
1927 6/3/1863

From: C. Schurz
Maj. Genl.

To: Maj. Genl. [OO] Howard,

OOH-1876

Headqu 3d Div 11th
Corps

Headqu. 11th Corps

Source: Bowdoin

[105]

Private
Headqu 3d Div 11th Corps
June 3d 1863

Maj. Genl. Howard,
Headqu. 11th Corps

General,

I am informed the "Wash. Star" had an article a few days ago stating that the German regts of this Corps would be transferred to the fortifications of Washington and that American regts would be sent to fill their places in this Corps; it was added, that this would be done at your or Gen. Hookers request, I do not remember which.

I would most respectfully ask you to tell me, whether you know anything about this matter or whether you have made the request. You would greatly oblige me by giving me this information if you can consistently do so.

Most respectfully your obt. Servt
C. Schurz [Carl Schurz]
Maj. Genl.

1928 6/6/1863

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1878

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps,
Near Brooke's Sta. Va.

[369]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Near Brooke's Sta. Va.,
June 6th 1863

Dearest,

We have moved Head Quarters to a new place where we have some shade and no dust, some $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the old place. I have had quite a severe attack of dysintery. One day I lay by entirely, that was day before yesterday, but yesterday I rode to Hd. Qrs. of Gen Hooker and felt pretty well all day, and I am quite well this morning. Yesterday there was some cannonading near Fredericksburg, a sort of reconaissance in force on our part, with an attempt to lay a bridge. Some brigades of the enemy were reported moving off, but I understand they soon reappeared. This morning all seems to be quiet.

I hope you are still on the gain. Your next to the last letter said you feared to go down stairs lest you should not get back. In the last you were going down to your meals and were talking about that fearful but essential time of house-cleaning. I hope you did not have to work at it yourself but were wise enough to hire somebody who could see the spider's webs & the dirt in the corners.

I have lost my poor horse Charlie. He grew sicker & sicker with the distemper. McDonald took good care of him, turned him out to grass, but it was of no use. He had served his country long enough and he died. Major Whittlesey says McDonald came with a very sad look and announced the fact of "Charly's" death and it startled him at first; but he soon learned that it was the horse. He has been a nice, beautiful, active & faithful friend to me. He was well at the last battle, but I had just ridden him & changed for the black as the battle commenced. I have poor Capt Dessaur's horse a fine hardy little bay, now too big for Guy or Grace to ride. I bought him, so I own the Black & this Pony now. Charles has two.

I forgot to tell you I had a family photograph case purchased for me in New York. [Sketch of photograph case opened and closed] I can carry it nicely in my pocket. Guy's & Grace's ambrotypes fitted in well & your photograph. I lack Jamie & Chancy. I hope Jamie will go & have his photograph taken the first opportunity to send to papa. He must look as sober as possible.

Give much love to all our little flock. God bless you & them.

Lovingly
Otis

I got a good long letter from Mother yesterday. Send her a lock of the baby's hair.

I enclose 200 dolls. Otis

1929 6/9/1863

From: C.H. Howard

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1879

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps,
Va.

[370]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Va., June 9th 1863.

Dear Sister Lizzie

Otis has gone out to inspect the camps of one of his Divns and said to me as he was leaving that he had intended to write you this morning and asked me to do so.

It is a delightfully cool and refreshing Summer morning. Otis has not been very well but is much improved – in fact says he is well now. My own health is good.

We have the most lovely spot for Hd Qrs. we have ever had I believe. Moved up here last week. It is about ¼ mile from the old place.

I had invited Rowland to come out and see us and yesterday got answer from him that he would come next week or week after. So if you wish to send anything to Otis you will probably have the opportunity.

Gen. Ames has been sent up river with a Brigade of Infantry & some Artillery in conjunction with a Cavalry force and this moment I hear very distant firing. He went away day before yesterday & has under him the best troops of the Army. One Regt from this Corps 33d Mass. Capt. Stinson is with him. They anticipate meeting Stewart & perhaps they have caught him – such is the indication of the Firing. Capt Cross of Ames Class (Engineers) was killed at Fredericksburg last Friday night at the Cannonading. One Div of 6th Corps is now across but it is I think only a Reconnaissance.

Love to Guy - at school for now I suppose & to dear, little Grace & Jamie & an overwhelming amount of kisses for the littlest one.

Affectionately
C.H. Howard

1930 6/10/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard] *To:* Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1880 Headquarters Eleventh
Source: Bowdoin Corps,
Near Brooke's Stn. Va.

[371]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Near Brooke's Stn. Va.,
June 10th 1863

Dearest,

I received a good letter from you in which you compare the unsettled condition of your house to my reputation. I hope you have not worked at that business yourself. Mrs Goodwin writes me that Maria is very poorly, weak, debilitated and discouraged about herself. She & Will were to start for St. Paul Minesota last Friday. Mrs Merrick Sen. was to take the baby and nurse and they might stay some months if the climate prove to agree with Maria.

Col Underwood commands the 33d Mass Regiment, Steinweher's Division. A secret expedition was organized, Gen. Ames commanding to proceed up river and attack or intercept one of Stuarts Raids. Col Underwood's wife had just arrived in camp with his little girl. I chose his regiment as the one best fitted for the work to be done. Mrs Underwood is an intimate friend of Mrs Lizzie Lee. They met here at my camp yesterday. Gen. Steinweher, Col Olin Smith Comdg Brigade, a Lieut Thompson and his wife & Perry took tea with us last night and spent a pleasant evening. We had the band of the 33d Mass which did not go with the Regiment. An engagement is now in progress between our cavalry & that of Gen Stuart near Culpepper. Gen. Ames with his force must be there. I do hope this will be a success worth the mention. I understand Stuart was completely surprised just as he was getting ready to go on some expedition to the North. Particulars of the engagement have not come to hand yet. One Division of Gen Sedgwick's Corps is still over the river below Fredericksburg. The bridge was built and this force crossed to find out how much force of the enemy was there. Our own guns cover these troops & they can stay as long as they please.

Our new camp is very beautiful, laid out in a large semi-circle. [Sketch of the layout of the staff officer tents in a semi-circle.] Harry Stinson has gone with Gen. Ames & the 33d. We shall look for him back by tomorrow-night.

How does Guy like his school. Are his cheeks rosy and full? He must tell me who is his teacher, how he likes his books, what he studies. Does he learn something near every day? I want to hear more about Gracie. I am afraid she may forget she is papa's daughter. Jamie seems to suit Uncle Rowland very much. He must be a very enterprising boy. Does he speak slowly? But the baby, I cannot imagine how he looks. Does he sleep much of the time?

Mrs Lee & Perry staid with us last night & she is here now. Perry's resignation has not yet been accepted, neither has that of Capt Whittlesey. Perry is acting Adj. Gen. for Gen. Birney now comdg. the 3d Corps. Give my kind regards to all my friends. Do not forget Mrs Clark & Lottie. Has Mr Dan. Williams been to see you? I constantly ask for the protection of Gods divine Spirit for you, for me & for the children.

Lovingly,
Otis

1931 6/12/1863 *From:* N. A. Farwell

To: Maj Gen O.O. Howard

OOH-1881

Rockland

Washington

Source: Bowdoin

[373]

Rockland Jun 12th 1863

My Dear Sir

My object in this is to ask you if you would not consent to have your name used as a candidate for Gov. I am confident under the call you would be a more acceptable candidate than any we could get and it is important that we carry this State by a good sound majority. Your name was frequently mentioned last winter at "Augusta" and always with favour and we hoped the "War" would be in such progress that you could be spared from the field without detriment to the Service. We are willing to leave the whole matter to your judgment but I think I am safe in assuming you that your name would add greatly to the strength of our State Ticket.

I am yours very truly
N. A. Farwell

Maj Gen O.O. Howard
Washington

1932 6/17/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1882

Hd Qrs 11th Corps
Goose Creek Near
Leesburg

Source: Bowdoin

[372]

Hd Qrs 11th Corps June 17th 1863
Goose Creek Near Leesburg

Dearest,

The weather has been very hot & dry & we have marched as follows – 12 miles, 19, 18, rested two days then marched 17. I was a little feverish at Centreville, but am now quite recovered. This Corps has marched in a very unsteady style as all my orders are obeyed with great alacrity.

I trust you are well & that the weather is cooler with you for I know how much the heat affects you. I want to see the baby very much. Has mother been to get acquainted? I suppose Grace dont want any more dolls, but spends much time in tending him. I think every day of Lizzie my loving wife & of my dear little children & I try to pray for them & I know papa is thought of at home.

(Thursday morning 18th) I am feeling quite well this morning, though it is very hot, almost too hot for campaigning. I am waiting for orders. Gen. Hd. Qrs. are 30 miles away just now. I dont know when this will reach you. Charlie is quite well and so is Capt Stinson and with us, or Chas. has just at this time gone to Gen Reynolds Camp & Capt. Stinson to that of Gen. Meade. I have a new officer on my staff, Capt Hall, additional A.D.C. formerly John P. Hale's private Secretary. A very fine young man. He has been sick and I am afraid he will not stand the fatigue.

Good bye to all of my precious ones at home & God bless you.

Lovingly
Otis

1933 6/17/1863 *From:* Ella [(Patten)
Howard]

To: Dear Lizzie [Howard]

OOH-1883

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[374]

Leeds June 17th 1863

Dear Lizzie

It strikes me we might be a little more sisterly in the way of corresponding, and yet, I know it takes a good deal of time to write letters, and you especially, have very little to spare, with your little family, & your letters to Otis. For my own part, I dont know but it is as much laziness, as any thing else, that keeps me from writing, for I have been intending to send you my love & congratulations, ever since the dear little baby came.

But you have them now, & will you please kiss the little fellow for his Auntie. I want very much to see him. I wish it wasn't such a journey between Augusta & Farmington, & such an almost impossible journey with little children. I do wish you could come up, & bring all four of them this summer. Is it quite out of the question? I should so love to have you.

I came down here yesterday. Dadie & I came in the cars, & Mary Frances Lothrop who travels with me at present, & Mary Sprague, an old friend of mine who is making me a visit, came with our horse. We are all going back Friday.

This "north room" where I am writing, always reminds me of you. The first time I ever really got acquainted with you, you were occupying this room. How many changes there have been, since then!

Rowland wanted very much to go to Augusta, to see you, before he went to Washington, but he couldn't leave Farmington, to do so. It is more difficult, than one would suppose, to get away from one's Parish. It is as much like leaving a great Baby, as any thing. The Child always has to be "put to rights" again, when the Parent returns. I dont know how the late movements of the Army will affect Rowland, I am sure. He started Monday morning, in company with Mr. Adams of New Sharon, who goes out as a delegate of the Christian Commission.

Shall you be able to go to Commencement this year? I suppose Dellie will want as many of his friends there as can go. I expect to go home about that time, & I wish you could come to Bath, & we could go to Brunswick, as often, or as seldom as we chose. And the baby would be safe, at my father's, while you were away. You had better do so, if you can. I wonder if you have heard of the new cousin – Laura has a little boy born the 11th [See Note]. She is nicely, I hear. Mother & I are going to ride up to see it tomorrow.

Mother seems pretty well – has a good girl. Col. Gilmore had a very sore finger, which seems as much like a felon as anything, but he doesn't call it a felon. He has suffered with it for three weeks, & it is not much, if any, better. Mother sends love to you & the children. She has been intending to write, but has been unusually busy this spring.

Dadie grows fast, & is very well. I should like to see Jamie. Rowland told me he talked very plain.

Good bye. Love to all the children, & kisses from Auntie.

Ella

[Note. Laura Brewster (Howard) Otis, wife of Ensign Otis, gave birth to a son, Ensign Otis, Jr. on June 11, 1863.]

1934 6/19/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1884

Head Quarters 11th
Corps
Near Goose Creek

Source: Bowdoin

[376]

Head Quarters 11th Corps
Near Goose Creek
June 19th (Friday) 1863

Dearest,

I have time to write you a line. We are all well & Gen. Hooker says waiting till the enemy develops his intentions. Charles & Harry went on perilous rides but came back all safe.

Much love from papa to the children & not a little to a dear wife. God bless us all.

Lovingly
Otis

1935 6/22/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1885

The same place as last
letter

Source: Bowdoin

[377]

June 22nd 1863

The same place as last letter

Dearest,

All well. I have sent for Rowland to Washington. Mail goes at once. God bless you all. A severe Cavalry engagement 8 miles off yesterday.

Many kisses & much love to the children & yourself.

Lovingly
Otis

1936 6/24/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1886

Hd Qrs 11th Corps
Goose Creek

Source: Bowdoin

[375]

Hd Qrs 11th Corps
Goose Creek
June 24th 1863

Dearest

Rowland arrived after a 45 miles ride yesterday & some little exposure to Bush wackers. All well. I have got two good letters from you in this camp. I have just written a letter to Mr Farwell of Rockland declining the honor of a nomination for Governor. I think duty requires it.

God bless you all. Much love to the children. Baby not forgotten. Mail must go now. Will try to give you a better letter next time. Would like to talk with Blaine or Morrill.

Affectionately yr husband
Otis

1937 6/26/1863

From: Rowland [RB
Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-1887

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps,
Middletown Md

[371]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Middletown Md June 26, 1863

Dear Sister Lizzie

I came to camp at Goose Creek – 6 miles from Leesburg on Tues. with the 11th Corps Mail Carrier. The next day, I “marched” with the Corps to Edwards Ferry, 6 miles, & the next, to Point of Rocks & turning at that point to Jefferson – 5 miles from the Potomac where we spent the night in a house. The march was a hard one of 25 or 30 miles in a day. Today we have only moved 6 miles up this beautiful & fruitful valley to this lovely little town. There is no immediate prospect of a battle – the enemy being two days march ahead of us towards Penn.

Otis seems quite well, but works hard almost every moment & gets pretty tired every night & sometimes is awakened often during the night with orders. Tonight he is just by my side in bed & John is minding his watch. We are at a farm house ½ a mile out of town. Charley has gone to sleep in a tent outside & don't seem very well tonight but, he is very tired. How I pity the poor men on these marches.

I hope my stay in Washington did some good as I labored in the Camps & Hospitals for the Ch. Com.

Otis received a letter from you tonight. He has no moment to write for the last few days. I am glad Prof. Whittlesey went to see you & wish he was back here with Otis. A personal friend, of high moral character is a great blessing to one in his position. I think I will be home before the 2d Sab. in July & will try to come by way of Augusta & tell you what I have not time to write. We have prayed together, & Otis is now asleep. There is no order yet for any move.

Your aff. Brother
Rowland

Give Guy a great deal of love & tell Grace she is getting too old. Tell Jamie he must saw the wood box all up & baby must have a kiss from all of us

1938 6/27/1863 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-1888

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Eleventh
Corps
Near Middletown Md

[372]

Headquarters Eleventh Corps,
Near Middletown Md
June 27 1863

Dearest,

I have received another good long letter from you written just after Maj. Whittlesey's & Mrs. W's visit. I am glad they came to see you. I got a letter from Major Whittlesey at the same time. It is grand that you were able to go down street. You must have gone bareheaded as you had no bonnet to wear to Church. I am afraid you are working too hard or doing too much. Shopping you know is very dangerous.

We are working along up towards you. The rebels are again between us and home. Rowland has sent you a letter. I dont know what he wrote, but I presume he told you it was pretty hard to keep up on horseback over fields across ditches. I dont find the fatigue of commanding a Corps any less than that in commanding a division. I sometimes get tired as you used to at home when you worked too hard, but I call myself quite well. We are faring luxuriously here in Maryland. I have a nice room in a house and a superb table is set for me and all my staff. The lady has "a brigade" of daughters 6 in number the eldest about ten yrs & the youngest about two. I have so many irons in the fire I cannot stop to chat with them - I wish I could. I fear I should not be a very devoted father or husband if my little family came up.

I am thinking our troubles will be brought to a crisis before long, and if God wills I may be home before long also.

Rowland says Jamie saws the wood box a good deal. I am glad if his nose is not out of joint. Mamma must kiss him on both cheeks and ask him to name the baby. Maj W inclines to think the baby has yet no name. What shall we call him? I must let you give him a name.

A couple of young ladies made us a Corps flag today & presented it: [sketch of a flag with the number 11 in the center] The trefoil is pink and the flag is blue. Our flag was silk and and it got fretted away till there was scarcely anything left. I wrote a note of thanks & the young men have gone to serenade these young ladies & to take the note.

We were in this lovely valley before just before the battle of South Mountain & Antietam. It is like an immense basin with a bottom beaten out of regular shape & so fertile that almost every field is covered with crops – no woods but quite a number of shade trees. The mountain border has plenty of forests. I wish you could get a view of this charming valley.

How is Guy? Likes his school? Learning something new every day? How does Gracie get on. I want to see her very much & I want to see you all and think I shall be allowed to do so before long. I hope you will be able to have a good opinion of the 11th Corps if we are engaged again. It certainly marches well. One day we made more than 23 miles. Almost all the officers like to please me & cooperate with alacrity. I do not yet quite despair of my country – the rebels are stirring up Pennsylvania & I hope the furor will last.

I am sorry Mrs Clark is sick. Give much love to all and accept not a little for yourself.

Lovingly your husband
Otis