

1
No 2's 2nd Div. 2nd Corps
Near Falmouth Va
Jan. 13 1862

My dear Brother

I wrote you two pages last evening beginning by informing you of my gloomy feelings on account of a sad affair connected with our 2nd Div. which happened yesterday. After our night's rest & sleep the feeling is less poignant and I think I can give you a better account of the matter than that I wrote last night.

Two of our negro boys had been down to Falmouth on horseback to get clothes which we had sent to be washed there. They were riding back when in passing some soldiers of the Irish Brigade who were marching with great irregularity, returning from Picket, one of them called out to the boy, Charles, who was riding in advance to get off & let him ride. Charles rode on, pretending that he did not hear. The soldier then accosted the other boy, Jackson with the same demand. Jackson replied that he was carrying clothes to Gen. Howard and could not dismount.

He was always a well-meaning & well-behaved boy - at all times giving a respectful answer when spoken to. At this reply, Charles says

he heard the soldier say with an oath "I'll fix you" & at the same time he heard the clicking of the lock as he cocked his piece. He then heard the report of a discharge and hearing Jackson say ~~not~~ ~~definitely~~ the bullet whistle past him & almost at the instant hearing Jackson cry out he looked round behind and saw him thrown up his arms. Jackson did not fall from his horse however, only dropped his bundle & cap which Charles picked up.

The soldier immediately ran up over a hill his comrades calling to him to come back. Jackson rode all the way to there till his horse, the circumstances clearly while we were being taken from the horse & carried into a tent. He soon began to be delirious and insensible. The ball & buck shot had entered just below the shoulder from behind shattering the shoulder blade breaking through the joint and coming out in front - at least a portion of the charge, making a terrible ragged wound. The poor boy suffered most intensely & soon began to fail in strength. He rallied a little this forenoon and was operated upon by the surgeons. He was taken yesterday to a Hospital but this & other, of the Staff visited him last evening & this morning.

The surgeons amputated his arm at the shoulder & also took away a portion of the collar bone & shoulder

blade. We would gladly have had him spend these painful operations ~~for~~ not believing that his life can possibly be saved. But the surgeons are supreme in these matters. He bled blood from the lungs from the first indicating that this vital organ was pierced.

Jackson was a most exemplary boy, remarkable for his good manners and strict integrity of character. He was also a praying boy and it seems to us all that it will be a great mercy if the Lord shall see fit to take him to Himself at once, ~~and~~ sparing him further suffering and an undesirable future in this world.

This will probably be the ultimate issue. The soldier who shot him has not yet been caught - All that is known is that he belongs to the Irish Brigade famous for fighting abroad but here famous for rowdyism & villainy more than anything else.

The mail comes - My love to all - I enclose \$20 which you will please hand to father to keep for me.

Your Affec Son.
Charles

R. H. Gilman

1/13/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: brother [Rodelphus
Gilmore]

CHH-053

H'd Q'rs 2nd Divn. 2nd
Corps
Near Falmouth Va

H'd Q'rs 2nd Divn. 2nd Corps
Near Falmouth Va
Jan. 13 1862

My dear brother [Rodelphus Gilmore]

I wrote you two pages last evening beginning by informing you of my gloomy feelings on account of a sad affair connected with our H'd Q'rs which happened yesterday. After our night's rest & sleep the feeling is less poignant and I think I can give you a better account of the matter than that I wrote last night.

Two of our negro boys had been down to Falmouth on horse back to get clothes which we had sent to be washed there. They were riding back when in passing some soldiers of the Irish Brigade who were marching with great irregularity, returning from picket, one of them called out to the boy Charles who was riding in advance to get off & let him ride. Charles rode on, pretending that he did not hear. The soldier then accosted the other boy Jackson with the same demand. Jackson replied that he was carrying clothes to Gen. Howard and could not dismount.

He was always a well-meaning & well-behaved boy - at all times giving a respectful answer when spoken to. At this reply, Charles says he heard the soldier say with an oath "I'll fix you" & at the same time he heard the clicking of the lock as he cocked his piece. He then heard the report of a discharge and hearing the bullet whistle past him & almost at the instant hearing Jackson cry out he looked behind and saw him throw up his arms. Jackson did not fall from his horse however, only dropped his bundle & cap which Charles returned & picked up. The soldier immediately ran up over a hill his comrades calling to him to come back. Jackson rode all the way to these H'd Q'rs & stated the circumstances clearly while being taken from the horse & carried into a tent. He soon began to be delirious and unsensible. The ball & buck shot had entered just below the shoulder from behind shattering the shoulder blade breaking through the joint and coming out in front - at least a portion of the charge, making a terrible ragged wound. The poor boy suffered most intensely & soon began to fail in strength. He rallied a little this forenoon and was operated upon by the surgeons. He was taken yesterday to a hospital but Otis & other of the staff visited him last evening & this morning.

The surgeons amputated his arm at the shoulder; also took away portions of the collar bone & shoulder blade. We would gladly have had been spared these painful operations not believing that his life can possibly be saved. But the surgeons are supreme in these matters. He passed blood from the lungs from the first indicating that this vital organ was pierced.

Jackson was a most exemplary boy, remarkable for his good manners and strict integrity of character. He was also a praying boy and it seems to us all that it will be a great mercy if the Lord shall see fit to take him to Himself at once, sparing him further suffering and an undesirable future in this world.

This will probably be the ultimate issue. The soldier who shot him has not yet been caught - all that is known is that he belongs to the Irish Brigade famous for fighting abroad but here famous for rowdiness & villainy more than anything else.

The mail closes. My love to all. I inclose \$20 which you will please hand to father to keep for me.

Your Affec. Br.
Charles

R.H. Gilmore

[illegible]

I also pray for you, my dear mother, but very imperfectly - My last news. always is very long - You say so thoughtless even of my mother & certainly not - My dear mother is thought to be very far, very far from it - I have not paid so much respect to my father as I ought to - I was about to write May the Lord forgive & visit upon me but one thing punishment my sins. I have written of the thought I have had of new life. I believe my affection for you is growing as I now read - The sun shines brightly and the new clean snow which fell yesterday affects the light so powerfully as to dazzle the eyes. There was no snow upon the ground until yesterday. We drilled upon quite a dry field Friday.

His thought the soldiers better not stand upon the cold snow this forenoon & so dispersed over the out-door services. Mr. Miles was sent to inspect the camps & regiments. I to visit the two Hospitals in quarters. One the 5th W. H. is in a brick house about a quarter of a mile from Camp.

At the risk of immaterial digression I will just show you what is transpiring here in our tent. His sits in front of the stove & occasionally reads. He has been reading the Bible ever since I came back. Speaks of his misdeeds - His determination not to seek his own glory - I cannot begin to give you the conversation - It takes a good

then to talk
I feel longer to write. John came in to ask if we
would have dinner - He went to set the table
and Capt Sewall came in with some orders from
Division Hq. He goes over there to carry messages
& receive orders, &c. - every day at 12 M. When he
is about either Mr. Miles or I go. - It is called
"Orderly hours". We have our "Orderly hours" also.
From 8 till 9 a.m. we receive Sign Poses &
Leaves. Immediately after Parade at 4 1/2 P.M.
is the "Orderly hour" for delivery of our orders
& the Council sign, to the Adjutants of Regiments.
But as I was relating - John soon came
back & said dinner was ready. So we
walked to the next tent, situated about 6 yds
to the left & little down hill. - That is about like
this one & we have a brick fireplace in the
further end. We have succeeded in getting one
that does not smoke after trying two or three
getting smoked out for two or three days.
Capt. Sewall now intends to make that
his tent & we will dine in the front
part. At the door we met Mr.
Miles - Capt Boker our Quarter Master & his
Clerk Mr. Edwards soon came in and Dr.

Palmer who occupies the other similar tent
next on the other side - (only then those tents
in the front rank) Mr. Miles, Mr. Bollock,
Commissionary & Capt Boker in the 2^d Rank &
an officer tent where Capt Sewall's Clerk is
constantly writing -

Our table accommodates 8 very conveniently
3 on each side & one at each end - The
General sits at the farther end & Mr. Edwards
at the foot of the table (next the door).

We have white crockery ware - silver
forks - Pewter tea-spoons - Brown varnished tin
sugar bowl & milk pitcher -

Today we had roast beef - ^{to the General} Mashed potatoes -
White Bread - a bottle of Ketchup sent ^{by} ~~by~~
Mrs. Richards - (We are not short of salt as
the Rebels are said to be hard) Mustard is a
luxury that Mr. Bollock has lately supplied (he
is our steward this month) Peach (dried) sauce -
Butter - Cheese ^{also appeared on the table} - When pour the tea - We
have tea & coffee in the ^{at breakfast} morning - For
dessert today we had Bread pudding in a
voluminous tin basin 2 or 3 inches deep - and
afterwards raisins - Then, Mother, I

The Springfield man at Augusta has been accused but it is in St. Megin's name.

2/16/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-054

Head Quarters
Howard's Brigade
Camp California Va

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Camp California [Near Alexandria, Va]
Feb 16 1862

My dear Mother,

It is as pleasant a morning as I ever saw. The sun shines brightly and the new clean snow which fell yesterday reflects the light so powerfully as to dazzle the eyes. There was no snow upon the ground until yesterday. We drilled upon quite a dry field Friday.

Otis thought the soldiers better not stand upon the cold snow this forenoon & so dispensed with out-door exercises. Mr. Miles was sent to inspect the camps & regiments. I to visit the two hospitals in quarters. One the 5th N.H. is in a brick house around a quarter of a mile from Camp.

At the risk of unnatural digression I will just show you what is transpiring here in our tent.

Otis sits in front of the stove & occasionally, speaks. He has been reading the Bible ever since I came back. Speaks of his missteps. His determination not to seek his own glory. I cannot begin to give you the conversation. It takes a great deal longer to write than to talk. John came in to ask if we would have dinner. He went to set the table and Capt. Sewall came in with some orders from Division H'd Q's. He goes over there to carry messages & receive orders, &c every day at 12 N. When he is about, either Mr. Miles or I go. It is called "orderly hours". We have our "orderly hours" also. From 8 till 9 a.m. we receive & sign passes and leaves. Immediately after Parade at 4 ½ P.M. is the "orderly hour" for delivery of our orders and the Countersigns &c to the Adjutants of Regiments. But as I was relating, John soon came back & said dinner was ready. So we walked to the next tent, situated about 6 yds to the left & little down hill. That is double like this one & we have a brick fireplace in the farther <corner>. We have succeeded in getting one that does not smoke after trying two or three & getting smoked out for two or three days. Capt. Sewall now intends to make that his tent & we will dine in the front part.

At the door we met Mr. Miles. Capt Barker our Quarter Master & his clerk Mr. Edwards soon came in and Dr. Palmer who occupies the other similar tent next on the other side (only these three tents in the front rank). Mr. Miles, Mr. Bullock, Commissary, & Capt. Barker in the 2d rank & an officers tent where Capt Sewall's clerk is constantly writing.

Our table accommodates 8 very conveniently - 3 on each side & one at each end. The General sits at the farther end & Mr. Edwards at the foot of the table (next the door).

We have white crockery ware - silver forks - pewter tea spoons - brown varnished tin sugar bowl and milk pitchers.

Today we had roast beef, mashed potatoes, white bread, a bottle of ketchup sent to the General by Mrs. Richards. (We are not short of salt as the Rebels are said to be and mustard is a luxury that Mr. Bullock has lately supplied. He is our steward this month.) Peach (dried) sauce, butter, cheese, also of course on the table. John pours the tea. We have tea & coffee in the morning at breakfast. For dessert today we had bread pudding in a rectangular tin basin 2 or 3 inches deep, and afterward raisins. There, Mother, I have taken you to dine with a Brigadier. I believe I have never described these things before & I hope they will not seem too frivolous.

Otis has just lain down to rest. He said before dinner that he did not rest so well as usual last night owing to a "slight attack of thick pie-crust & warm biscuit". I expect you will think we are like princes & we do live well enough for anybody. Mr. Miles has just sent in the Herald containing some account of Col. Redman & other officers of the 4th R.I. which was in our Brigade but went on the <Brunswick> Expedition.

We had great news from the West last evening. Viz that Ft. Donelson was taken &c but don't know as it is reliable but we heard also what is true, viz that Sander upon our extreme right had driven the Rebels & caught 17 officers & that Bowling Green in Ky is ours. I will try to thank & praise my God for these great blessings to my country. I thank Him but too little for his mercy to me individually & to my dear friends. You alluded to the great mercy which has spared us all for many years. I hope we shall be ripe for eternity when the time comes.

The express man at Augusta has my Recruiting account, but it is in Lt. Wiggin's name.

I am very, very sorry about Josie Keene. Poor John.

I do pray for you, my dear Mother, but very imperfectly. My heart nowadays is very stony. I am not so thoughtful even of my mother & certainly not of my saviour as ought to be. Far, very far, from it. I have not plead so much & so fervently for father as I was wont to do. May the Lord forgive & visit upon none but me the punishment due my sins. Hoping you will write often even though but a few lines. I remain very affectionately yr son.

C.H. Howard

P.S. While reading over my letter our mail arrived - a letter from Lizzie which I long to open, but will not wake Otis quite yet. I don't get many letters now-a-days & sometimes feel as though I had not got many friends. No matter, however, since those I have are true ones. As ever,

C.H.H.

Head Quarters 1st Brigade
Camp California
Feb. 22, 1862

My dear Mother

It is nearly time for
the mail to come but I wished to send
you at least a few words. You will see
by the papers that all the Generals were
invited to Washington to witness the
presentation of Rebel flags &c at the
Capitol - in celebration of Washington's
Birth day. Otis was intending to go
but a despatch came from Gen.
McClellan yesterday that information
had been received that the enemy intended
~~an~~ attack today - He does not ex-
pect it but Otis decided to stay
with his command. Almost every
General will be absent, Gen. Sumner
says, in fact he is hardly able to get
to ^{his} ~~go~~ ^{his} ~~go~~ - He was on his horse for the
first time yesterday -

The order came to provide our day's

Camp California
Feb. 22, 1862 -
C.H.W.

orations the night to morrow at a mon-
ment's warning - The Irish Brigade are
on picket & they marched past us
at day break going out to support
the Picket - A battery of Artillery de-
parted past a little while ago.

An order came that Washington's
General address be read to the troops.
The General will read it to this
Brigade - I rode over to Mr. Richard's
a few moments since & got a
copy - Too bad to borrow that address
of secessionists, is it not?

It rains now but not very hard.
Perhaps the rain will prevent the
reading of the address.

Ozias Millet has been here - came
from West Maine in company with
John Kune, Dexter Howard & Perry Lee.
John is still in doubt about his
leave. Dexter is engaged - Perry
stayed till evening & we sent him
back home - back - Ozias brought me
a good nice pair of stockings from home

I was very glad to get them as
I have but two pairs besides -
Ozias left for Washington next day
riding to Alex^d in Hospital Wagon
sitting up in the back. We
may see him again but it is
doubtful. I fear he will find
no place to suit him.

We saw Mr. Formell in Washing-
ton the other day - to our great surprise
he informed us that Roland had
had the Diphtheria!

We had a pleasant visit of
Judge Cornell's - spent the night.
Capt Lowell has a new tent so
that the General & I are alone -

Everybody rejoices at the recent escape
of our boys, but the President mourns
the loss of his son - There seem to
be some indications that Lizzy Stanton
is a Christian - We hope she is.

With much love
Yrs. L. H. Howard

2/22/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-055

Head Quarters 1st
Brigade
Camp California Va

Head Quarters 1st Brigade
Camp California
Feb. 22, 1862

My dear Mother,

It is nearly time for the mail to leave but I wished to send you at least a few words. You will see by the papers that all the Generals were invited to Washington to witness the presentation of Rebel flags &c at the Capitol - in celebration of Washington's Birth day. Otis was intending to go but a dispatch came from Gen. McClellan yesterday that information had been received that the enemy intended an attack today. We do not expect it but Otis decided to stay with his command. Almost every General will be absent. Gen. Sumner stays, in fact he is hardly able as yet to go to such a place. He was on his horse for the first time yesterday.

The order came to provide one day's rations & be ready to march at a moment's warning. The Irish Brigade are on Picket & they marched past us at day-break going out to support the Picket. A battery of Artillery also went past a little while ago. An order came that Washington's Farewell address be read to the troops. The General will read it to this Brigade. I rode over to Mr. Richard's a few moments since & got a copy. Too bad to borrow that address of secessionist, is it not?

It rains now but not very hard. Perhaps the rain will prevent the reading of the address.

Ozias Millet has been here. Came from Third Maine in company with John Keene, Dexter Howard & Perry Lee. John is still in doubt about his leave. Dexter is <rugged>. Perry stayed till evening & we sent him back horse-back. Ozias brought me a good nice pair of stockings from you. I was very glad to get them as I have but two pair besides. Ozias left for Washington next day riding to Alexandria in Hospital Wagon & going up in the boat. We may see him again but it is doubtful. I fear he will fail to get a place to suit him.

We saw Mr. Farwell in Washington the other day. To our great surprise he informed us that Rowland had had the Diptherium!

We had a pleasant visit at Judge Carroll's - spent the night. Capt. Sewall has a new tent so that the General & I are alone.

Everybody rejoices at the recent success of our Army but the President mourns the loss of his son [William Lincoln, died Feb 20, 1862]. There seem to be some indications that <Luc's> Stanton is a Christian. We hope he is.

With much love.
Yr Son, C.H. Howard

I never before witnessed. The N. H. Co's
went down with the first gust being
whistled on a hill - some of the Co's
of H'd Co's went down - It disfigured
our encampment & gave you & disappointed
us - Otis told the inspectors that he
thought it in judgment because
the Regts had worked Sunday in
bitting up & cleaning for inspection.

My dear Mother I do not know as
these matters interest you very much. I
know they would not were it not for the fact
that your sons are engaged in them.

It's vent over to Third Maine & attended
 a meeting last Sabbath eve. They
 had not had many such meetings there
 before but Miss Thompson sent a note
 inviting him to tea & to the meeting &
 he enjoyed going. I will enclose (\$50)
 fifty dollars which I have on hand
 as I do not wish to take too much
 with me. I may write you a good many
 times before we move. In case I do not I
 know my brother's prayers go up for us &

I have just come in from
 Brigade drill. This forenoon from 9 till
 about 2 P. M. I was inspecting the 64th
 N. Y. Regt. The General (Otis) received a Review
 from them at first. He then began the inspec-
 tion with Mr. Miles who took the rear rank &
 I recorded the names of any who had any-
 thing on their rifles or anything but of the
 way until about 11 A. M. when Mr. Miles
 went to Alexandria to get a saddle for
 himself. I then took the rear rank of
 each Co & the Lt. of the Company recorded
 the names. Pretty soon & before half of
 the Regt. had been inspected Gen. Jameson
 rode up with his lady - together with Miss
 Howlin daughter of the Senator & other
 young officers. Otis then came to his
 quarters with them - I spoke with Gen. J. &
 lady & received an introduction to Miss H.
 The Genl (Otis) then requested me to go on with
 the inspection & I did not get through till 2

In the evening from me - I should be very well satisfied to have him do so - Off for, with, would like to make every other day -

M. I was scarcely ever so tired and yet I in perfect health & it does one good to get tired you know.

I found all at dinner when I came. Soon after the ladies left but Mrs. Garrison remained and witnessed our drill. I got somewhat rested at dinner & rode out upon the field - Riding nothing upon my horse & interested in the drill I soon got quite rested.

An order came about dinner time for baggage to be reduced and the Brigade prepared to march at an hour's notice - Two day's rations - Officer's baggage to be one valise. 4 wagons to a Regt.

Otis & I anticipated this order sent our trunk to Washington by Otis Millett last week. Our robes we shall carry rolled up upon our saddles.

Officers keep coming in to ask some questions about getting ready.

It began to rain soon after we returned from drill - It is quite warm today.

We have had a "cold snap". Lost

Saturday the 22nd a dispatch came from McClellan which prevented Otis from going to the Celebration in Washington.

It stated that information of an intended attack ^{by the enemy} upon that day had been received - So Otis read Washington's Farewell address to the entire Brigade, and gave them some remarks of his own taking about an hour in all. The N. H. Battery from a neighboring division came to share in our exercises so Otis had an audience of about 4000 men - He did not get honor - We had pieces ^{played} by the Band before & after also before the Prayer - A National Salute of 32 guns after & all passed off very pleasantly. There was firing in every direction - We had an inspection of our Brigade by two of McClellan's staff days before yesterday. A terrible storm of rain, hail & wind came suddenly upon us while we were passing the Brigade Review - After this throughout the day was a Hurricane of wind much

General #15 - If my son was - If I should need more of - I think like to keep the music about 100.

2/26/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-056

Head Quarters 1st
Brigade
Camp California Va

Head Quarters 1st Brigade
Camp California, Feb. 26, 1862

My dear Mother,

I have just come in from Brigade drill. This forenoon from 9 till about 2 P.M. I was inspecting the 64th N.Y. Regt. The General (Otis) received a Review from them at first. He then began the inspection with Mr. Miles who took the rear rank & I recorded the names of any who had any dust on their rifles or anything out of the way until about 11 A.M. when Mr. Miles went to Alexandria to get a saddle for himself. I then took the rear rank of each Co. & the Lt. of the Company recorded the names. Pretty soon & before more than half of the Regt. had been inspected Gen. Jameson rode up with his lady - together with Miss Hamlin, daughter of the Senator & other young officers. Otis then came to his quarters with them. I spoke with Gen. J. & lady & received an introduction to Miss H. The Genl. (Otis) then requested me to go on with the inspection & I did not get through till 2 P.M. I was scarcely ever so tired and yet I am in perfect health & it does one good to get tired you know.

I found all at dinner when I came up. Soon after the ladies left but Gen. Jameson remained and witnessed our drill. I got somewhat rested at dinner & rode out upon the field - riding & cutting upon my horse & interested in the drill I soon got quite rested.

An order came about dinner time for baggage to be reduced and the Brigade prepared to march at an hour's notice. Two day's rations, officer's baggage to be one valise. 4 wagons to a Regt. Otis & I anticipated this order & sent our trunk to Washington by Ozias Millett last week. Our robes we shall carry rolled up upon our saddles. Officers keep coming in to ask some questions about getting ready.

It began to rain soon after we returned from drill. It is quite warm today. We have had a "cold snap".

Last Saturday, the 22d, a dispatch came from McClellan which prevented Otis from going to the celebration in Washington. It stated that information of an intended attack by the enemy upon that day had been received. So Otis read Washington's Farewell Address to the entire Brigade and gave them some remarks of his own taking about an hour in all. The N.H. Battery from a neighboring Division came to share in our exercises so Otis had an audience of about 4000 men. He did not get hoarse. We had pieces played by the Band before & after - also before the Prayer. A national salute of 32 guns after & all passed off very pleasantly. There was firing in every direction.

We had an inspection of our Brigade by two of McClellan's staff day before yesterday. A terrible storm of rain, hail & wind came suddenly upon us while we were passing the Brigade in Review. After this throughout the day was a Hurricane of wind such as I never before witnessed. The N.H. tents went down with the first gust being situated on a hill. Some of the tents of H'd Q's went down. It disfigured our encampment I assure you & disappointed us. Otis told the inspectors that he thought it in judgment because the Regts had worked Sunday in fitting up & cleaning for inspection.

My dear Mother, I do not know as these matters interest you very much. I know they would not were it not for the fact that your sons are engaged in them.

Otis went over to Third Maine & attended prayer meeting last Sabbath eve. They had not had many such meetings there of late but Miss Sampson sent a note inviting him to tea & to the meeting & he enjoyed going. I will enclose (\$50) fifty dollars which I have on hand as I do not wish to take too much with me.

I may write you a good many times before we move. In case I do not, I know my mother's prayers go up for us & that the <> kind & merciful Father cares for her & all I love who cares for me. I wish I were a more worthy child in view of my Heavenly Father and had more of His image stamped upon my character. May the Lord deliver me from besetting sins. Love to all.

Your Affectionate Son. C.H. Howard

If Father wishes to take this \$50 & give his note for the entire amount he has received from me, I should be very well satisfied to have him do so. If you, Mother, would like to make any other disposition of it, I am willing you should do as you like. C.H. Howard

I reserve \$15 for my own use. If I should need more I can send for it. I didn't like to keep too much about me.