

Hagerstown, 11<sup>th</sup> Corps

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dear Brother

It is a bright-  
warm morning - This portion of the  
Army is resting after four days  
marching <sup>and</sup> two nights without  
sleep - <sup>On the 27<sup>th</sup> night</sup> The second night after break-  
ing up Camp Gen. Howard's Com-  
mand crossed the Rappahannock  
at Kelly's Ford - They had marched  
thirteen miles that day. Some were  
in favor of waiting till next morn-  
ing mean while getting the Pontons up  
& building the Bridge. Gen. H. de-  
tailed a thousand men & his assis-  
tant in bringing up and laying the  
Pontons. They pushed the boats

into Marsh river which empties  
into the Rappahannock near Kelly's  
Ford, immediately filled them  
with about ~~fifty~~ men in  
each, pushed down that stream  
and across the Rappahannock -  
Meanwhile Gen. Hornum had  
lined the North bank of the  
river with sharpshooters and  
down away <sup>however, dimly</sup> the Rebel pickets -  
Some Rebel Cavalry, ~~however~~, re-  
mained under cover of ~~some~~ trees  
and in rifle pits until the foot-  
boats reached the shore when they  
suddenly took to their horses  
and fled. This occurred  
between 9 and 10 in the evening.

The building of the bridge was  
~~and~~ <sup>was</sup> in charge of Capt. Com-  
stock of U.S. Engineers - but ~~was~~

superintended by Gen. Howard  
in person. The bridge was  
completed about 11 o'clock,  
and a Regiment of Cavalry  
went across directly - They ~~patrol~~  
scouted all the roads - Captured  
some stores which the Rebels in  
their haste left behind - It  
was about midnight when Gen.  
Howard crossed and before  
morning the entire Corps had  
taken position on the South  
side of the Rappahannock -  
The pickets were thrown out  
about two miles - Early in  
the morning the 12<sup>th</sup> Corps  
began to cross and after that  
the 5<sup>th</sup> - The 12<sup>th</sup> had had  
a quiet night's sleep and would



on to Hermann Bridge at  
the Rapidan. The 11<sup>th</sup> followed  
them on the same road though  
they had had <sup>little</sup> ~~no~~ time for rest.  
The 5<sup>th</sup> took a road to the  
left to Eliza's Ford. When

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5/1/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-098

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
May 1st 1863

Dear Brother [Probably Rodelphus Gilmore]

It is a bright, warm morning. This portion of the army is resting after four days marching and two nights without sleep. On the night of 27th ult. The second night after breaking up camp Gen. Howard's command crossed the Rappahannock at Kelly's Ford. They had marched thirteen miles that day. Some were in favor of waiting till next morning. I mean which getting the pontoons up & building the bridge. Gen. H. detailed a thousand men & who assisted in bringing up and laying the pontoons. They pushed the boats into Marsh river which empties into the Rappahannock near Kelly's Ford, immediately filled them with about fifteen men in each, pushed down that stream and across the Rappahannock - meanwhile Gen. Howard had lined the north bank of the river with Sharp Shooters and driven away the Rebel pickets. Some Rebel Cavalry, however dismounted, remained under cover of trees and in rifle pits until the first boats reached the shore when they suddenly took to their horses and fled. This occurred between 9 and 10 in the evening.

The building of the bridge was the charge of Capt. Comstock of U.S. Engineers - but was superintended by Gen. Howard in person. The bridge was completed about 11 o'clock and a Regiment of Cavalry was sent across directly. They scouted all the roads - captured some sabres which the Rebels in their haste left behind. It was about midnight when Gen. Howard crossed and before morning the entire Corps had taken position on the South side of the Rappahannock. The pickets were thrown out about two miles. Early in the morning the 12th Corps began to cross and after that the 5th. The 12th had had a full night's sleep and marched on to Germanna Bridge on the Rapidan. The 11th followed on the same road though they had little time for rest. The 5th took a road to the left to Ely's Ford. When the head of the column reached Germanna Bridge they surprised about 125 Rebels who were rebuilding the bridge capturing 75 with the loss of one man killed and one officer wounded on our side with one killed and several wounded of the Rebels. The troops then commenced marching across the Ford.

May 2nd morning. All well - were shelled yesterday. Few wounded. Expect to fight today. We rely upon a higher power. God bless all at home.

Yr affectionate Brother  
C. H. Howard



Hd. qrs. 11<sup>th</sup> Corps

May 1<sup>st</sup> 1863

Dear Brother

It is a bright  
warm morning- This portion of the  
army is resting after four days  
marching and two nights without  
night of  
On the - 27<sup>th</sup> ult.  
sleep- the second night after break-  
ing up camp Gen. Howard's com-  
mand crossed the Rappahannock  
at Kelly's Ford- They had marched  
thirteen miles that day. Some were  
in favor of waiting till next morn-  
ing meanwhile getting the pontoons up  
& building the Bridge. Gen. H. de-  
tailed a thousand men, who assis-  
ted in bringing up and laying the  
Pontoons. This pushed the boats

into Marsh river which empties  
into the Rappahannock near Kelly's  
Ford, immediately filled them  
with about fifteen men in  
each, pushed down that stream  
and across the Rappahannock.  
Meanwhile Gen. Howard had  
lined the north bank of the  
river with sharp shooters and  
drawn away the Rebel pickets-  
however, dismounted,  
Some Rebel Cavalry ~~however~~, re-  
mained under cover of ~~some~~ trees  
and in rifle pits until the first  
boats reached the shore when they  
suddenly took to their horses  
and fled. This occurred  
between 9 and 10 in the evening.

The building of the Bridge was  
~~under the~~ charge of Capt. Com-  
stock of U. S. Engineers- but was



superintended by Gen. Howard in person. The bridge was completed about 11 o'clock, and a Regiment of Cavalry sent across directly- They pickett-scouted all the roads - captured some sabres which the Rebels in their haste left behind- It was about midnight when Gen. Howard crossed and before morning the entire Corps had taken position on the South side of the Rappahannock- The picketts were thrown out about two miles- Early in the morning the 12<sup>th</sup> Corps began to cross and after that the 5<sup>th</sup> The 12<sup>th</sup> had had a full night's sleep and moved

on to Germanna Bridge at the Rappidan- The 11<sup>th</sup> followed ~~them~~ on the same road though little they had ~~had~~ - no time for rest.

The 5<sup>th</sup> took a road to the left to Ely's Ford. When the 4<sup>th</sup> ~~reached~~ the head of the column reached Germanna Bridge they surprised about 125 Rebels who were rebuilding the bridge and guarding capturing 75- capturing 75 with the loss of one man killed and one officer wounded of the Rebels- The troops then commenced marching straight through the creek across the Ford-

May 2<sup>nd</sup> morning- All well- Were shelled yesterday- Few wounded- Expect to fight today- We rely upon a

[cont. across side of page 4:]

Yr affectionate bro.  
higher power- God bless all at home- C. H. Howard



Hd. qrs. 11<sup>th</sup> Corps

May 4 1863

Evening

Dear Mother

It is after  
dark and I have no candle  
but I will write you a  
little in the dark - In the  
terrible battle yesterday although  
we were the Exposed & shot  
and three of our troops were  
not actually engaged - Our  
troops did not behave well  
saturday & we were badly  
driven. My tentmate & fellow  
aide Capt Sessions was  
killed - Col Miles was  
badly wounded - Lost



Night we were attacked  
several times by attacks  
upon our lines - By  
the guns we knew yes-  
terday that Ledgwick was  
fighting near Fredericksburg.  
We heard the cannon today  
and tomorrow will march  
to his relief - though we  
got pretty severely handled  
in yesterday's skirmishes both.  
The Lord is our best ally.  
I hope the Rebels will be  
not sleep tonight. I was awakened  
this afternoon by a tremendous  
firing on our right. So you  
see we sleep day times

We are behind the pots  
and cannot hold them  
against my force - if  
the troops will stand -

You cannot tell how  
badly this hurt to me  
them run away - a horse  
runned to seize them -

Gods Army Regiments were  
first, on our right which  
Jackson turned -

We think this will be  
the death blow to Rebel-  
lion - Your young son  
Wm Howard



Danville

May 4 '63

L. H. Howard

to

mother

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5/4/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-099

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps  
Chancellorsville

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[On outside of letter:]

Chancellorsville

May 4 '63

C. H. Howard

To Mother

Hd. Qrs. 11th Corps

May 4 1863

Dear Mother

It is after dark and I have no candle but I will write you a little in the dark. In the terrible battle yesterday although we were often exposed to shot and shell yet our troops were not actually engaged. Our troops did not behave well yesterday & we were badly driven. My tentmate and fellow aide Capt Dessars was killed. Col. Miles was badly wounded. Last night we wakened several times by attacks upon our lines. By the guns we knew yesterday that Sedgwick was fighting near Fredericksburg. We heard the roar today and tomorrow will march to his relief, though we got pretty severely handled in yesterday's & Saturdays battle.

The Lord is our trusted guide.

I hope the Rebels will let us sleep tonight. I was awakened hrs before now by a tremendous firing on our right. So you see we sleep daytime.

We are behind rifle pits and could hold them against any force - if the troops will stand. You cannot tell how badly Otis felt to see them run away. A force seemed to seize them. Two German Regiments, <> first on our right which Jackson turned.

We think this will be the death blow to Rebellion.

Your loving son,  
C. H. Howard



today. I never experienced  
 a more uncomfortable night  
 than that of Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup>  
 It began to rain in torrents in  
 the afternoon - I was riding to  
 find out a route by which to  
 withdraw our Corps through the  
 woods to U. S. Ford which  
 was to be undertaken that  
 night - I got thoroughly drenched  
 my feet as wet as if I had been  
 wading a river - It continued to  
 rain all night - We had been  
 notified that our Corps which  
 was to have been the next to the  
 last (but in the event was the

first for cause  
 came there as. All the  
 hospitals are now here.  
 General W. Lee  
 Lee adj. to the  
 in a fort. to the  
 A. H. H. H. H. H.  
 Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
 Brooks' Station, Va.,  
 May 8 1863.  
 You must be aware  
 that for the past week I  
 have had no opportunity to  
 write. Since the furious  
 attack upon our Corps  
 which began about 5  
 o'clock on Saturday neither  
 my outward circumstances  
 nor my feelings were favorable  
 to letter writing. Sunday, Monday,  
 & Tuesday we were more or



less under fire. On Tuesday  
the Rebels showed a special  
design upon Otis. Finally  
shot Col. Merpenden's horse  
under him so he was by the  
General's side - After that  
Otis consented to go on foot  
when on the front and in certain  
range of the enemy's rifles.

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday until  
3 o'clock Wed. morning we  
held the left with Gen. Hoxum  
who was upon the extreme left.  
We were behind rifle pits but  
all the time expecting an  
attack and several times

during night & day our  
Pickets were driven in.

Of course Otis felt the  
greatest anxiety for fear  
the troops would not stand  
behind the impervious logs  
and earth which formed  
the "Rifle pit" so called and  
whenever firing commenced  
he would mount his horse  
and we would gallop to the  
point of attack in the  
greatest haste. I believe I  
will not attempt to give  
you a full account of  
the four days fighting



do not know - Once over  
we had 13 miles march  
back on camp - We  
got into camp before 9  
that night - Got up a few  
Hdgr. tents - Got something  
eaten & were all soon round  
asleep - I believe it was  
after 9 next morning when  
He walked me by passing  
his hand over my forehead.

Of course we feel the  
effects of so hard a Cam-  
paign - in dulness &c. but  
otherwise we well - I had some  
indication of Fever but on all  
night - We deeply feel the dis-  
grace of our Corps - It would  
have all been saved had not  
our best Brigade under Polow  
(Americans) been detached sent  
to support Pickles - I went with this  
particular position & we had not  
been back five minutes when

lost to leave the front line)  
would march at 8 P.M.  
The rain, however, so  
raised the river as to break  
up the pontoon bridges of  
which we had three laid  
at U.S. Ford. Gen. Hooker  
had passed over & was  
therefore cut off from his  
Army. Beech was in  
Command and we rec'd  
word while we stood shivering  
over ~~the~~ our meagre fire  
(or sat upon wet Cracker-boxes)  
that the crossing would be  
delayed - ~~three~~ or three  
hours - Then I was sure we  
would meet with disaster  
because it would be light  
long before the Army could  
get over - And the Enemy  
could easily create the greatest  
disorder & destruction - I said



to General Huntz that nothing  
except a kind Providence  
could save us. At 2  
A.M. we got word that two  
bridges had been reconstructed.  
We must wait for all  
the Corps on our right &  
it was there before I led  
out Gen. Huntz. Our Right  
was left out and a  
kind Providence did save  
us in the face of all prob-  
abilities to the contrary. Even  
Hocum with the 12<sup>th</sup> Corps  
started and marched off  
to the Ford before us, leaving  
the left which was strongly  
fortified & rested on the  
river completely exposed.

There also was a road  
and the most feasible point  
for the enemy to attack. The  
woods were not so thick.

In fact there was considerable  
of an opening in front of  
the left. But I suppose  
the Rebel Army retreated  
that very night to Cross-  
ville. Officers from our Rebel  
reports hearing their Artillery &  
troops in motion upon the  
Plank road.

I never saw so many troops  
at once as I saw that <sup>day</sup> morn-  
ing as the 5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>d</sup>, 2<sup>d</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>  
& 11<sup>th</sup> before all around U.S.  
Ford. The 5<sup>th</sup> was drawn  
up in line upon the high  
ground to cover the crossing  
but happily did not have  
occasion to fire a gun.

Our Artillery posted upon  
this side of the river &  
further down fired consid-  
erably but with how much  
occasion or what effect I



The attack began upon  
our right. If we had had  
this an only reserve and  
our most reliable Brigade  
we could have kept our  
Reserve Battery (3 batteries)  
in position and at work and  
I am perfectly confident  
could have held our  
ground. 3 Regts under  
Brushback did strike to  
the left pits till they won  
outflank on both sides.

2 other Regiments of Shultz's  
Command retired fighting.

Poor Dossau, my tent-  
mate - (a Captain & Aid) was  
killed very near me. I  
saw his body lying in the  
road but could not see how  
I brought away - His poor  
wife will hardly survive the  
shock - He had resigned the

Sabbath before solely on her  
account but Oth would  
not accept his emigration.  
In fact Capt. Dismore said  
he would not <sup>intend to</sup> leave just  
at such a time.

Oth is trying to derive  
plans of reorganization of  
different Brigades so as to  
have good Brigade Commanders  
and try to redeem our  
character, in case another  
chance is given us.

All the coming (and of course  
from over the Country will  
follow suit) is carrying the  
"Dutchmen". The first Brigade  
that broke was German but the  
other of the same Div<sup>n</sup> which did  
no better was purely Americans.

Panic stricken. I never worked  
harder but could only stop one man  
at a time & then he wouldn't fight.



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5/8/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rowland B.  
Howard]

CHH-100

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Brook's Station,  
Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [letterhead]

Near Brook's Station, Va.,  
May 8 1863.

My dear brother, [Rowland B. Howard]

You must be aware that for the past week I have had no opportunity to write. Since the furious attack upon our Corps which began about 5 o'clock on Saturday neither my outward circumstances nor my feelings were favorable to letter writing. Sunday, Monday, & Tuesday we were more or less under fire. On Tuesday the Rebels showed a special design upon Otis. Finally shot Col Meysenburg's horse under him as he was by the General's side. After that Otis consented to go on foot when on the front and in certain range of the enemy's rifles.

Sunday, Monday & Tuesday until 3 o'clock Wed. morning we held the left with Gen. Slocum who was upon the extreme left. We were behind rifle pits but all the time expecting an attack and several times during night & day our Pickets were driven in.

Of course Otis felt the greatest anxiety for fear the troops would not stand even behind the impervious logs and earth which formed the "Rifle pit" so called and whenever firing commenced he would mount his horse & we would gallop to the point of attack in the greatest haste. I believe I will not attempt to give you a full account of the four days fighting today. I never experienced a more uncomfortable night than that of Tuesday May 5th. It began to rain in torrents in the afternoon. I was riding to find out a route by which to withdraw our Corps through the woods to U.S. Ford which was to be undertaken that night. I got thoroughly drenched. My feet as wet as if I had been wading a river. It continued to rain all night. We had been notified that our Corps which was to have been the next to the last (but in the event was the last to leave the front line) would march at 8 P.M. The rain, however, so raised the river as to break up the pontoon bridges of which we had these laid at U.S. Ford. Gen. Hooker had passed over & was therefore cut off from his army. Couch was in command and we rec'd word while we stood shivering over our meager fire (or sat upon wet cracker boxes) that the crossing would be delayed two or three hours. Then I was sure we would meet with disaster because it would be light long before the army could get over. And the enemy could easily create the greatest disorder & destruction. I said to General Schurz that nothing except a kind Providence could save us. At 2 A.M. we got word that two bridges had been reconstructed. We must wait for all the Corps on our right & it was three before I led out Gen Schurz. Our pickets were left out and a kind Providence did save us in the face of all probabilities to the contrary. Gen. Slocum with the 12th Corps started and marched off to the Ford before us, leaving the left which was strongly fortified & rested on the river completely exposed.

There also was a road and the most feasible point for the enemy to attack. The woods were not so thick. In fact there was considerable of an opening in front of the left. But I suppose the Rebel army retreated that very night to Gordonville. Officers from our Pickets reported hearing their artillery & trains in motion upon the Plank road.

I never saw so many troops at once as I saw that morning as the 5th, 3d, 2nd, 12th & 11th Corps all neared U.S. Ford. The 5th was drawn up in line upon the high ground to cover the crossing but happily did not have occasion to fire a gun.

Our artillery posted upon this side of the river & further down fired considerably but with how much occasion or what effect I do not know. Once over we had 13 miles to march to reach our camp. We got into camp before 9 that night. Got up a few Hd. qrs tents. Got something to eat & were all soon sound asleep. I believe it was after 9 next morning when Otis waked me by passing his hand over my

forehead.

Of course we feel the effects of so hard a campaign - in dullness etc. but otherwise are well. I had some indication of Fever but am all right. We deeply feel the disgrace of our Corps.

It would have all been saved had not our best Brigade and Barlon (Americans) been detached & sent to support Sickles. I went with Otis to put it in position & we had not been back five minutes when the attack began upon our right. If we had had this our only reserve and our most reliable Brigade we could have kept our reserve artillery (3 batteries) in position and at work and I am perfectly confident could have held our ground. 3 Regts under Bushbeck did stick to the rifle pits till they were outflanked on both sides. 2 other Regiments of Schutz's command retired fighting.

Poor Dessour, my tentmate (a Captain & aid) was killed very near me. I saw his body lying in the road but could not even have it brought away. His poor wife will hardly survive the shock. He had resigned the Sabbath before solely on her account but Otis would not accept his resignation. In fact Capt. Dessour said he would not wish to leave just at such a time.

Otis is trying to devise plans of reorganization of different Brigades so as to have good Brigade Commanders and try to redeem our character in case another chance is given us.

All the army (and I suppose soon the Country will follow suit) is cursing the "Dutchmen". The first Brigade that broke was German but the others of the same Divn which did no better was purely American. Panic stricken. I never worked harder but could only stop one man at a time & then he wouldn't fight.

I will not write more. It is still stormy. Wish you could come & see us. All the Hospitals are near here.

Love to Ella.

We will be able to take the offensive in a fortnight.

Affectionately,  
C.H. Howard



have the best of food on  
hand always, when we wished  
to eat - I may be wronging  
the men but the truth is  
we half starved part of  
the time & now we have  
adopted the old plan of  
feeding ourselves with  
one of our number for a  
kitchen. There are several  
nurses at these Hd. qrs.  
Our Committee of Gen. O. O. H.  
St. Col. Asmusen - St. Col. Meyerson  
- Major Whittier, Captains  
Stinson & Griffith & myself.

Seven in all - but we have  
company at table almost always.  
Today we had two officers  
from the old Div. besides the  
two ladies & St. Parker.

We judged from what  
Rowland wrote that you are  
not so well now as you used  
to be at some times. We  
are always sorry for any thing

Ch. Howard

Headquarters Eleventh Corps.

May 17

1863.

My dear mother

It has been  
a warm pleasant day. We  
have had services at our Hd.  
qrs. as usual. The Band  
of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Mass which  
plays so beautifully was  
in attendance. Rev. Mr  
Warren of the Christian  
Commission, <sup>official</sup> who has been  
laboring in the hospitals  
many of which - in fact all  
the General Hospitals of the  
army are located in the  
vicinity. The General Hospitals  
have all the worst cases of  
sick and all the wounded  
except such as have been



conveyed to Washington a  
further North. They con-  
sist of a large encamp-  
ment (like a Brigade) for  
a Corps. - The Hospital  
tents are some 20 by 12  
feet or perhaps longer.

These in this vicinity look  
very neat & comfortable.  
This intends visiting our  
Camp Hospital this P.M.

We had the great rarity  
of two ladies at services  
and at dinner today.

Mrs. Genl. Barlow and  
Mrs. Porter wife of Lieut.  
Parker of the Regular Army.  
Mrs. Parker was an acquain-  
tance of Mrs. Barlow. And  
they <sup>with Mrs. B.</sup> are in a house not far  
from here although Lt. Parker  
belongs to another Div. & another  
Corps. He gets leave to

visit his wife often now  
that we are doing but  
little. I think you will  
remember Gen. Barlow who  
now commands one of our  
Brigades and was formerly  
Colonel of my Regiment, 6<sup>th</sup>  
N.Y. - was with us at  
Fair Oaks. He is a brave  
& good officer. Mrs. B.  
is a very smart woman. She  
reached the Antietam battle-  
field the next day after  
the fight and was in time  
to take care of her husband  
who was wounded very severely.

Capt Griffith (aide) provides  
for our little now time like  
it much better than when  
we boarded with a man - as  
on the <sup>recent</sup> ~~last~~ Campaign of  
river. It was not for the  
interest of the leaders to



of this kind. We wish  
& pray that you may always  
be cheerful and happy.

In this terrible war and  
especially the sad reverses  
to our cause we find a  
great drift upon our Chris-  
tian faith and life and  
I may add upon our Christian  
perseverance - But we still  
hold on and still trust  
that God will in the end  
prosper our glorious cause.

It was a terrible blow to  
this to have his Corps so  
signally fail - It was per-  
haps worse to submit  
to an inglorious retreat to  
the old camp & give up the  
Campaign - But trusting  
in God we will never  
be utterly discouraged and  
now this Corps of good  
heart & is ready to do his  
part vigorously when the time  
shall come.

It is very quiet here - There  
some of the servants singing hymns.  
I wish Rowland could come  
to see us & bring Lucy & Grace.

I think it ~~likely~~, that  
we may remain here  
for some time. If we  
were to move it should  
have been done a week  
or two ago - to take ad-  
vantage of Stoneman's raid,  
& the discomfiture of the  
Rebel Army from the latter.

Did you get the \$100 draft  
on the Tribune Association?

I shall not have any more  
to send at present as I  
think of paying Atlas for  
another term this, owing two.

I saw Perry a few nights  
since at Lick's H.Q.s. It is  
not a good place for him. My  
old schoolmate Melville Merrill is  
a prisoner - taken while coming for  
the wounded. Hope you are writing me  
today - Yours Affectionately Saml. H. Howard



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5/17/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-101

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
May 17th, 1863.

My dear Mother,

It has been a warm pleasant day. We have had services at our Hd. qrs., as usual. The Band of the 33d Mass which plays so beautifully was in attendance. Rev. Mr. Warren of the Christian Commission officiated who has been laboring in the hospitals many of which - in fact all the General Hospitals of the Army - are located in this vicinity. The General Hospitals have all the worst cases of sick and all the wounded except such as have been conveyed to Washington - farther North. They consist of a large encampment (like a brigade) for a Corps. The Hospital tents are some 20 by 12 feet or perhaps larger. These in this vicinity look very neat & comfortable. Otis intends visiting our Corps hospital this P.M.

We had the great rarity of two ladies at services and at dinner today. Mrs. Genl. Barlow and Mrs Parker wife of Lieut. Parker of the Regular Army. Mrs. Parker was an acquaintance of Mrs. Barlow - and stays with Mrs B in a house not far from here although Lt. Parker belongs to another Divn. & another Corps. He gets Leave to visit his wife often now that we are doing but little. I think you will remember Gen. Barlow who now commands one of our Brigades and was formerly Colonel of my Regiment, 61st N.Y. - was with us at Fair Oaks. He is a brave & good officer. Mrs. B. is a very smart woman. She reached the Antietam battle field, the next day after the fight and was in time to take care of her husband who was wounded very severely.

Capt. Griffeth (aide) provides for our table now & we like it much better than when we boarded with a man - as on the recent campaign of river. It was not for the interest of the Caterer to have the best of food on hand always when we wished to eat. I may be wronging the man but the truth is we half starved part of the time & now we have adopted the old plan of feeding ourselves with one of our number for a Caterer. There are several messes at these Hd. qrs. Ours consists of Gen. O.O.H., Lt Col Asmussen, Lt. Col. Meysenburg, Major Whittlesey, Captains Stinson & Griffeth & myself. Seven in all, but we have company at table almost always. Today we had two officers from the old Divn. besides the two ladies & Lt. Parker.

We judged from what Rowland wrote that you are not so well nor in so good spirits as at some times. We are always sorry for any thing of this kind. We wish & pray that you may always be cheerful and happy.

In this terrible war and especially the sad reverses to our cause we find a great draft upon our Christian Faith and Hope and I may add often our Christian forbearance. But we still hold on and still trust that God will in the end prosper our glorious cause.

It was a terrible blow to Otis to have his Corps so signally fail. It was perhaps worse to submit to an inglorious return to the old camp & give up the campaign. But trusting in God we will never be utterly discouraged and now Otis keeps up good heart & is ready to do his part vigorously when the time shall come.

It is very quiet here. I hear some of the servants singing hymns. I wish Rowland could come & see us & bring Guy or Grace.

I think it likely that we may remain here for some time. If we were to move it should have been done a week or two ago. To take advantage of Stoneman's raid & the discomfiture of the Rebel army from the battles.

Did you get the \$100 draft on the Tribune association? I shall not have any more to send at present as I think of paying Otis for another horse, thus owning two.

I saw Perry a few nights since at Sickles Hd. qrs. It is not a good place for him. My old schoolmate

Melville Morrill is a prisoner - taken while caring for the wounded. Hope you are writing me today.

Your Affectionate Son,  
C.H. Howard



General Bullard of the Division  
Hancock of the Corps -  
being on leave. They  
gave the General a Review &  
then being drawn up in bat-  
talion square he <sup>(Otis)</sup> addressed  
them a few words with a  
good deal of feeling. They  
chanted their most over-  
singly before and after and  
the Officers joined us at  
a kind of collation at  
Lieut. Cross' afterwards. We  
enjoyed it all exceedingly  
chiefly because all memories  
connected with the Brigade

P.S. Please send this to Mother if convenient  
and - L.M.H.

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,

Near Brook Station Va.,

June 3<sup>d</sup> 1863.

My dear Brother

We were

glad to get your letter dis-  
tinct to Otis but intended for  
me I thought.

Though it is quite cool  
and comfortable, I hear the  
hands playing in almost  
every direction and if I  
could lose the consciousness  
that we were in the midst  
of hideous war I often



do) it would be quite pleasant. You speak of your future occupation. I see no opening in the Army for you but something may yet turn up.

Otis wrote in answer to some private communications on the subject - that he thought his duty lay in the Field and that some one else better be selected as the nominee for Governor. You were wise not to give any opinion as to his accepting.

I hear you sustained the Senior dignity while at

Rattle. We move on Wednesday, tomorrow into the woods not more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from here. On Monday we celebrated a celebration of the Anniversary of Fort Oke, with our old Brigade of the 2nd Corps - You remember the 5th N.H. 61st & 64th N.Y. & 81st P.V. - if you do not - of course I can never forget them. Our relations were always the pleasantest & they almost worked the guns. Col. Cross is now in Command of the Brigade



Mar 63

3-1

June 63 (55)  
 I am pleased to say they have never  
 turned their backs in battle. The  
 Officers gave us a very warm  
 greeting & were much gratified  
 that the Gen<sup>l</sup> had come over  
 to see them. He mentioned in his  
 speech the names of some of the  
 noble dead - It was sad to see  
 how reduced in numbers the Brigade  
 had become - There<sup>are</sup> less now than  
 there was in one Regt (the 5<sup>th</sup> N.H.)  
 a little more than a year ago.  
 There were some lady spectators as  
 well as members of other Commands  
 and their staffs.

No. Shurtz's Div<sup>n</sup> is not to be ex-  
 changed thro' the Pres. Sec. of war till  
 both consent to it when Otis asked them.  
 But when he returned to the Corp,  
 he found that Shurtz's did not want  
 to go so he gave up the idea. Now  
 I am very sorry. It was not done  
 because we find that Shurtz has  
 been working against Otis trying



his best to get Siegel back - He  
is causing Otis great anxiety both  
on acct of his influence ~~upon~~ in the  
Command <sup>and</sup> ~~also~~ close with the Pres.

He seems to have retained  
his politician's character notwith-  
standing the high hopes I first had  
of him and his great pretensions  
of friendship to the General.

This is a matter you must  
not talk of out of the family.

He did nothing in the battle  
yet I surmise that he has  
been criticizing the General's dis-  
positions &c. to the Pres. & Siegel.

We (11<sup>th</sup> Corps) on building permanent for-  
tifications - One will be named for Capt.  
Dessauer (aidedefence) If you can write  
this he will make the name plain  
for it was given Dessours <sup>in the Press</sup> before in my  
acct of the battle - Other ~~forts~~ <sup>the last</sup> will be  
named for lieutenants killed in battle.

Give my love to Lizzy & Hattie Pott  
& see them again - to Mrs. Brock <sup>from your aff. bro.</sup>  
& accept my amount <sup>from your aff. bro.</sup> L. H. Howard



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6/3/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Brother [Rodelphus  
Gilmore]

CHH-103

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Brooke Station Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Near Brooke Station VA,  
June 3d 1863,

My dear brother, [Rodelphus Gilmore]

We were glad to get your letter directed to Otis, but intended for me I thought.

Tonight it is quite cool and comfortable. I hear the bands playing in almost every direction and if I could lose the consciousness that we were in the midst of hideous war (as I often do) it would be quite pleasant. You speak of your future occupation. I see no opening in the Army for you but something may yet "turn up".

Otis wrote in answer to some private catechisms on the subject - that he thought his duty lay in the Field and that some one else better be selected as the nominee for Governor. You were wise not to give any opinion as to his accepting.

I hear you sustained the Senior dignity while at Bath.

We move our Hd. qrs tomorrow into the woods not more than 1/4 mile from here.

On Monday we attended a celebration of the Anniversary of Fair Oaks with our old Brigade of the 2nd Corps. You remember the 5th N.H. 61st & 64th N.Y. & 81st P.V. If you do not at least I can never forget them. Our relations were always the pleasantest & they almost worship the Genl. Col. Cross is now in command of the Brigade, Gen Caldwell of the Divn. & Hancock of the Corps - Couch being on Leave. They gave the Genl a Review & then being drawn up in hollow square he (Otis) addressed them in a few words with a good deal of feeling. They cheered him most vociferously before and after and the Officers joined us at a kind of collation [a light meal] at Col. Cross' afterwards.

We enjoyed it all exceedingly - chiefly because all newcomers connected with the Brigade were pleasant. They have never turned their backs in battle. The officers gave us the warmest of greetings, & seemed much gratified that the Gen'l had come over to see them. He mentioned in his speech the names of some of the noble dead. It was sad to see how reduced in numbers the Brigade had become. There are less now than there was in one Reg't (the 5th N.H.) A little more than a year ago. There were some lady spectators as well as Generals of other commands and their staffs.

No, Schurz's Div'n is not to be exchanged tho' the Pres. & Sec. of War did both consent to it when Otis asked them. But when he returned to the Corps he found that Schurz's did not want to go so he gave up the idea. Now I am very sorry it was not done because we find that Schurz has been working against Otis & trying his best to get Siegel back. He is causing Otis great anxiety both on acct. of his influence there in the command and also with the Pres.

He seems to have retained his politician's character notwithstanding the high hopes I first had of him and his great pretensions of friendship to the General.

This is a matter you must not talk of out of the family.

He did nothing in the battle & yet I surmise that he has been criticizing the General's dispositions &c. to the Pres. & Siegel.

We (11th Corps) are building permanent fortifications. One will be named for Capt. Dessauer (aide de camp). If you ever write this be sure and make the name plain for it was given Dessous in the Press

before in my acct of the battle. Other forts will be named for Colonels killed in the last battle.

Give my love to Lizzie & Hattie <Potter> if you see them again - to Miss Frost & family & accept any amount to yourself.

From your Aff. bro  
C.H. Howard

P.S. How does the Prophecy come on? Maj. W's resignation not yet accepted. Otis not very well today - Diarrhea. I am well.

P.S. Please send this to mother if convenient. C.H.H.



them from visiting my  
brooks West.

There is another expedi-  
tion a foot up river which  
is a secret here. We

and the 35<sup>d</sup> Mass. took  
up more than half way to  
the range of bluffs R. R.  
the Spotted Plover when it  
is to report to Gen. Ames  
who is one of our Brigadiers  
as I think I have written  
but was sent for at Hooker's  
Hd. Qrs. this morning &  
is put in charge of some  
important movement on a  
comparatively small scale.

Otis ~~has~~ had Diphtheria  
but was better yesterday & is quite  
smart today. I am well -  
I hope you got an impression  
that I was not well from  
the long interval in writing.  
I think you will have rec'd  
some letters before this.

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,  
Va.,  
Oct. 6, 1863.

Otis & I  
with the received letter from  
you yesterday. It seemed  
good to see a long letter  
in your familiar hand-  
writing again. We were  
also gratified at your plea-  
sant and cheerful frame  
of mind. It was particu-  
larly cheering as we or-  
dered, particularly Otis has had  
good deal of vexation and  
anxiety of late. I think  
it has mostly passed away  
now - It is about the  
humorous case Gen. Schuyler

Headquarters Eleventh Corps.

Va,  
1863.

Ohio 67

2nd floor, Hospital sitting upon the  
brother-in-law. Dad love -  
The received letter from  
you yesterday. It seemed  
good to see a long letter  
in your familiar hand-  
writing again. We were  
also gratified at your peace-  
ful and cheerful frame  
of mind. It was partic-  
ularly cheering as we or-  
thodoxly Otho has had a  
good deal of vexation and  
anxiety of late. I think  
it has mostly passed away  
now. It is about the  
humorous and Gen. Schuyler.



The Germans in New York  
had a meeting in which  
they passed resolutions refer-  
ring somewhat upon the  
Recent Commander of the  
11<sup>th</sup> Corps and intimating  
that it would have done  
better under Siegel.

I have no doubt it will  
all result rightly.

It is a beautiful day.  
We have moved our Hqs.  
yesterday. Moved June 4<sup>th</sup> -  
Last evening had the Band  
here & two ladies Mrs.  
Borlen (wife of Gen. B.) and  
Mrs. Parker (wife of St. John  
of the Regular Army). It  
was the wedding anniversary  
for Mrs. Parker. We have  
now a charming spot for  
Hqs. Our tents are  
arranged in a circle and

are all pitched in the shade  
of trees while we have  
an opening in front grassy  
& level - It was the site  
of a house formerly but is  
now in the midst of the  
woods.

Yesterday morning about  
5 o'clock we began to  
hear rapid Artillery firing  
near Friedrichsburg. Otes had  
been to Gen. Hooker & in  
the forenoon and knew  
that it was the first step  
attempting or making a  
show of crossing about  
2 miles below F. We hear  
of no counterattacks & probably  
Gen. Hooker made all the  
demonstration that he anticipated  
at that point. It is impos-  
sible to learn the whereabouts  
of the enemy and prevent



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6/6/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-104

Headquarters Eleventh  
Corps  
Near Brook's Station,  
Va

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Headquarters Eleventh Corps [Letterhead]  
Near Brooke's Station, Va.,  
June 6th, 1863

My dear Mother,

Otis & I both received letters from you yesterday. It seemed good to see a long letter in your familiar hand - writing again. We were also gratified at your peaceful and cheerful frame of mind. It was particularly cheering as we or particularly Otis has had a great deal of vexation and anxiety of late. I think it has mostly passed away now. It is about the Germans and Gen. Schurz. The Germans in New York had a meeting in which they passed resolutions reflecting somewhat upon the present commander of the 11th Corps and intimated that it would have done better under Siegel.

I have no doubt it will all result rightly.

It is a beautiful day & we have moved our Hd qrs. <moved> June 4th. Last evening had the Band here & two ladies Mrs Barlow (wife of Gen. B.) And Mrs. Parker (wife of Lt. Parker of the Regular army). It was the wedding anniversary for Mrs. Parker. We have now a charming spot for Hd. qrs. Our tents are arranged in a semi-circle and are all pitched in the shade of trees which we have an opening in front grassy & level. It was the site of a house formerly but is now in the midst of the woods.

Yesterday evening about 5 o'clock we began to hear rapid artillery firing near Fredericksburg. Otis had been to Gen. Hooker's in the forenoon and knew that it was the First Corps attempting on making a show of crossing about 2 miles below F. We hear of no casualties & probably Gen. Hooker made all the demonstration that he intends at that point. It is I suppose to learn the whereabouts of the enemy and preventing them from sending any troops West.

There is another expedition on foot up river which is a secret here. We sent the 55th Mass. today up more than half way to the Orange & Alexa. R.R. to Spotted Tavern where it is to report to Gen. Ames who is one of our Brigadiers as I think I have written but was sent for at Hooker's Hd. qrs. this morning & is put in charge of some important movement on a comparatively small scale.

Otis has had Diarrhea, but was better yesterday & is quite smart today. I am well. Sorry you got an impression that I was not well from the long interval in writing. I think you will have rec'd some letters before this.

Capt Stinson goes with the Regt this P.M. to Spotted Tavern. I have an easy life now in Camp. Have been studying French somewhat. Have enough to do to keep my horses & myself in sufficient exercise. We have been a little on the alert of late & are now under marching orders - i.e. to be ready to move upon short notice. One Corps (5th) is already up river - part at Kelly's Ford where we crossed first in the last campaign.

We have such a lovely camp here now I fear we will move very soon. I say fear & yet I am ready at any time. Captain Griffiths A.D.C. [Aide de Camp] of the staff has been intending to bring his wife down but this order will prevent for the present. He has a log house with canvass roof attached to his tent.

Mrs Gen'l Schurz, Mrs. Gen. Steinweher & many other ladies are visiting their husbands. The firing last night frightened some of them so much that they decided to start for home today. We had a pleasant evening. The ladies I mentioned are quite interesting and you know almost any lady-like ladies are interesting to officers who have been so long beyond the pale of civilized society. Mrs. Perry Lee is still at Hd. Qrs. 3d Corps. Sickles is absent on Leave & Perry is still serving on the staff. His resignation was refused unless he could get higher rank in the Navy & this he is now trying for. I was glad to hear

from Mr Chapin. Poor Adna. He has had a strange lot in this life. I am glad Roland is going to build a new house.

Give my love to him & Cynthia & their little ones. Is father – How is his hand?

I saw Thomas <Bures> the other day over near the 2nd Corps Hospital sitting upon the ground with his brother in law, Tho's Rose. They knew me & I had quite a talk with them. Had not seen Thomas before since his return. He is now Company Cook & had come over to see Tho's Rose who is sick in Hospital or rather convalescent. His back is not strong & he (Rose) expects a discharge.

With great affection Yr. aff. son.  
C. H. Howard



[illegible]



there and spent one night. The  
3<sup>d</sup> Corps (in which is Perry) had moved  
the day before and the 1<sup>st</sup> marched  
some day with us taking another  
route - both these Corps striking  
the Orange & Alex<sup>a</sup>. R. R. at Beather  
10 miles nearer the Rappahannock  
than we. The 5<sup>th</sup> had been at win  
for some time & yesterday it started  
on the march in this direction. I  
have also that the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> which  
were on our front at Falmouth start-  
ed yesterday. We communicated  
with Gen. Hooker at Dumfries  
yesterday (by telegraph via Washington) and  
his Hd. qrs. are to be at Fox  
Crest House tonight.

We (the Genl & Staff) arrived here  
about 4 P.M. yesterday. Gen. Aber-  
crombie who is in command here  
(having our Brigade here, one at Chen-  
tilly (25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> Maine) and a third at  
Union Mills) was completely surprised  
not being aware of any movement of



our Army.

P.S. May. Whittier left for home  
the day before the more - his  
resignation accepted. The  
news has much.

It seems that Lee (Rebel) has  
moved the most of his army up  
the Rappahannock and is nearly as  
we can ascertain over into Shenandoah  
Valley. There is some chance of  
his attempting to come through Thoro-  
ughfare Gap which is in sight  
about 15 miles from here & which  
we now watch with great interest.  
There is a Brigade of our Cavalry  
& a horse battery at the Gap who  
could give alarm in due time &  
perhaps hinder the enemy there  
for some time. We had some  
expectation of being sent to Aldie  
which is the next gap in the moun-  
tains, <sup>above Thoroughfare</sup> where the enemy can come thro'.  
Otis had a Squadron of Cavalry  
sent there at 12 last night. This  
is 20 miles distant.

But we do not seem positively  
that Lee has come up the valley &  
he may be intending to reinforce



Brugg against Rosencrens in the  
West.

Here we are back to the point  
from which we started <sup>on the morning</sup> the last  
Battle we were in - nearly two years  
ago - We have Hd. qrs. in a  
house - American people - The women  
very ladylike & kind.

It is intensely hot today & we are  
very glad we do not have to be on  
the march - Yesterday was not so hot.

Gen. Ames has rejoined us after  
accompanying the Cavalry across  
the Rappahannock - Capt. Steiner went  
with him & all come back safe ex-  
cept three of our Regt (33<sup>d</sup> Mass) wound-  
ed. - Our movements depend entirely  
upon the enemy so I cannot tell how  
long we will remain here or when we  
will go - The 1<sup>st</sup> Corps arrived today Gen.  
Reynolds is now down stairs in the Parlor  
talking with Otis - He (Gen. R.) has had com-  
mand of the Right Wing of the Army while  
it has been so far separated - I suppose our  
force is charged again & Quinn has been or will  
be given it. (See margin 1<sup>st</sup> page)



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6/15/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-105

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Centerville, Va

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Centerville, Va  
June 15 1863

My dear Mother,

I received your letter mailed June 9th this afternoon. Perhaps you will have learned by telegraph before this reaches you of the movements of Hooker's army. But nothing has appeared in the papers yet. Yesterday (Sunday) we marched 18 or 19 miles. From Catlett's Station to this place. The day before we marched from near Hartwood Church and struck the R.R. at Catlett's - a distance of 19 miles. We left our old Camp near Brooke's Station on Friday the 12th inst. We had just got fixed up in elegant style in our new camp. Hd. qrs. being in the woods upon a lovely spot as Mrs. Lee will assure you if you see her for she visited us there and spent one night. The 3d Corps (in which is Perry) had moved the day before and the 1st marched same day with us taking another route - both these Corps striking the Orange & Alexa R.R. at Bealton, 10 miles nearer the Rappahannock than we. The 5th had been up river for some time & yesterday it started on the march in this direction. I hear also that the 2nd & 6th which were on our front at Falmouth started yesterday. We communicated with Gen. Hooker at Dumfries yesterday (by telegraph via Washington) and his Hd. qrs. are to be at Fairfax Court House tonight.

We (the Genl & staff) arrived here about 4 P.M. yesterday. Gen. Abercrombie who is in command here (having our Brigade here, one at Chantilly (25th & 27th Maine) and a third at Union Mills) was completely surprised not being aware of any movement of our army.

It seems that Lee (Rebel) has moved the most of his army up the Rappahannock and as nearly as we can ascertain over into Shenandoah Valley. There is some chance of his attempting to come through Thoroughfare Gap which is in sight about 15 miles from here & which we now watch with great interest.

There is a Brigade of our Cavalry & a horse battery at the Gap who could give alarm in due time & perhaps hinder the enemy there for some time. We had some expectation of being sent to Aldie which is the next gap in the mountains above Thoroughfare where the enemy can come through. Otis had a squadron of Cavalry sent there at 12 last night. It is 20 miles distant.

But we do not learn positively that Lee has come into the Valley & he may be intending to reinforce Bragg against Rosecrans in the West.

Here we are back to the point from which we started on the morning after the first Battle we were in nearly two years ago. We have Hd. qrs. in a house - union people. The woman very ladylike & kind.

It is intensely hot today & we are very glad we do not have to be on the march. Yesterday was not so hot.

Gen. Ames has rejoined us after accompanying the Cavalry dash across the Rappahannock. Capt. Stinson went with him & all came back safe except three of our Regt (33d Mass) wounded. Our movements depend entirely upon the enemy so I cannot tell how long we will remain here or when we will go. The 1st Corps arrived today & Gen. Reynolds is now down stairs in the Parlor talking with Otis. He (Gen. R.) Has had command of the Right Wing of the army which it has been so far separated. I suppose our base is changed again & again has been or will be given up.

Rowland was expected to start today to visit us. Perhaps he will hear of the movement & not come. Otis thought I better not telegraph for Rowland would enjoy coming to see us wherever we might be. I doubt if I have any money to send this month. I paid for my horse - also half for an oil painting we presented to Mrs. Lee & to some other large extras which consumes my pay. There is a good breeze so in the house we are quite comfortable. I think I shall take to write in Blue pen today. Do you see Isabelle? I hope Clark will apply for a commission in the Invalid Corps. If he would like I can get a

recommendation for him from Otis if he would like. How is his foot? We could hardly keep in mind that yesterday was Sabbath Day - being on the march.

Write often to your affectionate Son.  
C. H. Howard

P.S. Maj. Whittlesey left for home the day before the move. His resignation accepted. We miss him much.



Wid, gr. 11<sup>th</sup> Corps  
Camp at Goose Creek Va  
June 19 1863

My dear Mother

We marched  
from Centerville to this place  
(16 miles) on Weds. Our  
Cavalry went forward to Lees-  
burg (about 6 miles) yesterday  
& drove out twenty of  
Rebel Cavalry. We Camp-  
ed all day yesterday.  
Hooker is waiting for word  
but when the signal is &  
what he is going to do.  
So all the Corps were  
halted. Thry 12<sup>th</sup> at Drains-  
ville. Reynolds (1<sup>st</sup>) at  
Grifford Station - we at

Trap Rock on Iron Creek  
 5<sup>th</sup> (Mendocino) at Grum Spring.  
 We heard of finding yesterday  
 have since learned that  
 Pleasanton (with Cavalry)  
 met the Swains Cavalry  
 at Aldie successful.  
 P. & Col. Daugherty was  
 killed of 1<sup>st</sup> Maine Cavalry.  
 I rode 20 miles yesterday  
 to see Gen. Reynolds. It  
 was very hot. The day  
 before I rode 10 in mid-  
 dle of the day (besides the  
 16 miles marching in order  
 to arrest a suspected cit-  
 izen who had been in  
 the Rebel Service. I  
 took a few Cavalry,



He is wife & daughters brought  
me to treat him well and  
let him come back spending.  
He was sent back on mak-  
ing promise not to come  
home. He left the Rebel ser-  
vice a year ago -

The guerrillas are all  
about - Our stragglers have  
been picked up by them  
& yesterday one of the staff  
was fired at - We had  
a nice rain in the night -  
I wonder if Rowland is  
at Washington - We get  
no regular mail tho' I  
was happy to get a letter  
from you while at Ken-  
terville - George Bets

looked well - Was not in  
any hot fighting at Chan-  
cellorville - Wrote with a  
great deal of feeling of  
his Aunt Jane's death.

There seems to be a  
great scare in Penna.

It will do good per-  
haps - It amuses us when  
we learn there is so  
small a force across the  
river -

Hope will be able to  
see Rowland -

In haste but very  
Affectionately Yrs

W. H. Howard



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6/19/1863

*From:* C.H. Howard

*To:* Mother

CHH-107

Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Camp at Goose Creek  
Va

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Hd. qrs. 11th Corps  
Camp at Goose Creek Va  
June 19 1863

My dear Mother,

We marched from Centerville to this place (16 miles) on Weds. Our Cavalry went forward to Leesburg (about 6 miles) yesterday and drove out twenty of Rebel Cavalry. We lay down all day yesterday. Hooker is waiting to find out where the enemy is & what he is going to do. So all the Corps were halted - the 12th at Dranesville, Reynolds (1st) at Guilford Station, we at Trap Rock on Goose Creek, 5th (Meade) at Gum Spring. We heard firing yesterday & have since learned that Pleasanton (with Cavalry) met the enemy's Cavalry at Aldie successfully but Col. Doughty was killed of 1st Maine Cavalry. I rode 20 miles yesterday to see Gen. Reynolds. It was very hot.

The day before I rode 10 m in middle of the day (besides the 16 miles march) in order to arrest a suspected citizen who had been in the Rebel service. I took a few Cavalry. His wife & daughters besought me to treat him well and let him come back speedily. He was sent back on making promise not to leave home. He left the Rebel service a year ago.

The guerillas are all about. Our stragglers have been picked up by them & yesterday one of the staff was fired at. We had a nice rain in the night. I wonder if Rowland is at Washington. We get no regular mail tho' I was happy to get a letter from you while at Centerville. George Bates looked well. Was not in any hot fighting at Chancellorsville. Spoke with a great deal of feeling of his Aunt Jane's death.

There seems to be a great scare in Penna. It will do good perhaps. It amuses us when we learn there is so small a force across the river.

Hope will be able to see Rowland.

In haste but very Affectionately yr. Son.  
C. H. Howard