1861?

Alex. Va. July 1st 1860 - Camp Hale.

Friend Stifer

Yours of the 17th inst. came to hand in due time, for which please accept my sincere thanks.

Having some spare time this morning I thought I would give you a truthful report of the attack upon our Pickett Guard yesterday morning, as I have no doubt you will see an account of it in the papers.

At 3 A.M. Sunday, I heard firing which came from the direction of our Pickett Guard, I aroused our officers, and in a few moments our Colonel hastened to the spot, where he found our Guard had been attacked by 20 Rebels, who were the Governors Mounted Guard, the Rebels wounded two of our men very seriously -

I was immediately sent for & was on the spot in a few minutes, when I arrived I found one man dead & the other still living. I examined him & probed his wound & found the ball had passed through from the right side of his scrotum into the left thigh & the ball lodged there, I soon found that it was impossible to extract the ball, so I cut it out. I then had both removed to our quarters, the dead man I sent home, the other is now doing very well, but I have little hopes of his recovery.

On the other hand the Rebels had one man killed certain, whose name was H. C. Hanes, Sergeant of the Gov's Mounted Guard, & there were two others carried off by their friends wounded severely, which was proven by the pools of blood we found afterwards, & we can safely suppose that others were injured. this Hanes had on his person a map of all the routes that-

these Rebels travelled, also $15 in money of the kind they use in this Country, most of it was Fairfax County scrip. the attack took place on the Mount Vernon Road two miles from here. these Guards had left their horses a short distance behind in the woods & then sneaked up to our guards like thieves, (three only in number at this one point.) & fired upon them. Oh! these F. F. V's are as brave as a Sloth. never do I want them to talk any more to me of Southern Chivalry. it is all nonsense. this morning the Devils shot a Zouave through the leg, not seriously wounded however, at the same place. we think something of scouring this whole Country soon, if the Commander of this region does not grant us the privilege, we will take it in our own hands.

Last night at Midnight this whole Brigade were under marching orders.

Excuse haste — Yours truly, Dr. Thos. S. Christ

Direct to Washington D.C.

P.S.

I forgot to say that we also found two Sharpe's Rifles, two Colts Revolvers & a lot of good ammunition after the attack, all belonging to the Rebel troops.

I see by this morning's Baltimore Clipper that the 114th Penna. Reg't gets the Credit for all this instead of the 4th, why it is that they give us Credit for nothing I cannot understand.

Theodore!

Yours

Ex. J. Blair

Alex.Vis. July 1st 1860 [1861?]-Camp Hale.

Friend Slifer

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Yours truly,
Dr. Theo. S. Christ

Direct to Washington D.C.

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I see by this mornings Baltimore Clipper that the 14th Penna. Regt gets the credit for all this instead of the 4th. why it is that they give us credit for nothing I cannot understand

Theodore

Lewisburg April 16th 1861

Friend Shiffer

O. N. Worden handed me your letter this evening, I read it in different places & it gave encouragement to us all, we are & will do our utmost to raise the required number, (77) and be in Harrisburg by Saturday noon if possible, we now have only 33 members, we met & drilled this evening for the first time and done quite well. Many Married Men (poor) would like to go but have no way to support their families, will you please inform me what is the wages per month of a private Volunter in the Army,
I have long since offered my services to any Company from here as Surgeon, will I be taken in that Capacity.
To Morrow a number of us goes into

the Country drumming up volunteers to fill up our Company.
We are full of excitement here, & I tell you the gas-ing Sham Democracy have hauled in their foul tongues. there is no more insults taken from them & they know it.
The Appointment came on Monday, the Bond was signed to day & will be sent off in the morning.

Truly Your friends
Theo. S. Christ

Lewisburg April 16th 1861

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Truly Your friend
Theo. S. Christ

Annapolis Md. May 3rd 1861

Friend Shiffer

We have in our Regiment Dr. J. B. Dunlap, Acting as chief Surgeon, and a young man with him Dr. W. C. Rogers, Acting as his Mate, I am acting according to my Commission as Assistant Surgeon, and I can assure you we are all kept very busy at times, & would be more so if in actual service, I visit the Hospital several times a day, also all the men who need assistance & attendance in our Regiment. I frequently see from 25 to 35 men a day. Still our men stand the exposure & fatigue very well, we need all the Surgical & Medical Assistance we have, & I would be pleased to have Drs. Dunlap & Rogers Commissioned if possible. I notice the New York Regiments have as many as four Assistants to each Regiment.

The Regiment are all waiting anxiously for their Uniforms & equipments, some are looking very ragged indeed, when the uniforms arrives I think all will be better satisfied.

Our Gettysburg Infantry are looking well, quite a number have been sick, I have watched them carefully & nursed them, & I am happy to say all are now doing well.

We have been lying at this point since yesterday one week ago, it is a lovely spot for a Naval School. the place itself is a worn out City.

Col. Ellsworth Zouaves arrived here yesterday & went on immediately to Washington.

Yours truly
Theo. S. Christ

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Col. Ellsworth [one word illegible] arrived here yesterday & went on immediately to Washington.

Yours truly,
Theo. S. Christ

Washington May 13th 1861

Friend Stifes

Dr Sir

Your Kind and most welcome letter came safe to hand, just a few minutes before our Regiment marched for the Cars at Annapolis to proceed to this place, four of our Companies are quartered in the Congregational Church & the balance are in the Washington Assembly Rooms, we expect to encamp out doors. We are all well & in good health. On Saturday last there was a petition handed to me signed by a number of the Staff Officers & a few of the Captains &c, praising me as a Physician & Gentlemen, but at the same time asking me to resign my Commission as Assistant Surgeon in this Regiment, in favor of Dr W. C. Rogers, Simply because he is from Norristown, they have already all the Commissioned Officers ~~already~~ from that place, except myself, they say he was appointed by the Colonel of the Regiment & has therefore a prior Claim, a number of those that signed that communication, have already came to me & said they honestly wanted me not to resign, & the reason they signed such a paper was that they could not well refuse, Yesterday they were Counselling together & I suppose it was in reference to me & I have no doubt yourself & the Governor will be waited upon in reference to this Matter, I told them I would not resign unless compelled to do so by higher Authority, I wish you would settle this Matter by writing to the Col. J. F. Hartranft, by so doing you will much oblige me, & Our Whole Company — Yours truly Theo. D. Christ

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DrSir

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Yours truly
Theo. S. Christ

Washington May 20th 1861

Friend Shifer

Your welcome letter was recieved yesterday, and Lieut. Linn recieved his to day, both were very encouraging to me & full of interest; please accept my sincere & heartfelt thanks for the interest you have taken in my welfare, I assure you I shall ever remember this kindness. it has given much satisfaction to our Company, also to Capt. Snyder's of Centre County. Wm. H. Sertes read your letter to me & is well pleased.

I think the request made to me from some of our Staff was ungrateful & unkind, & many of them that signed the Communication have came & apologized to me for so doing & said they were sorry they had done so.

I have sacrificed my business at home & have also spent some seventy five dollars to uniform myself according to the regulations, & now to resign after this would be cowardly & beneath my notice, and you well know I am too poor to afford such an expense, without being paid.

The Gum blankets came safe to hand on Saturday & was a welcome & acceptable Gift from you, Could you have been here when they were opened & heard the Cheers that were given for you three times three, with the usual Tiger, & with a hearty good will, I know you would have felt well paid for this & the many Kindnesses you have shown us all.

We recieved to day from our good Lady friends at home a Havelock for each man, we are now better prepared for Camp life, than any Company in our Regiment, thanks to you & our Kind friends at home for this all.

we have plenty of provisions &c, and all are in good spirits, we expect to march to camp in a day or two, as yet we are in the City.

I Remain Your friend & Servant

Thos. S. Christ

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Theo. S. Christ

Hon. Eli Slifer
Sec. of the Commonwealth,
Penna.

Camp Montgomery June 11th 1861

Friend Slifer

I have promised myself the pleasure of writing you a letter for some time, but having but little news to communicate, and generally having my time occupied with the sick + afflicted of our Regiment; I postponed writing from time to time, + this morning having finished my Hospital duties + cared for the few sick we have now on hand, I determined I would engage my leisure moments in chatting awhile with you. and now I will not promise you much news, neither a very interesting letter. The best and most satisfactory news I have to communicate is, that our soldiers are now all newly + comfortably uniformed + equipped, they really look well, and I will now turn them out against any other Regiment that I have seen in all my travels the past six weeks, both for well uniformed + equipped men, also as fine + noble looking and as well drilled men. I am proud now of our Regiment, we are now no longer ashamed to be seen, besides my words have been made good, I told them, upon the strength of what you told me,

that all would come right in time, that our State was so hurried in the early part of our Countrys trouble, that all was done for them that could be done, for the time the Governor had to do it in, And when there was more time to attend to our wants it would be done, well now all are satisfied + feel proud of our noble State once more, and where I used to hear Curses, I now hear praise, and I assure you it is highly gratifying to me.

I had a hard row to hoe among our staff + other officers, about this matter, the Majority of them are Loco-focos, + Bell men, they tried hard to make political Capital out of it, but are now silenced + I am thankful that it is so, they are now all using me a little better than they did before Dr Rogers left, since he has gone home all treat me like Gentleman, but the Colonel + Adjutant still feel a little sore, and I can plainly see that their feelings towards me is not as they should be, however I care but little for their friendship, because I know + am positive that I stand higher in the estimation of the balance of our Officers + men than either of them.

We are stilled encamped about two miles from Washington, in a very healthy region, Our registered sick is nearly three hundred, that has had different diseases; + many seriously ill, we have now but six men in our Hospital, we have lost but one man by sickness, the health of our men is excellent, we have had a great deal of Typhoid Fever, Pneumonia, Measles, Mumps, Dysentery, Diarrhoea &c.

We have two Companies out Scouting every day & night, in the regions of Bladensburg, as yet they have not Captured any of the Rebels, night before last one Company came very near getting a prize in the shape of one of these Scoundrels, a Sentinel says he seen a man approaching him, & he held in his hand a gun. The Sentinel asked – who Comes there, no answer & the man jumped behind a tree, the Sentinel fired & hit the tree, the man ran away & soon they heard the Gallopping of a horse. he was undoubtedly a Rebel. the night was very dark & in a Strange Country they Could not follow him up, at daylight next morning the Company reconnoitered around where this took place, and could see plainly where the rascal ran & where he mounted his horse & made his escape, all was sorry that he was not captured.

I have given a recommendation or rather an introduction to a friend of mine here to you, G. N. Corson, what he wants I am unable to say, but what I have said, has been told me by Norristown men, where he is from.

Our own Company are all well and in good health & Spirits, not a man of them Sick, and all as happy as larks.

Accept my kind regards for your health & happiness, I would also be pleased to have you remember me to your family.

I remain Your Friend &c

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Accept my Kind regards for your health & happiness, I would also be pleased to have you remember me to your family.

I remain your friend &c
Theo S. Christ

Camp Montgomery June 11th 1861

Hon. Eli Slifer

Dr Sir

It is with much pleasure that I introduce to you my friend George N. Conson Esqr. of Norristown Pa. the Colonel's Military Secretary, he is not personally acquainted with you & he wished me to introduce him in order that he might more freely correspond with you on some business matters of ~~[illegible]~~ his own, he is a Scholar & a Gentleman, and a true and devoted Republican, he stumped his own County faithfully last fall Campaign, for the men that you & I worked for, and had the pleasure on two occasions to speak from the same stand that our Governor did,

Anything you may do for him will I know be thankfully recieved.

I remain Your friend as ever &c

Theo. L. Christ

Camp Montgomery June 11th 1861

Hon. Eli Shifer
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I remain Your Friend as ever &c
Theo S. Christ

Camp Montgomery June 16th 1861

Friend Shifer

Yours of the 13th inst: came safe to hand, I read its contents with pleasure, and I also read it to our own company & as I had so often talked to them about the wrist statements they heard as regards their clothing, I wished them to know your feelings & affections for them, I can assure you that every man of them ads your friend, they highly appreciate your kindness towards them, I also showed it to some other friends of mine here & they are feeling now quite differently towards you all, still there are those that talk very bitterly, but rest assured it is done more for political purposes than anything else, I frequently have some warm words with some of these cursed Loco-focos. I almost hate them, if they are fellow soldiers with me,

Our own boys are all well and in most excellent spirits, the Regiment is now very healthy, we have but four men in the Hospital.
On last Friday the Milton Band arrived here safely, we had sent on for them to play for the Regiment.
We are still sending out two Companies every night on picket Guard duty, last evening our own Company went to the Eastern Branch Bridge of the Potomac & returned this morning, I accompanied them, we caught enough fish for supper. it is about 3½ miles from here, through a very fine country.
We expect our friend Wm. Frick to day for dinner, he is a welcome visitor to us boys, and I can assure you Col. that you would be too, I do wish you had the time to spare, to see how well we look how well we drill, the Susquehanna Infantry is as well drilled now as any in the Regt.

I must talk once more about that Dr Rogers. Before he left, he told me when he was at Harrisburg Gov. Curtin told him, he knew no Assistant Surgeon by my name, & that he the Gov. went and looked over the list of Surgeons & told him, (the Dr.) that my name was not on, how our list of Officers then were sent on to Harrisburg before Rogers knew he could not be appointed, & as the Col. promised him this appointment; (so he says) I suppose Dr Rogers name was returned as Assistant Surgeon of this Regt & mine was left out; if this be so, it would not be right; it should be changed, because I would not be recieving the honor that I am entitled to, and might not recieve my pay, (which they say we will soon recieve & will be very acceptable,) if you will be kind enough to see to this & if not right, have it corrected, I will be very thankful indeed.

I remain Your friend &c

Theo. S. Christ

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I remain Your Friend &c
Theo. S. Christ

Lewisburg Sept. 26th 1861

Col. E. Slifer

Dear Sir

I have carefully considered over the proposition you made me a few days ago, and have came to the conclusion that I will return again to the service of my country, providing I can go as a Surgeon of a Regiment, I have seen and know fully what a Soldier needs when sick or wounded, when in Camp, or on a March, and feel every way competent to administer to his wants, I have done so before, and can do so again if I have an opportunity, and I believe I have given entire satisfaction, those that have been under me, and with me, will testify to

this I have no doubt.
Thankful to you, and the Governor for what you have already done for me, I will again feel grateful for promotion.

Truly Your Friend
Theo. S. Christ

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Thankful to you, and the Governor for what you have already done for me. I will again feel grateful for promotion.

Truly Your friend
Theo. S. Christ

Lewisburg Oct. 11th 1861

Hon. Eli Slifer
Sec. of State.

Sir

I recieved my notice this morning, of my succesful examination before the State Board of Surgeon's, And am recommended to the Governor as worthy of the Appointment of Apistant-Surgeon. I expected, & think I am capable of taking the Chief Surgeonship, however the board have ordered otherwise & I presume I cannot do any better, so I have accepted the post & have written to this effect to the Governor, providing he commisions me to Col. Welsh's Regt. if he does this I will go & be ready to March at a few days notice, if I cannot be ordered to this Regt. I decline accepting

the position, because I would not go among strangers, Capt. J. M. Sinns Company joins this Regt. & they are anxious to have me along with them. & they are my friends, besides I am well acquainted with others in this Regt. I wish you would recommend me to the Officers of this Regt. also to the Gov. & have me ordered to Col. Welsh. I know I will give satisfaction. Hoping you will be successful in securing me the position

I remain Yours truly
Theo. S. Christ

Lewisburg Oct. 11th 1861

Hon. Eli Slifer
Sec. of State.
Sir

I received my notice this morning, of my Successful examination before the State Board of Surgeon's, And am recommended to the Governor as worthy of the Appointment of Assistant Surgeon. I expected, & think I am capable of taking the Chief Surgeonship, however the board have ordered otherwise & I presume I cannot do any better. So I have accepted the post & have written to this effect to the Governor, providing he Commissions me to Col. Welsh's Reg't. if he does this I will go & be ready to March at a few days Notice. if I cannot be ordered to this Regt I decline accepting

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Hoping you will be Successful in Securing me the position

I remain Yours truly
Theo. S. Christ

Lewisburg Oct. 15th 1861

Hon. E. Slifer

Dr Sir

Last evening I recd orders from Surg. Genl. Smith to report myself at Harrisburg to Dr Potter, for duty. I have written to Potter asking a little time in order for me to pack up, close my business &c. I can be ready to leave ~~my~~ Wednesday night or Thursday Morning, if that will do, if not I have asked him to Telegraph to me & I will come sooner, but would like that much time, in order to put my effects in a good shape. Should any thing occur that I would be required to be there sooner, I wish you to say a word, which I know you will do.

Truly Your Friend

Theo. G. Christ

Lewisburg Oct. 15th 1861

Hon E. Slifer
Dr Sir

Last evening I rec'd orders from Surg. Genl. Smith to report Myself at Harrisburg to Dr. Potter for duty. I have written to Potter asking a little time in order for me to pack up, close my business &c. I can be ready to leave by Wednesday Night or Thursday Morning, if that will do. if not I have asked him to Telegraph to me & I will come Sooner, but would like that much time, in order to put my effects in a good Shape. Should anything occur that I would be required to be there Sooner, I wish you to Say a word, which I Know you will do.

Truly Your friend
Theo. S. Christ