



Envelope from Charley's letter

"Camp Forbes"



Brookville, Ind. Sept 19th / 62
Dear Father and Mother

This is my fourth
and perhaps my last letter.

We were not called out yesterday
as we expected the skirmishing
proving to be cavalry discharging
their pieces. A messenger

came to Col Bowman to-day in
great haste and the order has
now been given out to cook
three days rations and to be
ready early to-morrow morning
in light marching order, that
is, we are to take our blankets
overcoats an extra pair of socks
an extra shirt with us and to
leave behind our knapsacks
and extra baggage. Thirty

rounds of ammunition have
been given us, and the
whole amounts to just this.

that we have a long march
before us and a fight not long
afterward. Some of the

men wear a long sober face
they think they realize what
they have to go through, I
dont suppose I do ~~not~~ neither
do I wish to for I dont want
to be dreading events to come.

I think I am as capable of
enduring the hardships and
dangers of a campaign as
the best of them and if I am
alive I am confident that I shall
see home at least by next July.

this war cannot last six months
longer, there are troops enough
in and around Washington

to wipe out all the rebels
in Virginia, all are confident
of success, have no fears of the
rebels ever getting Washington for
it is so well fortified. The rebel
Gen Stonewall Jackson has won
his last battle, he will be in
Fort Warren ere many days
depend upon it.

But it is getting dark
and I must be getting ready for
to-morrow's march. I am told
some of the letters sent home by
us are lost on the way now this
is the fourth letter I have sent you
and you must write and let me
know whether you have received
them all or not. Hoping you are

all well and in good spirits I remain
Your Absent Son
Charley

“Camp Forbes”

Brookville, Maryland

September 14th 1862

Dear Father and Mother,

This is my fourth and perhaps my last letter. We were not called out yesterday as we expected, the skirmishing proving to be cavalry discharging their pieces. A messenger came to Col. Bowman today in great haste and the order has now been given out to cook three days rations and to be ready tomorrow morning in light marching order—that is, we are to take our blankets, overcoats, an extra pair of socks, an extra shirt with us, and to leave behind our knapsacks and extra baggage.

Thirty rounds of ammunition have been given us and the whole amounts to just this: that we have a long march before us and a fight not long afterward.

Some of the men wear a long, sober face. They think they realize what they have to go through. I don't suppose I do. Neither do I wish to for I don't want to be dreading events to come. I think I am as capable of enduring the hardships and dangers of a campaign as the best of them and if I am alive, I am confident that I shall see home at least by next July. This war cannot last six months longer. There are troops enough in and around Washington to wipe out all the rebels in Virginia. All are confident of success. Have no fears of the rebels ever getting Washington for it is too well fortified. The rebel Gen. Stonewall Jackson has won his last battle. He will be in Fort Warren ere many days—depend upon it.

But it is getting dark and I must be getting ready for tomorrow's march. I am told some of the letters sent home by us are lost on the way now. This is the fourth letter I have sent you and you must write and let me know whether you have received them all or not.

Hoping you are all well and in good spirits, I remain your absent son, — Charles

Bio of Charles Henry Howe

Born on 4 May 1845 in Lancaster, Massachusetts. He was the son of Ebenezer Wilson Howe (1817-1885) and Sarah Ann Blanchard (1823-Aft1900) of Clinton, Worcester, Massachusetts. Charley begged his parents to let him enlist, and when they finally consented, he enlisted on 15 August 1862 in Co. I, 36th Massachusetts Infantry.

In Rutledge, East Tennessee, during the pursuit of Longstreet, after the siege of Knoxville, the foraging group of nine Charley took part in was captured by Confederates all of the prisoners were sent to Andersonville Prison in Georgia where all of them died except 1 who survived and was paroled a year later. Charles Howe died on 27 August 1864 and was buried at Andersonville.