Correspondence

1864
Hartland, 7th Division, 7th Army
May 12th, 1867

Dear Sister,

As the mail just going out, I thought I would write a few lines to let you know that I am well. I am now at headquarters of the 7th Division, doing Provost duty. Capt. Grant has been appointed Provost Marshall of the Division, and Lt. D. Provost Guard. The weather is pretty cold here now. It seems most as cold as in Michigan. We have not had a warm day since New Year's. The 50th and 1st Iowa Regiments have got home on a furlough this morning over two thirds of them having reenlisted. The 50th took 50 men left here day before yesterday.
for home. The 2nd Mich. Regt has reenlisted and are going home soon. All of the 2nd that did not reenlist were sent to our regiment. All of D. The Deister boys are well. We have not a sick man on our company. My love to all. From your brother.

Sergeant Edgar A. Phelps

P.S. Direct to Provost Guard
2d Division 9th Corps
To Camp near Knoxville, East Tenn.  
Jan 26th 1864

Dear Brother,

We are now about five miles west of Knoxville, and all well to get here day before yesterday. The whole army fell back to within six miles of Knoxville, and then made stand, and the rebels were not so fine for fighting as they were above; they were above Strawberry Plains, when we left the river at the Plains, we burned the bridge. That we had just finished. Where we made a stand thousand stone furnishing but not a general engagement. I do not think that we were able to bear back but fell back because there was nothing of holding the country east of Knoxville and it is stripped of everything and further
from our supplies. Longstreet has been
reinforced by Ewell's corps from Virginia. I don't know but he calculates to
take Yorktown. If he does take it, I think
that he will find it a pretty big job
as our force is more than as large again as a
time at the time of the siege. We
have been reinforced by the 7th and 5th
corps. I do not think the 7th corps will
stay here much longer but will go
to New York to recruit it up to
50,000 as soon as we can be spared
I think that we would have got much
before this if we could have been
spared. We are pretty short on it for
sustained and will be expected to
lay in their lines and keep us
lay here until they get the railroad
through from Upstate. All the boys
like Brown's duty. I date this
with considerable of going to do but
It is very light. We generally have three posts. At the general tent the guard changes over the house. On a march we have our knapsacks carried. We always get from the head quartermaster and when there is danger we go in the rear and on a retreat in the advance.

Our quarters is always with the General.

I guess the regiment is getting along well. It is as far as I know. It is two and three quarters of a mile from here they Major Hutchinson has command now.

Capt. Barns is acting General. Capt. Grant was acting Major, when he was appointed Provision Marshall.Probably will be promoted to Colonel. Capt. Barnes is acting Col. Capt. Grant is Major. Before long the mail is just going out and I must stop. Bye love to all.

From your brother S. A. Phelps
(P.S.) I have not heard from home this year.

Direct to:

Sgt. Edgar A. Phelps
2nd Division 7th N.C.
Hepzibah Tenn.
Erin Station, East Tenn., Jan. 31st, 1864
Dear Sister:
I rec'd a letter from you the 27th dated Dec. 31st, 1863 also one the 28th dated Jan. 18th, 1864. I was glad to hear from you once more. I had not heard from home before this year and I began to think that you all had forgotten how to write or something serious had happened as the other boys got a mail and none for me. I was sorry to hear that you had been sick and hope you will not be taken down again. We are all well here at present. Our company is the largest now that is has been for a good while while some of the detailed men have got 5 new recruits from the 2nd Mich. that did not reenlist. The 2nd starts for home tomorrow morning. Our corps is getting pretty small as most of the regiments have reenlisted and gone home on a furlough. The 3rd brigade under command of Col. Morrison of the 79th N.Y. (The Highlanders). Most all of the horses and ______ are going to be stricken over the mountain into N.Y. as there is not enough fodder in this state to keep them. Nobody understands a brigadier General is allowed a horse. Gen. Feruro is allowed two and his whole staff one. All his orderlies have to go on foot now. We have been expecting to go north for a good while but do not get started yet. I think we shall start in a month or ______ matter. We are keeping pretty good time - now doing provost duty. There are 90 men in the whole guard. Besides our company there are those detailed from other regiments of our division.
Gen'l Wilcox did for a short time command the corps but now commands the 2nd division. We only get half rations of bread yet and probably will not draw full rations as long as we stay in this state as it is impossible to give an army such full rations with such poor accommodations for getting our supplies. I do not think there is a ______ the which the army but this ______ would undergo great privations before he would consent to ______ East Tennessee.
I for one would not like to help it if the rebs should make an effort to hold it. I would rather live a whole year on half rations than give it up. Zeb Hall has been promoted to captain also _______ Penoijer and Thomas McCollum. _______ Granger is tough as ever. Jennings is in Knoxville in the hospital sick.
You must write often. My love to all.

From your brother,

Serg't E.A. Phelps
Provost Guard
1st Div.
Knoxville, Tenn., Feb. 24, 1864

Dear Brother:

I am here alone now and I will try and write you a short letter. The army of Ohio is again on the move. All of the troops except those on duty here left this morning. All of the Provost Guard except 20 men, a corporal and myself went. We were left here to guard the baggage and other Head Quarter property. Prisoners & co. all went in light - marching order and none of the Head Quarter teams went but mess wagon and ambulances. The troop started with four days rations and sixty rounds of cartridges. I think that Johnny Rebs has skined out. There are none between here and Strawberry Plains. They may find them up to Morristown but I should not wonder if General Butter had scared Jeff Davis so by threatening Richmond that he has called Longstreet (This is only my opinion though). The 4th Corps just passed through town they came up from below here. Most all of the wounded here are getting furloughs to go home also a great many of the sick so that the hospitals are not as full as they were. We have a bridge nearly finished across the river here besides a ______ that we have had ever since we have been here. We have it fortified on the other side of the river as well as this side. Just across the river there are some very high hills that command the town. The fortifications are made stronger here daily, we have niggers by the thousands at work besides there are soldiers detailed everyday to work. I think if the rebs should attempt to take Fort Saunders now they would find that it would be a harder job than when they tried before. It is now nearly finished and is three times as strong it was when we were besieged. Above the town we have a redoubt on every noll. If they should take our first works they would not be much nearer taking the place for we have them all along back that we could use on them well. Father wanted me to write whether I knew anything about Snows buys & Bob Dorking. William Snow is here in the guard with us and Tolvi was taken prisoner coming from Campbells Station here. He was unwell and could not keep up and the ambulances were full of wounded so the rebs got him with several others. Dorking is in Co K and well and tough and was recommended to the Major by Cap't Carpenter for promotion for his bravery at Campbells Station E. Tenn and Horse Shoe Bend, KY. I have nothing more of importance to write and I will close hoping to hear from you soon.

Serg't Edgar A. Philps
Ypsilanti, Feb. 28th/64
Friend Hawk:

I read your letter the other day and as I have got nothing else to do today except write letters and study a little and ----I know what else, I will answer you. I hardly know what to do with a letter from you. I only get one from you once in the age of a "", but I managed to read it and was glad to hear from you. You say you are having good times. I hope you do. I manage to have a little fun here once in a while. I went ---- last Friday night after Lycourn with the rest of the boys here and another one or two from school and as many girls. How does leap year come on? Is it improved by the ladies we are going to have an exhibition 2 weeks from next Thursday and Friday night, it will be publick if they don't charge a quarter which will not be much. You must come down thn if you can. I don't think I shall come home this time at all. I can't spend the time I have a good deal to do now.

Short has been sick for about a week. I wish you could have been with us last Friday night I could have given you some fun of the higtest order. Give the ladies my best regards also all of my friends write soon.

A. Hall
Knoxville, East Tenn.
Mar. 1st, 1864

Dear Sister,

I read a letter from you today dated Feb. 14 from you, Thomas and Henry and one from Harrison dated Feb. 10th. I was sorry to hear that you were all unwell. I am well and all the boys here are not only of Deffer boys but William Taybort and Zeb Hall are there. The others are with Der. Head Zurs. on their way to the Salt Worth in Virginia to effect. They all left Shawberry Pennsylvania yesterday ------was the last to hear from them. It took a good while for the troops to cross the river. Here as they had to cross on rafts. They have to catch up the pontoon bridge here and now farther down the Planes so that the trains can cross. ... It is now raining and has been all day and it is getting pretty and it will make it hard marching for the troops. We have comfortable quarter here. We use the officers tents and have bunks and a stove in them. It is very pleasant here there is a soldiers reading soon that we can go to at any time and read as long as we wish and get all of the religious papers that we want. Send the A.MERICAN Messanger to Mr. Jennings. Started for home on a farlough yesterday. I went to the hospital last night to see him. I heard that he was going to start this morning and he was gone when I got there. I guess that you young folks don't do much else but fix for ------go to them. I have to sit up until midnight, but tonight the post has some guards. It is now 11 o'clock and it rains hard. I feel sorry for the boys tonight. It may be that they searched all day until after dark in the rain and have to lie down on the wet ground with not enough to keep them warm for they all went in light marching order some of them took nothing but an over coat and a piece of shelter tent and it will be impossible to keep warm as it is pretty cold as well as wet. Supplies come pretty fast now both on the cars and boats. The bidge at Jordan will soo be finished and than the cars will run right through from Chattanooga. My ink is so poor I do not know as if you can read it. I would like a couple of pairs of stockings if you could get a chance to send them. I think we will not go to Ne w York as we expected but will stay in this ------ a while yet. I know that I has as well be as anywhere now for we have advanced so that we can get plenty of supplies now and it is the healthiest. That we ere ever in I do not know but we will go up to Richmond from this way and take out in the rear to have nothing of importance to write and I will clos hoping to hear form you soon.

From your brother

---- E.A. Phelps

P.S. Ask Henry if he sees anything brown.
Knoxville, Tenn, March 2, 1864

Dear Father:

I am still at Knoxville and well with the exception of a cold. We have had very bad weather for two days past, it rained all the time, our tents were in rather a low place and it overflowed so that we had to move in the rain and I got wet through and caught cold. The report here concerning the army are various. One report is that the 9th Corps is coming back to go north, and another is that they have met the rebs at Bulls Gap (9 miles this side of Greenville and near Blue Spring where we had a fight - with Mud Wall Jackson Oct 10th - lost- and after a brisk skirmish with the rebs, our forces commenced falling back and now the whole army is coming with Longstreet in the rear. I cannot believe the latter unless Longstreet met reinforcements at Bulls Gap. And I cannot think that he has been reinforced, for by all accounts there is not a place where they have any force but that they, want all that they have got and more if they could get them. For my past I don't fear but what we are all right here yet. There is considerable of excitement among the citizens today. There are a great many here that live between here and Greenville and when our army advances they follow up and when it falls back they will come in half scared to death. They are Union men and are afraid of being killed or pressed into the service if the rebs get hold of them. About two weeks ago our company got up a petition and sent to the Governor desiring that he would Commission Leient Blood as Captain of our company Vice Cap't Grant promoted and all of the company signed it except three and it was not offered them knowing they were great friends of Leient Ainsworth. It is the Leientenants desire that you would see the governor and intercede for him if you will. I wish you would do all you can for I do not want to ever see Leient Ainsworth Captain of our company for he does not amount to any great sum and it would please the company very much to have Leient Blood for Captain for he is liked much better than Ainsworth. There was not a man that hesitated a second to sign the petition but all said I go for that every day in the week if necessary. Please do all you can and keep it a secret. It is not known any out of the company. Another report just came that we have a force at Bulls Gap in the rear of Leong street that flaxed him when he tried to get through and then he turned on our forces this side and is driving them. If so probably they will fall back this side of Strawberry Plains and give him battle there as there is a good position the best between here and Bulls Gap. It is getting dark and I must stop. My love to all.

From your Son, Edgar A. Phelps
Knoxville East, Tenn., March 7, 1864

Dear Brother:

It is now 10 o'clock and I have to sit up two hours longer to see to the post-the guards and I will try and write you a few lines as I have everything convivial here for writing. Capt' Grant came in from the front this afternoon and gave us orders to have the Head Quarter baggage and the Guards knapsacks to the depot at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning and take it on the cars to Strawberry Plains where we will find teams to take it to Horsby Creek 12 miles from the Plains. He says that all is quiet today but there was a skirmish day before yesterday. He says that the rebs are in heavy force at Ball Gap. The skirmish was at New Market which was caused by a brigade of rebel cavalry that came up there as scoals I suppose. Captain Grant says that he cannot imagine what move is to be made but says that Gen. Schofield rec'd a telegram from Gen. Grant to stop there until further orders he was advancing to fast for his plan. Probably he only wants to keep the rebs here so that they cannot reinforce any other place until it is too late to do them any good. There are deserters coming in daily. New recruits bein.to.com.in. There are thirty here now for our regiment. I recieved a note in my letter from you to ____ Granger I have not seen him since but shall day after tomorrow if nothing happens and I will give it to him. I am well except a bad cold which I have had most a week. Zeb Hall is now doing his best snoring he is as fat as a suffolk pit. Our going to New York has played out. I understand that the 8th Mich. is coming back here. Catcheon now wears the Eagle and is putting on considerable of style. Grant is Major I suppose but he wears his captain stripes yet. Well I believe I will stop as I have nothing of importance to write.

Write as soon as you recieve this from your brother.

E.A. Phelps

Take good care of the girls.

Do you see anything brown yet?
Mexia Creek, East. Jan. 10th. 1864

Dear Brother,

I received a letter from you yesterday. I think the boys are rather unlucky all of them. We are now at Mexia Creek, about Eclectic, and Spurville lay before yesterday and get here yesterday at 4 o'clock. We came on the cars to Stone Ferry Plains and marched the rest of the way here. The bridge at the Plains was not quite built but is about done by this time. I heard that a train was expected up here to-night. All of the troops here drew three days rations in day. We expect to move tomorrow or the next day. The 9th Corps is in the advance and the 23d is back about a mile. The 4th Corps is partly
back to New Market and the rest at London. The 10th Tenn. arrived at Newport the day before yesterday. I guess they are near here now.

George Preston has got here and joined our company. He looks like a Tom-pow, but I guess he will stand it. I got the stockings that the Polk sent. They came just in time. Mine were all worn out. That pleased. Thad Preston got here before I saw him. I went to the Christian Emmerson and asked for a pair of socks and they gave me a good pair of home made stockings, and now I have two good pairs.

I have been unwell for two or three days, but I guess it is nothing. I am in a severe cold and will be all right in a day or two.

All of the boys are well.

From your brother E. B. Phelps.
Sunday March 13th/64

Dear Miss Henry,

I have not written to you in some time. I will now improve what little time I have to spare. I recall the letter you sent me in Edgar's letter the other day stating that you were well yet. You said that girl was all right and would wait for me. I suppose that one of yours is all right to hunt; she if she wanted you must tend to her right off. We are now at Morrison. We got here yesterday noon. We left mossy creek at 3 in the morning and marched 14 miles and got here at noon. I understand that you have had several surprise parties there this winter. I suppose
you had a fine time with the girls didn't you, Henry? I wish I had been there about then time if I had to. I think we would have a gay old time didn't you, Henry? I want you to tell her Gregory to write once in a while. I have not heard from him in a long time, does the girls trouble him so much that he don't have time to write a letter, well, Henry as there is not much news to write at present I will have to close this short letter please write as soon as you get this. Edgar is all right yet, no more this time so good by.

Leonard Granger.
Direct co. D 20th Mich.
1st div. front guard.
9th A.C.
Knoxville, East Tenn., March 19th, 1864

Dear Sister:

Good morning. How do you do. I am well at present. We have just got back to Knoxville from Morristown. We left there day before yesterday and marched the first day to Newmarket 18 miles and yesterday 10 and today 8. We will leave tomorrow morning I expect for London 28 miles below here where we calculate to take the cars and then I don't know but expect we are going to New York, Baltimore, Harrisburg or Annapolis Md. I expect we are going somewhere to join the veteran regiment into of the 9th corps. Then where we shall go I cannot imagine it maybe back to the army of the Potomac. A good many ____ Gen. Burside is going on an expedition into North Carolina. I should not wonder if the troops were back here to Knoxville in two weeks (I mean the army that will be left here the 23rd and a part of the 4th corpses.) I think it is well that our corps is going to leave here for the soldiers have no confidence in Gen. ____ we have advanced and fell back so much. I rec'd a letter from you about 4 days ago. All of the Dexter boys are well. Our ______ officers have decided not to ____ May Cutcheon as colonel for the regiment is not large enough to have a colonel consequent-ly. Cap't Grant cannot be ____ as major and is yet a captain. I am now writing in the soldiers reading and writing room where we are furnished with paper and envelopes free gratis. I will write again the first chance I get. Please write often. No more this time. I send my love to all.

From your brother,

Serg't E.A. Phelps
Dear Brother,

We are now in Covington. We arrived here this morning. We are all but pretty tired. We have had a pretty hard journey. We had to march to Nicholasville where we took the cars and came here. We were two days marching from Harrods to Nicholasville, a little over two days. We marched right along every day part of the way, got to Nicholasville. We have been two days coming from Nicholasville here. At first our engine broke down and we had to stop at Paris all night. We got the cars ahead of us ran off the track and we stopped at Cynthiana all day and ran up here last night in the night. I don't think we shall leave here until tomorrow morning. For there is not any transportation for us. The 7th of Oct.
and the 36 think both of our brigades left here this morning. We expect to get through this. We cross the river here into Cincinnati and take the cars. Capt. Grant's wife is here as also Lewis Bridges and Sgt. Parker. It is a fine day to day but we since we left Newport, it has either rained or sleeted every other day and made it very hard marching. I suppose to get a letter from home when I got here but did not most of the boys got in letter I got one from Ed Polkman and one from Geo. Williams but wanted one from home the worst. The Postmaster is taking the mail now and will have to closeDirect the same as you did leaving off Newport and it will come where we go. The fire bells are all ringing over in Cincinnati now and they make quite a racket. Here is a pretty big fire I should think by the smoke. My love to all

From your brother

C. W. Phelps
Annapolis, Nov. 17th, 1834

Dear Sister,

I have at last reached a stopping place, we arrived here at Annapolis this morning. All are well, but pretty tired. We came to Baltimore on the cars from Cincinnati, from Columbus and Pittsburg and from Baltimore on the boat. From Cincinnati to Pittsburg it was very tiresome traveling, we were crowded in the cars so thick and cargo cars, but from Pittsburg we were not so crowded and had passenger cars. It is almost impossible to rest nights on the cars consequently we are all pretty near sickened for want of sleep. We have been 18 days on the road since left Knoxville. Andrew Surgeon is here but is pretty laid off with Rhumm relative to water. I have joined the company to day.
Sedent we will stop here some length of time. Tell father that I wish he would send my boots as soon as he can get a chance & presume there will be plenty of chances as long as we stop here for anybody that is coming ever bring them as they can get them carried all the way. We are encamped 16 miles from the city. I wish you would send me some sugar & get some in the boat. I am in the mountains & all my cherry & every thin in the eatable line is very high. I suppose it is because there are so many soldiers here. You said in your last letter that you don’t hear very often. I have not received all 3 quarts for there not read any very often. I have not read a letter from home since we left Missouri town. I don’t get any newspapers around by chattanooga & all my letters in it & have not had a chance since we left. Goodnight & am pretty busy & don’t think I will soon get alone if we stay here. I respect that the newspapers will begin to mount. I am much better than ever & hear the 74th Chick & peggars. I met the same as you have wrote to Washington & Co. More with the account now to expect we will go back to Newark days before long. My love to all.

From your brother
E B Phelps
Annapolis, Md, April 9th, 1864

Dear Brother,

I rec'd your letter dated Apr. 6th almost a week ago and was glad to hear from home once more. I had not heard from home before since I left Tennessee. All of the boys are well that you are acquainted with Andrew Granfers here I believe he is troubled some with the rheumatism. I don't believe he will be good for anything for field service his bones are most too stiff. I suppose if the ______ another call for troops the _______ will pass with one leg and give ______ bounty for men that will enlist. Chasley Bloath is tough as a knot and stood over most of the mountains first-rate but Presley, after marching two days gave out and had to be carried back to Knoxville and sent around by Chattanooga on the cars he is with us now and well. You say that the Democrats elected everything on their ticket but did not tell me who they were. Please write who the different officers are when you write again. They are giving furloughs for seven days now but I guess that there are not many that will take one for so short a time although there are some that will go. I don't know whether any of the Dexter boys will go or not. We are yet with the regiment I don't think we will go back to Head Quarters. Terent Blood has been promoted to 1st tet and assigned to company Febut - is yet with us - he had to be assigned to another company as we have one 1st Tet and there cannot be but one in a company. Capt' Grant is yet at Div. H.Q. If he stays there I think we will go back but I think that he will not. The 9th corps has been recruited up to 18,000 that are here now and several veteran regiments are yet at home. The 1st Mich niggers is here but not in our Corps yet. The 26 NJ nigger reg was here and left last week for Hilton Head and I heard yesterday that their boat sank and the whole regiment drowned. There was over a thousand in the regiment. They were all stout looking fellows and looked as if they might stand a great deal of fatigue. They don't look like the niggers that have been slaves all their lives but look much more intellegent. They try to look quite sty- lish.

I believe I have nothing of importance and will close hoping to hear from you soon. My love to all

Serg't E.A. Phelps
Co. D 20th Mich
Annapolis, Md, April 19th, 1864

Dear Brother Thomas:

I rec'd a letter from you a quite a while ago and and meant to answer it right away and though - I did until on receiving a letter from Sarah June yesterday stating that I had not answered yours and often think I came to the conclusion that I had not and now I will try and write you a few lines. I am well at present and all of the Dexter boys. I wish you was here to stop with as while we stay here you could have lots of oysters to eat and learn how to shoulder arms &c. We are not so starved here as we were in Tennessee but have more than we can eat and the best of army victuals too. I presume you would like to know what we have here will I will tell you. We have good bakers bread more than we can eat fresh & salt beef, about two meals of potatoes in five days, beans and rice all we want. Coffee and sugary generally and once in a while tea and once every five days we draw a little ____. In Tennessee we drew a pint of corn meal and one pound and three quarters of fresh beef bones every other day and every other day a pint of corn meal and three quarters of a pound of fresh pork that is from the commencement of the siege of Knoxville up to about three weeks before we left there. I don't whether we will get into as bad of a place for ration when we leave here or not but I hope not. I do not think we will find much worse places unless we are taken prisoners and the rebs take us to Richmond. I think if they take us to Richmond they will have to take us prisoners before next fourth of July or they will not have a chance for the Stars and Stripes over Teiby Prison by that time if I am not mistaken. Gen. Grant took Vicksburg last summer and he is going to take Richmond this summer. Well I suppose you keep the blacks pretty mice and cut quite a swell in your new buggy. I do not see many horses and buggys here in the army we have no use for buggies and horses are now beginning to be scarce for mules are so much tougher and can work and keep fat on what a horse would starve to death. In Tennessee about all of the horses starved to death this winter. All of the Calvary horses got so poor that they could not hardly trot with a man on their backs. There were thousands of mules died too but they did not die as fast in comparison to the number there. I wish you could see a train of wagons. I know it would be ascurious to you as it did to me. When I first came out to see one man drive six mules with one line and instead of riding in the wagon they ride the hind near mule. That is the way they team it over the mountains into Tennessee. One trip from Nicholasville in Knoxville and back was up the mules there got so poor because they cannot give them half enough to eat. On the road over the mountains there are thousands of dead mules that gave out and died. Some places where the trains would stop over night there would be ten or fifteen dead mules. There is no place from Jucksborough to Point Isabel about 100 miles but what there is from 20 _______ dead mules every mile in the road and every short distance there is an army wagon that had to be left because the mules gave out. Well I suppose you lave heard enough about dead mules. I promise you would like to see a fight if you could be out of danger. I sent a photograph of the charge on Fort _______ Sarah Jane which is a pretty good picture only it does not show one quarter enough men coming up to the fort. You were in the fort on the right and had a fair shot and good sight of the rebs. That picture shows the fort as it was then but does no look much like it now it has been so altered and made so much stronger. I will have to stop for I see that my sheet is full. You mush write when you get this and I will try and answer it sooner next time. My love for all.

Your brother,

E.A. Phelps
Camp 26th Nov. 1805
Near Alexandria Va.

Dear Sister

As I have occasioned

I am well. We are now about 2 miles from Alexandria. We left Bristoe Early on the 23rd and got here yesterday afternoon. The weather was a pretty good and we fairly weather rather warm. The soldiers are all well and they are doing fine all along. Our road was through punishment and left quite in the fort. I am sorry I don't have time to write. B. He is a lost lad. We took him in and about 10 o'clock last night before we left.
and at two o'clock in the afternoon the
his colonel tells him that we would
be gone in the morning. So he set
up and he might as well leave the
thing there and he left the vessel
on the coast and come up. I came
and told the people where he had left it.
I went down to the boat and
it had all been unloaded and I
was in my coat of one coat I
tried you would had sent them to
them and so I apprised them I
sent them for they would have known
not.

He set there in the yard of the ship

$1,000 first rate in the ground without
cooking. The cooks were all designated
I was divided into four divisions which
are continued by the following letters
on the right hand column from the pos-

1st Lieut. Capt. Eden
2nd Lieut. Capt. Van Dyke
Driz. Lieut. Capt. Van Cott's regiment is in the
1st Division 2nd Brigade Col. Oakley
Exemptions our brigade. The division of two
brigades now composed of the following reg.
1st B'ng 2nd Brigade 1st Mich 3rd Mich
1st Mich 50th Mass 50th Penn 79th Reg.
1st B'ng 50th Penn 50th Ohio. Respect we will have another
regiment in the event. There are
more than 2,000 in our corps. I suppose
you would like to know where
we are going from. I would like to but
not I am just as much in the
dark as I was at Alexandria and more
of anything I still form an opinion
there is to write. From the Bridge
here
We went that the 1st corps
is coming from where the New York
forces are, the river toward Richmond.
There were some colored troops that
said they deserted. The 7th corps
had taken the fort at Alexandria. It looks
curious. So we don't take. The idea
of the arrangements are given to Paris
and I don't know whether you will
get. This or not as Sen. Grant
has ordered me to procure mail to go
from the 2nd Army for the
next two days but I dont know
whether letters will go from her
at all. I thought I would write
and let you know from here
that we will leave here soon
and you need not expect another
letter for the next thirty days
for the Richmond is taken
Mail will come to us as usual
and I hope you all will write
soon to see if I can hear from
home of if I can receive any word
All of The Deputies are well as
well as he left Gen. Peabody although
I dont believe he will ever be sick
enough for a soldier. Tell all of the
boys to write me. My love to all.

From your brother

Sly. O. Phillips

2nd of Oct. 1864
Warrenton Junction
April 30th 1864

Dear Mother,

I wrote a few lines to Harrison this morning, but as I have heard from an official source that tomorrow morning is the last time that the mail will go from this department for sixty days, I thought I would write a letter tonight and have it ready to send in the morning. I wrote to Harrison that I did not think that we would move to-day, but we have not moved but a short distance. This morning when I wrote, I thought we would stop to-day, and then start again to the surprise of all of us, we moved camp to-day and took the place of a regiment of the 5th Corps that
has been stationed here for over four months to guard the railroad. The whole of our division is stationed around here. The 4th division (colored) is along the road back 13 miles and the 7th and 8th have gone on further. I don't know how far. The 5th Corps has been stationed all along from Monocacy as far as the front and now the 6th Corps has taken their place and the 5th Corps has gone to the front. We have very good quarters the same as they lived in last winter.

The regiment that we relieved moved out this forenoon and we moved in this afternoon. It looks as if we were elected to stay here quite a while but may not a week. It is about 30 miles to the front from here. The troops that have been here say they have been attacked by guerrillas several times since they have been guarding the
road. In day there was a party of them drove in our pickets about six miles from here on the Warrenton road. I will take quite a force to do anything here for all of our division is within two miles of here. I expect that we will be bothered with the rebel cavalry as soon as the army advances. I think that if the army is going to advance immediately the rebels will make a stand. There will be a battle in a week or two - our heavy distant cannonading today for about two hours, probably our cavalry were advancing and ran away, some rebels under Grant has killed of the ranks a great deal by shooting all enlisted men in the ranks and killing the Medical and Ambulance Drivers Black and Smith. Butch you. We have not as many of our company detailed now as we had in Tennessee. About five. Andrew Granger is detailed at Brigade head quarters to cook for some of their clerks.
saying that he did not believe
that he could do it in any way.
He supposed he intended to make
him do any thing he could. I should think he was not
by his fall. I am glad that he has
The Company for he began
to report sick every morning before
The place that we joined, the whole army
when we started for Frederickburg.
16th Feb. I came Alfred can tell you
of about how the Troops came in on three
This morning after we marched
in a line. They were all turned over after moving
from Sulphur Springs after 10 miles
and about three miles of the
city fell out because they could not go
furth. When we came here the 4th of
March about a mile and a half out. They have
left room before this time as they belong to
The 5th Corps. They have told Dr. Johnson's
and his men might have been to see his
Brother-in-law, From Jones, and the 14th of
This as general, and must all walk so much I can
not from home so far.
Carvers Hospital
Washington City, May 4th

Dear Brother,

I have got to Washington & got here at the hospital last night at 11 o'clock. Mr. [illegible] left Frederick yesterday morning at 7 o'clock. We rode in an ambulance to the depot across the river and rode in the cars to Aquia Creek where we took the boat. We got here about dark and had to ride in an ambulance three miles and I never suffered so much in my life it shook me so bad I could not ride steady. I was so weak I had a great deal of trouble to get myself up. I feel pretty well.
to day only my arm was a pretty painful. This forenoon the doctor began it and there was not a very pleasant feeling to such. He then have to take out the tell — as I don't know another — he is going to do it & hope it will be soon to he is going to I am so sick I will have to stop writing as soon as you receive this.

Direct 1

Carvers Hospital
Direct 16
Washington DC

P.S. my love

From your affectionate,

Son E & A Phillips
Washington June 4th 1864

Dear Wife,

I wrote you this morning of the death of Edgar and that I should start for home Monday at 5:40 a.m. in the afternoon. His body will start from Washington Sunday at 3:00 clock. I can not tell whether it will arrive at 9 p.m. Tuesday or Wednesday, but I will telephone from Detroit if the body arrives there when I do.

I hope you will take this as an additional to your as a Christian and a Mother.

I can not write my feelings for his loss, but I must give him the best.

Just Love,

N. A. Phelps
To W A Phelps

By Telegraph from Dearborn

June 9 1864

Destin

Your love today will be mine. I desire kindness to this

Martin

Raggsy

Western Union Teleg. Ph.

W A Phelps

Destin
Sept. 20, 1864

Mrs. Phelps
Dear Madam,

It is with sincere pleasure that I avail myself of the present opportunity to send you an inscription for Edgar's headstone, especially as I have made choice of one that suits my idea of the fitting of things exactly. In fact I don't think it can be bettered.

It is a quotation from one of our American Poets—Halleck—from the poem entitled 'Marce Bo=
If you think proper, I would like to have it appear on his stone thus: "Rest there; there is no greater grace."

(Selected by his friend and companion in Arms—O. Blood.)

The inscription being so short, the stone cutter should be charged to cut the words in brackets much smaller, in order to give proper prominence to the extract.

Hoping that the soothing touch of Time may moderate the severity of your present grief for a noble son.

I subscribe myself,

Truly Your Friend

And Sympathizer

O. Blood