
2173 5/1/1864

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2125

Source: Bowdoin

Headquarters Fourth
Army Corps,
Department of the
Cumberland
Cleveland E. Tenn.

[517]

[Letterhead]

Headquarters Fourth Army Corps,
Department of the Cumberland
Cleveland E. Tenn. May 1st 1864

Dearest,

It is almost the anniversary of the battle of Chancellorsville and of the birth of our little boy Chancy [born May 3d 63 Note: This birth date was written in pencil, but not by OOH.], and we are drawing nigh another trial of arms perhaps more terrific than ever, that, before this reaches you, it will doubtless be over.

But on the eve of an active campaign and battle I do not feel in any degree depressed and hope you too are resting without any oppressive anxieties. I presume those unaccustomed to rely on God can have no appreciation of the relief of such a reliance. When it can be done there is a quiet happiness in being able to say, think & feel "not what I will, but what thou wilt". I presume too it is difficult to go back to the time when we had no hope and no trust and understand the desolation & anguish in fear of bereavement, when the love of God has not tempered and directed the human love. But how little I have ever been tried. Goodness and mercy has indeed followed me and how thankful I ought to be that God has not deemed it necessary to afflict me more.

We are hoping that this campaign will end the war and I am more sanguine in that belief or hope than ever before. God grant that no more disasters befall us. That Pleasant Hill affair was a sad one at the best. Col. Woodman will arrive in season to give them some good cavalry. I got a kind letter from him and answered it.

I am thinking how bad it is to be separated from you and the children so long. Guy will be a young man and Grace a young lady almost before I am aware of it. My only consolation is that I may be able to make for them a proper name and example to which you can appeal in your instruction and influence. I believe I realize that yours are far the greater trials and sacrifices darling, but the ones for which God in his Providence has prepared you. Jamie's peculiar, quiet, half credulous smile often comes up before me and the baby's completely happy laugh. I hope you & Julia will make the work as easy as possible.

I hav'nt been able lately to have Sam read much, but he continues to improve in that line. Sam is neat but did not have the <teaching> of order quite as large as I.

Many kind words to Isabella. Much love to the children from papa & no little to your own dear self. I have sent you two checks – one a hundred & one two hundred dolls to yr. Order - so you need not be anxious. God bless you all.

Lovingly
Otis

2174 5/2/1864

From: H'y Coppee

To: M. G. [OO] Howard

OOH-2126

University of Penn'a
Phil'a

Source: Bowdoin

[26]

University of Penn'a
Phil'a May 2, 1864

My dear Howard:

Your kind letter was received long since, and I have only delayed to answer it until something more sh'd be developed concerning the Gettysburg Campaign, which, you know, was being investigated by a committee. I never meant to do you injustice, nor would I under any circumstances be guilty of so doing, for I respect you as a brave and skilful officer and a christian gentleman. The statements made in the Service Magazine were from responsible men, and I in common with all Pennsylvanians did feel aggrieved - not that you were rewarded, but that Hancock was not. The Army & Navy Journal published some injurious articles, but such I would not admit.

Professor Jacobs' letter, a copy of the same which he sent to you, I published at once, and I believe that it has really cleared up the whole matter. In all future actions, I shall be very glad to have from some skilful writer on your staff, such statements as will guard against errors of any kind. My task is a difficult one but I desire to perform it not only with strict justice, but also with a desire to give the fullest and most generous credit to our educated West Point Generals, by whom, under God, we hope to be guided to reunion & honorable peace. I shall be much obliged to you for a line saying that you have received this.

The extract from the Phil'a Bulletin, was printed before your letter came, or I should not have published it.

Very sincerely & truly yours,
H'y Coppee [Henry Coppee, Editor of the U.S. Service Magazine, Professor of English Literature and History at Univ. of Penn.]

M. G. Howard

2175 5/2/1864

From: Lt. A. Owen

To: Dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2127

Hd. Qrs. 5th A.C.
Culpepper, Va

Source: Bowdoin

[100]

Hd. Qrs. 5th A.C.
Culpepper, Va
May 2d 1864

Dear General,

Your very kind & excellent letter, in my behalf, was duly received. I would have answered it sooner, but wished first to be able to tell you something of its disposition & effect.

I carried it to Washington last week together with others from Generals Sedwick, Gibbon, Hazen, Meade & Ingalls. Gen. Meigs who has been very friendly to me since his inspecting visit to the Army last summer, received me very kindly, endorsed your letter in the warmest manner, & himself nominated me for the position I asked.

He thought it would be better for him to send the papers to the Secretary, than for me to present them, personally, & so I left them with him.

I think that all has been done that military influence could effect. If, now, I could but bring some strong political influence to bear, I think there would be little doubt about my obtaining the appointment.

But, unfortunately, I have been such a wanderer during the last twelve years (much of the time residing at the South), that I have only a very slight acquaintance with any member of Congress.

My mother living in a great city like New York, knows none & my fathers friends in Maine are, unfortunately, rather too much of the democratic persuasion in politics, to have much influence.

Under these circumstances, might I venture to ask you to write to Senator Fessenden & Morrill on the subject, to get them to call the attention of the President & Secretary to my claims. Were it a personal favor to me, I should scarcely ask a stranger to use his influence in my behalf, but the position I seek, such as it is (& it is not very much) I consider as no more than a just reward for service faithfully rendered during the whole period of the war, as those have testified who have had the best means of knowing. And as such, I think it just & right to ask any public man satisfied of the facts, & having a general interest in the good of the service & the welfare of the Country, to use his influence, to see, at least, that my application has a fair consideration.

I feel General that I have already asked many favors of you & I have some hesitation in asking this, yet I scarcely know in what other way I could reach the parties I wish to reach.

Still, if you have the slightest objection for any reason whatever, to appeal to these gentlemen, in my behalf, I beg that you will not do so, through any feeling of kindness to me.

Your friends here were all exceedingly glad to hear of your transfer to another Corps & a command so honorable & so justly due. We watch your course with great interest, & are expecting much from you & the Army of the Cumberland this summer.

For ourselves, we have strong hopes of accomplishing what we have so long tried in vain. There is not much enthusiasm for Grant, the days of enthusiasm are past, in this Army of the Potomac, but still there is no lack of confidence. I believe the A.P. is today vastly superior on all respects to what it ever has been.

There is some dissatisfaction on the part of regiments whose term of service, reckoning from their enlistment, has expired, but I think a few stern examples (& they will certainly be made if necessary) will set this all right.

Before this reaches you the Army will, in all probability, have moved, & the fate of Richmond be perhaps decided.

I saw Mr Syphen the other day. He is writing a History of the Penn. Reserves under the sanction of the state authorities & was here to see Genl. Meade & gather information, finally, about his subject.

He seems well & in fine spirits. We talked much, of course, of you & the old staff which he remembers with pleasure & gratitude.

Remember me very kindly to Charley & my other friends with you. I would have written Charley in answer to his letters but am very busy & have not time just now. Will do so at my earliest leisure.

Is Hayes with you still? I trust so. Capt. Norris, one of my old Division Q. Mrs. who was sent to the A.C. at my recommendation to instruct the Q.M.D. there in our system, writes me that Hayes is the best of the Corps Qr. Masters.

I remember "Sam" well. Give him my regards & ask him what has become of his master, young Johnson who was my assistant.

Believe me, General, Ever
Sincerely Your friend
Lt. A. Owen

2176 5/2/1864 *From:* E. Waite

To: Mrs OO Howard

OOH-2128

Portland

Source: Bowdoin

[519]

Portland May 2d 1864

Mrs OO Howard

Dear Niece

I have just collected Interest of the two Coupons you sent due May 1st. \$30 I got \$53 which I now enclose. They do not pay quite so much as gold is worth in New York. The 12 cents due before I paid for a postage Stamp to Send the Bonds.

Our people here are all engaged in preparing things for the comfort of sick & wounded Soldiers. I think we cannot do too much for them.

We often hear something in praise of your good Husband. May He ever be with him and keep him, that he may again return in safety to his family & Friends.

Your affectionate Uncle

E. Waite

2177 5/4/1864

From: Eliza Gilmore

To: Lizzie A. Howard

OOH-2129

Leeds

Source: Bowdoin

[521]

Leeds May 4th 1864

Dear daughter,

I received your very welcome but short letter, last evening not going for the mail sooner, or the evening previous. The barrel of potatoes was taken to the depot at Curtis corner the 9th of April, and I suppose it was sent soon after Roland A. Gilmore carried it. He said he only paid the freight to Brunswick, as Henry Brewster told him he could not pay the freight any further. Mr Gilmore directed it to Gen. O.O. Howard, Augusta Maine with red chalk on the head of the barrel. The red chalk cannot be rubbed off. I presume it is at Brunswick. I will see Henry Brewster and know how he billed it, and ask Mr Goff to enquire about it.

I am much obliged to you for your Photograph. I think I sent one of mine in one of those letters I wrote you.

We had a letter from Charles last evening. They were well at the date of that 14th April.

I have saved dried apples enough for you. Dont pay me anything for what I send to you for I am always under obligations to you. I did not have much warning of Mr Berry's going to Augusta. I might have sent your collars and sleeves. I did not think of the dried apples in time to send them. I am sorry about the potatoes but think they will be found.

Am in hopes Grace will come with Mr Berry. I will keep anything for Julia that will be useful to her.

Much love and many kisses to all the children. I was in hopes to have seen Guy when he went to Farmington. Our business is farming, caring for lambs, cleaning house, gardening, &c. You did not say what I should do with that life ensurance policy that was sent to you by me. It is in my husbands safe at present.

Yours &c
Eliza Gilmore

Lizzie A. Howard

2179 5/5/1864

From: Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2131

Hq Qrs 4th Army Corps
Catoosa Sprs.

Source: Bowdoin

[524]

Hq Qrs 4th Army Corps
Catoosa Sprs. May 5th 1864

Dearest,

This is thursday, left Cleveland tuesday M. on arrival of Gen Schofield. I received a letter from you and Gracie just before leaving Cleveland. We rather anticipated a little trouble in getting here, but had only a little skirmishing. One of our cavalry was wounded badly and a little girl accidentally.

Give much love to all.

This Catoosa Spring is a splendid Watering place, tremendous wooden houses, but beautiful mountain scenery. More by & by. I am now close to the rest of the army – Thomas.

May God bless & keep you all.

Lovingly
Otis.

Sam is well. Chas, Capt St, Gilbreth & Hayes the same.

2181 5/6/1864

From: JM Schofield
Maj Gen.
Red Clay, Tenn

To: Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2132a

Catoosa Spring

Source: Bowdoin

[101]

Red Clay [Tenn.] May 6 [1864]
7 A.M.

Maj Genl Howard
Catoosa Spring

I send you a letter from "Seward" . Have telegraphed Genl Sherman the substance of it. Nothing new here. A small body of rebel cavalry was near this place last evening. Nothing more. Please send me a sketch of the country between us.

JM Schofield [John McAllister Schofield]
Maj Gen.

2180 5/5/1864

From: William Seward

To: Maj Gen JM Schofield

OOH-2132b

Red Clay

Source: Bowdoin

[101]

May 5th 1864

Maj Gen JM Schofield
Red Clay,

Sir,

Yours of the 4th inst is to hand - contents duly noted.

Dalton May 3rd P.M. Polks corps returned to Rome. Troops ordered to be ready to march. Flank movement apprehended in the direction of Rome.

Spring Place May 5th 2 o'clock P.M. Walkers Div Hardees Corps – strength about (5,000) Five thousand arrived here from Dalton Tuesday the 3rd inst and returned yesterday (Wednesday) morning. Force now there (35) thirty-five mounted men. Pickets 500 yrds from town on each road.

Please forward above information to Maj. Gen. Thomas – any communication will reach me, if sent to one Frank Smiths, who lives on Waterhouse farm, one mile from Whickers Benton Roads. Send word when to communicate with you tomorrow, or next day.

Sir with respects
Your obed Sevt
William Seward

[Summary written sideways on the back page, in a different hand.]

Red Clay, May 5 1864

Schofield, J.M. Maj.Gen. Forwards a letter from "Seward" also asks for map of country between us.

One (1) enclosure

2181 5/6/1864

From: JM Schofield
Maj Gen.
Red Clay, Tenn

To: Maj Genl [OO] Howard

OOH-2132a

Catoosa Spring

Source: Bowdoin

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JM Schofield [John McAllister Schofield]
Maj Gen.

2182 5/6/1864

From: J. M. McCook
Col Commanding
Head-Quarters First
Cavalry Division,
Department of the
Cumberland
Our House

To: Lt Col J.O. Fullerton

OOH-2133

Source: Bowdoin

[102]

Head-Quarters First Cavalry Division,
Department of the Cumberland,
Our House May 6th 1864

Colonel

I have the honor to inform you that the scouts of the 1st Brigade, report "strong Picket at burnel's station. Camp of Infantry and Cavalry at Mill Creek on this Dalton Road. Citizens report Earth Works at Poplar Springs."

Will you have the kindness to inform the General, that I shall require a train of fifty wagons for the forage & rations of my division, and if I carry a full supply of extra ammunition (eighty rounds to the man) I shall need twenty three waggons more, making seventy three wagons in all.

I am Colonel
very respectfully
your obt srvt
J. M. McCook
Col Commanding

Lt Col. J.O. Fullerton
A.A.S.

[Written on the back side]
Hd. Qrs. 1st Cavalry Div, Dept. of C.
May 6th 1864

McCook J. M.
Col. Comdg.

Gives reports of his scouts concerning the Enemy. Also states that he requires 73 wagons.

2183 5/8/1864

From: Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2134

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[27]

Augusta, May 8th 1864.

Dearest

I received your letter dated the 25 ult, and know you must have been very busy at that time. I wish you had had this new command sooner and had a few of the past months of quiet to have got everything into good working order. I imagine it would have been easier for you, than just before an expected forward movement. The news of Gen. Grant's visiting came this Sunday afternoon, and also that Gen. Sherman has taken Tunnel Hill. I do not think, dearest, that you have left Cleveland, although you may have left there and are with the advance. I was anxiously waiting for the morrow when I can learn more.

Mr. Fiske preached for Mr McKenzie to-day, and I wont call him disloyal again, for he gave us an excellent sermon - well adapted to this congregation. Words of the text, "Pilate saith unto him, what is truth?". I spoke with him after the morning service, fearing I would not see him again.

Guy and Grace went to the S.S. Concert and have come in since I began to write, and have gone to bed. Grace told what Mr Bradbury said, and Guy thought what Mr Fiske said was the best. Both agreed that it was a very good concert. Chancy is awake and as Isabella sings he joins with his "by-n-lo" very sweetly. She came from prayer-meeting a little time ago, and has taken baby so I can finish my letter.

We are quite well now. Chancy is restless lately, because he is getting his teeth. He now has four. Jamie continues to go to school mornings, and sleep evenings, then wakes and has an hour or two before supper for play. Guy is doing well this term. Guy and Grace are both just beginning "Greenleaf's Common School Arithmetic". I dont think he likes to write letters very well though. With Grace it is quite a mania. I hope she will write compositions as readily.

I am enjoying this month very much. You remember I was sick last year and lost all the beautiful spring. Mother sent me some butter, apples, cheese by Mr Berry last week. I hope they will come to Augusta when the roads get settled; they are not good yet. I have not seen Mrs Gilbreth for over a week. I went down to Mrs Stinsons, Thursday last and they kept me 'till after tea, had a pleasant visit.

I will not write more this time. Money and order came in the last letter.

Monday Morning

I will now finish my letter to you, dearest, and mail it with others when I go down street. I am going to get cloth for Guy a suit of clothes, and to pay some bills. Jamie is home this morning with neck quite swollen and cough. We are having very damp weather.

Fanny and Martha enjoy going to school. Julia says she gets up rested in the morning, and she "used to wish it was night so she could go to sleep again, for every bone in her body used to ache".

I dread to go down street – dont know what news I may hear but Guy must have clothes. I must do my work. Love to Charlie.

Your own loving
Lizzie

2187 5/16/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2135

Tunnel Hill Ga.
Hd Qrs 4th A.C.

Source: Bowdoin

[523]

Tunnel Hill Ga. May 16th 1864
Hd Qrs 4th A.C.

Dearest,

This cannot reach you in a moment to tell you that we are all safe after a three days action in a most impossible country. I suspect you must be very anxious during these days and I wish I might lay before you at once the exact state of things but I trust the movements of the Army of the Potomac will occupy you. Today we are fearing rather a stubborn battle, but maybe not, for McPherson with a large force is on Johnson's communication already. "Rocky face" is worse than Lookout – a sharp ridge with gaps that you cannot pass. It is very high & very steep and very rocky as the name implies. We have already lost a good many valuable lives. Oh, how the country will rejoice at the victory in the east, & how much christians should pray & be thankful.

God bless you, darling, & the little ones.

Lovingly
Otis

2184 5/12/1864 *From:* A.S. Packard

To: My dear General [OO
Howard]

OOH-2136

Brunswick

Source: Bowdoin

[104]

Brunswick May 12, 1864

My dear General,

This afternoon the parcel of reports (official) was received for the Historical Society of Maine, for which I beg to return you our very sincere thanks. I should have sent our formal letter of acknowledgment, but wished to write a few lines in addition. A few days since a parcel of newspapers came from your brother, the major, which have been entered as his donation, & which are very acceptable.

I perceive some movement is afoot in your department which makes it uncertain when or where this letter will find you. We are in high hope from tidings from Gen. Grant. These battles are very severe, & so far as I can judge, the result depends entirely on skill & endurance. It has much the appearance of a final struggle, & I doubt whether the history of war records such persistent, bloody & disastrous conflict. Our prayers daily ascend for the presence & favor of Him who is accomplishing his own purposes. We are chagrined by the reports from Gen B. in Louisiana. They seem to us very discreditable & very disastrous.

The accompanying circular will explain itself. Your brother who was in the last class that the Professor taught will be interested, & must, I believe, take a share in the announcement of this one circular. He will be interested to know that his classmates, Brackett & Young are valuable teachers, Brackett being very successful in his lectures to the medical & senior classes in a branch of chemistry.

That you & your brother may ever enjoy the protection & blessing of Him whose blessing maketh rich, is the sincere desire & prayer, dear General, of your

sincere friend,
A.S. Packard

2185 5/13/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2137

Head-Quarters 4th
Army Corps
Dalton

Source: Bowdoin

[522]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters 4th Army Corps
May 13 1864, 11 o'clock A.M.

Dearest,

My Corps entered Dalton this morning. Myself & staff unhurt.

God bless & prosper you all.

Lovingly
Otis

P.S. The enemy retreating.

Dalton May 13th 1864

2186 5/15/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2138

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[29]

Augusta May 15th / 64

Dearest

What shall I write to you to-night. Long before this letter reaches you, battles will have been fought, news will come to us, sad news may be to some of us. We have no news yet from Gen. Sherman, only "All is going well with Sherman", but how little is this to individuals, whose hours seem days, and the days weeks.

I think I am more anxious this spring than I was last. I dont know why I should be – we are all in the hands of God – He rules, governs and directs all things. He is the same yesterday and to-day. I have never looked forward to the end of the war until lately but it does seem as if the end was not very far distant, and God giving us the victory as we have long trusted he would in his own good time. This may be the cause of my extreme anxiety, feeling that if you are preserved during these present months, you will be brought safely back to us. "The Lord is gracious, full of compassion and of great mercy", can I not trust in Him?

I have been enabled to keep cheerful all the time, when any one would be here, Dearest, before Mrs Stinson Mrs Gilbreth even, but when Mr McKenzie called last thursday or friday I could'nt be, darling. He came just the wrong time. You were falsely reported wounded here last week, but I knew after a few moments that it could not be so, for no news had then come from the 'Army of the Cumberland'. Your letter from Catoosa Sprs is the last received. It is the latest from any of the staff.

I am obliged to Charlie for sending me the Photographs. I do not like to look at yours – it is not good. I hope Charlie is quite well. We hear that Isabella's brother Joseph is wounded and a prisoner. Maj Whitman is home wounded in the hand. Col. Fessenden I hope is not killed as last reported. How many friends we have lost in these late battles. I almost dread for the morrow to come.

It is now past nine all asleep. Guy has but just finished learning his bible lesson for to morrow morning. Guy is a good, obedient boy. I dont believe he ever can go astray. The clock is striking ten I must close. All are quite well. Chancy has some trouble getting his teeth – wakes me when I dont want to wake.

Tuesday Morning

My letter to you, Dearest, has been in my desk unfinished all this time. I am now writing just before Guy goes to school. I wish I could hear from you. We have news from Gen. Sherman up to the 15th Sunday – the enemy had evacuated Dalton, and there was an engagement all day Saturday. I expect a telegram at any moment.

Much love to Charlie. I pray it may be Gods will to preserve you both from injury.

Grace was glad to hear that you had received her letter.

Your own
Lizzie

2189 5/19/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2139

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[28]

Augusta, May 19th 1864

Dearest,

I received your 'dispatch' the same day I mailed my last letter – last Tuesday just about eleven o'clock. How thankful I was to heard such good news – I cried for joy. I sent the dispatch to Mrs Stinson, and sent a note to Mrs. Gilbreth. I wrote to Mother and to Rowland. I have had no letters from you - presume you have had very little time for writing letters to anyone.

We are all well now, and are having delightful weather. I have had the garden cleared up and it is beginning to look quite green and a floor to the wood shed. We look quite neat out of doors, if all the corners are not dug out in doors. I received a letter from Mrs Woodman to-night. She is quite well and hears from the Col. often. Frank Gilman's little package was 'called for' today by Miss McArthur to be sent to his Mother. I am very glad you sent home the cedar chair.

You do not object to my leaving my writing when I am tired and go to bed. I think the clock has struck ten, but I am not tired to-night. I hav'nt felt as well yesterday and to-day as I do most of the time. I think I have rest enough and I frequently take an after dinner sleep lately.

I try to through off as much of the work and care as I can. I have the tailor now well initiated into making Guy's clothes. I select the cloth and turn it over to him, and the clothes come home all right. It is a great relief.

You will be surprised, and I dont know whether sorry or glad, at the dont care feeling I have with regard to many things which once gave me great anxiety. I hope and trust I wont become indifferent to the more important duties of life. I want to do what is best for the children, but how little I can tell what will be best sometimes.

The Bible passage "if anyone lack wisdom let him ask of God", I often think of and repeat. I remember Mrs Adams of Auburn once spoke of it in my presence.

I was in at the Bank a few mornings ago, and Mr Hallett said "Well Mrs Howard nearly all the houses in Augusta are sold." Quite a number have been sold lately, Mr Jackson's Mr Norcross' &c. I dont care though and I am glad now we did not get Col Halls. I really dont want only a house. I do want plenty of land, not a yard merely. I think I must be getting a farm fever. I walked up to Mr Turners with Guy about a month ago. Everything there looked pleasant but the house. I do like such a place as that best. I think the war so nearly ended I can remain here till that time.

Good night now with best love from
Lizzie

2190 5/21/1864 *From:* G. W. Alexander

To: Maj Genl OO Howard

OOH-2140

Cleveland, Tenn.

Source: Bowdoin

[103]

Cleveland May 21st 1864

Maj Genl OO Howard

Dear Sir

Mr E Waterhouse has ninety eight bales of cotton stored with A Green & Co in Marietta Ga which perhaps there will be no one there to look after it, and he desires to have the cotton protected. He has owned the cotton for three years. Mr Waterhouse is a loyal citizen. Any protection you can afford him for his cotton will be thankfully rec'd, and appreciated by me.

Very Respectfully your

Obdt Servant

G. W. Alexander

P.S. Permit to congratulate you on your continued success. It is very gratifying to us all.

[Written on the back side of the page]

G. W. Alexander

Cleveland, Tenn.

Cotton of Mr. Waterhouse Marietta Ga.

States Mr. W. is a loyal man.

them in position to command the ridge, and to resist any attack that might be made by the Rebels in our front. About the same time an aid on Genl. Geary's staff informed me that Col. Ireland the Brigade Commander was wounded, and the command of the 3d Brigade devolved on me. The 102 NY Vols, Col Lane took position on the left of the 111th Pa. Vol. by my order, with the 119 N.Y Vols. Col. Lockman as support, joined on the right of the rear line by the 134th N.Y. Vol. Lt. Col. Jackson, and 109th Pa. Vols. Capt. Gimber, and on the left by a part of the 33d N.J.V. Col. Fourat, the 149 NY Vol Lt. Col. Randal occupying the right of the 111th P.V. in the front line. In this formation the command remained, with occasional firing on both sides until near 11 o'clock P.M.

As soon as the lines were formed in the above order I reported in person to General Geary commanding Division, and received orders from him to secure the Four Cannon in the rebel Fort, and remove them to the rear if possible. I immediately returned to the front, and ordered the 5th Ohio Vol. Lieut Col. Kilpatrick commanding, to relieve the 111th P.V. their right then resting in front of the fort and covering it. The 109th P.V. Capt. Gimber commanding was directed to take position on the left of the 5th O.V. in the same line, and the 102nd N.Y. Col Lane on the extreme left. The 149 NY was relieved by the 73 P.V. Maj. Cresson, and the 154 N.Y.V. Col. Allen. All the other troops (with the exception of the 33d N.J.V. who were held in reserve) I ordered to report to their respective brigades.

I immediately set a fatigue party at work digging down the side of the Fort, to remove the guns, when the Rebels opened fire on our line, and working party who were driven from their work. The fire was severe for a short time, and we were also exposed to a sharp fire from our own friends in the rear, through some mistake on their part; it was however soon silenced and the rebels driven back.

I then sent 1st Lieut., Wm. H. Cochran 33d N.J.V. who acted as aid for me during the night, with orders for Lt. Col. Kilpatrick 5th Ohio, to take charge in person of the working party, and to remove the guns at once, under cover of sharpshooters, regardless of the enemy's opposition.

I also ordered Col. Fourat of the 33rd N.J.V. to furnish a detail of 50 men without arms to report to Col. Kilpatrick and assist in removing the guns out of the Redoubt, and taking them to Division Head quarters.

After about two and a half hours severe labor, the digging was completed, and the guns removed to Div. Head Qrs. by 3 A.M.

All the troops under my command were from the 2nd Division, all three Brigades being represented. I therefore ask for the White Star Division whatever honor may be connected with the capture and removal of the Rebel battery.

In conclusion I would tender my thanks to the officers and men thus temporarily under my command, for their cordial support, and strict attention to orders.

I would also notice as worthy of special praise, Lieut. Col. Kilpatrick 5th Ohio Vols., for the prompt and energetic performance of the difficult and dangerous duty assigned to him, and also the officers and men of the 111th Pa.V.V. as worthy of special mention for their uniform good conduct under a most severe fire.

I annex herewith a tabular list of casualties in the 3rd Brigade in the action of the 15th inst.

I have the honor Captain, to remain,
Very Respectfully,
Your Obedient servant
Geo. A. Cobham Jr.
Col. Commanding Brigade

2192 5/22/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2142

Head Quarters 4th
Corps
Near Cassville Ga.

Source: Bowdoin

[518]

Head Quarters 4th Corps
Near Cassville Ga.
May 22 1864

Dearest,

I hav'nt written you for several days and am not sure about this letter getting back, but will try & send it. Chas., Gilbreth, Stinson, Frank and myself are all well.

Instead of three days we have had some twelve or thirteen days fighting. It is not always engaging our main lines but heavy skirmishing. "The rebs" have a rear guard of Cavalry supported by infantry. They arrange barricades of rails and logs along the road. When driven from one, another force has another ready some half or three quarters of a mile on. In this way they manage to check and hinder our march. We have driven them across the Etowah, & are now resting and collecting supplies for further progress.

You will possibly see accounts of our operations in the newspapers. We have had to charge on their well constructed breast-works, & at times the fighting has been quite severe. General [August] Willich and Col now General [Charles Garrison] Harker were wounded, and I have upwards of a thousand killed & wounded in the Corps. We had quite a battle at Dalton, then at Resaca, then at Adairsville and lastly here near Cassville. A kind Providence has protected me and my staff in the midst of constant danger. We have been fired upon by sharp-shooters, small arms and artillery. Now or then have had their horses shot and I had one bullet through my coat but none of us have received harm. We are preparing for quite a march and if you dont get a letter you must not think it strange for communication may be much interrupted. I long to get this work done that I may return to you all if God is willing. I do not feel as though my work was done, but we ought always to be ready.

The children were nicely at your last letter. Is Chancy as bright and happy as ever? And how is Jamie with his black laughing eyes. I am glad to have such good accounts of Guy and Grace.

The country this side of Resaca is very beautiful. Large and luxurious farms, magnificent trees. It is no wonder the "rebels" are not starving in such a country as this. This is a pleasing change of scenery from the mountains near Chattanooga, and really of great practical benefit for the horse & mule trains; plenty of grass to eat. The people have nearly all gone away - frightened away by rebel lies. Our men however are apt to pillage & destroy unless restrained.

I hope you are very well and that the weather is not quite so hot with you as here. We are hoping for more good news from the army of the Potomac. Give my love & kisses to all the children & your own dear self. Tell Julia Sam is well. He hasn't got to Athens Ga yet but hopes to do so.

Lovingly
Otis

God bless and keep you all.

2193 5/22/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2143

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[30]

Augusta May 22d / 64

Dearest

I received a note from Dell yesterday saying "they had received a letter from Charlie who wrote that you were writing at the same time to me with pencil". I ought to have had the letter long ago but it has not come. I wonder if you wrote that you had a bullet put through your coat. My heart beat quickly when I heard about it. I do believe I am more anxious about you both than ever before.

You are at or near Kingston, Ga. and how far away that is. I want the war over and you home. I dont expect the one without the other.

Henry Wingate was here yesterday - had not heard from you, or Leeds or from us for some time. Josie has been sick, is better. He thinks real estate very high here now. I heard that Mr Farwell who is here at the Arsenal with his family was to take his wife to look at Mr. Turner's house. I dont go anywhere so I have not called to see them yet.

Miss Jane, and Anna Tupper are expected back next Wednesday to spend the summer. I presume the Webbs and the rest will be here by and by. Mr Potter has offered four thousand for their house, but they now ask five thousand for both lots. I wont know as it is for us to always remain here. I can <sit> along another year here. A new house would bring other wants that could not be supplied here and I cannot make up my mind to leave <OLancy> here and go away unless I should have to before next fall.

I ought to go to Portland or Boston now, this very week. We are all ragged-out at the elbows &c &c &c. but what I put on, is one of the last things I think about. It is as much as I can do to keep all this big family covered. I only dont want to be shabby.

We had a good sermon to-day (as we always do) about "Heaven begins here on the earth" to use Guys words. I will write more in the morning if I can get time. Good night now,

Best love
From Lizzie

2194 5/25/1864 *From:* Lizzie [Howard]

To: Dearest [OO Howard]

OOH-2144

Augusta

Source: Bowdoin

[31]

Augusta, May 25 / 64

Dearest

I dont think my letters can reach you in very good season as you are moving. I hope you have the mail if not a regular mail. Your little wee letter from Dalton has reached me - a leaf from an order book I take it. I am always so happy to get a word from you. Your friends here all seem very glad you got through the battles safely. I have been reading about the battle of the 14th and 15th inst. You had hard fighting and all of you must have been much exposed. I wish and wish it was all over and we had a settled peace.

I am writing just as the clock is striking ten. All asleep in the house, but now and then I hear a step on the sidewalk – think my light must be the only one now burning, and I will now stop writing as it is getting late.

Your own
Lizzie

I did not write much of a letter last night, and as I did not mail it this morning, I will add what I can while Chancy is creeping about the library floor after Guys foot-ball.

I have been writing to Mrs Woodman this morning. I should think Mother could come to Augusta some time next month. It will not be a busy time and the roads are good. Col. Gilmore could leave too. Dellie is making money it seems. Wrote me from Farmington. I had no photographs of myself when he wrote, will soon send him one.

I now resume my writing Dearest, after all is quiet and I am alone in the library. Chancy is asleep just outside the door in his cradle.

Mary and Lizzie Otis and Willie Ellis have been here, took tea, and spent a greater part of the evening with Lizzie and Fred Morton. We had a good round table full of children at supper. Jamie enjoyed it most heartily - supper and company, both. The girls had letters to-day from Aunt Ellen, "Been to St. Pauls - now at her brother William's, think of coming home soon."

I hear it raining hard. We have had very few bright days this month. It seems as if this letter will never reach you so far away. A little more than three months you were here at home – that seems a great while ago. When do you suppose you will be home again? Can you tell anything about it? I hope you have written me a very long letter during the delay or rather rest Sherman's army has had. I hope you are all well. Love to Charlie and to our good friends with you. Good night.

Your Lizzie

2195 5/29/1864 *From:* Ella P.H. [Ella
(Patten) Howard]

To: Dear Sister Lizzie
[Howard]

OOH-2145

Farmington

Source: Bowdoin

[531]

Farmington May 29th /64
Ten P.M.

Dear Sister Lizzie

Rowland has been away from home a week, and I begin to wish I had four children as you have! It is awfully lonesome especially these dull, rainy days we have had. I expect him home tomorrow however. Dadie and Alice and I have been alone. I have usually had some one come in & spend the nights - some one of the young ladies. We have had a young man from the Seminary to preach for us today. Rowland has been in Boston, at the Anniversaries, and was invited to supply a pulpit in Lynn, and sent this young man here.

I suppose you are anxious every day about Otis. We dont hear from them except through the papers, and your note which we were very thankful to you for.

I have been expecting Mother Gilmore up for three or four weeks, but she doesn't come. I suppose she may be waiting till the western army is more quiet. I think she always feels very anxious, and very little like leaving home, when Otis and Charles are in any danger.

My mother spent nearly a week with me lately. She has been up twice lately, but makes very short visits. The family is so small at home now, that she doesn't like to leave Papa alone very long. Rowland and I are hoping to go to the June meetings at Searsport this year, and if we do, we shall go to Bath, and take Papa's horse, & go "overland". In that case I shall make a little visit at Bath on my way back. I shall take Alice, and leave her with Dadie at Bath, while we go to the meetings. I wish Augusta was in our way. I should really like to see you occasionally! Why cant you take your whole family, and "rusticate" awhile, at Leeds and Farmington? The change would do you all good. It doesn't seem a year since you were here, and yet it is almost.

I haven't seen Mrs. Woodman since she came home. The roads have been so bad all the spring, that we couldn't go over to Wilton, and now we have no horse, and perhaps she would as lief we would wait awhile more. Still, we have talked a great deal about going, since the travelling has become good, but Rowland has so many things to attend to, that we haven't got started.

I received your good letter a long time ago, and have had it in my mind to write you, ever since, but I am getting lazy about writing, I believe.

I hope the children are all well. You must send Guy or Grace, or both, up here, whenever you would like to have them come away, & I will take as good care of them as I would if they were mine. I cant promise to do any better. I suppose Master Chancy is walking before this. How babies do grow up!

We heard the sad news of the death of Uncle Lincoln's oldest boy, a fortnight ago [Edward Lincoln Patten, b. 10 Apr 1846, d. 13 Mar 1864]. He died in the East Indies [Rangoon, Burma], very suddenly. He was very near to us, having been in our family a great deal while his father was at sea.

Dadie is very well, and asks so many questions it wearies me to answer them.

Alice reads a little every day, but isn't very apt, I think. She don't seem to "take to learning"!
With much love,-
Ella P.H.

2196 5/29/1864 *From:* Otis [OO Howard]

To: Dearest [Lizzie Howard]

OOH-2146

Head-Quarters 4th
Army Corps.
Near Dallas Ga

Source: Bowdoin

[325]

[Letterhead]

Head-Quarters 4th Army Corps.
Near Dallas Ga May 29th 1864

Dearest,

This is a little the longest and most fatiguing of any Campaign we have had. For 25 days we have been more or less under fire (except two). Thus far a kind providence has protected us, except poor Stinson. The Dr. thinks this morning that he will get entirely well. He was close by me examining the enemy's works with a glass, when the ball struck him. He stooped forward and said he was hit, but he thought by a spent ball. He lay back and we found the wound the ball had struck his breast and passed quite through him. We carried him back a little way into a safer place. He began to fail growing cold. I asked him if he was trusting in Christ or something like it. When he said yes, tell them all at home that I expect to meet them in Heaven. After he was given a little stimulant, he rallied and looked bright. The surgeon came to him. Our own beloved Med. Director Dr Heard is attending him. How much I wish he was at home. Stinson is a perfect man; as I review his life and think of his personal character I find no fault in him. Always ready for duty, always cheerful night and day, always brave. I never thought how much I loved him till I thought I was bidding him a final good bye. I had seen Gen. Wood cry over a beautiful young officer who was mortally wounded earlier in the day. Now my turn came. The Lord can come very nigh us all in these terrible blows

I had my foot hit by a piece of shell the same day (Friday May 27th) but my boot sole was so thick that my foot was saved with only a contusion. The shock was enough to make my foot black & blue across the instep & toes but I am able to wear my boot and walk today. Yesterday I rode and walked in a slipper. At the time I was wounded I was commanding two Divisions Gen. Woods & Gen Johnsons attempting under the cover of the woods to turn the enemy's flank, but they were prepared and we had a severe engagement. We succeeded in gaining a position two miles nearer the R.R. but did not dislodge the rebels. They were behind well constructed intrenchments as usual. The army opposed to us is large and in good condition, and we have no easy task before us, but under the Divine blessing and with a cause as sacred as ours we shall succeed.

As soon as Harry Stinson is able to take the ride we will send him North. At present he is better here with good medical care. Charles is quite well.

I hope Guy is very well. I am glad he is doing well at school. Grace is well too. She must write the letters! Jamie, how does he like school? And little Chancy is getting his teeth. I know you will be glad when he is well through with the business.

There is some firing along the lines and my officers find that some bullets alight right here at Head Qrs.

God bless & keep us all through this struggle. "Not my will but thine be done"

Lovingly
Otis

Tell Mrs Stinson Harry is very happy & cheerful. Give her my love. Send much love to Mother.

2197 5/30/1864 *From:* Jeanie H. Grey

To: My dear friend General
[OO] Howard

OOH-2147

Greystone

Source: Bowdoin

[32]

Greystone 30th May '64

My dear friend General Howard!

We have looked with anxiety too great for language to describe for the news of your safety, and thank God! you are still unharmed! Oh, may the impenetrable shield of His love ever enfold you and ward off all evil from you, is our fervent prayer! I have been wishing for two years to send you a couple of boxes of books on which I have inscribed your name – to do whatever you choose with – would they were a thousand fold more valuable – although very precious they <[Missing Line –torn page]> often covered them over. Yet I need not say to you, that earth contains nothing too precious in my estimation, to give to the good angel of our darkest darkest night! You whose coming I watched as the only event that kept me from despair! Oh may the Angel of the covenant ever accompany your steps, and enfold you in His wings of love! And your kind wife! How often often I think, how gladly I would shew her my deep gratitude for her angelic loveliness! To me in the hour of anguish and destitution! I know He will yet give me the happiness of ministering to her & her dear ones under our own roof! This I pray for!

My cousin William Melvin Beebe will give you this letter. I enclose it to him because I wish you to throw your good & holy influences around him, and I know I need not beg this for him, your great heart will open to one so dear to us, I know? As indeed it encircles all God's creatures. Please ask my brother Charles to love him & be kind to him also?

With our most devout aspirations for your health, happiness, and security from ill - and his -

I am ever gratefully & affectionately
Your friend
Jeanie H. Grey

P.S. Shall I send the books to you, or what shall I do <with> them, for they shall ever remain sacred to you - not that <I> count them of the slightest pecuniary value - for believe I do not - but I want my dear father's dear friend to <> those companions of his best hours when he <> his God - and you know he loved & prized you.