

Camp at Centerville Va
June 15th 1863

Dear Brother

I take the first opportunity of informing you of my where abouts. We left Camp Noyes on the 12 at noon and have been on the road ever since how far we have marched I do not know but it was as far as I wish to march in three days. we rec'd our pay the day we left Camp Noyes and I had not a chance to send you my check until now. In closed you will find a check of \$24.

We arrived here this morning 9 O clock how long we shall stay here is uncertain we may leave here to night and may stay a month for all as I know. write as soon as you get this our mail will come to us when we cannot mail a letter write often. The weather is quite warm here now, but I stand it very well. I am as tough as ever. Our Regt is quite small now, but I expect New York can fill it up if nessary I wish she would send us five or six hundred conscripts. I would like to march along with them a few days. The boys cary very small loads mine consists of one shelter tent rubber blanket one pair of socks portfolio and needle book and three days rations which weigh all told weighs about 25 lbs and the gun and acutremets weighs about 15 lbs. and that is all I want to cary this warm weather. We came here by the way of Manassas junction it is a splendid country the best I ever saw in Va the grass is almost knee high in some places.

Centerville is 7 miles west of Fairfax it is very strongly fortified. the fortifications was thrown up by the Rebs and are ocupied now by our troops I think of no more at present

write soon from

R. J. McCadden
154 Regt N. Y. Vols. Co.. G

to Wm. G. McCadden
Ellicottville
Cattaraugus Co.
New York

Nov 20th 1862

Dear Mother

It is with pleasure that I can write a few lines to the one I long most to hear from. Mary told me you was jelous for fear I would write to others oftener than I did to you I have written to three times in one week and that was week before last. you told me I would see hard times. Wall some of the boys says that we have seen hard times but in the worst of it I took comfort, if this is hard I do not know what nice times Soldiering would be I have been looking for you for the last three months but have recieved none amediately from you but it answered very well knowing when I heard from home that you was well I signed when I was at Jamestown to send home \$12. per month of my pay I will recieve a check evry pay day to that amount which I can send home it is a new and a nice thing and if the check is lost they will furnish me with another it dus not cost a sent I signed it to Billy and he is the only one that can draw it and he will have to endors it before he can get the money on it. We have recieved no pay since left Jamestown Billy wanted I should send an order on E Harman I send it in this no more at presant

Dick

Camp Jones Nere Fairfax
Dec 7th 1862

Dear brother

I recd yours of Nov 30 this morning and was glad to hear from home it has been 3 weeks since I have heard from home only the letter Margery wrote me I should think you must write as often as I can. you can set down to a table in a chare in a warm room while us poor soldiers have to sit flat on the ground and write on my knee or catridge or plate or something of the like. when I think of this, It seems as if you mint along with rest of the friends if so I must call them even write once a week while I have written home from 2 to 5 letters a week since I have bin in Dixie, and have thought my self well off if I got one in two weeks. I wrote to Jenny week before last and will write to Margery this week.

Our Camp has been named after our Col We have ben here almost a month. The snow is about six inches deep and this is a regular old Catt day the snow is a blowing like _____ the ground is frozen hard as a stone the sun is a shining very nice but it dus not thaw even in the sun shine. But Mose & myself are as cosy as you pleas with a nice little fireplace in our tent

Henry Bliton has gon in to the Ambulance corps, so Mose Lamb is my only mes mate he is a tip top fellow and we have nice times We have a wolen blanket and a ruber one each and along with our overcoats we sleep as warm as you can pleas some in our company are half froze to death they are to lazy to fix their tents and make fireplaces thare is plenty of wood here. You said you was going on _____ a hunting I wish I could go with you but I have got larger game to hunt than you will kill. Tell Mother I will be at home next spring to help eat hir aple saus I wish I could have some of it now but I had rather have some of the sider _____ got some apels. I think you had better buy a hog dressed that will weigh 2 or 3 hundred it will be cheaper now than in the spring. I will send you some money as soon as I get my pay we are expecting the pay master every day we have not seen him since we left Jamestown.

Billy tel Deforest I am going to glad to recieve such long letters and so many of them from him Tell Ed Rust to write to me. Tell Mary I was munch supprised on hearing Minie was asleep you must had a queer old time then.

But my legs are getting tired and must stop give my respects to all Yours &c

Dick

direct as before adding 1st Brigade 2nd Division 11 Army Corps

Camp near Fredericksburg Va
Dec. 25th, 1862

Dear Mother

I wish you a mery Christmas and I no doubt but you will have it as for my self it is passing very plesantly. We are in a very plesant place on the bank of a very nice little brook with high knools on three sides it is quite plesant and warm. Co. G. & B are detached to support a battery of five twenty pounders we are munch safer then if we ware with the Regt how long we may remain here is unknown to us

As for news we have none all we know is to get in to the ranks and right dress sholder arms &c. &c. if I were at home I would twice as munch a bout the war even our Capt dont know how many men thare is in our Corps and I believe he knows as munch as half of the Capts in the Regt The weather is as plesant as Sept and puts me in mind of it at home all is quiet here at presant and has been since we have been here Fredericksburg is in plain sight of here our Co. reports 40 men for duty Jim & Alec Bird are well feeling fine no more at presant

Dick

Mary why the d___l dont you write. have you forgotten how or dont you want to speak to me- you must not wate for a letter from me for I can not always get time to write besides it is hard work to write in a bunk besides a table we have had but about one week of cold weather this winter _____ and tell me the news when you write and dont forget to answer this

Dick

Camp one 1/4 miles from Fredericksburg
Feb 1st 1863

Dear Brother

I recd your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you
I wrote Mary about a week ago

I recd my pay yesterday up to the 31 of Oct which was a check
of \$20. and \$10. in cash I send you the check in this letter
I do not know when I will get the rest of my pay not very soon
I am afraid I wrote to Mary to have you make me a pair of boots
and send _____ a pair that John _____ is a going to send to Nelson
Kingsley you may send me to pair of socks and a cotton pocket
hankerchief I can loos silk ones as fast as I can get them.
make me a pair of ___ boots I have no news.

I am bunking with the Capt now we have a fine house built
of logs and a nice bed and fire place as that is the most comfortable
thing of all. Besides we live on the top shelf it is very muddy
here now.

You spoke of Gen Hooker being wounded thare was not a gun
fired. I think we will stay here untill spring. Tell Mother not
to fret about me my health is the very best I am as fat as
a pig. I have just got my first pair of sky blue pants and they
are nice I tell you. I have no more to write this time so
Good night

Dick

write as soon as you get this

R. J. McCadden
Co. G 154 Regt N.Y.S.V.

Billy put on heelplates on those boots and make the heels broad

Camp near Stafford C.H. Va
Feb 14/63

Dear Sister

It is with pleasure that I again attempt to write a few lines to you I recd a letter from home last night one from Billy and one from Margery

A _____ if I were at home I could tell you some big stories bout Soldiering but I have no news to write I write so often I am as bad as in a Jale nothing going on, But I suppose I will have to write to let you know that I am still a live

Feb 15th

As to day is Sunday I guess I will have time to finish my letter Billy Bird was here last night and stayed with Col Jones he left this morning for his Regt. We have fine times here now no work to do and a good house to live in I can tell you I enjoy my self wright well and I can say what a good many cant I have never been home sick or tired of Soldering. We have fine weather here now no snow and very little rain. It is no mistake the sunny South is delightful but as I can think of no more I will stop I will write a line in this which you can give to billy Give my love to Mother and the rest of the family not forgetting your self

Yours truly

Dick

No. 1 Camp near Stafford C. H. Va
Feb 13th. 1863

Dear Mother

As I have nothing to buisy my self about I thought I would write you a few lines. Since my last letter we have had a very nasty time it has snowed and then rained on day and night steady but it cleared off yesterday morning and it is as plesant as ever now The Capt caught cold and is about sick to day he has set up but very little and it has kept me in the house the most of the time but he is better now I hope he will be a bout soon for he is the best officer in the whole line. the field officers are not much ahead of him. Our Co. is the best drilled in the Regt and it is called so by the field officers they can dust their garters you may bet. We are having easy times now tell Billy to write and let me know how he likes schooling I hope he will like it as it is good business and easy work and will learn him to write and do business I am as tough as ever I believe Alic & Jim & my self are as tough as any in the Regt I have no news for you to night I will finis this to morrow and send it in the mail which leavs every day at 12 M. I have a little concern here which was sent to me and as I have no place to keep it I will send it home for safe keeping and a paper also which was sent to me by some unknown person I will send it in a few days

Feb 19

I recd a letter from Mary last night and a paper from Billy Mary wanted to know how to make flittes? tell her I have two ways to make them one for holedays and another for general use tell her to say which she wants and I will send it amediately. I wrote to alv___ last week I will write to Margery & Deforest next I wish you would send me in your next letter a little Saderatus. I have not recd my boots yet but I have no doubt but I will soon lay this envelope one side for me no more at presant from your Son a U. S. Soldier

Dick

Camp John Manley
Va March 20/53

Dear Mother

As I am not buisy to day I thought I would write you a few lines although I have no news to tell. We are still in our old camp whare we have been since the 7th of Feb it was named after the Soldiers friend John Manley on which he gave the Regt a barrel of Whiskey, Which was given to the officers and men and some of the boys got in the gard house in consequence of it being rather strong. We are drilling almost every day except Saturdays Sundays and days we are on picket which is about three days out of fifteen it is snowing finely to day. I think we will stay here untill we commence active operations.

Our Regt numbers at presant about (500) fighting men out of (969) which left Jamestown but what is left is of the right stripe and as tough as an ox. I have not got my boots yet but I guess they will be along before we leav here. The Capt got a trunk from home last night that was started on the 25 of Dec. I think mine will come yet.

Whare is Billy and what is he a doing I am shure it is rather hard times for him every thing is so high

I expect the pay master here every day as soon as I get my pay I will send you some money I have nearly five months pay due but I do not expect but fore at presant. Tell Alphonso he has not answered my letter and if he does answer it before long he will have time to answer in stead of one. I can think of no more at presant. from your affectionate son a

U. S.. Soldier

R. J. McCadden

in directing
you may omit
the Brigade
Division &
Corps

(Letterhead- Union flag and printed

Camp "John Manley," 154th REG'T N.Y. VOL.,
1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 11th Corps, Army Potomac.

Near Stafford C. H., Va.,) Apr 10 (1863.)

Dear Brother

I recd your letter in due season which found me in good health as usual. We were reviewed yesterday by Gen Howard and to day by Old Abe Lincoln. I had a fine view of the old rail splitter he is about as homley a man as you would wish to see altho he looks good natured you would know him by the picture you have seen so many times of him.

The whole Corps was was presant consisting of about 15 or 20 thousand along with three Batteries of six guns each rifled six pds light Artillery (iron guns), and the same number of heavy brass pieces. I should think they would cary a 12 lb round shot or a twenty lb conical shell thare was also a company of lancers they were mounted on horse back and each man has a lance about one foot long at the end of a staff ten or twelve feet long with a little red flag about as large as this sheet of paper when it is open they looked gay I can tell you and each one was armed with a sword The President had his wife and two little boys with him they were in a cariage and the President was on a splendid horse. We were formed in three battle lines & as thare is three Divisions in the Corps each Division forming a line of its own each line was was 8 or 10 men deep it was a grand sight now I tell you Old Abe rode a long our lines in front of each Division. Then we marched he took his post in front and we all marched past him. he was saluted 21 guns fired by the Artillery when he first came _____

The Presidents staff consisted of I should think at (300) commissioned officers thare was three ladies amongst them all on horse back _____ Huntley was one of them. It was a splendid sight and the day was as bright as you ever saw which added beauty to the scene. Thare was three brass bands thare and splendid ones too take it all together it was the most splendid sights I ever saw.

I have just recd a paper from you as it is getting late I must close it is after taps I am Sergt of the Camp guard to morrow that is fine as we have a good guard house. I wrote to Mother a few days ago I got those Envelopes How do you and Miss _____ B get along

Tell Mother I have written oftimes then I promised to

no more at presant

Dick

Camp on the Battle
field May 5th 1863

Dear Mother

It is with pleasure that I am about to inform you that I am well at present after being in the fight two days the 2nd & 3rd. I saw Billy Bird last night he was well Alic & Jim is allright Warren Kingsley was killed on the 2nd Clark Cyer Frank Hicks & Esley Groat is slightly wounded but will be able for duty in a few days Warren was shot in the head Sam Nois was wounded and taken prisoner Com Vedder is Missing Col. H. P. Jones was wounded in the leg. I think that is all you know that was but is all right I will write again as soon as I get a chance to mail a letter. No more at present Good by and God Bless you

R.. J. Mc Cadden

P.S. There was 19 killed wounded missing out of our Co

Camp J Manly

May 7"

PS I am all right at present

Dick

Camp John Manley, Va
May 8th 1863

Dear Mother

It is with pleasure that I again attempt to inform you of my whereabouts. Since our Regt left this camp which was three weeks ago last Monday we have seen the stern realities of war and that is no trifling affair. I was in last Sunday's & Saturday's fight. It is said to be one of the hardest fought battles of since the Rebellion began. Our Regt lost 226 killed Wounded & Missing out of 500 which we took in the fight. The Enemy turned our right flank Saturday at 6 P. M. the fight began it opened on our Corps which was entirely unprepared for them at the time they succeeded in driving the 11 Corps until it was reinforced by the 3 corps which made them halt for the night

on Sunday the 3rd the fight began very early in the morning and lasted all day. Our Regt got scattered as well as the other Regts in the Brigade. Our Co stuck together well and were ordered in to a rifle pit the next day and lay for two and one half (2½) hours under the heavy shelling there was during the fight and was at length ordered out and sent into some rifle pits on the left that ended up our hand in the fight. I had my cap torn by a piece of a shell but did not get a scratch. Our 1st Lieut is Missing Alic & Jim is safe Warren Kingsley was Color guard and is reported dead there was 24 holes through our flag and one between the flag and the felows hand that carried it on the staff.

What our losses is hard to say but I think the Rebs lost three to our One. We recrossed the river day before yesterday and came on back to our old camp you must not expect to get letters very often as the mail is stoped when we move I will write again before long write soon

Dick

Camp John Manley Va May 10th/63

Dear Mother

As I have nothing to do to day I thought I would give you a complete history of my wanderings for the past four weeks. four weeks ago to day at 2 P.M. our camp was aroused by the order to march at 5 O clock the next morning to Kelleys Ford on the Rapahannock a distance of 22 miles. All preparations was made for a march, and the boys left their knapsacks (which was sent to them about a week afterwards,) and went in light marching trim, each man taking nothing but his blous in the coat line, and his wolen & ruber blanket & shelter tent which is very light weighing about one pound (that is the tent). We marched the first day to Hartwood Curch a place whare there had ben a cavelry fight a short time before, here we encamped for the night and with a good fire in front of our tent and plenty of cedar boughs for a bed we passed the night very well. The next morning we resumed our march at 6 O clock after making our breakfast of cofee and hard tacks. nothing ocurred on the road worthy of notice and we reached the ford at 4. P.M. of the second days march which was the 14" day of Apr. Here we remained doing heavy picket duty, being on duty nearly all the as thare wer only only our little Brigade of about 2,000 men thare until the coming of the 28th when we reinforced by about 50,000 infantry & 10,000 cavelry and a good supply of artillery our brigade was called uppon to assist in laying the pontoons we were the first to cross the river in the boats and then deployed along the bank while the boats were got into position side by side and covered with plank which forms a very nice bridge it was completed in about two hours. we crossed without any opposition except the firing of ganshets muskets by the pickets which was without affect and as thare was but a few they skydadled at our approach. After the bridge was completed and a good many of the troops over (they commenced crossing as soon as the bridge was completed which was about 10 O colck P.M. Apr 28th) our Brigade went back over the river to their camp to rest the remanger of the night we reached the camp at about midnight The next morning we got our things packed up and with eight days rations three in our haversack and five in our knapsack we again crossed the river at 8 O clock A.M. Apr 29 and lay on the oposite bank all day and the next night. The last of the troops got a crossed at about 6 P.M. Apr 29 the cavelry all forded the river. While we lay here the boys of our Brizade tuck it into their heads to see what there was in a small town by the name of Kelleysville in the line of danties. they found plenty of flower in a grist mill and in a store thare was plenty of ham, bacon &c &c then they thought they would try the dwelling house. In thare they found sugar and cream in a bundance and other little danties which those wealthy men of the south are favored with and among the rest was a splendid set of china dishes which had adorned the table of one of the most noted Rebles of Va. those dishes were brought into camp full of sugar cream and other danties which did not come amiss to the hardy soldier who has been living on salt pork hard tacks and coffee for months. I had all the ho cake

May 10, 1863 Cont'd.

& sugar & cream for supper that I could manage. Suffize it to say this house of this wealthy farmer was ransacked from top to bottom by our boys and what was left was not much.

The next morning (Apr 30th) we comenced our march at day brake Cur Brigade was rear guard this day and marched in rear of the wagon trains which was at least two miles long we marched until 2 O colck P.M. and halted on the bank of the Rapadan River three houres for the train to cross the men crossed on a foot bridge and the teams forded the river it was amusing to see the poor Mules struggle aganst the current which was quite swift there was a few mules drowned and the rest came through all right- the last got a crost at five O clock P.M. when we resumed our march and did not stop until midnight having our Journey completed we halted and lay down for the night in a place called wilderness the rest of our corps were camped here. The next morning when I awoke the sun was shining as bright as I ever saw it was very warm and plesant. Here we remained until 2 P.M. when we were ordered into line and started for the right of our army but had gone but a short distance when the order was countermanded and we returned to our old position. about five P.M. we were ordered into line again and thare was some skirmishing along our front we lay behind a little knoll as reserve. the firing seased at dark and our pioneers worked all night throwing up brestworks. We were in the ranks until 10 O clock P.M. when we were ordered to stack our arms and ly down for the night. this ended the first day of May.

On the 2nd we were up in good season and after breakfast we Cur Regt was ordered out near the brestworks where we lay in reserve until 5 PM (five) two companies being at the brestworks at a time Companies G, & Bs turn came at 5 P.M.. We had ben in but about 30 minits when we were out flanked by Stone Wall Jackson the Reble Gen. on our right he had his forces massed and attacked us whare we did not expect him and as there was but one division it was forced back in a hurry the fire of musketry was simultaneous until they reached our Brigade then it comes wors than ever we have a battery of six guns in our Brigade it opened on them with shell at first but soon they came clost enough to use canister and our Battery boys gave them double doses at half range which completely cut roads through the Rebs, but we were out numbered and after giving them a few rounds from our rifles were forced back through a piece of pine woods into an open field whare our heavy brass cannon opened on them with grape and canister which made many a poor Reb bite the dust. night came on and closed the sene the Rebs remaining in the woods through which we passed and our brass cannon holding their position. ~~thus-elsesd-the~~ When our Regt retreated it got scattered but our Co kept together with the exceptions of three or four Cur Capt was very cool in the action. Cur Co remained on the field and all of the rest of the Regt was gon we were then ordered to do picket duty through the night. at about 10 P.M. thare was a brush between the 97 N.Y. and the 1st Exelsior which was a sad mistake it lasted but a few minits after this all was quiet during the remainder of the night thus ended the 2nd of May

May 10, 1863 Cont'd.

In the morning as our Company was absent from the Regt Cur Co was ordered into some rifle pits farther to our left along with the 12 Army corps we took place here about 5 A.M. scarcely had we got on place when the fight began on the knoll where our brass guns stood in a cleared field. The enemy drove our forces back slowly into the woods which was close by and as soon as they got to the edge of the woods (the Rebs) our men was waiting for them and they poured such a fire of musketry into the Rebs they were forced back. I lay in sight of all this. Our men did not follow them up when they fell back and in a few minutes the Rebs planted cannon on this knoll and which had been occupied by our batteries the night before and commenced shelling the rifle pits where our company lay along with the 12 army corps they was with in a short shelling range and and the way the shell flew there was a caution. The infantry came up and gave us a few volies which we returned then they took another tack (the Enemies infantry) and came up in front during the whole time the Rebs was shelling us the best they knew after remaining here 2½ hours we were ordered to retreat during the retreat which was 1/2 or 3/4 of a mile the shot and shell was flying like hail. while lying in the rifle pit a piece of a shell struck the top of my cap tearing it a little but did not touch me. Our Co got back to the Regt about noon which was pretty well on the left at this time here we took the rifle pits again but nothing occurred worthy of notice after this time we remained here untill the 5th of the Month on the morning of the 6th we recrossed the river and got back to our old camp John Manley at 10 O clock on the 7th of May and remain here upto this time. There I think you have a complete history of the past four weeks.

The pay master will pay us tomorrow there is over six months pay due us I will send you some money tomorrow if I get it in time. I can think of no more to right and it is getting late so good night

May 11th

I forgot to tell you our loss it was 296 killed wounded & Missing in our Regt Fred Vinton Wm. Millhollen & West dolph is amongst the Missing Col H.P. Jones was wounded Warren Kingsley was shot dead Co. G had 7 wounded all slightly four missing and two killed the name of the battle field was Chancellorsville. I saw Bill Bird after the fight he is all right

Camp at Centerville Va
June 15th 1863

Dear Brother

I take the first opportunity of informing you of my whereabouts. We left Camp Noyes on the 12 at noon and have been on the road ever since how far we have marched I do not know but it was as far as I wish to march in three days. we rec'd our pay the day we left Camp Noyes and I had not a chance to send you my check until now. In closed you will find a check of \$24.

We arrived here this morning 9 O clock how long we shall stay here is uncertain we may leave here to night and may stay a month for all as I know. write as soon as you get this our mail will come to us when we cannot mail a letter write often. The weather is quite warm here now, but I stand it very well. I am as tough as ever. Our Regt is quite small now, but I expect New York can fill it up if necessary I wish she would send us five or six hundred conscripts. I would like to march along with them a few days. The boys carry very small loads mine consists of one shelter tent rubber blanket one pair of socks portfolio and needle book and three days rations which weigh all told weighs about 25 lbs and the gun and accoutrements weighs about 15 lbs. and that is all I want to carry this warm weather. We came here by the way of Manassas junction it is a splendid country the best I ever saw in Va the grass is almost knee high in some places.

Centerville is 7 miles west of Fairfax it is very strongly fortified. the fortifications was thrown up by the Rebs and are occupied now by our troops I think of no more at present

write soon from

R. J. McCadden
154 Regt N. Y. Vols. Co. G

to Wm. G. McCadden
Ellicottville
Cattaraugus Co.
New York

Camp within 5 miles of Leesburg
June 20th 1863

Dear Mother

As I have a few minits to write and the chaplain said
he would take it out of I got it redy _____
We are within five miles of Leesburg. I am well as usual
I wrote you the other day from Centerville and sent a
check of \$24 the _____

Dick

Camp at South Mountain Md.
5 oclock PM
June 27th 1863

Dear Sister

Your just recd (date June 20") I now under take to answer the same We arrived here last night and camped on the old Battle field where we remain at presant. al is quiet here at presant no signs of Rebs. but I expect to find them soon We crossed the Potomac day before yesterday into Md and it can tell you it seems like home the country is in a good state of cultivation and the people seem to be union. We passed through Middle town yesterday and I can tell you they were glad to see us I guess every lady in the town had a flag or hankerchief which they were waving to welcome us. Middle town is larger than Ellicottville.

We have had fine times since we crossed the Potomac we can buy bread pies cakes butter milk &c. &c of the dutch gals which are very plenty and at a fair price. besides charies which grow very plenty here and of a superior quality we have all we want of them

You have not told me what you named your boy yet I should like to see him just for fun but had rather see Minie I suppose she is getting to be quite a girl. you know I have not a great anxiety to see childrens I never saw before but I would like to see your boy and Margerys. I think you are genius on the boy line but I suppose you think it is war here and boys are most useful.

You can tell Uncle Peters folks I have written a good many letters to them but have never recd but one from them no more / Dick

Camp at Bridgeport All.
Oct 3d, 1863

Dear Mother

I arrove here this morning after seven days ride on the cars night and day and I can tell you it was ride enough for me. We passed through Va. Md. Ch. Ind. Ky. and Tenn. and are now in Allabama. We had a nice time on our journey here.

We joined the Regt this morning. we are on the bank of the Tenn. river a very plesant place. I like the move we have made verry munch I think it munch plesanter than Va. It is as plesant as summer here now just warm enough to be plesant.

We had a fine time on our journey here. the people welcomed us all along the road. allmost every lady we passed had a flag or a hankerchief which she waved as we passed while the men and boys waved their hats. the ladys would throw grapes apples &c on the cars as we passed. you may bet we lived high. At Indianapolis the ladys got us up a fine dinner we had every thing we could wish for. I can tell you Indiana is a nice state besides I think it can furnish more prety girls than any other state in the Union. they are so plenty they must use them for guards along the Railroad in stead of a fence. Ch! dont I wish this war would end so I could go and live in Indiana. But enough of this noncence I wrote you a letter the day I left Parole camp I sent you by express two blankets and a pair of pants. I wrote Billy a line from Louisville, Ky. let me know if you recd those things.

I have not recd a letter from home since the one with the two dollars in and I dont expect to recieve any you have wrote since. still I may. I want you to write as soon as you get this and tell me all the news about the draft &c.

Jim Bird is in command of our Co at presant. I am writing this on my knee and I hardly think you can read this it so I guess I had better stop I will send you an envelope directed. No more at presant and I remain yours ever

Dick

Camp at bridgeport Ala
Oct. 25". 1863

Dear Sister

After a long a time I will attempt to answer your letter of Sept 13" which was recd in due season and I can give no reason why I have not answered it before now except lazyness.

I suppose you are a ware I have bin exchanged and returned to duty and have had a long ride from the Army of the Potomac to that of the Cumberland a change which I think the boys are all well pleased with. On our way here we passed through the following States Md. Va. Oh. Ind. Ky. Tenn. and into Ala. so you may guess it was no small journey. We are 40 miles west of Chattanooga on the bank of the Tennessee river a thousand miles from any body or any place. But it is just the place for a soldier no one to bother him.

The cars run from here to Nashville Tenn. so we are well supplied with rations. The country here is verry rough and almost an entire wilderness. Still I like it better or as well as Va. Our Regt is at work on a railroad at presant, and it is generly thought we (The whole Regt) will be detailed as pioneers to cut wood for the rail-road we will know in a few days.

Wall how goes the draft! I suppose it is all over by this time and things are going on smooth again. Com Vedder told me that thare was but one acoming from Ellicottville and that was Jo Dolph he said Hi Oakes raised his 300 by subscription. how iid Billy and Tom get off? Played sharp I suppose. When you hear those patriotic boys telling they would come into the Army if it was not for Pa or Ma or some body els just ask them if they would not come if it was not for the bullets I believe they have the most to do with them. You may tell Tom and Billy they dont know what fun is always staying to home. tell them to come out here and live on hard tacks and bacon, sleep on the ground for a year or two then they can talk about fun.

Jim has been sick but is getting better fast he says he feels like a new man he has just got on a clean shirt and drawers he says he will write in a day or two. he like myself have not recieved any mail since we left Alexandria. Tell William I should be glad to hear from him. I think of no more at presant. give my love to Mother if you see hir no more at presant

Yours truly

Dick

My address is Co G 154" Regt N.Y. Vols
1st Brig. 2 Div. 11 Army Corps
Army of the Cumberland

Camp at Lookout Mt Tenn
Nov 8" 1863

Dear Mother & Brother

As I was writing to Maggy to day I thought I would put in a few lines for you. I am as well as ever and as fat as a cub..

I recd three letters from Billy and one from Mother last week it was the first mail I had recd since I joined the army of the Cumberland and you can guess I was pleased on recieving it as no one but a soldier can fully appreciate a letter from home. - - We are having verry good times here now and what is better it begins to look as if the war was on its last legs for I hardly think they can hold out munch longer. When this cruel war is over then I will return and I am shure you will be munch happier to see me than If I had stayed at home all the time or wated untill I was drafted. I am glad to hear that Billy was exempt for I know you would be lonesome if he should leave. I do not apprehend the least danger of his coming. I was mustered the other day for six months pay I expect we will be payed off some time in December. I wish you would send me a few postage stamps as it is imposiable to get such a thing here. as for paper Envelopes I have a plenty of them more than I can keep clean although I have a good Portfolio.

Pleas let me know how you get a long in the saloon for I feel anxious to to hear from you write to me often and I will to you

Yours truly

Dick

Camp in Lookout Valley Tenn
Dec 24th, 1863

Dear Mother & Brother

I recd your letter of Dec 15 last night which found me in good health as usual after a long and hard march of some 50 miles with a wagon train but the whole Regt is now in camp and we have moved a short distance and built winter quarters I have a verry nice house a good fire-place and writing desk and table & some fine stools for chairs Besides we have a fine bake kettle or Skillet as they call it which comes verry handy to bake corn dodgers in as we can get boath flour & meal here it is a splendid one I got it on Lookout Mountain it is one the reos left especialy for me I suppose.

I recieved a letter from home about a week ago and have not had time to answer it yet. I recd the pepper & thread all safe it was verry nice & the thread was just what I wanted as it is verry hard to get here. you need not send me any more pepper tho it is furnished now with our rations we have plenty of it.

I was glad to hear that check got through safe

Capt M. B. Cheney handed me the Co. report book this morning and told me I was Orderly Sergt. I dont know what the 2" Sergt will think of that as he is here Jimmy Bird is to be mustered as an officer in a few days perhaps tomorrow

Alic Bird I understand will stay at Elmira all winter. we miss him verry much as he was always full of fun.

The weather is a little cool here at presant although we have had no snow yet. we have plenty of wood & water and that is good. I was glad to hear you was doing so well in your saloon. I hope you will do well by it which I have no doubt of if you only attend to your business and I guess you will I was verry glad to hear you are so steady.

Billy I think you had better keep the hiefer you spoke about if she gives a good mess of milk she will make a good living for you & Mother this winter and I think you had better buy one that is _____ coming in in the spring buy a yong cow. I want you to use that money I sent you if any thing is needed and dont spair it I will write again in a few days and let you know how I spend Christmas. I hope you and Mother will have a merry time I wish I could be thare with you but duty before pleasure is the motto of good soldiers no more at presant

I remain your Son & Soldier

R. J. McCadden

Camp in Lookout Valley Tenn
Dec 26th 1863

Dear Sister

After so long a time I will attempt to answer your kind letter which was rec'd by me at a time when a word from a friend did not come a miss especially that from a sister. It was rec'd during the three days fight in front of Chattanooga we were in the rifle pits at the time on the left of Gen Shermans corps about that time we rec'd the news that Missionary Ridge was ours which put the boys in good humbr Mary you may tell William it is fun to fight the rebs here compared to Virginia. they do not fight half as hard. Our Regt was on the skirmish line during the three days fight and we made them run at every point although we were not generally engaged We were in the pursuit of the reble Gen Brag for three days and you may bet we had fine times. they left their comisary department in full blast we got all the flour meal corn & molasses that we wished for. You had ought to have seen me in the molasses cask dobed from head to foot I stuck to every person who came within a yard of me. It happens to be Thanksgiving day, and I must give you a list of what we had for supper. Wall to commence, Bacon & Hard tacks coffee & sugar pudding & molasses and to wind up we had a plenty of fresh pork and you had better believe I am a case to fry meat upon the whole we had a grand supper much better than our Christmas dinner. the difference was we were at the front Thanksgiving and in the rear Christmas. But I will not complain as long as I can get plenty of Uncle Sams rations We have just bin building winter quarters and we are well situated at presant if we can only stay here this winter I will be sadisfied. The boys have all the confidence in the world in Gen Hooker & Gen Grant. Our Regt had a hard and long march almost to Knoxville and back. But Co G was lucky we were sent back with prisoners when only 25 miles from Chattanooga with orders to return to camp and await orders. so for once we were lucky. But I guess you will be tired of this scribbling. Tell William to write if he gets time. I should be pleased to hear from him. Kiss Minnie for me and the little one for your self, as you know I am not fond of little ones I never saw but I should like to see Minnie

I can think of no more at presant from your Brother a soldier

Dick

My address is Sergt. R. J. McCadden
154th Regt. N. Y. Vols

Camp of the 154th N. Y. Vols
Lookout Valley Tenn
Jan 14th 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

I recd your letter of Jan 4 in due season and was glad to hear that Billey was no worse I have no news to write at present. We are in camp and have to drill two hours per day besides dress parade.

The weather is verry pleasant for the time a year we have had just snow enough to make the ground look white but it would last only a short time to day is as pleasant and as warm as it generally is September at home. I think if you was to spend one winter in the South you would never want to spend another in the North. - - - But I would be willing to spend a few days at the North for the purpose of seeing the folks and having a sleigh ride &c. &c.

Billey I recd those nails all safe.

You did not tell me what dance you attended Christmas or New Years. - - I told you I had no news. well I did not at that time but I have now the Rail-Road is completed to Chattanooga and the first train is just passing now I am verry glad of it for we will get our supplies more regular and our mail. We have direct communications by rail to Lewisville. Billey did you make any thing in your Saloon or did you loose.

Mother you told me in your last that Billey did not eat worth a cent. If I was at home I could show you that I have not forgotten old traids and I believe I can beat the world cooking fresh beef of which we have a plenty. We draw beef three (3) times per week 20 ounces per day to each man and four (4) days each week we draw pork or bacon 12 ounces to each man per day, one pound of hard bread and what shugar and coffee we want to drink three times per day. so you may guess we are not hard up for rations. I have no more to write this time Give my respects to Deforest & family & to Alida and family reserving a good share for your self.

No more at present

Yours truly

Dick

Camp of the 154th N. Y. Vols
Lookout Valley, Tenn
Jan 29th, 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

As I have a few moments leasure once more, I will attempt to inform you of my whareabouts since I last wrote you we have moved camp twice, first to Kelley's Ferry. We stayed there 3 days just long enough to build us good quarters when we recieved orders to march to Lookout Valley. Here we had to build new quarters again as Gen Hooker wished our Regt to camp near his Head Quarters. We are camped about (5) five miles from Chattanooga. We have just got our quarters fixed up again better than ever Clark Cyer and my Self have got as snug a little tent as you ever saw. I wish you could boath pay me a visit in these quarters but I will not brag to much as I dont know how long I will stay here and I dont care. I am at home whare ever night overtakes me.

Billy, Harry Madison has just come in here he wants I should give his respects to you & tell you he dont care a dam he has got just as good a chimney as thare is on the job. he says he expects to move tomorrow. Billy he wants I should tell you to stay at home and take care of Mother instead of coming into the army.

Mother, Inclosed you will find my Warrent I wish you would keep it for me and when I come home I will have it framed You will find Clark Cyers Warrent here also. Billey Clark wants you to give it to his Father P. D. Cyer Billey I wish you would send me some paper and envelops.

I rec'd a letter from Alic Bird the other day with three postage stamps which come verry good I have plenty of stamps for the presant.

I believe I have no more news to write to night except the weather is truly delight ful we have had no rain or snow for over two weeks it is as warm as summer Jim Bird was in here to night he says tell his folks he is all right. Tell Mary She has not answered my last letter give my respects to all those who will recieve them as Such Yours Truly

R. J. McCadden

Cur Co. number at presant 27 men. T. N. Kingsley is back with the Regt again But he is not verry healthy he often speaks of Billey no more at presant

Yours &c

Dick

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A. STAGER, Gen. Sup't, Cleveland, Ohio.

I. R. ELWOOD, Sec'y, Rochester, N. Y.

To *Egt. R. J. MacEadden* (i) *March 12 1864*
Send Telegram from Cincinnati 1864

I immediately telegraph me when there

Come also every day if there do not

Capt. A. C. Redden

13 C 59 p-d

Camp of the 154th N.Y. Vols
Lookout Valley Tenn
May 3rd 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

As I have some news I will let you know what it is.
we have just recd orders to march tomorrow at 5 A.M.

Our 3rd Division marched yesterday. I dont know what
our destination is some say to guard Rail Road above
Chattanooga but thare is nothing positive about it yet.
The weather is verry plesant and I expect we will have a
fine time the boys are all feeling fine & gay

Capt M. B. Cheney started for home to day on a furlough
he says he will call and see you before he comes back,
inclosed you will find his photograph he gave me.. I have
recd only one letter from home since I returned
with this few remark I will close
hoping to hear from you soon
My Compliments to all

Dick

On the field near
Bald ridge. Georgia
May 9 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

I am happy to inform you I am still alive & well. Our Brigade had a savire fight yesterday on Bald ridge (or Buzzard roost I dont know which it is called) nere Dug gap Cu Regt lost 8 Killed 42 Wounded & 14 Missing. I dont know as any from Ellicottvill was wounded Col P H Jones & Capt Vedder fell from a rock and was brused so as to render them unfit for duty at presant. We lost three (3) men Wounded from Co. G, but none killed two badly and one slightly. We made several charges but were unable to gain our front. the Mountain which we were trying to take was three or four times as high as the hill above the Mill at Ellicottvill we got within ten (10) rods of the summit and held it until just night It was very steap and rocky and you may guess it was no small job to climb such a hill.

Horace Clark of Hinsdale Co. G

Thomas Regan of Allegany Co. G

Were badly wounded and Wm. Millhollen Co. G was slightly wounded having one finger shot off. I dont know what the loss in our Brigade was it must have been quite heavy I will tell you more about it some other day

We are lying in the shade to and have nothing to do no more at presant

Yours Truly

Dick

Genl. Field Hospital
Chattanooga, Tenn. June 7", 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

It is with pleasure that I attempt to inform you of my health, which I am happy to say is fast improving. I have got over the Mumps & almost rid of the Disentary, but I am quite weak yet I can walk around a little but I lay abed the most of the time. I can tell you I had some pretty hard times before I got here, but now I am well cared for. I have a good bed and good diet. The Dr. calls and sees me twice every day

June 9"

I am still improving in health & I am in hopes to be arround again in a few days. The most I want now is strength which comes very slow. When you write direct-te General-Field-Hospital

Ward-H.-Chattanooga-Tenn-

I think it is doubtful about my recieving any mail while here, but it will do no harm to write. put the Co. & Regt on the end of the Envelop no more at present

Dick

Genl Field Hospital
Chattanooga Tenn. June 7" 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

It is with pleasure that I attempt to inform you of my health, which I am happy to say is fast improveing. I have got over the Mumps & almost rid of the Disentary. but I am quite weak yet. I can walk around a little but I lay a bed the most of the time I can tell you I had some pretty hard times before I got here, but now I am well cared for. I have a good bed and good diet. The Dr. calls and sees me twice every day

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When you write direct to General Field Hospital
Ward H. Chattanooga Tenn

I think it is doubtful about my recieving any Mail while here. but it will make no harm to write. put the Co. & Regt on the end of the Envelop no more at presant

Dick.

Direct to Sergt. R. J. McCadden
Hospital No. 14 Ward 1
Nashville Tenn
write soon

AAA Hospital No. 14, Nashville Tenn
Monday June 13th 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

4 Oclock P.M. I am happy to inform you that my health is fast improving I have been able to sit up most all day and been able to walk all around the yard all I need now is a little strength the Dr this morning ordered me to have some whiskey three times a day. I got my first suck at the bottle this noon, and will get another in about an hour. I have a whiskey bottle at the head of my bed all the time now Billie would you not like to be in the Hospital. I will get my pay here the first day of July thare will be due me at that time \$130. (my pay is \$25 per month since May 1st) wont that be some.

Billie I wish you would have Mother go to Springvill and have those teeth put in and I will have the money thare as soon as the work is done. I am agoing to try and get a furlough in July as soon as I get my pay and I would like she would have them in by that time. I expect I will stay here untill the 1st of July they have sent for my descriptive to day. Billie if you have a spair dollar I wish you would send it to me. dont send more than one for fear I will not get it and that will be enough at presant No more at presant

Yours Truly

Dick

Hospital No. 14, Nashville Tenn
June 22", 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

It is with pleasure I again seat myself to pen a few lines home altho I have not recd a letter since May 22" one month ago to day. but I expect one from home in a few days and also my letters which are with the Regt. My health is improving slowly. I was out around the city yesterday. I weigh at present 136½ lbs. my weight when I left home was 171. but I am gaining a little every day I will not be able to take the field in quite a while yet I got my descriptive list to day so I will be shure of my pay along the first of July. The weather is quite cool here and has been ever since I have been here.

Our Regt has been in two fights since I left. They was in a fight on the 16" of this month Lieut A. Crosby was wounded had two ribs broken. I did not hear as any of our Co was either killed or wounded. 4 men in the Regt Killed. I dont know how many wounded. as I think of no more at present I will close hoping to hear from you soon

no more at present

Dick

Hospital No. Nashville Tenn
July 11", 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

It was with pleasure I rec'd yours of July 3" on the 7 and it found me still improving, and I shal be able to join my Regt ear long. In regard to a furlough it is impossable for a man to get one unless he is wounded I would like very well to come home but it is impossable.

The weather is very warm here now almost (if not quite) sultry

Thursday 5 oclock P.M.. July 21st

I guess I will finish my letter now I have money to pay the postage. I have been expecting my pay every day for the last ten days and I have just this minit rec'd it \$128. I will send you by express tomorrow \$110. you keep \$20 for your own use. And take 30 to get Mothers teeth put in. you may get Skinner to by me a U. S. Bond one of the 10 fortys a \$50 bond if it dus not cost to munch premium and give the remainder to Mother for spending money. My health is fully recovered and I expect to join my Regt with the first squad that is sent front which will be in a few days.

I am glad Bill Bird has got home Mary will feel munch better to have him at home than in the Hospital tell him to write to me

I will send you a receipt for canning fruit I expect I will be at home this winter to eat some of those things save some Tomatoes for me if you rais any.- Write as soon as you get this and let me know if you get the money I will send it by Addams Express to Ellicottville. if thare not an express office you will find it at Great Valley

Yours truly, Dick

Direct as before

Hd. Qts 154" N. Y. Vols near
Atlanta Ga. Aug 12" 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

It is with pleasure I seat myself to give you a birds eye view of our present position. We are only a short distance from the above named town so near that our parrot guns can toss shell and shot into the town with perfect ease. We are within one half mile (that or near) of two Rebel forts, but I think they are quite harmless although there is a gun in one of them that throws a 100 pound shot but on account of our sharp shooters and a good supply of cannaon (The rifle parrots) they keep as quiet as if there was not a Yank within fifty miles of them. I think Atlanta must be rather an uncomfortable place to live at presant for our guns are throwing shell into the town every five minits and sometimes oftener than that. And then the skirmishers I hardly know what to compair them to unless it is popping corn when you have a hot fire and some times you would think that some one had set an an extra dish by the cooking I think I have heard over two hundred shots since I have been writing this. But I dont think think they do munch damage. I know the Reb skirmishers do very little damage. I do not know what affect ours dus have.

We have had a few days rainy weather but it has cleared off now and every thing is as plesant as one could wish

I have just been to supper and I guess I will tell you what it consisted of it is not the quality I speak of but the quantity. beaf stake coffee sugar and hard tacks. we usualy have pork & beens and vegetables every day or two. I think there never was an army better cared for.

Alic Bird sits here marking out stars. The most of the boys are geathered in squads here and thare discussing the question how many Rebs it would take to drive in our skirmishers. they think it would take a good line of battle at least.

As it is getting late I will close. hoping to hear from
you soon I remain your Son

Dick

Aug 13"

Mother I wish you
would send me a
hat I dont care about
a nice one I would
like one something
like that one I brought
Theodore Kingsley a low
crowned black hat
and a pair of suspenders
you can send them by
mail. I believe thare
is nothing els I
want, at presant.

Dick

Chattanooga Tenn
Sept 5" 1854

Dear Mother & Brother

I suppose you will not be a little surprised when you hear of my whereabouts. I was at the Regt only one week when I was taken sick with the fever and sent to the Division Hosptl. and from there to the Hospital at this place. but I have left the Hospital now as I have got better and gone to the Convalesant Camp I can stay here as long as I like and it is a good place thare was over two weeks I could not eat anything but now I can eat a mule and chase the rider. but I have a plenty here. thare is several boys of our Regt here and one has charge of the Street where I belong and I mess with him we have gay old times now I tell you. we have lots of fun and nothing to do.

I recd yours of Aug 14" I think you were foolish to buy a looking glass as we had one as good as the rest of the furnature I wish I could be at home to help you eat your tomatoes I hope I may be next winter. Our Corps (The 20) is in Atlanta now if Gen Grant would take Richmond now the Rebellion would be virtually ended, and I hope he may do so. I was glad to hear Mother has got such a nice set of teeth. I wish I could see them. I recd a letter from Mary a short time ago and will answer it in a few days. Billie you wanted to know about my giving a Reb a kill. allthare was of it I was on skirmish line May 8 and I saw a big Reb who had shot two boys of the 134 N Y within a few feet of me. I got sight of him when he was loading his gun he was not more than 15 rods from me I drewed a fine sight on him and over he went in about one minute another Reb came up and draged him off as if he was dead. I had just got my gun loaded and was capping it when he was drawn off if I had been a little quicker in loading I must have had another shot I got several good shots that afternoon.

I will tell you more about it when I see you
no more at presant

yours truly

Dick

Direct to

Sergt. R. J. McCadden
Exchange Camp
2nd Batalion
Chattanooga
Tenn

Chattanooga Tenn
Sept 15 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

It is with pleasure I one more seat myself to inform you of the improvement of my health. I am happy to say I am feeling tip top although I am some what waek It will be some time before I am strong enough to stand a hard march. for I was very weak after the fever left me but I am gaining strength fast now.

I have a good pace here and shal stay untill I am able for duty. then I will join my Regt. but not before. I have no duty to do nothing but to keep my self clean

I should like to be at home this this month if it was so I could, but it is not. you tell me Jane is to be at home these days I should like to see hir I have not written to hir lately for I did not know whare to find hir. Tell Alida(?) I will write to hir in a few days.

The 154 Regt are now in side the fortifications of Atlanta and just in the edge of the city. The Army of the Cumberland are idle at presant and will remain so it is supposed untill the 22" of this month during the armastis which lasts from the 12th untill the 22" I will make my letters short as I have no news to write hopping to hear from you soon I remain as ever yours Truly
Dick

Address

Sergt. R. J. McCadden
Exchange Camp 2nd Battalion
Chattanooga, Tenn

L54" N. Y. V.
If not called for pleas forward

Cattanooga Tenn
Sept. 26/ 64

Dear Mother & Brother

It was with pleasure I recd your note of the 16" which found me almost well I must say I was well but I am not quite as strong as I was last spring

I am glad you was not excepted as a Soldier for I know you could never stand camp life, as far as carrying a load or knapsack is concerned. But you could get to the rear at any time they could never keep you at the front and make you march perhaps they would put you in the Invalid corps and make you do guard duty around a city or some thing like that. It would not be so bad a thing in all but if I thought you would have to go through as much as I have I would say stay at home.

I think it is two bad for the boys who came out two or three years ago for to do the most of the fighting and get no bounty What Regt is Deforest in I wish I could be at home just at presant to see all of the family togeather once more.

Whare is Mary living _____ getting along I have not heard from hir in a long time and how dus Margery feel about Deforest going a Soldiering I dont think he will stay in the field a great while.

Mother I wish you would not keep telling me to stay in the rear or not expose my self to danger if any one would see my letters they would think you would like to have me act cowardly allthough I know you would not and you know writing about such things do no good dus no good I will do my duty any way. Billie you wanted to know if I wanted any thing I can think of nothing but a pair of boots you may send me a pair of ___ boots if you can send them _____ if it is a coming to our Regt if not dont mind it I have the soles about whiped on these boots the ones I got at home but the uppers are quite good yet. I have not got the Hat & Suspenders yet but I suppose they are at the Regt whare they will be safe I expect to go front in a couple of weeks so direct your next letter to the Regt.

Tell Mother my time is over 2/3 out I am serving on my last year what do you think of that Billie you said you saw Miss N. C. when you was at _____ why did not you go on and state what you knew about hir &c. &c.

You told me you was shoe making who are you to work for or are you on your own hook. what is wages at home now & how is times generly I wish you would get a fools cap sheet of paper next letter and write it fool Give my complements to all

Yours Truly Dick

Hd. Qts. 154th N.Y.V. three
miles from Savannah Ga
Dec 16th 1864

Dear Mother & Brother

It is with pleasure I announce the safe arrival of the army of General Sherman within cannon range of the city of Savannah after a march of 25 days. We left Atlanta Nov 15 and arrived at this place Dec 11. We have not fired a gun at the enemy yet to my knowledge. We are on the bank of the Savannah river three miles above the city we have a fair view of the city from our present position. The enemy hold the city and the works about it.

Our march here was a long and wearisome march over 300 miles but I stood it very well. I think my health improved every day and I don't know as my health was ever better than at present. DeForest is well and as tough as an ox. All the boys from Ellicottville that started with us are here now and are all well. There is not a sick man in Co. G at present. I hope it will remain so.

I will not write a long letter this time as there is no certainty of getting it through as our mail route is not in operation yet. When you write direct your letters to Washington in stead of Nashville.

Clark Cyer was captured by the enemy last Sunday he went across the river last Sunday in a boat and was captured.

Camp near Goldsburou. N.C..
March 29" 1865

Dear Mother & Brother

It is with ples I once more seat myself at a table to pen a few lines home and give you a short history of our late campaign through the Carolinas

As you well know we left the town of Savannah Feb-27 Jan 27 and have been out from civilization untill March 22" when we arrived at this place I will not attempt to tell you the number of hundred miles we have marched during the time it is enough to say we have been on the march all but two or three days since we started.

We have met with very little opposition on our way and where ever the enemy attempted to make a stand they soon found the Yankeys to meny for them and thought the old maxim best (He who is to fight and runs a way may live to fight another day but he who fights and there gets slain shal never live to fight again)

We crossed the Savannah river a little above the city and directed his march through the center of the State of South Carolina, and you well say desolation marked our tracks, for we scarcely left a house barn or pig pen standing for over 100 miles or you must say in the State.. We distroyed the Charleston and Augusta Railroad at Branchville for 15 or 20 miles on each side of the town burning every tie and twisting the rails when red hot around trees or puting hooks on them and twisting them like an augor entirely destroying the rail.

Our next hich was for the capitol of the State Columbia a very wealthy little town of about 10,000 inhabitence The 20" Corps was on the left of the Army and did not see this place. But the 17" Army Corps entered the city and left only about (? 80 or 30) houses standing when the left the place next day. Many's the home was made desolate in one short day, for the city was full of inhabitense.

Our living we foraged off the country through which we passed we generly had a plenty but left very little for the citizens to live on our living consisted chiefly of Sweet potatoes Flour Corn meal Smoaked ham Molasses honey Chickens Turkeys and the like I think we can rob bee-hives to perfection We had from three to 5 mules in our Company I had one all the way from Savannah so I had little or nothing to cary and came through very well it was an easy march for so long a one the roads

(March 29, 1865 cont'd.)

were generly good, we have a pontoon train with us and we can build a bridge across a river as large as the Allegany in half a day or less a good stout bridge for trains to cross on and take it up in less than a quarter of the time.

The boats on which the bridge is laid is covered with canvas in stead of boards After the Army crosses the bridge is taken up and put in wagons the boats taken to pieces and put-in-ga carried along. So you can see we are not dependant on the country for bridges, and when ever the roads get muddy we codaroy the road with rails and make it almost as good as plank road nesity is the mother invention

After we crossed the State of South Carolina we entered North Carolina and have traveled over 100 miles in it. We distroyed a large Arsonal at Fayetteville it was the most extensive institution of its kind I ever saw it was one the United States built long before the war. We also distroyed the Rail-road at Columbia, Winsboro, and Rockingham. I think we have prety efectively distroyed the Rail-roads in the South

Goldsboro is a nice little town on the Nuse river 60 or 70 miles from Newburn there is a railroad now in opperation between the two places, so I expect we will fair well while we remain here. I have in my tent for three of us at presant 50 lbs. smoked ham 25 lbs flour 25 lbs Meal 20 lbs hard bread 4 or 5 lbs Sugar a quantity of sorgam and more coffee than we can use until we draw again. Mary was telling me about the molasses they made in Minasota I have eat more of it than it would take to drown me in it is very nice. I rec'd a pair of socks through the kindness of Genl P. H. Jones they are very nice ones and a lump of sugar with them I recieved 7 letters from home day before yesterday my last two months mail come all in a bunch. Billie If I was you I would keep my place a little while untill you find out what success they have finding oil.

I have a little less than 6 Months more to serve and than my time will be out I think it would be a good plan for us to go west then but we will settle that when I get home I expect my pay soon I have \$ 192 dollars that would make quite a purchase in the west Billie you had better save your money than go(?) & spend it foolishly I am in hopes you have got over that kind of business I expect you now to be prety careful to support the family but I hope thare is better times coming no more at presant

Dick

This piece of rock is off General Marions tomb Keep it

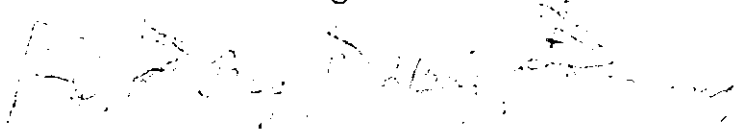
Camp of the 154th N. Y. Vols
near Goldsboro N.C. Apr 3rd 65

Dear Mother & Brother

This pleasant evening finds me seated with pen in hand to inform you that I am enjoying the best of health and hoping this will find you enjoying the same blessing

Our (The 2nd) Division was reviewed to day by our Corps commander Maj. General Mower he has just taken command of our Corps. Brevet Maj. Gen. John W. Gerry (Our Div commander) presented our Div with a splendid set of flags to day and one to each Brigade and one to the Div. The Div flag is about 4½ feet square blue silk with a white star in the center about 10 inches from point to point there is a nice blue & white cord and tassels. The flag is bound with a _____ yellow silk fringe. there is a silver band on the staff just below the flag six inches long and just below this a silver / / on which all the battles the Div has been engaged are engraved.

The Brigade flags are the same as the Div with this exception they are triangular shaped 1st Brig blue 2 Brig blue with a white stripe at the staff the 3rd Brig blue with a white border around it. the following is the shape of them



The ground work of all these flags are blue and every flag has the names of the battles on the piece on the staff. he made a very nice speech to the Div when he presented them to us.

Our Regt and the 134 New York have signed for the Henry rifle 16" shooters you can put in 16 loads at once and load it quicker than you can a common Musket the cap powder & ball are all together they are prepared in a copper case each load they are like that. I think we will be pretty effective after we get them. the Rebs say our boys load them up Sunday and then they will shot all the week. - - I have heard nothing from Deforest as yet. I only heard it was by Hamptons H quars they were taken if so they will be _____ well for they are true soldiers. Tell Margery that news about him for in all probability he is safe and will be exchanged soon. I have a couple of books I will send home in a day or _____. I saw John Maloy to day and had _____ with him. The weather is fair and we are having fair times now a days. write to me soon and I will to you

Yours Truly

Dick

Camp in the Field
April 27, 1865

Dear Mother & Brother

I have just rec'd yours of the 15 and will now reply

We left Raleigh day before yesterday and marched out here 10 or 12 miles from that place to meet Johnson.- - The terms was not excepted which he wanted to surrender on but I expect they will agree on terms ere this reaches you he must do one of three things run fight or surrender at last a day will tell the _____

I wish I could be at home to see _____
go west I wish you could send me _____ and I
will _____ get through their _____.
The weather is very plesant with woods ___ ail leaves out
and it is very plesant I was very _____ to hear of _____
_____ I think I will be at home before the
summer is over _____
I remain as ever

Dick

Camp Near Washington D.C.
May 29/65

Dear Mother & Brother

I have just recd yours of May 21st I was happy to hear you was all well as this leaves me at present

We had a fine time at the review it passed off very pleasantly all that was lacking was our much loved President to review us but Alas! he is gone I am in hopes Johnson will prove as good and I think he will I have not the least doubt for the future

I was _____ in the City the other day and I was well paid for my trouble. I was through the Capitol, the Patent Office, the Smithsonian Institute I had also a view of the White house Post office, War Dept Treasury Dept and most of the public buildings in Washington

I saw Harry Bailey and _____ I was at there house and stayed a short time

Our camp is about 4 miles from the City and I can go down any day that I have time we are not required to have papers.- - I have been very buisy to day posting the books and I expect to be while we stay here. It is the general oppining that we will leave here next week for our own State I think we will be home by the 15" or 20" of June and I dont know but before but I think not

You wanted to know about me bringing a team I will not be mustered out untill I go to our own State and I dont know as I shall come back for a team. If I do I will drive them home. I wrote a letter to Mary last week and sent it to the far west

I sent Deforest things home by express and some of Perkins things and a dress coat and Pair of shirts Gloves and _____ of mine Perkins sent the wool blanket Hat and the bundle done up with a white cloth Deforest owns the Jacket Ruber Blanket and the other bundle his over coat we left behind I could have picked up 100 of them if I could have carried them and Theodore did not drive the team after Deforest left and could not carry his Knapsack I would not have expressed it then if it had not been for the bundle of his which I would not have with me

Perkins and myself will help pay the express charges. I expect Deforest is at home ere this I recd a letter from him dated the 17 saying he was going north which I suppose he ment home

I guess I have wrote enough this time hoping to here from you again I remain as ever yours truly

Dick

Direct as before

Camp of the 154th NY
Near Washington D.C. May 30/65

It is with pleasure I seat myself to inform you that we have been presented with two splendid new flags one National color or battle flag the stars and stripes the other a State flag they are very nice. the State flag has engraved on it in gold letters a part of the battles in which our Regt was engaged. I dont know why they were.

Billie did you get the letter requesting you to make me a pair of calf boots your boots just fit me

Dick

Camp of the 154" N.Y. Vols.
near Goldsboro N.C. Apr 3/65

Dear Mother & Brother

This pleasant evening finds me seated with pen in hand to inform you that I am enjoying the best of health hoping this will find you enjoying the same blessing.

Our (The 2nd) Division was reviewed to day by our Corps commander Maj. General Mower he has just taken command of our Corps. Brevet Maj General John W. Gerry (Our Div commander) presented our Div with 4 splendid silk flags to day one to each Brigade and one to the Div.- The Div flag is about 4 1/2 feet square blue silk with a white star in the center about 10 inches from point to point there is a nice blue & white cord and tassels. the flag is bound with a heavy yellow silk fringe. there is a silver band on the staff just below the flag six inches long. and just below this a silver plate from upon which all the battles the Div has been engaged are engraved.

The Brigade flags are the same as the Div flag with this exception they are triangular shaped. the 1st Brig blue, the 2 Brig blue with a white strip next the staff

the 3d Brig blue with white border around it. the following is the shape of them ___ Div. ___1st Brig ___2nd Brig ___3d Brig. The ground work of all these flags are blue Our Brig flag has the names of 22 battles on the plate on the staff. he made a very nice speech to the Div when he presented them to us. Our Regt and the 134" New York have signed for the Henry rifle 16" shooters you can put in 16 loads at once and load it quicker than you can a common musket the cap powder & ball are all together they are prepared in a copper case each load. they are not heavy they weigh about 10 lbs and will shoot half a mile true. I think we will be pretty affective after we get them the Rebs say our boys wind them up Sunday and then they will shoot all the week. -- I have heard nothing from DeForest as yet. only it was by Hamptons Legions they were taken if so they will be used well, for they are true Soldiers. Tell Margery not to worry about him for in all probability he is safe and will be exchanged soon. I have a couple of books I will send home in a day or two. -- I saw John Maloy to day and had a talk with him. The weather is fair and we are having fine times now a day. write to me soon and I will to you. Yours Truly

Dick

ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: William McCadden
Ellicottville
Cattaraugus Co.
New York

POSTMARKED:
NEW BERN N.C.
APR 9 (1865)