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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1863 August 28

Thomas W. Cahill

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Wm. H. P. Hill
227 Franklin St.
New Haven
Conn



Head Quarters 2^d Brigade, 4th Divi-
sion 19th Army New Orleans

10-AM — August 28th 186?

My Dear Wife

I think you can hardly
say that you do not get your share
of letters from me these days, how-
ever things change here so rapidly that
to keep you posted I must keep writ-
ing, well the tenor of my last letters
bore the probability of our moving
to day the prospects are that we
do not move, and this informa-
tion accords with my own views
of the chances I could not but the
life of me see how my Brigade could
be moved from the extent of terri-
tory covered by them and from the
varied and multifarious charac-
ter of their duties it would be a
work of some little time to Releve

has not been carried out in this
Department nor do I know that
it has in any other I suppose they
are waiting for the conscripts
to fill up with but I think it is hor-
ribly worth their while to wait for them
if they exempt men for their two years
growing in and for 300 dollars a
piece. Well who cares I do not
Give my respects to all engraving
friends My love to Ellen
Kiss the Babies as usual for
me
your Loving husband
Thos W. Coble

and it would be some time before
the new officers and men could
get acquainted with their duties
and besides it would take just
as many effective men out of the
field as we number, the greatest
chance for our moving consists in
the chance of their sending in con-
valescents from the other troops
and trying to organize them for
Garrison duty, which will take
time and the duty required here
cannot all be done by convalescents
Then again we have in the 9th 200
men whom we shall consider con-
valescents and Lt. G. is looking into
that matter pretty closely and has
selected 200 men whom we would leave
behind in case of a movement this would
bring us down to 350 men for duty
which would be no great abate and
to day I made a detail of 40 men
for duty on the signal Corps which

would bring us to 300 men and
the majority of these are scattered
all over the city on detached ser-
vice so that as far as the 9th is con-
cerned it is not easy to move them, I do
not care about having any conscripts
sent out as I know of let them stay
at home for all me. I get as much for
a Regiment of 500 men as I would
for one of a thousand Surgeons
not so much to do, it is true if the man
was once I would be discharged
sooner than Officers with a full
Regiment but that is in the future
and need not be counted now, In fact
according to Orders from the War
Department I ought to be mustered
out now, as Order N^o 91 specifies
that at the Col^l and Majors and
one asst Surgeon of Reg^t less than ^{the}
minimum are to be mustered out
that is of less than 500 men now we have
but 580 on our Rolls, but this Order