

July 2nd, 1863

No 111

Mrs. Andrew Upson

Plantsville, Conn.

(Yellow envelope is postmarked Georgetown D.C Jul 3, 1863 with a three cent stamp. Letter is on one sheet of lined stationery folded in half and is written on four sides in ink.)

Camp Abercrombie,
Near Fort Ethan Allen

July 2nd, 1863 –

My Dear Wife-

Yesterday I was very suddenly ordered away from Convalescent quarters – The night before 500 men from Camp Distribution were armed & sent up to the vicinity of Fort Corcoran which lies opposite Georgetown – The object was to avoid night surprise from the rebs who might possibly make a raid between two days – About 9 o'clock I was sent up to relieve another Lieut. who had been taken sick – In fact had I been at home the day before my fate in this respect would have happened – Called at Arlington House on the way, Gen Lees house – You remember I pointed it out to you north of Fort Albany – It is one of the prettiest suburban residences that can be (Pg. 2) imagined – I reported to Gen. DeRossy, whose head quarters are there – He told me where to find the men – They were not a great ways from Fort Corcoran which is north of Lees place.. Arriving there I found the battalion expecting orders to move further up – About one o'clock they came & we marched here some three miles – Chain bridges is just at the foot of the hill where we lay last night – Washington is in sight about 6 miles south east – From appearances we are like to be kept here as long as the present emergency continues – Guess our duty will consist of night patrol between or in front of those forts - It is more like business than lying around convalescent camp – I have command of a full company 100 men – No officers except non commissioned to help me – It is made up convalescents who were to be sent to their regiments – They are (Pg. 3) from every regt. in the army & from every state in the union – I have artillery men, cavalry men, infantry men, in fact representations of every branch of the service – One of the fellows yesterday said it was the regt. of lost children – Some of them are good fellows & doubtless some are regular scamps – How we shall get along I can not say – My fellow officers are like my self exchanged prisoners – One was a Lt. in the 17th Ct. another Capt. in the 27th another .Lt in the 3rd Del. & so on – The Artillery Officers from the fort came over and made themselves acquainted at once - They were glad to see us – We know their life is very monotonous & our arrival affords a chance for a little variety – They asked us to come & board with them & we still live in a civilized way – I asked Col. McKelvey how long this service would probably last – He said perhaps 3 days, perhaps 3 months – Guess this is a healthy region & water is plenty & good – But (Pg. 4) I had much rather rejoin the 20th – The look of things this morning is that we may remain here some time – The Commander of the fort, Col. Hall, under whom we now serve has sent to Washington for tents –

(7-2-1863)

Cooking apparatus has been issued & I shall have occasion to use my experience – Intend to do the best in my power – As to dismissal from the service – I shall let that matter rest with my old field officers – Still it is not very pleasant to be situated as I am – Probably people will think strange that I go on duty here – But there is no help until I can get ordered to the regt. – We have to do as we are bid – The consequence of doing otherwise is sufficiently illustrated to you & me – Suppose there is some letters for me at the Convalescent post – You may address me as follows

Lt. Andrew Upson
Fort Ethan Allen
Camp Abercrombie
Washington D.C.