


5-30-1864

## Letter from John McGee to Francis P. Porter

John McGee

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Have de grace  
Maryland

May the 30<sup>th</sup> 164

My Friend,

As a friend I invite your attention for a few moments to give you a short history of our travels & rendezvous.

I suppose you are aware that the Militia have been called out for one hundred days, and as it happened I belong to this band. We left Zanesville the 11<sup>th</sup> of May, started East we did not know where, we traveled two days & two nights arrived at Harpers Ferry the eve of the 13<sup>th</sup> at eight O'Clock, here we got our supper which consisted of Bread & Coffee, after supper we marched to the Maryland Heights a distance of about three or four miles, this was no easy task to ascend this Mountain and carry our

Knapsacks

This lance, as all well hope it will find you the same



at last we arrived at the destined point,  
no tents being prepared for us <sup>we</sup> were obliged  
to accept of the heavens as our tents. (which  
(proved not to be water proof before morning)  
we spread our woollen blankets on the ground  
our knapsacks & guns for pillows & our gun  
blankets over us. we went asleep and never  
awaked untill morn. when we awake behold  
it was raining, this was not very pleasant.  
and what made it much more so. we did  
not get our breakfast untill 12 O'clock.

J. R. Cortney & I went up to the Fort  
before breakfast & viewed it completely. This  
Fort has command of considerable distance  
on every side. This is the place where  
Col Miles cowardly surrender was made.  
~~No man~~ This mountain is surrounded  
with encampments. We did not stay here  
but one week. then we was ordered to  
march to — we get on board a train  
and start east. we arrived at Baltimore  
the 18<sup>th</sup> & B. A. here we landed and got  
quarters in a large building called the  
Soldiers rest

we stayed here untill morn was  
marched to Fort Marshall. East of  
Baltimore about 4 miles. This is a  
beautiful place. in this Fort is 38 pieces  
of cannon. some (100) one hundred pounds  
This Fort is about one half mile from the  
Bay. We did not tarry here very long.

We arrived here the morn of the 19<sup>th</sup> & left  
the eve of the 20<sup>th</sup>. Marched to Camp Bradford  
Northwest of Fort Marshall about five miles  
We only remained here over night marched  
back to Baltimore the next morn before break  
fast & started ~~still~~ east on the Philadelphia  
Wheeling & Baltimore R. R. We arrived at  
Harrode grace the 21<sup>st</sup> (Our Company was  
to be sent to Harrode grace to guard <sup>the ferry</sup> the ferry  
detailed at Camp Bradford, we left <sup>the rest</sup> behind)  
(where we have been up to the  
date of this letter & we <sup>may</sup> remain here untill  
our time is out. This is uncertain.

Harrode grace is situated on the <sup>western side</sup> ~~west side~~  
of the Susquehanna River a little above  
where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay  
A delightful place it is. The river is one mile wide  
at this point



Our duty here is to guard the Boat every door of the passenger cars while crossing & arrest stragglers from the Army. This is our daily duty. we arrests from three to 10 every day, we send them under guard to Baltimore.

We have a three story building for to lodge in. it is about ten rods from the Boat (13). Thirteen of us occupy a room which contains a fire place two Cupboards & one Wardrobe. This is a very comfortable and pleasant place to stay.

I will give you a description of our Ferry Boat. it is (250) two hundred & fifty feet long. sixty five feet wide. three rail road tracks on the top. they run the train and the boat takes it to the other side a distance of one mile. from eightten to twenty four trains passes over this river every day. Almost every day there is a large train of wounded Soldiers passes through here for Philadelphia.

I am on duty today & the train will soon be here so I will have to close for the present. write soon & give me all the news

Direct to Havre de grace  
Maryland

159<sup>th</sup> Reg. O. V. I.

Company C.

In care of Capt J. M. Robinson

Jno. H. Lee



Mr Francis P. Porter,  
Clinton Illinois





May 30, 1864

Havre de Grace, Maryland

May the 30<sup>th</sup>, 64

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At last we arrived at the destined point, no tents being prepared for us we were obliged to accept of the heavens in our tents (which proved not to be water proof before morning), we spread our woolen blankets on the grass, our knapsacks and guns for pillows & our \_\_\_\_\_ blankets over us. We went asleep and never waked until morn. When we awake beheld it was raining. This was not very pleasant and what made it much more so we did not get our breakfast until 12 o'clock.

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Havre de Grace is situated on the western side of the Susquehana River a little above where it empties into the Chesapeake Bay. A delightful place it is. The river is only one mile wide at this point

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Direct to Havre de Grace, Maryland  
159<sup>th</sup> O.V.I.  
Company C  
Care of Captain Robinson

James (?) McGee

This leaves us all well, hope you will find you the same