

1863
Camp near Manchester, N.H.

Thursday June 11th 1863

My dear Mother:

I have been thinking that I would write to you, one day, but I have been too lazy. I have really no other reason to offer for my inactivity, what I should have done during the time allotted for man's labor, since I have had plenty of time and opportunity. I have been officer of the guard, and have had nothing to do but sit in an old chair at the great stove and smoke and read (Nicholas Pickens, unless it were to reprimand a few delinquent soldiers. I had expected to remain there during the night, but I did not see many lids during the weary watches with pleasant thoughts of absent loved ones - all those sweet memories which in a pleasant night - comme cela - go to make your father's life a pleasure. About 8 o'clock Sunday, however, a brother Lieut. came over with his traps, inquired for me and, being referred to me (as I sat a few steps from the door of the booth talking with my old "libby friends" at Stoughton) - came and said, "Lieut, I come to relieve you" - "The, do you do?" - "Yes" - "By whose order?" - "By order received from the Serjt Major. I supposed you were sick" - "Lick! very true I am, but I have not asked to be relieved

from duty, nor in fact said anything about it
that would put any one to suppose that he desired
it. I am probably under arrest for some neglect
of duty - I know not what. - Just as I
finished speaking an orderly came up and presented
me ~~to~~ a note which described by the light of a
match, my quarters.

My quarters 103rd Ohio Vols
Murfreesboro June 11th 763

Br. A. W. Bourgeois
Co. 9, 103rd Ohio Vols

By Order of Col. A.

I shall command the Brigade & you are
placed under arrest and will govern your-
self accordingly.

By Order of
Gen. T. Sherman
Maj. Comdr. 103rd Ohio Vols
A. Dickerson Adj't

I have copied this thinking you might have some
curiosity about the modes of putting an
officer under arrest. Its interpretation is simply
this - "Go to your quarters Lt. Bourgeois, take off your
sword and stay there until you are released from
arrest or are ordered elsewhere. You will not leave
your quarters, except when absolutely necessary, and will

return to them immediately; you will assume no
command, give no orders, and if the regt moves
you will march in the rear of your company with-
out rank, and with your sword scabbarded.

Or here I am according to orders, without even
the slightest knowledge or hint of my offence.
It's just a little irritating but I can endure almost
anything now, without much feeling. I think I'm
getting Callous. - Your make poor hands and thick-skinned.
I suppose there is some big breeze in store for me which
will turn out not a little to my discomfort, perhaps
to my lasting disgrace or injury. I think I am
just the unluckiest wight that ever stumbled into
hot water. I have a most winning way forgetting
myself into trouble. - Witness a little scene at Columbia
River, Thursday May (the date I've forgot the day)
I fell, one thing I shall gain by this, all night to sleep
in (and you may be sure I shall sleep too, whatever hangs
over my head. My mind's easy) - and not getting
up at ^{Reville} Roll-Call, 4 am. For you see the old adage is
true of me - "No great loss, &c."

9:40 P.M.

The Major has sent for me and told me the charges
against me. They are rather good but I will wait
till morning to tell you of them.

Good Night Sweet Love
Albion

Mrs A. W. Torrey
Cornwall
Iowa

MS-

Camp near Imupresson
June 11th 1863