

Camp 4th N.H. Vol

Bristow Station Alexandria, R.R., Va, May 1st 1864

Dear Mother

It is now 1 o'clock P.M. and I have just returned from picket duty ~~during~~ ^{been} on 24 hours and now I am happy to find an opportunity of writing a few lines. I wrote you a few lines the night before we left Annapolis, Md. (Apr 22) but did not then know when I should next find an opportunity although I expected that it would be somewhere in Va. We left there on the morning of the 23rd Apr. and marched to Alexandria a distance of 45 miles passing through the City of Washington passing Willards Hotel where we had an opportunity and the pleasure of seeing Winch Ape and Gen Burnside. The whole Corps passed by and I think they must have been tired of Cheves and of standing up. We stopped at A—a one day and then marched to this place a distance of 50 miles arriving here on the 28th (Friday) and from what I learn I think that we are to relieve the S.A. Corps which was and has been doing guard duty on the R.R. and in this case we should be denominated as the 8th reserve A.C. and probably we should not have a very hard time of it this summer but we (or most of us) are in hopes that it is not so as we prefer going

to the front some that we are so near to it we are only 40 miles from Friedrichsburg and if we should move we expect to then be near there, but there is no knowing what a day may bring forth with ^{us} and I have got so that it doesn't make but little difference when I am so long as I can get enough to eat and plenty of rest. We are now under marching orders and to be ready to move at a moments warning, and yet ~~every~~ everything looks as though we might stop here for some time.

I think I have received all of your letters now up to the time we left Annapolis. While there I received one from Mom March 6, one from you Apr 10 and one from Mary Apr 10 yours in pencil and one from Stephen April 14 which was the last I have heard of.

While I was on picket yesterday I had a little time and occupied it by reading our old letters and as I read those from Home and saw the many changes that had been made since I left I felt as though I could not wait longer but ~~for~~ must visit you all at once without delay but as I cannot at present I am content to know that you are all enjoying better health and are happy and my greatest hope is that we may all be spared to live until this war is over and meet again. but sometimes when I think of this time when this war will be closed I am almost compelled to give up in despair and see us as though their strength grew stronger instead

of weaker showing themselves more barbarous and treacherous
at when we they can gain the advantage
probably have seen the act of the S. I. Yellow
capture and outrage on the white and colored soldiers
after they surrendered I saw by the last papers that they
are investigating the matter at Washington
Before leaving Annapolis Md. the baggage of the officers
was reduced to 30 lbs so that what Capt Stone and
myself have with us is in my valise (the same
that I had at Home last summer) packing an extra
suit of clothes in his large trunk and a few other things
that we could get along without so that now I have
nothing with me but what I have on and an extra
shirt drawers and stockings with my Co papers and
books so you see we are in light marching order and
we may move tomorrow and we may not for a month
since I wrote you she has been a new organization
of the Corps so that now we are in the 2^d Brigade
2^d Division 7th A.C. the 6th 9th and 11th R.H. Regts with
the 31st and 32^d Maine and 17th Vt. composing
our Brigade 6 in all. Calo Griffin of the 6th in Conn
I know of no one in the 17th Vt. except one A. Coe
from Brookfield who used to live and work for O. Edson
and has been to Cal. - a. I did not know him but he
recognized me at once I had not seen him for
several years but I must close as I have much more
letters to write so you see I have got so much to do
do write soon and often I hope to hear from you soon as I have
much love to all from your affec son Lieut C. M. Wilcox