

Camp OFF(?)

Fredericksburg

March 26, 1863

Dear Gus,

How have you been & what in the devil have you been doing, as I have not heard from you for some time, I have concluded to write you a few lines. I am officer of the day & in consequence of that, I have nothing in the world to do. I have been acting undertaker to day & had a darkey buried. I expect to be compelled to go on picket Sunday. I tell you there is quite a difference between picketing at the at the cross roads near Norfolk & the

[page 2]

picketing we do here, the old rebels are on the opposite side of the Rappahannock & we do picket on this, they are as busy as bees constructing rifle pits & batteries & as far as the eye can reach, you can see nothing but- battery after battery, I only hope when General Hooker moves, he don't move left in front for if he does, there will be a young fellow of my size keeping a sharp look out for the rebel pills We are now under marching orders & will move in less than a week, we now

[page3]

have 138,000 men for duty & I think before many weeks, you will hear of the army of the Potomac doing something, all our wagons have been turned in, as well as all our baggage sent to Washington & all we are allowed are shelter tents, & 2 pack mules to each company, I saw Capt. Ripka in town (Philadelphia) when I was home last in February, he told me he had been sick & even then he did not look very well. How is Brian, tell (?) Carr, the cows that

[page 4]

were struck by highlighting are all right.

Remember me to Capt. L Tony (?), also to Capt Redmond Lieuts Brinly(?), Johnson, Blakely & the rest & write soon

to your old friend

Jno. Q. Carpenter

Direct (?)

Lieut Jno Q. Carpenter

Co E. 150 Regt P. V.

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade

3<sup>rd</sup> Division

1<sup>st</sup> army Corp

Army of Potomac

Washington

DC