

Chimney complete, laid out streets
built arches &c in fact made a village
that would throw seven eighths of the
town of N. Carolina in the shade dug
them wells, and threw up a strong line
of entrenchments all around their camp
the week before we came here they had
orders to go to Plymouth to step, now a
person would think that we would take
their camp for our use. but not so. we
selected a place about 20 yards from
them and built our camp tearing their
houses & camp all to pieces to get materi-
al to finish our with. we building new
sinks & digging new wells. while their old
camp is now nothing but a pile of rubbish
so too through the Army. you can scarcely
find a clear acre within 10 miles of New-
bern. without finding traces of an encamp-
ment and their graves. you can go in any
direction and you'll find graves of some poor
fellow, all those who die in the City are now
buried in the Soldier's burying ground
but those dying out side are most all
buried near their camp so you can find
graves in every direction some have boards with

Camp Massachusetts. near
Newbern May 15th 1863-

I received your letter of April 27th
It found me enjoying the best of health and
as comfortable as a soldier had ought to be.
The last change we made was the best one
we've made since leaving the City home.
We had got to like the City because we had
got used to it and on some accounts 'twas
very pleasant but as to regards to work, we
done more tiresome work in a week while in
the City than we do in a month in camp.
Here we do just enough for exercise as we go
out to drill at 7 and drill another 3 a half
each morning. and then have from half past
eight am until 5 pm to loaf in. we can go
to sleep down by the River bank over to the
woods, or any where in the vicinity we please
at 5 o'clk pm we go out and drill another
hour and a half making 3 hours a day. in

cool of the day. after that we have dress parade and then we are done for the day. we have to go on guard only one day in 10 to 13 we go in a bathing from 10 to 12 a.m. but cannot remain in the water over 20 minutes (per order of the sergeant). Sunday we breakfast at 6.30 a.m. clean our Gime, Clothes, & Equipments until 9. at 9 we fall into line and all those who wish to go to the city to church are formed into a squad and go to the different churches under charge of a non-commissioned officer the remainder of the regiment form a square and have a short service under our Chaplain (Rev. A. L. Stone) this over we have a chance to go where we please (only not to the city) until 5.30 p.m. we then have inspection and dress parade. It is very hot here in the forenoon and middle of the day. and at the present time it being very dry the dust blows very badly. but we have plenty of water handy and can keep ~~clean~~ cool. we've got our camp well laid out in streets and every street is well shaded with pine trees. they'll keep

a fortnight and then look much better than barren sidetracks. at dress parade we have a beautiful view of the setting sun. as that comes of at sunset. and as we're facing the west. we have a full view of the beautiful scenery. which to me are more so. from the fact that I never had the opportunity before. as I have since being in the army, to study nature. The health of the regiment is first rate. save a mild form of the Diarrhea which I think is caused by a change of water. I have not seen a sick horse since leaving home and have missed only one drill through disability; that was after our first Exp. and caused by a swollen ankle lasting one day, at the present time I weigh 155 (usual weight 150) somewhat dark either owing to the sun or the companionship of so many niggers). There is one thing strange about the army. and that's their moving around so as for instance. a brigade of drafted Pennsylvanians. came here about Jan 1st and went to work and felled trees and built themselves first rate log houses with double windows &

we were gone, nor have I seen a dollar gone
pled any way since I left Readville. This
one little thing will show the difference in
men. Perhaps they'll fight better than we,
they've not done it yet however. in regard to
a regiment fighting 'tis more in the officer
than the men. an officer should have the
confidence, as well as the perfect control
of men. such is Codman should a man
refuse to obey him in battle he would shoot
him in a moment, and he would never
give an order to go anywhere where he would
not take the lead, so that when he gives
an order in battle or in camp he means it.
we know it, and having confidence in his ability
we obey it with alacrity. for the past week
the forts and batteries have all been practicing
at Targets with shot & shell, day before
yesterday they were firing from "Ft. Gorton" near
our old camp when a shell exploded just
after leaving the gun, and going through one
old barracks, severely wounded two of the 17th
they occupying an old barracks at the present
time. tis the first accident that has occurred
and no one was to blame. Good that is provis-
ions are growing very scarce at Newbern

5
the name of the poor fellow who so honestly
deserves a better monument with his age
and regiment while others only have a stick
stuck down to their head & feet. once in a while
you see one with a rough fence around it show-
ing some friendly hand has been there who
thought of them. Our boys would not be left so
when so near civilization I know. but you must
understand their ~~the~~ ^{the} vast difference between
regiments, especially between the old and
New ones, and the New England & the New
York, New Jersey, & Pennsylvania Regiments
as in the 3 latter there a large proportion
of foreigners many who have no friends
on this continent and as their states do not
take any care about them they do not care
for themselves. I find there no states that
begin with Massachusetts in taking an
interest in her soldiers, and all I wish
is, our friends at home could only look
in upon us and see how well we want
are supplied, this is while in camp, when
we're on the march we cannot have these

6
comforts any way but we have good clothes
and blankets and had ought to fight
well. every day I'm glad I'm in the
45th Regiment. There's no 9 months men
in this department sure that have done the
service that we have. The 44th have been
on the march more than we, but they
have not been into any battles that is to
take an active part. and have not lost
more than a dozen in killed and wounded
while we've lost nearly a hundred killed
& wounded. we've got one of the smartest
& best military colonels that ever left
Massachusetts and if all our Generals
were as capable of filling their stations as
Col. Codman is of filling his, this war
would have been over months ago we've
under the strictest discipline. but we see
every day the advantage of it. we have
laws here and every man knows them
if he disobeys them he's punished. I say
no one to blame but himself. Our field officers
are all first rate. our company officers. I'll

7
tell you about when we get home, we've done
as good ones as ever took command of men
we have no discord whatever & I think when
we get home none will be sorry they went to
war in the 45th we've but few enemies in
other regiments, save the 8th They've done
nothing at all. have not shot a Rebel or
got a man wounded. but I'll say no more
about them now, one little instance I'll men-
tion showing the difference ^{between} ~~the~~ two regiments
in one brigade. when on our last expedition
while we lay at "Core Creek" the 17th mass. was
just across the rail road for us. both regiments
had just been paid off, and over to the 17th
was no less than a dozen gambling parties with
from 6 to 20 in a party at one gang I saw
as high as 40 dollars a time in the board
from that down to 10 cts. There was scarcely 50
men if they was half of it. but what was
a gambling during the day in the regiment
while in our camp only two rods from it
I did not see a cent and I do not believe
there was a cent lost or won. during this time

see why goods should have any sudden
falls as the price of gold remains about
the same as it did two months ago and
I suppose that controls the market. should
we have a great victory I suppose goods would
suddenly drop, but I think even then they would
rally again. but a small stock I suppose
is the safest. until affairs assume a
more settled condition. whatever is done
this season in the way of victories will
be done within 60 days my health is
as I stated before first rate and as
the sickly season does not begin before
August we shall stand a pretty good
chance to escape all epidemics
I received writing paper & papermills was
just what I wanted. please send me
some stamps & shoe strings. I must
close this long mess of rappings. Give
much love to Mother, Sarah, Nellie, Tillie,
Fronie, Nero & all. good bye -

Affectionately Yours

W. D. Brackett Jr

W. D. Brackett.

It having been ascertained that quantities
of goods were reaching the Rebels through
this department a stop has been put to all
boats coming here to trade and no goods are
allowed to arrive from the north. some government
goods "Adams" Express Schooner had to lay off
"morehead" three days. because they would not let
her land. they finally got a special permit for
that purpose. and the boxes came safe in good order
The consequence is that feller's milk and most
all puttlre stores have advanced 15 to 50 per cent
I wish they would advance 500 percent as we
do not really need them, and as a puttler is
a regular seldin shark. we should have a
mind strong enough not to patronize the curse
(I suppose I would be a puttler if I got a chance)
"Human Nature's" - Some of our boys are awful wor-
ried about our time as far as my my feelings
are concerned I would like to stop over our time
about 3 months to see what some of them who
count the seconds and who will do so & so after
their time is up. For your sake and for ~~the store~~
I feel that I had ought to shall get home just
as quick as possible. I would give a dollar
for a Boston Journal of Yesterday

~~Yesterday~~ ¹⁰ to know the condition of things at Richmond & vicinity we've received papers up to May 5th when every thing looked well, we've seen the New York papers to May 10 when a great disaster was reported and last night we heard they had papers of the 11th stating we had won a great victory. so you see just how we're placed. I shall believe nothing until I see an official report. according to all accounts we shall be at home full as soon as The list says. perhaps before as many will recollect and they want all they can get before drafting. The flies are the most troublesome things we have here. their name is legion. and they're as savage as bears.

Sunday May 17th 1863.

Another beautiful day. last night it rained nearly all the night. the first rain we've had for a fortnight or more. and we needed it very much as 'twas so dusty we could scarcely breathe at times. Yesterday afternoon we had a brigade inspection & review of our Brigade consisting of the 43rd 17th 51st & 45th.

we had it on our old "parade ground" of Camp Amory. about half a mile from Camp Mass. we had passed in review and had made a few movements when it began to rain and we started for home. this week we've picked ripe Strawberries & Blackberries. they taste like home. The mail boat "Dudley Buck" arrived last night having been ashore on the Swash. The news are not satisfactory in regard to Jo. Hooker & family who we have great faith in. Stub Galencia I suppose is at home by this time for what reason I do not know. but from what I've heard I guess there was trouble between Stub and his wife's mother. but I don't know. at any rate he left very suddenly. The 44th are in high spirits. their time is so near up. ours will soon follow. If we can only remain in our present comfortable quarters as here we are enjoying our self much. we're patiently waiting for high bush Blackberries to ripen then we'll fatten. as there's acres of them here. I'm glad to hear of a brightening in trade I don't see any reason why it should not. and I can