

Camp California

Mar. 4, 1862

I fear Mrs. Merrill was too inconsolable.
 I trust my mother with the help of the Lord
 better prepared to meet affliction. I heard
 this concerning the other day upon the great
 going of those who exchange this world for
 Heaven. But for his family's sake he would
 cling to earth more closely. I have no tie of
 this kind precisely - I have the tie of nearest
 kindred but ~~that~~ ^{no kindred} that will seem to be robbed
 of necessary support if I be taken away -

Just this very two minutes a note came
 from Gen. Sumner for Otis to come over and see
 him - he having returned from Washington. It
 is very dark and raining but it is not more than
 a quarter of a mile walk and Otis put on his
 rubber-boots - I took the cape from my over-coat
 that he might wear that and his rubber-coat over
 it - it being more convenient for that purpose than
 his own. Dr. Palmer went over to Headquarters
 not long since so he will have company back
 and I did not need to go - The messenger was
 with him going over. We don't often allow
 Brig. Generals to go alone (unless they go into two
 change our places (?)) My sheet is full and I have

P.S. "The Annual" has returned and says we must try to get some more
 going but to budget some more - build up the R. Board expect to return
 to Camp again before we go for good.
 We late these days
 believe you may not
 hear so often more
 but you know in other
 hands we are - Otis
 sends his love and
 says you must not
 be anxious about us.
 I have written on order
 of his dictation since
 he came back
 the other night
 - Charles
 Portland & Gelli
 would be glad to
 know about any
 book or printing
 business

Head Quarters 1st Brigade
 Camp California
 Mar. 4, 1862

It is raining hard and just at
 this moment the wind begins to blow harder still.
 It is I judge about 8 o'clock in the evening. Since
 supper Mr. Balloch (Commissary) Mr Miles and
 I with occasionally some help from Otis have
 been sitting in front of the open fire in Capt.
 Swall's tent the latter person being in Washington
 tonight, gone for his pay. Otis left us nearly
 half an hour ago to come up to his tent to
 sign some Muster Rolls and now I am at the
 other table in the same tent. Otis has had to sign
 his name about 180 times besides other writing upon
 the Rolls - I prepared them by examination and
 writing down every thing except the name. It
 has been a rainy day and I have not been out
 much. Yesterday it snowed about 1 inch.

Mrs. Thompson, her sister and Mrs. Kept Watson &
 Bath Mr. came over to see us - It began to snow
 while they were here so we got a Hospital wagon
 and Otis rode back with John taking his horse

over to the Third Maine for him ^(Otis) to ride
back upon. The ladies were here at Sumner -
We all attended ~~church~~ religious services
standing upon the ground about 20 minutes.
The friends of Mrs. S. have been on here nearly
two months but have not visited us before.

Mrs. S. send back by Otis a letter from
Mrs. Merrill and Mary, the mother and sister
of the young man of the Third Me., who
died a few weeks ago - You will remember
that he was a particular friend of mine and
perhaps I wrote you that I sent his folks
a letter almost every day during his sick-
ness - But by this letter I find that they
received none of my letters till after the
Telegraphic dispatch came announcing
his death. It was a terrible blow to them.

These ladies visiting the Third Maine are going
home soon. O'Zier Missett was over again
last Saturday and got a letter of introduction
from Otis - We are all expecting to move
soon as Parks has already done. General
Sumner was ordered to Washington today
on a Council of War as we surmise.

All the Artillery of the Army of the Potomac
has been exchanged within two days - We don't
know precisely why. Perhaps to get all of the
new improved rifled guns - Perhaps to get
lighter guns. Everything bears towards a movement
speedily - I think I have written you since the
order for reduction of baggage but "the General"
and I had anticipated it by sending away
all except our valises before.

My appointment as Lieut. by the Governor
of New York came today! I am very glad
not only on my own part but on Otis' account
that this arrived before the advance. He has
been quite anxious about it and troubled
because it did not come.

Now all is right and I am in the
place marked out by Providence I believe
for me - Although I love my mother and
other dear ones in Maine yet I would not
be away from her now on any account.

This is the situation for which I am fitted
by natural taste, capacity and education if
there is any such situation and I have the con-
tentment which arises from trying to do my duty.

3/4/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-057

Head Quarters 1st
Brigade
Camp California Va

Head Quarters 1st Brigade
Camp California
Mar. 4, 1862

My dear Mother,

It is raining hard and just at this moment the wind begins to blow harder still. It is I judge about 8 o'clock in the evening. Since supper Mr Bullock (commissary) Mr Miles and I with occasionally some help from Otis have been singing in front of the open fire in Capt. Sewall's tent, the latter person being in Washington tonight, gone for his pay. Otis left us nearly half an hour ago to come up to his tent to sign some Muster Rolls and now I am at the other table in the same tent. Otis has had to sign his name about 180 times besides other writing upon the Rolls. I prepared them by examination and writing down every thing except the name. It has been a rainy day and I have not been out much. Yesterday it snowed about 1 inch.

Mrs. Sampson, her sister and Mrs. Capt. Watson of Bath Me. came over to see us. It began to snow while they were here so we got a Hospital wagon and Otis rode back with John taking his horse over to the Third Maine for him (Otis) to ride back upon. The ladies were here at dinner. We all attended religious services standing upon the ground about 20 minutes. These friends of Mrs. S. have been over here nearly two months but have not visited us before. Mrs. S. sent back by Otis a letter from Mrs. Merrill and Mary, the mother and sister of the young man of the Third Me. who died a few weeks ago. You will remember that he was a particular friend of mine and perhaps I wrote you that I sent his folks a letter almost every day during his sickness. But by this letter I find that they received none of my letters till after the Telegraphic dispatch came announcing his death. It was a terrible blow to them.

These ladies visiting the Third Maine are going home soon. Ozias Millett was over again last Saturday and got a letter of introduction from Otis. We are all expecting to move soon, as Banks has already done. General Sumner was ordered to Washington today on a Council of War as we surmise. All of the Artillery of the Army of the Potomac has been exchanged within two days. We don't know precisely why. Perhaps to get all of the new & improved rifled guns. Perhaps to get lighter guns. Everything bears toward a movement speedily. I think I have written you since the order for reduction of baggage but "the General" and I had anticipated it by sending away all except our valises before.

My appointment as Lieut. by the Governor of New York came today! I am very glad not only on my own but on Otis' account that this arrived before the advance. He has been quite anxious about it and troubled because it did not come.

Now all is right and I am in the place marked out by Providence I believe for me. Although I love my mother and other dear ones in Maine yet I would not be away from here now on any account.

This is the situation for which I am fitted by natural taste, capacity and education if there is any such situation and I have the contentment which arises from trying to do my duty.

I fear Mrs. Merrill was too inconsolable. I trust my mother with the help of the Lord is better prepared to meet affliction. I heard Otis conversing the other day upon the great gain of those who exchange this world for Heaven. But for his family's sake he would cling to earth more closely. I have no tie of this kind precisely. I have the tie of nearest kindred but no kindred that will seem to be robbed of necessary support if I be taken away.

Just this very two minutes a note came from Gen. Sumner for Otis to come over and see him - he having returned from Washington. It is very dark and rainy but it is not more than a quarter of a mile walk and Otis put on his rubber boots. I took the cape from my overcoat that he might wear that and his rubber coat over it - it being more convenient for that purpose than his own. Dr. Palmer went over to Head Quarters not long since so he will have company back and I did not need to go. The messenger

was with him going over. We don't often allow Brig. Generals to go alone (unless they go into too dangerous places (?)) my sheet is full and I have [inserted undated fragment] hardly begun my letter – so it seems to me. John comes in and says “George is “drowned out”. He means our colored man the cook. He has a log house for a kitchen – not as good as a tent for the rain. We have a little colored boy who is a great curiosity about here now. Yesterday morning one of the Soldiers of the 64th brought him up – inquired for “Brig Gen. Howard” and said he had brought up a boy who had been about their camp for several days. That the boy had vermin upon him and none of the soldiers would allow him in their tents. He had take pity upon the poor little fellow & did for him the only thing he could think of – brought him to the General. Otis took him and had him stripped and washed thoroughly in an outer-tent. The boy was reluctant about putting his head under water so Otis took him up and plunged him in. He got him some clothes, extemporized about here. The boy was very <bright> – a mulotto. Today he got him a good suit of clothes in Alex'a. The boy declares that he came from New York but has given unmistakable proof that he was born & raised in these parts. He is about 8 years old I should judge. I have often thought of “Edward” since I saw this boy. I have not mentioned it to Otis. And today he told us his name was Johnson tho' his father's name was Sykes or something like that. He is a funny fellow and it is very doubtful whether we will be able to make any thing of him. At any rate Otis will have the satisfaction of knowing that he saved one poor suffering little boy from probably death and made him comfortable at least for a time.

We had a good prayer-meeting last night. Otis spoke briefly and offered one prayer. I had some tracts which I distributed as the soldiers went out. They are very glad to get anything good to read. After meeting I called with Mr. Miles (who was very desirous of going last night) upon Mrs. Richards – the near neighbor to us and upon whose land is our encampment. She is a perfect lady. I had met her once before. I took a very excellent tract written by Bishop <Mcllwaine> of Ohio – a venerable clergyman and friend of Otis. I carried it sealed in an envelope & gave it to Mrs. R.

I find I must close. I know you are one of the Praying Army at home. May Heaven's choicest blessings be upon you and my brothers & father tonight is the prayer of

Your Affectionate Son
C. H. Howard

P.S. “The General” has returned and says we move tomorrow! We leave at 8 o'clock. Are going out to support some Bridge-builders upon the R. R. and expect to return to camp again before we go “for good”. We take three days rations. You may not hear so often now but you know in whose hands we are. Otis sends his love and says you must not be anxious about us. I have written an order at his dictation since he came back.

Good Night.
Charles.

Rowland & Dellie would be glad to know about our prospect of moving I suppose.

probably return to Camp
for a fair start - meanwhile
& always I hope you will
not be anxious about us
but will pray for us

constantly - Love to father
& all - to Rowland & Ellen
When you write this writes
to Lizzy's tonight.

I am perfectly well - ate
a hearty dinner of bread &
beef -

Your affectionate son

C. H. Howard

Burke's Station
March 6, 1862
C. H. H. Howard's Hill Dr's
Mar. 6th 1862

My dear Mother

As I informed

you of our intention we went
out to guard the building of
the R.R. bridge across the
accotuck - We spent two
nights in the woods there
& today advanced - I have
been riding all the afternoon.
Had sent with about
2 companies of men - just
enough to guard a certain
approach from Fairfax Ct.
House where the Rebels still
remain - I joined O'Leary
at Fairfax Station after
wards & returned with

I have not yet received your letter of the 25th. I am sorry to hear that you are not well. I hope you will soon be better. I am your affectionate friend, Wm. Miller.

Dear Mother
 I have not yet received your letter of the 25th. I am sorry to hear that you are not well. I hope you will soon be better. I am your affectionate friend, Wm. Miller.

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This letter was put down by Capt Sewall but he had to come back directly & didn't read it - We all got safely back last night.

Wm. Miller

time to this point where we will remain tonight. We have one raft at Fairfax Station - They drove in the Rebel videttes today - this P.M. - Another raft is said half way up & a third about 1/2 mile up. The 6th N.Y. is away back at Camp Lee - Forman - Capt. Sewall goes each time on the train tonight. Providence has favored all our undertakings - We are with a family at the station - a little baby crying - father holding it - mother cooking us a supper with doubtless we will relish - I thought I would scratch you a few lines - We got a pack of the grey-coats & Mrs. Miller is chasing some now - We shall

3/6/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-058

Burke's Station
Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs

Leeds, Maine

[To:] Col. John Gilmore, Leeds, Maine

Burke's Station
Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs
Mar. 6th 1862

My dear Mother,

As I informed you of our situation we went out to guard the building of the R.R. bridge across the Accotink. We spent two night in the woods there & today advanced I have been riding all the afternoon. Was sent with about 2 companies of men - part Cavalry, to guard a certain approach from Fairfax Court House where the Rebels still remain. I joined Otis at Fairfax Station afterwards & remained with him to this point where we will remain tonight.

We have one Regt. at Fairfax Station. They drove in the Rebel redoubts today - this P.M. Another Regt. is about half way up & a third about ½ mile up. The 61st N.Y. is way back at Camp California. Capt. Sewall goes back there on the train tonight. Providence has favored all our undertakings. We are with a family at the Station. A little baby dozing - father holding it - mother cooking us a supper which doubtless we will relish.

I thought I would scratch you a few lines. We got a shot at the grey-coats & Mr. Miles is chasing some now. We shall probably return to Camp for a fair start.

Meanwhile & always I hope you will not be anxious about us but will pray for us constantly. Love to father & all - to Rowland & Ellen when you write. Otis writes to Lizzie tonight. I am perfectly well after a hearty dinner of bread & beef.

Your Affectionate Son,
C.H. Howard

Your letters - one Feb 25th came out to Burke's to me & one the 2d March came here yesterday. I'll write today.

Camp Cal.
Mar 8th '62
(Sabbath) [Mar 8, 1862 was a Saturday]

My dear Mother

This letter was sent down by Capt. Sewall but he had to come back directly & didn't mail it. We all got safely back last night.

Yr. Affec. Son Charles

Some way noted while in the presence the
other day - I like this temporarily. There only
about 800 with me - all I need -

We shall not make a "forced" march - not want
to weary the men - I should estimate the distance
as 12 or 15 miles.

We are in the hands of merciful Heavenly
Father - our who is wise & holy and has
that "all things will work together for the good
of those that love God" - We think we
and that you & our brother & other dear ones
love Him - We hope that father's heart will soon
be put right if it is not for who would be found
fighting against God - If any accident should happen
I desire my effects - any & all property to be at
your service mother and I should desire to help
Rowland & Delle with it if they need it.

Above all things let there be no disagreement
on account of it - ^{will be} ~~is~~ yours to dispose of as you like.

I have perfect confidence in father - My love to him
to Rowland & family - to Delle - to Lizzie & family - I shall
try & write the letter - to Roland & Cynthia & fam. This may
be a very serious letter but I am not in the least
down-cast - I had not mentioned these things but can do
no harm - With great love to my mother your affectionate son
C. H. Howard

Great Howard Rd. 21's
Bunker's Station
March 7 1862

My dear Mother

I wrote you last evening &
again this morning a few lines, but I do
not like to go to bed till I have put down
a little more for you & my dear ones at home.
Since supper I have been looking over papers
found in the wallet of a Rebel horseman
shot by our men today - I was on the
spot this afternoon & saw the pool of blood
in the road, I also had his body brought
in to the Camp of the 64th Distance of about
a mile and it is a mile from here to the 64th.
He was shot near Ely's - where we stopped a
little while on our way to Bull Run - It
is about 1 1/2 miles from Sangster's where we stayed
one night & where the Rebels now are in
force - I got the word that a man was shot
while on my way to examine the picket
in that direction - The General had not
great confidence in the Major who was
in charge of two companies upon that road &

How a letter to father today -

Bunker's Station
March 7 1862

therefore sent me to see to the disposition of
the pickets & the force under his command.

As soon as I ascertained that the man was not
dead I found the Dr & sent him forward
immediately.

{ Camp California
Hill No 1st Brigade

Monday Morning Mar 10 - My dear Mother I
was interrupted in this letter by a false alarm.
We at that time turned out our entire Regt.
Did not sleep that night afterwards owing
to the arrival of Kearny's Brigade which came
to relieve us. We were pretty tired when
we got back Saturday night. Yesterday was pas-
ter - I saw Dexter, John Kean & others at this
Mr. & Perry came back with me returning at

evening - The two last have colds but some-
what encouraged about his wife. Otis is now
in command of the Division - It is now
one o'clock A.M. - About midnight a telegram
was brought over from Division Hd Qrs for the
Division to be ready to march at 6 A.M. with
3 days cooked rations and 60 rounds ammunition
to reach Brimstone Hill tonight this is camp
Pohock Creek and I nearly off against Fairfax

Station & on the left - Not far from where
we were but we go a different route - past
Pine Mill on the account. Otis went im-
mediately to Division Hd Qrs & left a great deal
in my care & for us (his staff) to arrange & do.
I meant to have written you yesterday but
Callers &c. prevented - I am constantly interrup-
ted now - I will inclose with this ^{which you will please preserve} my Commission.
I have not from my key on it (it had showed
man you to Washⁿ 4th). Your letter I was very
glad to get & am from Nellie yesterday. I am glad
to hear of the good work of No. Seeds. - Gen.
Guinne has an Army Corps & perhaps Otis
may continue in command of the Division - He
doubts his ability but I am confident he
would do as well in that position as in
the one he has been occupying - I judge that his
conduct on our late expedition gave good satis-
faction to his Commanding General.

Otis rec'd a good long letter from Ella white and
was at Parker. I have a great deal that
may be of interest to write you some other time
Providence permitting. I shall probably carry one
of the Pistols taken from the Scout who was shot by

3/7/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-059

Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs
Burke's Station

Genl Howard's H'd Q'rs
Burke's Station
March 7 1862

My dear Mother,

I wrote you last evening & again this morning a few lines but I do not like to go to rest till I have put down a little more for you & my dear ones at home. Since supper I have been looking over papers found in the wallet of a Rebel horseman shot by our men today. I was on the spot this afternoon & saw the pool of blood in the road. I also had his body brought into the camp of the 64th a distance of about a mile and it is a mile from here to the 64th. He was shot near <Elzeys> where we stopped a little while on our way to Bull Run. It is about 1½ miles from Langster's where we stayed one night & where the Rebels now are in force. I got the word that a man was shot while on my way to examine the Picket in that direction. The General had not great confidence in the Major who was in charge of two companies upon that road & therefore sent me to see to the disposition of the pickets & the force under his command. As soon as I ascertained that the man was not dead I found the Dr and sent him forward immediately.

Camp California
H'd Q'rs 1st Brigade
Monday Morning Mar 10.

My dear Mother,

I was interrupted in this letter by a false alarm, for at that time I turned out our entire Brigade. Did not sleep that night afterwards owing to the arrival of Kearney's Brigade which came to relieve us. We were pretty tired when we got back Saturday night. Yesterday we rested. I saw Dexter, John Keene & others at Third Me. & Perry came back with me returning at evening. The two last have colds but John felt encouraged about his wife. Otis is now in command of the Division. It is now one o'clock A.M. About midnight a Telegram was brought over from Division H'd Q'rs for the Division to be ready to march at 6 A.M. with 3 days cooked rations and 60 rounds ammunition to reach Brimston Hill tonight. This is across Pohick Creek and nearly off against Fairfax Station & on the left - not far from where we were but we go a different route - past Bone Mill on the Accotink. Otis went immediately to Div H'd Q'rs & left a great deal in my care & for us (his staff) to arrange & do. I meant to have written you yesterday but callers &c prevented. I am constantly interrupted now.

I will inclose with this, my commission, which you will please preserve. I have not drawn any pay on it yet but should have gone to Wash'n today.

Your letters I was very glad to get & one from Dellie yesterday. I am glad to hear of the good work at No. Leeds. Gen. Sumner has an Army Corps & perhaps Otis may continue in command of the Division. He doubts his ability but I am confident he would do as well in that position as in the one he has been occupying. I judge that his conduct on our late expedition gave good satisfaction to his commanding Generals.

Otis rec'd a good long letter from Ella while we were at Burke's. I have a great deal that may be of interest to write you some other time, Providence permitting. I shall probably carry one of the Pistols taken from the Scout who was shot as mine was stolen while at the engravers the other day. I like this temporarily. I have only about \$8 with me - all I need.

We shall not make a "forced" march - not so as to weary the men. I should estimate the distance as 12 or 15 miles.

We are in the hands of merciful Heavenly Father - one who is wise & holy and has said that "all things will work together for the good of those that love God". We think we love Him and that you & our brothers & other dear ones also love Him. We hope that father's heart will soon be put right if it is not for

who would be found fighting against God. If any accident should happen I desire my effects - any & all property to be at your service Mother and I should desire to help Rowland & Dellie with it if they need it. Above all things let there be no disagreement on account of it. It will be yours to dispose of as you like. I have perfect confidence in Father. My love to him, to Rowland & family, to Dellie, to Lizzie & family - I shall try and write the latter -, to Roland & Cynthia & fam. This may seem a very serious letter but I am not in the least downcast. I had not mentioned these things & it can do no harm.

With great love to my mother. Your Affectionate Son,
C.H. Howard

I send a Herald to Father today.

Breakfast - He came rushing
down the hill & all the soldiers
that were here started in pursuit
but the Kentuckian at our Hd Qrs
pierced him with his Bayonet -
We hear of other unwarlike victims
in the South - I hope we will
all be truly grateful

Your affec son
W. H. Howard

C. 76. 9.
Wm. Howard's Hd Qrs
Union Mills, Va
Mar 12 1862

My dear Mother - It is late & I am
rather tired & sleepy but I write to
tell you when we are out that
I scouted Bull Run several
times today. Much to our dis-
appointment Wm. French's Brigade
was permitted to go ahead of us
to occupy Manassas & we were
stopped here. But this I rode
down & viewed the many deserted
Camps and the strong position
of the enemy there. Many empty
log houses are all standing and we
found considerable provisions - Our
wagon train has dreadfully perplexed
us by not arriving till 11 o'clock
tonight -
Wm. Sumner has gone to Fair

Fox let, House to a Council of
War - meanwhile Gen. Howard is
in command of the Division. The
Army Corps arrangement has not
yet been made -

Our Art is on in the house
of a union man tonight.

Our train not coming up
we had to send out throughout
the surrounding country for
cattle, sheep, hogs, poultry &c
for the Division - It was rather hard
for us to get the Post of Division
Quarters, Master, Commissary, &
Commander too

It is a great wonder that the
Whigs left their strong holds - We
took one of their soldiers, a deserter
today. He says the talk was
that they would make a stand
at Gordonsville - 60 miles from
Manassas - But a Colonel near

who came last night to the
night says they have 10,000
at a place about 10 miles from
Manassas.

We expect to march right on.
The Rail Road which is broken
up - rails & bridges gone between
Fairfax there then will immediately
be repaired -

I left soundly last night &
hope to do so tonight by the
side of the upper the floor.
It is now light - It is
having rations distributed.

It has been some like since
today. I can hardly realize that
you have heaps of snow upon
the ground.

Last night after I went you
some good things from one of
our regiments came & gave the
Union a serenade -

We had a rabbit for

3/12/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-060

Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs
Union Mills, Va

Gen. Howard's H'd Q'rs
Union Mills Va
Mar 12 1862

My dear Mother,

It is late & I am rather tired & sleepy but I wish to tell you where we are and that I crossed Bull Run several times today. Much to our disappointment Gen. French's Brigade was permitted to go ahead of us to occupy Manassas & we were stopped here. But Otis & I rode down & viewed the many deserted camps and the strong position of the enemy there. Many empty log houses are all standing and we found considerable provisions. Our wagon train has dreadfully <displeased> us by not arriving till 11 o'clock tonight.

Gen. Sumner has gone to Fairfax Ct. House to a Council of War. Meanwhile Gen. Howard is in command of the Division. The Army Corps arrangement has not yet <been> <>.

Our H'd Q'rs are in the house of a union man tonight.

Our train not coming up we had to send out throughout the surrounding country for cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry &c for the Division. It was rather hard for us to get the post of Division Quarter Master, commissary & commander too.

It is a great wonder that the Rebels left their strong hold. We took one of their soldiers, a deserter today. He says the talk was that they would make a stand at Gordonsville - 60 miles from Manassas. But a colored man who came last night in the night says they have 20,000 at a place about 10 miles from Manassas.

We expect to march right on. The Rail Road which is broken up - rails & bridges gone between Fairfax Station & here will immediately be repaired.

I slept soundly last night & hope to do so tonight by the side of Otis upon the floor. It is moonlight. Otis is having rations distributed. It has been warm like June today. I can hardly realize that you have heaps of snow upon the ground.

Last night after I wrote you some good singers from one of our regiments came & gave the <service> serenade.

We had a rabbit for breakfast. He came running down the hill & all the soldiers that saw him started in pursuit but the sentinel at our H'd Q'rs pierced him with his bayonet.

We hear of other union victories in the South. I hope we will all be truly grateful.

Your Affec. Son,
C.H. Howard

News has just arrived that Gen. Kearny is
to command the Division - This is very
much disappointed - Would rather have
had any other General over him - He is a
man reputed to be without principles
morally - He took advantage of our start
to the rebels - relieving us at Bushes &
pushed on to Fairfax Ct. House - Centerville
& Manassas - Gen. K. is from the Jersey
Brigade - Has one arm only. When ordered
as that the 61st N.Y. is bringing in
a Secession flag.

Union Mills
Mar. 13th 1862
C. H. Howard
Gen. Sumner is to have this -
Bunker's & Sedgwick's Brigades.
I will not write more tonight.
Your affectionate son
C. H. Howard

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Union Mills
Mar. 13th 1862

My dear Mother

It is raining a little this afternoon &
I cannot go out shooting. My throat also is
a little sore so that I am very willing to sit
down by the fire in the kitchen. Was very
tired - This has the Division still but Gen.
Lumum will probably be back tomorrow. Francis
Brigade of our Division has gone forward this
afternoon beyond Manassas. Many many
people are coming in for protection. We give
them all protection if they will take the
oath of Allegiance - Little one
up the General & all the rest were about
& a man came in saying his family got
no rest last night. He had a good watch
stolen from him & many other things. He
was glad to take the oath, said he had
always been a Union man - He cried like
a child. I gave him a writing after having
the oath administered. Mr. Miles in a boat
this forenoon found the hair of a blue
General - found 60 bushels of grain & other
things - a nice piece there.

We have three Batteries & one Regiment of
Cavalry in the Command besides 3 Brigades
of Infantry - Dr. Palmer, left last

Capt. Parker & others have gone down to visit
Monasson Junction. I should have gone too
but the 4 m^l was away & I could not lead.

About a dozen "Contractors" came in this
forenoon - several were employed by officers
the rest were sent to help. McCullen, they
report about the Rebels crossing the Chappaman
creek - say there is only a R. R. bridge - that
the wagons had to be drawn across by
hand. Mrs. Sander is working here in the
kitchen - she seems to be indefatigable - the
new husband both look very happy & are willing
to do anything for us or our troops.

She just told me that the Rebels played
cards a great deal. She used to see them all
day long & oft - they would sit up nearly
night in the same occupation.

She evidently thinks our Soldiers are much
better men. We had dinner here before taking our
Breakfast. Dr. Pelton is Medical Director for the
Division but still remains ^{messed} ~~with~~ ^{with} us.

Dr. Knight being the ranking Regimental
Surgeon takes Dr. P's place as Brigade
Surgeon.

As we found Capt. Parker, signally
fails in his (Quartermaster's) department.
Our wagons are almost always leathering
as - and half the time since we started

we have on this and have obliged to hunt
up forage for our horses & food for our-
selves. - Dr. Knight is a good Christian
man, very good natured & pleasant. He comes
from Franklin N. H. near to Hill where
I attended the Water Cure.

We get no letters - I have not written to
Sister & Rowland - but you would com-
municate anything of interest should I
write if you have time. Keeneyman's
division at last accounts had not started
so the Third Division is left behind.

Capt. Lowell just came back from
Monasson Junction & says the country is flat
there are no military points - The rugged hills
about Bull Run are the only strong-
holds - The Regiments are now having
their crossing orders - I can see them from
the Window - The people admire the
music much - say the Southern troops have
no decent Bands - many of them no
music, not even fife & drum.

Capt. S. thinks there is a prospect that
Gen. Howard will have the Division, He
has been talking with Capt. Taylor the
Division Adj. Gen.

(We should have gone to Pennington yesterday
had it not been for want of provisions & forage -

3/13/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-061

Head Quarters
Howard's Brigade
Union Mills, Va

Head Quarters Howard's Brigade
Union Mills
Mar 13th 1862

My dear Mother,

It is raining a little this afternoon & I cannot go out scouting. My throat also is a little sore so that I am very willing to sit down by the fire in the kitchen. We are very busy. Otis has the Division still but Gen Sumner will probably be back tomorrow. French's Brigade of our Division has gone forward this afternoon beyond Manassas. Many, Many people are coming in for protection. We give them all protection if they will take the Oath of Allegiance. Little while ago the General & all the rest were about & a man came in saying his family got no rest last night. He had a gold watch stolen from him & many other things. He was glad to take the Oath, and he said he had always been a union man. He cried like a child. I gave him a writing after having the oath administered. Mr. Miles on a scout this forenoon found the H'd Q'rs of a Rebel General - some 60 bushels of grain & other things - a nice piano, there.

We have three Batteries & one Regiment of Cavalry in the Command besides 3 Brigades of Infantry. Dr Palmer, Capt. Sewall, Cap. Barker & others have gone down to visit Manassas Junction. I should have gone too but the Gen'l was away & I could not leave.

About a dozen "Contrabands" came in this forenoon - several were employed by officers, the rest were sent to Gen. McClellan. They report about the Rebels crossing the Rappahannock - say there is only a R.R. Bridge that the wagons had to be drawn across by hand. Mrs. Dander is working here in the Kitchen. She seems to be indefatigable. She & her husband both look very happy & are willing to do anything for us or our troops.

She just told me that the Rebels played cards a great deal. She has been there all day long & often they would sit up nearly all night in the same occupation. She evidently thinks our Soldiers are much better men. We had prayers here before taking our Breakfast.

Dr. Palmer is Medical Director for the Division but still remains & messes with us. Dr. Knight being the ranking Regimental Surgeon takes Dr. P's place as Brigade Surgeon.

As we feared Capt. Barker signally fails in his (Quarter Master's) department. Our wagons are almost always bothering us. And half the time since we started we have on this acct been obliged to hunt up forage for our horses & food for ourselves. Dr. Knight is a good Christian man, very good natured & pleasant. He comes from Franklin N.H. near to Hill where I attended the water cure.

We get no letters. I have not written to Dellie & Rowland. Wish you would communicate anything of interest which I write if I have time. Heintzelman's Division at last accounts had not started so that the Third Maine is left behind.

Capt. Sewall just came back from Manassas Junction & said the country is flat there - no military position. The rugged hills about Bull Run are the only strongholds. The Regiments are now having their <crossing> parade. I can see them from the window. The people admire the music much. Say the Southern troops have no decent Bands. Many of them no music - not even fife & drum.

Capt. S. thinks there is a prospect that Gen. Howard will have the Division. He has been talking with Capt. Taylor the Division Adj. Gen'l.

We should have gone to Rennington yesterday had it not been for want of provisions & forage.

News has just arrived that Gen. Kearney is to command the Division. Otis is very much disappointed. Would rather have had any other General over him. He is a man reported to be without principle,

morally. He took advantage of our start to the Rebels - relieving us at Burke's & pushed on to Fairfax Ct. House, Centerville & Manassas. Gen. K. is from the Jersey Brigade. Has one arm only. John <> as that the 61st N.Y. is bringing in a Secession flag.

Gen. Sumner is to have this - Blenker's & Sedgwick's Brigade.

I will not write more tonight.
Your affectionate Son,
C.H. Howard

P. S. I have read today a good letter from Mrs. Mr. Fisher to Capt. Churchill telling about the glorious cause of Religion in Italy. He mentions also the wish of some of the former slaves of America that as their hour has come they should drop at last off with hope for a more plentiful harvest.

Old Dr. Howard's Brigade
Union Army, Nov. 15 1862

It is raining hard today and I am very well satisfied to stay in the house.

This & Mr. Miles went away after dinner to visit Centerville. I was there yesterday with Lt. Col. Bolton 6th N. Y. & Adj. Gregory of the same Regt. There were a good many forts & the place has changed much in its appearance since we were there in July. We went on to Bull Run & finding the stream where the 2^d Maine 'waded thro' saw their Battle ground. We then passed on to the spot where our Brigade was engaged. It looked quite natural - Some soldiers & officers were disintering the body of Col. Comanor not far from the place where I saw him die - A negro was there who helped bury him with ~~three~~ five others.

On passing over the Battle-field I found some human bones - I could discern the trenches where many had been piled in together. I saw some red flannel near where the boys were which told that the hated Yankees had there bit the dust & proved the report that the Rebels refused to bury any with red shirts or red breeches.

Some of the 14th N. Y. were there with

shovels burying the bones in the vicinity
of where they fought so desperately.
I came back in the direction of Monrovia
Junction - Took dinner & visited our horses at
a house where Gen. Dornib, of Ga. (formerly
Senator) had had a room. The woman
seemed to love the old Union best. The
man her son was not very intelligent &
did not seem to look beyond present in-
terest & that certainly was for our Cause.

Coffee had been \$100 per pound - sold \$4.00
per bushel & not often obtainable at that.

Today is Saturday but we are ordered to
march back to Fairfax Ct. Home tomorrow
morning - Banks is to go in this direction
with his Corps d'Armee - We expect to
go down the Potomac in boats. Perhaps
we shall land at Yorktown & then behead
in the rear. No Division is in advance of
ours - Some Cavalry have gone in pur-
suit of the Rebels but are expected back
tomorrow.

I have mentioned that Gen. Sumner is
in command of an Army Corps, I think.
It consists of this, Sedgwick's (that was Stonewall's)
& Pleunke's (the Germans) - Mr. Miles
has an appointment as Capt upon Gen. Sum-
ner's staff. Gen. Howard was loth to part
with him but did not feel willing to
stand in the way of his promotion.

St. Scott (from Brooklyn) of the 61st
N.Y. takes his place - ^{Mr.} Scott is very
young but proud, active & deferential - He
is not a pious man but I think he
will not be unamenable. He has
previously asked the privilege of volun-
teering on our staff. Did not get along
pleasantly with his Capt who was very
young & arrogant perhaps.

Gen. Richardson (who has had ^{a Brigade}
Brigade in Stein's division of
Michigan troops) is to command our
division. We hoped Gen. Howard would
have it but Richardson is much older
& now arrives in Mexico - He has not
been a very popular man with those who have
been brought in contact with him but he
is undoubtedly courageous - In fact he is
known in the Army as "fighting Israel".

Those I think mentioned the Point
society where we are quartering. They have
seemed really happy since we came. Have
had opportunity to hear from Grand letters to
their daughters & friends in Point.

Mrs. Sanders came to me this morning
for the General's name in full. She asked
it with tears in her eyes saying she wished
to remember him all the days of her life
& to tell her daughters about him. I told
her that she asked for his name & so he

not only wrote that but wrote a protestation
stating that they were loyal people signed
it. A great many people have come in &
taken the oath of allegiance to the U.S.
They then receive our protection.

Gen. Meagher (Thomas Francis - the celebrated
Irish patriot - name pronounced "Marher") is one
of the Brigadiers of our Division - Gen French
of the Army (an old artillery officer) is the
other. Gen. Howard is now temporarily
in command of the Division. Richardson
probably join us either at Fairfax Court House
or at our old Camp. Since we have
been here we were very glad to get a few
words from Rowland. Our letters will be
directed to Alex^t till further notice.

We found a great deal of baggage
(Com & C) in the deserted encampments. Our
men have many of them got tents to
protect them while here. We might have
gone into their good work by houses which
they left generally untouched but they seemed
pretty & we had no desire to occupy them.

With love to Father & kind regards to
Mrs. ^{Smith} Chapin and the hope that you
remembered by Roland & Elizabeth & other dear
friends I will draw my hasty written letter
to a close. I write upon a book in my lap. My
throat is about well - This is well. Man
to have Oysters for supper - Very affectionately
Dear Son
C. H. Howard

Amber Hill
March 17th 1862

P. S. I have read today a good letter from Mrs. Fisher to Capt. Russell

3/15/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-062

H'd Q'rs Howard's
Brigade
Union Mills

H'd Q'rs Howard's Brigade
Union Mills, Mar 15 1862

My dear Mother,

It is raining hard today and I am very well satisfied to stay in the house. Otis & Mr. Miles went away after dinner to visit Centerville. I was there yesterday with Lt. Col. Barlon 61st N.Y & Adj. Gregory of the same Regt. There were a good many forts & the place has changed much in its appearance since we were there in July. We went on to Bull Run & fording the stream where the 2d Maine waded thro' saw their Battle ground. We then passed on to the spot where our Brigade was engaged. It looked quite natural. Some soldiers & officers were disinterring the body of Col. <Cosuron> not far from the place where I saw him die. A negro was there who helped bury him with five others.

In passing over the Battle-field I found some human bones. I could discern the trenches where many had been piled in together. I saw some red flannel near where the bones were, which told that the hated Zouaves had there bit the dust & proved the report that the rebels refused to bury any with red shirts or red breeches.

Some of the 14th N.Y. were there with shovels burying the bones in the vicinity of where they fought so desperately. I came back in the direction of Manassas Junction. Took dinner & <boarded> our horses at a house where Gen Toombs of Ga. (formerly Senator) had had a room. The women seemed to love the old Union best. The man, her son, was not very intelligent & did not seem to look beyond present interest & that certainly was for our cause. Coffee had been \$1.00 per pound; salt \$4.00 per bushel & not often obtainable at that.

Today is Saturday but we are ordered to march back to Fairfax Ct. House tomorrow morning. Banks is to go in this direction with his Corps d'Armee. We expect to go down the Potomac in boats. Perhaps we shall land at Yorktown & take Richmond in the rear. No Division is in advance of ours. Some Cavalry have gone in pursuit of the Rebels but are expected back tomorrow.

I have mentioned that Gen Sumner is in command of an Army Corps I think. It consists of this; Sedgewick's (that was Stone's) & Blenker's (the Germans). Mr Miles has an appointment as Capt upon Gen Sumner's staff. Gen Howard was loth to part with him but did not feel willing to stand in the way of his promotion. Lt. Scott (from Brooklyn) of the 61st N.Y. takes his place. Mr Scott is very young but prompt, active & deferential. He is not a pious man but I think he will not be uncongenial. He has previously asked the privilege of volunteering on our staff. Did not get along pleasantly with his Capt who was very young & arrogant perhaps.

Gen. [Israel B.] Richardson (who has had a Brigade in Heintzelman's Division a Brigade of Michigan troops) is to command our Division. We hoped Gen. Howard would have it but Richardson is much older & saw service in Mexico. He has not been a very popular man with those who have been brought in contact with him but he is undoubtedly courageous. In fact he is known in the Army as "fighting Israel."

I have I think mentioned the <Priest> family where we are quartering. They have seemed really happy since we came. I have had opportunity to hear from & send letters to their daughters & friends in Penna.

Mrs. Sanders came to me this morning for the General's name in full. She asked it with tears in her eyes saying she wished to remember him all the days of her life & to tell her daughters about him. I told Otis that she asked for his name & so he not only wrote that but wrote a protection stating that they were loyal people & signed it. A great many people have similarly taken the oath of allegiance to the U.S. They then receive our protection.

Gen. Meagher (Thomas Francis - the celebrated Irish patriot - name pronounced "Marher") is one of the Brigadiers of our Division. Gen. French of the Army (an old artillery officer) is the other. Gen. Howard is

now temporarily in command of the Division, Richardson will probably join us either at Fairfax Court House or at our old Camp. Since we have been here we were very glad to get a few words from Rowland. Our letters will be directed to Alex'a. till further notice.

We found a great deal of forage (corn &c) in the deserted encampments. Our men have many of them got tents to protect them while here. We might have gone into their good warm log houses which they left generally untouched but they seemed filthy & we had no desire to occupy them.

With love to Father & kind regards to Mr. & Mrs. Chapin and the hope that I am remembered by Roland & Cynthia & other dear friends I will draw my hastily written letter to a close. I wrote upon a book in my lap. My throat is about well. Otis is well. We are to have oysters for supper.

Very Affectionately Your Son.
C.H. Howard

P.S. I have read today a good letter from Rev. Mr. Fisher to Capt Sewall telling about the glorious revival of religion in Balto. He mentions also the work at Farmington. Has this hour been a few drops at Leeds we will hope for a more plentiful shower.

C.H.H.

captured him from his acct. of a man
who lived last Summer just outside our lines
& who was taken prisoner with his wife &
little child not long after Bull Run battle.
Only little boy escaped & he has now been
from - inquired of us whether he was alive, we
did not know. He has been a prisoner at
Monrovia until now. The other day he escaped
in the smoke of the conflagration. He now
wants to get his wife & luggage transported back
to his home.

Gen. Richardson has Mr. Miles with
him. His Adj. General has arrived today. He
seems to be an agreeable young man.

We have a great many contrabands, one
employed by Dr. Knight of 10th H. has been a
preacher - Dr. Polun takes great deal of
interest in the negroes - He has employed
one whom I should not have suspected
having any ^{negro} blood in him. He is as
white as most people of dark hair & eyes. Has
whiskers & his hair is not at all woolly. He
is a slave. - I am sorry for this delay
in our advance - I fear we will not get
through in time - We expect one dreadful battle.
May the Lord take us in hand & deliver our
land from this scourge. ^{As you know how much I}

Camp Calafornia
March 18, 1862

Wm. Howard's Brigade
Camp Manassas
(Near Manassas Junction)
Nov. 18, 1862

My dear Mother

I sent away ^{my first} letter written
here last evening this morning just before receiving
one from you written after your visit to Fossing-
ton & Auburn. One came from Lizzie of still
later date. Your letters were never more well-
come - We devour every one with eager haste.
It is a beautiful day - like May mornings
at home - Day as the last of May.

John & I talk of going down to M. Junc-
tion this morning. Gen. French has his Brigade
about 1 1/2 miles beyond - Our wagon came
up at day, left this morning - Had been
captured in the night & nearly demolished
our little baggage - My better coat was there
& got a good deal soiled but not torn.

We have heard from Fairfax St. House but
not a word from Parks yet. We must
stay till he comes. Capt. Parker who
is always about when we want him, came
up this morning & now attends to delivering
the frogs his (Dexter's) proper business.
Our door is wide open the temperature
is so mild - Aunt Polly Howard
is gone. This reminds that he hoped he might
see her once again. We fear Portland

You will think
as before
Your affectionate
son
Wm Howard

is over-tossing himself - Mrs. Sewall wrote
the same about him that you did.

Your arrangement about the money was
perfectly satisfactory. I was glad (as all
did to my letter, in such a way that I
could know which ones you had rec'd -
for this reason that I wish to know what
to write over again. You had not got
my Commission &c. I presumed - My letters
are dated at the different camps & I shall
only need to have you mention the camp
in order to tell which letters you have got.

Our troops had a terrible moral
Sabbath day - Last night we had the
quietest camp ever known in a Prison.

There are the best quarters our troops have
ever had.

Mr. Ballack (our Commissary) just came
in with a small bottle of nice honey & a
"pound cake" (as you used to call them) sent
him by his wife. We are indebted to her
for many such little luxuries. They look
out of place however, when we have no
dishes & had only hard bread & ham for break-
fast -

3 1/2 P. M. Tues. Mar. 18, 1862

We rode to Manassas Junction - It is
a very extended table-land - Very few points
of elevation - there have fortifications upon them. Most
of the Rebel works which we have seen comparatively

unfavorably with our forts about Washington.
There is a mass of ruins at the Junction. One
old Steam Engine - The beams are burnt to
the ground & they seem to have attempted
the destruction of all they left behind. Our men
have found considerable flour with the broken
shells & flour scattered about. Our men are bringing
in sacks upon their backs. A Daguerrotype view
of Manassas with Gen. French's command
was taken yesterday. We saw Gen. F. He
has his son for one of his aides. This
morning Gen. F. sent a body of ^{about} 100
Infantry in hopes to capture Gen. Goody
who has been prowling about. We hear that
Gen. Banks is upon Little River Turnpike so
that we expect to be relieved tomorrow.

It will not be pleasant going on these transports.
I wish we could be allowed to march straight on
to Richmond.

The sun shines into our (South West)
door very warm & pleasant - The troops are
contented & happy.

I was glad you saw O'Gara Millitt. How glad
to hear such good news from his daughters.
A Col. has just come in who has been
in Alex^a. He says he saw good many sad
partings as the troops embarked on the boats.

A number of our men come to us at
the Junction this morning - and we soon rec-

3/18/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother (Eliza Gilmore)

CHH-063

H'd Q'rs Howard's
Brigade
Camp Manassas
Near Manassas
Junction, Va

H'd Q'rs Howard's Brigade
Camp Manassas
(Near Manassas Junction)
Mar 18, 1862

My dear Mother,

I sent away my first letter written here last evening this morning just before receiving one from you written after your visit to Farmington & Auburn. One came from Lizzie of still later date. Your letters were never more welcome. We devour every word, with eagerness.

It is a beautiful day - like May mornings at home - dry as the last of May.

Otis & I talk of going down to M. Junction this morning. Gen. French has his Brigade about 1 ½ mile beyond. Our wagon came up at day-light this morning. Had been capsized in the night & nearly demolished our little baggage - my better coat was there & got a good deal soiled but not torn. We have heard from Fairfax Ct. House but not a word from Banks yet. We must stay till he comes. Capt. Banks who is always about when we want him, came up this morning & now attends to delivering the forage his (Quarter Master's) proper business. Our door is wide open the temperature is so mild. Aunt Barny Howard is gone. Otis remembers that he hoped he might see her once again. We fear Rowland is overtaking himself. Mrs Sewall wrote the same about him that you did. Your arrangement about the money was perfectly satisfactory. I was glad you alluded to my letters in such a way that I could know which ones you had rec'd - for this reason that I wish to know what to write over again. You had not got my commission &c, I presume. My letters are dated at the different camps & I shall only need to have you mention the Camp in order to tell which letters you have got.

Our troops had a terrible march Sabbath day. Last night we had the quietest camp ever known in a Brigade. These are the best quarters our troops have ever had.

Mr. Bullock (our Commissary) just came in with a small bottle of nice honey & a "pound cake" (as you used to call them) sent him by his wife. We are indebted to her for many such little luxuries. They look out of place however when we have no dishes & had only hard bread & ham for Breakfast.

3 ½ P.M. Tues Mar. 18, 1862

We rode to Manassas Junction. It is a very extended table land. Very few points of elevation - those have fortifications upon them. Most of the Rebel works which we have seen compare unfavorably with our forts about Washington. There is a mass of ruins at the Junction. One old steam engine. The houses are burnt to the ground & they seem to have attempted the destruction of all they left behind. Our men have found considerable flour with <> broken open & flour scattered about. Our men are bringing in the sacks upon their backs. A Daguerreotype view of Manassas with Gen'l French's Command was taken yesterday. We saw Gen. F. He has his son for one of his aides. This morning Gen. F. sent a body of cavalry & 100 infantry in hopes to capture 40 Rebel Cavalry who have been prowling about. We hear that Gen. Banks is upon Little River Turnpike so that we expect to be relieved tomorrow.

It will not be pleasant going on those transports. I wish we could be allowed to march straight on to Richmond.

The sun shines into our (south & west) door very warm & pleasant. The troops are contented & happy.

I was glad you saw Ozias Millett. I am glad to hear such good news from his daughter. A Col. has just come in who has been in Alex'a. He says he saw good many sad partings as the troops embarked on the boats.

A namesake of ours came to us at the Junction this morning - and we soon recognized him from his acct. as a man who lived last summer just outside our lines & was taken prisoner with his wife & little child not long after Bull Run battle. One little boy escaped & he has never heard from since - inquired of us whether he was alive, we did not know. He has been a prisoner at Manassas until now. The other day he escaped in the smoke of the conflagration. He now wants to get his wife & luggage transported back to his home.

Gen. Richardson has Mr. Miles with him. His Adj. General has arrived today. He seems to be an agreeable young man.

We have a great many contrabands. One employed by Dr. Knight 5th N.H. has been a preacher. Dr. Palmer takes good deal of interest in the negroes. He has employed one whom I should not have suspected as having any negro blood in his lines. He is as white as most people of dark hair & eyes. Has whiskers & his hair is not at all wooly. He is a slave. I am sorry for this delay in our advance. I fear we will not get through in June. We expect one dreadful battle.

May the Lord take us in hand & deliver our land from this scourge. If you knew how much joy your letters give us you would write often as possible. You will direct as before.

Your affectionate Son,

C.H. Howard

2 3 4 5 6 7 8
Kid's Howard's Brigade
Camp at Manassas Junction
Nov. 26th 1862
- Wednesday -

My dear Mother

Just after mailing a letter to
Rowland yesterday morning we received orders to
march to join with Plecker's Division & meet
Gen. Sumner (now commanding a Corps) here
at M. Junction - We started about 8 o'clock
& expected to go on towards Warrenton Junction
last night but Gen. French who had been
here was moved on & we will follow this
morning. He went to Briscoe's Station last night
where Otis & I rode down & saw him.
There is a force of 4000 Infantry &
2000 Mounted Cavalry with artillery at
Warrenton Junction. We shall arrive there
today & fight unless the enemy runs away.
Next day our Brigade will lead in ma-
king a reconnaissance until we find just
when the Rebels are in force.

We slept warm & comfortable last night
though water froze in our pails - We have
a tent-fly (a stout rectangular piece of canvas)
which we stretch over a pole supported by
2 upright crotchets - We are in some places
when the grass is quite long & dry. We are
really a mile below Manassas Junction.

I am writing upon a wooden stool - Thought
I would send you a few words - Not knowing

when I missed here another opportunity. Gen. Banks is expected here every day & then it is our expectation to return to Alex^o & embark down river - as other Corps have done. If we get to fighting, however, perhaps we will be here some days. There is a boat to "call off" so we may keep on to Richmond in this direction.

Mammoth Junction
Mar. 26. 1862
Gen. H. Howard

Palmer then I, then Otis (middle) kept Lewis Scott ^(aide) kept side by side. Mr. Bollock's commissary was along at our feet.

John says "Buckport is well, good & cooling off fast" - General is studying his map -

I will close with a great deal of love to all. I comment you to my family. Father was happy to see the resignation of your last letter.

This is full of business -

Very affectionately
Your Son

W. H. Howard

N. B. Plenker's Division is beside us -

3/26/1862

From: C.H. Howard

To: Mother [Eliza Gilmore]

CHH-064

H'd Q'rs Howard's
Brigade
Camp at Manassas
Junction

H'd Q'rs Howard's Brigade
Camp at Manassas Junction
Mar 26th 1862
Wednesday

My dear Mother

Just after mailing a letter to Rowland yesterday morning we received orders to march to join with Blenker's Division & meet Gen. Sumner (now commanding a Corps) here at M. Junction. We started about 8 o'clock & expected to go on towards Warrenton Junction last night but Gen. French who had been here was moved on & we will follow this morning. He went to Bristoe's Station last night where Otis & I rode down & saw him. There is a force of 4000 Infantry & 2 or 3 Mounted Cavalry with artillery at Warrenton Junction. We shall arrive there today & fight unless the enemy moves away. Next day our Brigade will lead in making a reconaissance until we find just where the Rebels are in force.

We slept warm & comfortable last night though water froze in our pail. We have a tent-fly (a strait rectangular piece of canvas) which we stretch over a pole supported by 2 upright crotchets. We are in some pines where the grass is quite long & dry. We are really a mile below Manassas Junction.

I am writing upon a wooden stool. Thought I would send you a few words. Not knowing when I would have another opportunity. Gen. Banks is expected here every day & then it is our expectation to return to Alex'a. & embark down river as other Corps have done. If we get to fighting, however, perhaps we will be like some dogs I have seen, hard to "call off" so we may keep on to Richmond in this direction.

Dr. Palmer then I, then Otis (middle), Capt Sewall, Mr. Scott (aide) slept side by side. Mr Ballock commissary was along at our feet.

John says "Breakfast is ready, good & <nice> & cooling off fast". General is studying his map.

I will close with a great deal of love to all. I commit you to my Heavenly Father. Twas happy to see the <resignation> of your last letter. Otis is full of business.

Very Affectionately, Your Son
C.H. Howard

N.B. Blenker's Division is beside us.