

Camp of the 36th Wis. Vols.,

near Chansons Hill Pa, June 15th 1865

Dear Friend Edgar;

I take the earliest opportunity of writing you a few lines in reply to your kind letter which came to hand by last evening's mail, and I was highly pleased to hear from you and the friends at home, and to learn you were all in good health. Well I am in usual good health, and good spirits, considering circumstances, and all the boys in our Co. are in usual good health, except Lewis, Monstroschick he has been quite sick for some days past, but feels some better to day, all of our Co. is now on "picket" on the Leeburg & Alexandria R.R. It may seem odd to you to say on "picket" situated as we are here in sight of Washington. But nevertheless it is true, and if there was any need of it the boys would not care. But as it is, we have no orders to stop any one, and only to salute officers according to rank. How does it seem keeping a large army just to salute things with straps on their shoulders, not an armed enemy being in 1000 miles of here. And a more discontented set of men you will not find than this army is to day, and I should not be much surprised if there was trouble here before long if the government does not do something with the men. The majority of the officers are perfectly contented having easy times, and better wages than they can get at home, and plenty of "niggers" to wait upon them. While the "Private" gets small pay, scant rations, and

plenty of "fatigue duty," "camp guard," and "picket duty," with a sprinkling
of "extra duty." And some of the men have already rebelled against drilling
and say drilling is played out. And I can't say I blame them. The men
who have cheerfully taken up arms to defend our country, and left home
with all its comforts, and come down here and faced death in all shapes
now to be "bumbugged" around here with a dim prospect of getting
home is enough to make one sick of the service. We received orders some
days ago to go to Louisville, Ky. and have been expecting almost every day
to go there, but as yet we are in camp here. The 5th, 7th, 36th Wis. Vols.,
7th Mich. Vols., 1st Minn. Vols., 4th Ohio Vols. are going to form a "Provisional
Brigade," and go there. What we are going there for is more than we know
and I can not form any idea neither. Well it seems some are getting home
but not many Regiments are going, and if I could get my discharge to day
I would not take it as I want to come home with the Regiment. What
some 10 one year men but they are gone home, and almost all the men
who are to be mustered out under the existing order have gone home, still
we scarcely miss them here among so many troops. Well I had a visit
last Sunday by L. M. Johnson, Rufus Skeels and Oscar Johnson. They
were all well, and "G. W." is stopping in Washington. Osk and Rufus are still
in the "Bloody 5th" which is now in camp about one mile from here, and
David Dick come over to see me to day he looks quite poor, but seems in good
health, and expects soon to visit Wisconsin, as all the one year men are
coming home. Whether the "Vets" will come or not I do not know. Well
I am glad you are blessed with rain, as I have heard such discouraging

news from there in regard to the crops. We have been having some of the nicest
showers lately and everything looks nice here and I'de fair for a good crop.
Well I am also glad times are getting more lively there and hope if we ever
get there we will find better times than I did when I was there last winter.
Well I am in hopes when we get to Louisville the Paymaster will make us a
visit as some "currency" is quite necessary just now, not having had any pay
since Jan, last, and if we do not come home, we want enough money to buy stamps.
Well here it comes again. We are to move tomorrow morning at 5 o'clock for Louisville
"good enough" I want to get out of Va. if we have to go Texas. Well to days paper
brings accounts of the "Negro Troops" raising a mutiny at Fortress Monroe, and
refusing to go on board of the boat to go to Texas. "How are your Negro troops better
than Whites" When they were furnished good boats &c. refused to go. But "cold steel"
brought them to time. Well I must come to a close for this time. My best
respects to you and all the family. And hoping to hear from you soon. I
remain as Ever Your Sincere Friend

John W. Dick

E. M. Dick

Wm.

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