Mead of my Co has been ordered for the duty. I suppose they thought I had seen enough service, so there is no help but I must stay here while others fight. F

Morris Island S. C.

September 9. 63

Dear Father

Yesterday I wrote to Rebekah of an expedition to storm Sumter. Having volunteered my services I expected to go later in the day. Before the letter had been sent I was informed that I was left out and Lt Mead of my company was the lucky man, so I opened the letter and wrote a post-crypt to that effect. The expedition took place last night between 12 & 1 o'clock. There were 100 and odd Marines with 400 Blue-Jackets—The Marines were under Capt McCauley of my Company; the expedition was commanded by Capt Stevenson of the Navy.) The Marines were to be the last line and when the rebels opened fire, were to return it from the boats. It seems that Capt Stevenson was

slightly intoxicated; the boats when cast off from the tug were in no order but for an hour were pulling about the harbor. When the attack was made the Sailors and Marines were all mixed up in a glorious confusion. When within 100 yds of the Ft they were challenged the sentry calling out "strange boats," when three sentries fired their pieces. In a moment the fight commenced in earnest the Butternuts firing from the ramparts and from holes nearly down to water line through the walls of the Ft. Our men fired from the boats as they had been previously ordered, in order to cover the landing of the Sailors, the order to cease firing was to be given when the Sailors landed. So far the programme worked well. The order to cease firing being given, and obeyed, Capt McCauley ordered the Marines to fix bayonets and

land. At this moment Capt McCauley found all the boats near him rowing away for "dear-life"—he being in a light Gig—caught up to the foremost one telling them to stop or he would fire into them, they replied that it was Capt Stevensons boat, with the Commander of the expedition in it *leading the runaways* Capt Me.C. was ordered then by him to return to the Tug. One or two boats were lost in the darkness and landed on the N.E. corner while the others were on the S. West side The former were all captured Lt Mead among them. Lt Bradford is badly wounded in the groin but I believe not dangerously. The Negroes who pulled some of the boats on the first fire, threw themselves in the bottom of the boat and could not be moved. This with the fire of the rebs from Sumter with musketry and hand

grenades, and from Moultrie with shell, while an Iron Ram poured grape and canister into them, was enough to scatter any boat attack. The rebs threw the lights right into the boats and made them as visible as if in the day time. Calcium lights were used by them. This is the whole of the story.

I wish you would send me some stamps.

Give my love to all

Your affectionately Son

FRED.

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Head Qtrs Ist Div. 6th Corps

Near Culpepper C. H. Va.

Sept. 19th 63

My dear Fred

Your letter written from the "Wabash" frigate whose decks I have trod many a time was read. in due season, and was I



can assure [you] very interesting in its details of the proposed attack on "Wagner" in which the festive Marines were to do some heavy charging. I did not answer your letter at the time, as I wished to wait and see whether you would get thro' the scrape all right, and if you did to congratulate you—But luckily for you old Wagner caved in before you could get a chance at it, which I think was lucky for you, for though you might have gotten lots of glory, it would hardly have made up for the almost certain chance of a broken head, or a hole cut through your stomach. Your letter reached me while our Divn were stationed in Warrenton, a "right smart" little place containing plenty of pretty secesh girls. We rusticated there about two months after the Pennsylvania Campaign. Our tents were pitched right on the main

Street in a nice shady grove, & our regular afternoon amusement consisted in sitting under the shady trees, our chairs tipped back at an easy angle, puffing away at our Havana's (I wont swear they were genuine) and watching the beauty and fashion pass & repass. And the queerest part of it was that they would most all of them invariably when immediately opposite headquarters, no matter whether the weather was wet or dry, lift their drapery & show their pretty aneles & garter boots, Wasn't it aggravating? I enlose you a letter written to a newspaper by one of our orderlies which will give you an idea of what was going on there—He does not mention the horseracing tho', of which we had a good deal, and much sport over. My mare won at several. About the middle of last month Genl. Wright reed. orders to

relieve Col. Bowman as Superintendent at West Point. It was entirely unexpected by him, and very distasteful. In peace times it is the best berth in the army, but of course now a young & active man like the Genl, would prefer being in the field. The next morning he went on to Washington, Rice, Haydn, & myself accompanying him, he spent a day there, & in that time got the order countermanded, and was sent back to the Divn, to the great joy of everyone, and shall I confess it? Yes I will—there was a big drunk at Hd. Qtrs that night in honor of his return. When I say drunk, I do not mean in a vulgar manner, oh no! only merry, & jovial. Our first brigade band, the best in the Army, beats the 6th Cavalry, furnished the instrumental, & the whole crowd furnished the vocal music, singing patriotic songs in a

manner that made the rebellious citizens of Warrenton open their eyes—On only one other occasion did we get slightly sprung, & that was when Uncle John Sedgwick's old Division presented him with a horse, sword etc. Five days ago the whole army moved south, and we that is part of our forces, are at the Rapidan, with the enemy entrenched on the other side. We are going to have some big fighting this fall. I see that Capt Mc Cawley was in that unfortunate assault on Sumter, am glad you were not in—You are probably now having delightful weather. It is cold here, but clear & bracing, good weather for marching. I keep a fire all day in front of my tent—Isn't it rather disgusting to think that none of the Harrals, or Uncle Williams big crowd of boys are in the service? Fred Harrall is going to

study for an M D. I dont know what the devil I shall be when this cruel war is over.

Always your true friend & coz

HARRY.

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Marine Battalion

Folley Island S. C.

Oct 1, 63

Dear Mother

I have just this moment received a letter from Wm also one from Harry Hubbell. Your letter was received a few days ago.

Saturday last we struck tents and came by steamboat to this Island. We are now very pleasantly situated on the S. Western corner, before us is Folley River which separates us from James Island, on our left (south) is Stone Inlet at the head of which can be seen through the trees the village of

LeGreeville with its white Church steeple and picturesque houses, making altogether quite an enchanting little picture. Our Camp is pitched on a slight eminence covered with large pine-trees which afford shelter to all, but to me especially reminiscences of my Virginia Campaign which strange as it may seem, appear now very pleasant. We have not much to do so I sleep and read most of the time. There is a detail of 100 men every four days for the Pawnee I expect to go on board to night. My only objection to it, is my want of nice clothes. My shoes are worn out, and I am the happy possessor of only one white shirt. My Crimea shirts are all too small, my drawers are buttonless and stringless, and my small stock of pins rappidly becoming demoralized. I wrote to Wm of the articles which I wanted, but forgot to men-

tion a French and English Dictionary. also stationery. I want paper colars 14 1-2 inches. Now I think with Wms list you have the sum-total of my wants. I went shooting yesterday but was unsuccessful. Our life here is very dull. Would that Charleston was taken and we on the Arago —bound for N. York. You must not worry yourself about me, as there is little danger of our being attacked, and less of our attacking them just now.

The weather here is warm by day and cool at night.

Give my love to all at home and write soon to

Your loving Son

FRED.

Tell Wm I have received the \$10. and am trying to draw my pay for 3 mos of the Paymaster of the Wabash.

Washington, D. C.

14 October, '63.

Dear Peet—I have made several attempts to answer your interesting letter; but a whirlwind of business has always swept me from my purpose. Indeed I scarcely write to my family now.

Your letter, when digested by me, was sent to Weston & Hastings—then with the Regt.—and read by them with great satisfaction—The Major is now in Washington, detailed as Judge Advocate of a Court Martial—and Weston is at home convalescing. He had a bad attack of Scurvy, and when he passed through here, on his way home, I did not know him at first, his face being much disfigured—I spent the last week of Sept. in New York, where I saw W. & left him much better.

I was rejoiced, my dear Peet, to find that



you were not one of those who were hurt in the assault of Sumter: also—that you did not have to storm Wagner. The almost universal feeling here is—that the Army has done about all they can at Charleston; and that the Navy must do the rest.

We therefore expect to hear great things from you soon.

Marines, being amphibious, web-footed etc, go about on all elements, I suppose, with equal facility; so that it must make little difference to you whether you lead a white-belted band in a skirmish on James Island—or go down under water, in command of a diving bell, or torpedo, party.

It is quite unnecessary to suggest to a Peet—that no quarter must be shown to Beauregard, when he is captured—Let him be so treated that poetical justice may be satisfied—When he surrenders, he should

be compelled to hand over his sword to a colored corporal, and then be marched off to durance vile under a guard of a file or two of colored soldiers.

We all feel here that Bragg gained very little by his stopping the advance of Rosecrans. His loss was too great to compensate for the advantage gained.

Meade will not be likely to assume the offensive, I think, this season; nor do I think, as some do, that Lee will advance again upon the Potomac.

We are all gratified by the defeat of Vlandigham & Woodward—which seems to be an utter rout of Copperheadism in those states.

The feeling grows stronger & stronger throughout the North—that Mr. Lincoln *must* be President for a second term. The confidence & support felt & given him is

now general throughout the country—he understands fully the working of the machinery which he has at last brought into excellent order.

A new man, however good, will make a break and a jar—to say no worse.

Of course Mr Lincoln would not stand again, if he could help it:—but, as a gentleman said to me in New York, the necessity for his doing so is as great as it was when *Washington* consented, agst his will, to take a second term.

Col. Berdan was published, on Sept. 28, to stand dismissed the Service (for “absence without leave, and disobedience of orders’’) unless he made satisfactory defence before Gen. Ricketts’ Commission—in 15 days.

The time is expired. We shall soon hear, probably, if he has succeeded (as he

generally does) in acquitting himself. In *this* case, the charges are preferred by the Corps commander—The offence, as I understand it was—his going home & letting his officers go home without attending to business—when specially detailed with one or two line officers to proceed to Riker's Island & get conscripts for his Regt.

The Major would send love if not engaged - He & I are living now at the Woods House 255 "H" St.—with a club of Officers—Col. Ruggles—Maj. Williams—Capt. Lawrence & some others—We are entirely independent, as if in our own House—having leased it for 2 yrs. When you return, my dear Peet, I shall often see you, at dinner.

Till then Good Bye & may the cherub take the best care of you—

Yrs as ever

W. W. WINTHROP

Capt. etc.

address—Judge Advocate Gen's Office  
War Department  
Washington.

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Marine Battalion  
Folly Island S. C.

October 20, 63

Dear Father

Your letter dated 12th came to hand this morning. My tent mate Dr Wolverton went to the Inlet this morning and will inquire if the schooner has arrived, if so I will go up in a day or two and get the trunk and hunt up the box.

Lt Meeker went to Port Royal last week but could not find them. The only way is for me to get leave and see about it myself. I wish you would let Wm have enough money to settle my debts. I will

send the money to you this or next week, as I have made arrangements with Paymaster Lawrence of the "Pawnee" to let me have \$200 which will still leave me that amt in his hands at the end of this month. Tell Wm to say when he incloses the different amounts that I did not pay them owing to my not being able to get my accounts. I wish you would direct my letters and bundles Care of the "Pawnee" Stone Inlet, which will greatly expedite their delivery. I am very much obliged for the watch although I have not yet seen it. I hope you sent a good strong key with it. Since I last wrote you I have changed my tent and now am very pleasantly situated on the best site in the Camp. We, the Dr & I have put the two tents together; one we use to receive company and the other to sleep in.

The former is boarded on the floor and has a couch of my own manufacture stuffed with grass and covered with my india rubber blanket. This with an immense easy chair and two stools complete our parlor furniture. Our own tent is by far the most cozy looking. On the side opposite the entrance is our writing table where I am now seated trying to give you an idea of comforts and camp luxuries. Above the table which is covered with a clean towel (not mine for I have only three left) and several books all in a good state of preservation hangs three pictures, the lower one is composed of six of my prettiest girls, Miss Hall, Perry, Bessie, Carrie Sproules, Miss Bean, and Miss Gross, next above my picture hangs one of the Doctors cousin a very pretty face in a "passe partout" frame, and above all,

John Rutherford looks down through his spectacles. Our beds are on the sides of the tent and when our mosquito nets are up we look as comfortable as possible. During the day our servants trice up the sides of the tent which gives us a cool breeze and at evening they are lowered and pegged down which make us as comfortable as need be.

I went to see Lt (Guy) Henry commanding B Battery in 1st U. S. A. he is very pleasant. I never saw such pleasant fellows as there are in the Navy and especially on board the "Wabash" & "Pawnee". I have been invited several times to dinner with them, but have not as yet been able to go. I am affraid that Dr. Mayo is wrong about our returning. I have no idea of being north for at least three months yet. All we do is to furnish 100 men every four



days for the "Pawnee", and drill three hours a day. I am *very well indeed*, have got over my diarrhea almost entirely. I received a letter through Wm from Cousin Helen Bostwick for her Mother, but have not met any of Gilmores Staff since. To day we are hard at work arranging the Camp, all tents have been struck and pitched on the parade ground while we are at work leveling and digging.

*10 OClock P. M.*

The Camp is still, not a sound can be heard the Dr who ruffles his paper as he reads and the roar of the surf a mile distant are the only sounds which break in upon me as I write. The moon is well up and makes the scene quite romantic.

I had a call to day from Genl. Ames whom I met at Miss Wrights in Washington. Our being regulars opens a way to

Military society which is not known in the volunteers. I have just received your letters written up to the 12th. I cant tell you how much prized will be the watch which you have sent me I shall think much more of it than I should had I kept it. The Schooner has not yet arrived but is expected soon. The box is still unfound. I packed all my things in a large box and left them in Washington at the Barracks; the box is very large and complety filled with them. I would not send for it yet until we are sure of either staying in Winter Quarters or returning to the North, where I hope soon to be. I wish you would send the inclosed letter to its destination, and *put in it* the \$5.00 which I owe him.

I will send the money home this or next week to you if possible. Give my love to

Mother and all the family tell Hattie she must get well soon.

With love to all

I remain Your Affectionate Son

FRED.

Lt. U S. M. C.

Oct. 22. I have not had a chance to send this yet to day I received \$200 from Paymaster Lawrence. I shall change 1-2 of it for a \$100 check in N Y. Treasury and send it as soon as possible to Wm. I will pay the \$5 spoken of in a previous part of the letter.

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Marine Battalion

Folly Island S. C.

Nov 5, 63

Dear Father

Your letter of 28th Oct was handed to me this morning, I dont understand why

you don't get my letters. I wrote a long one not over two weeks since to you, also one to Wm, at same time sent two or three more to different friends.

But first of all let me say that both the *box* and *trunk* have arrived. the former was brought here from Morris Island by Gregory, of 144th N. Y. the one who sometimes favors us with a call. You may remember him as he is lame. My trunk arrived night before last. Every thing was appreciated but I cant thank you too much for my old friend the watch. It is quite an aquisition to the Camp as there are but two or three here. I am so glad to hear that Sarah is better, tell her that her present was just what I wanted, with the carte of Mr Taft the book is exactly filled. In the box the lemons sugar and vinegar were all that could be used, the cakes "bad

luck to them" were all mashed up in a heap, and in such a state of demoralization that I threw them away. In my trunk every thing was found in order, my underclothes only being soaked in condensed milk. The Coffee and pickles were instantly attacked. The fruit cake has been tasted by all the Officers and pronounced "*good*" A little still remains, but circumstances favoring, it will be demolished to day. My Collars fit me very well and arrived in good order, if we except one corner of about 30 which were soaked in melted ginger cakes. The clothes and boots all fit well, the latter are rather large but that is no drawback. The Dr my tent-mate, who by the way is a glorious fellow, says that the green ginger is a "big thing" The rice I will not need as I am now in good health. Tell Mother that we get

coffee and milk here, so I shall turn the latter into the Mess. The vinegar (both bottles) I sent to the Hospital for the sick. The handkerchiefs are very nice. One is devoted to *polishing my pipe*. Tell Aunty that I am exceedingly obliged for the trunk, I will take the best care of it. Wednesday I left the "Pawnee" having had command of a guard of 70 men rank and file, for five days. The officers were very kind offering me every thing I wanted. One of the three second Lts here will have to remain in charge of the Guard, when the Battalion returns North. I hope it will not be me. If we dont go home soon I will have my best coat and pantaloons sent down, for I was really ashamed of myself last week. The officers here dress almost as well as they do up North. I have had command of every Company in

the Battalion. Lt Bradford who was wounded at Sumter is dead. I received a letter from Lt Meade which I inclose. If you think best you can take it to Capt Meade of the North Carolina who might be glad to see it. Bradford was attended by the Bishop and had all the attention possible. He was one of our best Officers and much beloved by us all. When I was examined he was on the board. I met Capt Bragg of Gillmores Staff on the "Pawnee" and gave him \$80 in an envelop directed to Wm. he promised to leave it at the house.

All of Mr Hubbells and Cousin Helens letters have been sent. On my return from "Pawnee" I met a friend on Seymours Staff (Lt. Bradshaw a Brooklynite) who had the letters for the South and was about to send them in so I gave him mine.

If they are stopped it will be by the rebels for being too long, but I am not affraid of it, as they must be fools if *they* stop letters of any length written to themselves. Mrs Calhouns letters will be sent by first opportunity, I dont object to put myself out to oblige others but I must say that it is not pleasant to receive letters to have sent South, unaccompanied by a note to *me* of some kind, as was Mrs Calhouns. I had a great mind not to send it, I have since thought better of it and if possible will oblige them.

Mr Hubbell always writes a note thanking me. Tell him that his have been sent, having found Cousin Helens first letter I sent *all three of hers*, also.

Orders came to the Admiral for our return but he quietly pocketed them and wrote back to the Dpt that he wanted us



here. We are daily expecting our orders either to stay here or to go North. Tell Julia I will answer her letter also the others soon. I came off Guard this a. m and have been writing ever since, so am rather tired. We are now *very* comfortable our Camp is in beautiful order. Gen (Fingle penny) (?) (which is the nearest we can get to pronouncing his name) came to look and take pattern of our Camp last week. The weather here is superb. We have just built a large fire place in our parlor tent four feet by three, so on cold nights we have quite a collection of Officers here.

There are only about a dozen sick in Camp. The Admiral says he is *going in* as soon as his Iron Clads return from Port Royal where they have been since the Sullivans Island fight, which by the by was the prettiest fight I have yet seen. I will

tell you about it when I return. I wrote Lt Bishop of the Vermont stationed at Port Royal and he thanked Capt Ellis for bringing the trunk.

Thank them all at home for remembering me, and write soon.

Your Affectionate Son

FRED.

Lt Marines.

I received a letter from Fred Terry to day. I wrote both to Rutherford & Hubbell about two weeks since.

Write soon and tell me about Sarah Libby and Hatty.

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Note—This is the last letter which can be found. His later career in the Marines is outlined in the last paper of this volume, containing his Official Military History.

## Marine Battalion

Folly Island 18. Nov. 1863

Lieut. F. T. Peet,

Sir.

You are detailed as a member of a General Court Martial, to convene this day at 10 oc— at the Marine Camp at Folly Island, S. C.—You will in consequence, report to the Commanding Officer of the Battalion in time to meet the detail. A Boat will be sent for you daily at stated hours; you will report accordingly to the Commanding or Executive Officer of the Ship on leaving and returning to duty.

Jno. Geo. Reynolds

Commd.<sup>g</sup> Battalion

Reported Nov 18th

C. G. Mc.Cawley

Capt.

Senior Off<sup>r</sup> & President.

Head Quarters Marine Corps,

Washington, Dec. 4th 1863

Sir ;

You are hereby detached from the Battalion, and will proceed to New York, and report to Major Zeilin for duty.

Very respectfully,

Yours,

Jno Harris

Col Com<sup>dt</sup>

Approved—

G. H. Fox,

Asst. Secy

Lieut. Fredk. T. Peet,

U. S. Marine Corps,

Marine Battalion,

Philadelphia.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.  
NAVY DEPARTMENT.

By direction of the President of the United States you are hereby *promoted* to the grade of *First Lieutenant* in the United States *Marine Corps* from the *First* day of *September* one thousand eight hundred and sixty *Four* and to take rank next after *1st Lieutenant James B. Young*.

Given under my hand and seal of the  
Navy Department at the City of  
Washington, this *17th* day of *September*  
one thousand eight hundred and sixty *Four*.

*Gideon Welles*  
Secretary of the Navy.

*1st Lieutenant*  
*Frederick J. Peet, Jr.,*  
U. S. Navy.  
*U. S. Steamer Niagara,*  
*Antwerp, Belgium.*

NOTE--A commission on parchment will be forwarded after confirmation by the Senate.

NAVY DEPARTMENT

24 January 1865.

Sir:

The President of the United States, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, having appointed you a *First Lieutenant in the Marine Corps*, on the *Active List*, from the *First of September 1864*, I have the pleasure to enclose herewith your commission, dated *the 13 January 1865* the receipt of which you will acknowledge to the Department.

*Recd and forward'd*  
*March 12 1865*  
*Jhos. J. Craven*  
*Com.*

I am, respectfully,  
Your obedient servant,  
Gideon Welles,  
Secretary of the Navy.

*First Lieutenant*  
*Frederick J. Peet, Jr.,*  
U. S. Navy.

*U. S. Steamer Niagara,*  
*Coast of Europe.*

Head Quarters Marine Corps,  
Washington 28th Octob. 1865

Sir,

At the expiration of your leave of absence you will proceed to Philadelphia and report to Colonel Wm. L. Shuttleworth, Commanding Marines at that station for duty.

You will also report to the Naval Commandant of the Station.

I am very respectfully,  
Your obedt Servt.

J. Zeilin.

Colonel Commandant.

Approved, G. Welles

Reported

Marine Barrack

Philad'a 2<sup>d</sup> Nov. 1865

W. L. Shuttleworth

Col. Comm'g Post

1<sup>st</sup> Lieut. Fred. T. Peet,  
U. S. Marines,  
New York

Head Quarters Marine Corps,  
Washington 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1866.

Sir

You are hereby detached from the Philadelphia Station, and will proceed to Brooklyn, and report to Colonel Wm. L. Shuttleworth, Commanding Marines at that Station for duty.

You will also report to the Naval Commandant of the Station.

Very respectfully yours,

J. Zeilin.

Colonel Commandant.

Approved: G. Welles

Marine Barracks Brooklyn  
Reported 7th Feby '66  
W. L Shuttleworth  
Col. Comm'g Post

Lieut. Fred<sup>k</sup> T. Peet,  
U. S. M. Corps,  
Philadelphia,  
Penn<sup>a</sup>



Head Quarters Marine Corps,

Washington Aug 29th 1866.

Sir,

Agreeably to your request a leave of absence for *thirty* days, commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> September proxo, is hereby granted to you.

At the expiration of your leave you will return to the Brooklyn Station.

I am very respectfully

Your obd't. servt.'

J. Zeilin.

Colonel Command't.

Approved:

W<sup>m</sup> Faxon,

Acting Secretary.

Red'd & Forwarded, Aug<sup>t</sup> 30th '66

W. L. Shuttleworth

Col. Comm'g Post

1<sup>st</sup> Lieut Fred'k. T. Peet,

U. S. Marines.

Brooklyn, N. Y.

[COPY]

54 & 56 Exchange Place

New York April 4, 1871.

Hon. Cornelius Cole

U. S Senate

My Dear Sir

It affords me pleasure to introduce and to commend to your most favorable consideration my young friend Mr Frederick T. Peet, one of your constituency in California. Mr Peet entered the Army in 1861, when free from his studies at the age of 20. He carries in his chest a rebel ball and was as brave & gallant in action as any man in the U. S. Army

He is the brother in law of my partner Mr. Terry and I shall be much gratified if you can comply with his wishes.

I am dear Senator

Very truly yours

E. D. Morgan.

In replying refer to No. —

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS,  
ADJUTANT AND INSPECTOR'S OFFICE,

HY

Washington, D. C., December 3, 1904.

MILITARY HISTORY OF FREDERICK T. PEET, JR.,  
late first lieutenant, U. S. M. C.

Commissioned second lieutenant, U. S. M. C., June 14, 1862.

Joined at marine barracks, Washington, D. C., December 8, 1862.

Detached from marine barracks, Washington, D. C., July 23, 1863,  
and ordered to marine barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y.; joined July 25, 1863.

Detached from marine barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y., August 1, 1863,  
and ordered to the Marine Battalion for Morris Island, S. C.

Joined Marine Barracks, Philadelphia, Pa., December 5, 1863.

Detached from marine barracks, Philadelphia, Pa., December 7,  
1863 and ordered to marine barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y.; joined Decem-  
ber 9, 1863.

Detached from marine barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y., April 21, 1864,  
and ordered to the U. S. S. NIAGARA; joined April 26, 1864.

Promoted first lieutenant September 1, 1864.

Joined at marine barracks, Boston, Mass., September 29, 1865.

Detached from marine barracks, Boston, Mass., November 2, 1865,  
and ordered to marine barracks, Philadelphia, Pa.; joined November 6,  
1865.

Detached from marine barracks, Philadelphia, Pa., February 5,  
1866, and ordered to marine barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y.; joined Febru-  
ary 7, 1866.

Detached from marine barracks, Brooklyn, N. Y., September 3,  
1867, and ordered to marine barracks, Mare Island, Cal.; joined Octo-  
ber 15, 1867.

Resigned August 28, 1869.



















