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Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1864 August 1

Thomas W. Cahill

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Recommended Citation

Cahill, Thomas W., "Letter to Margaret E. Cahill, 1864 August 1" (1864). *Col. Thomas W. Cahill Civil War Letters*. 75.
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Wm^d H. W. Hall
227 Franklin St
New Haven
Conn



Head 2nd 9th Conn Vols on
Board Steamer "Prometheus" Potomac
River. Monday August 1st 1864

My dear Wife, I dropped a short note for you last
night at Fortress Monroe. but you will probably receive this
as soon from Washington. We have been kept pretty busy. Since
we landed at Bermuda Hundreds. Either under arms or on the
march all the time. On the night of the 27th at an hour and a half we took
Camp at 1-0 clock ^{A.M.} and marched to the Extremity right at Deep
Bottom or rather Strawberry Plains. at this place the 2^d Corps
Hancock had the day before attacked and routed Longstreets
Corps in an entrenched position taking 4,200 prisoners
in Battery. Longstreet was reformed, and we were sent
to Hancock, who sent us to relieve his left Div. the 9th came in
in front of and relieved the 69th New York, we went to
work at once strengthening the old Rebel works. the En-
emy having a very long and heavy line of works in our ^{front} and
both having a heavy picket line with constant firing. on
the night of the 29th at 10 P.M. I received an Order to Picket and
Occupy the line of works held by the 2^d Corps preparatory
to their withdrawal. I once deployed my little Regt and cover
at least a mile of already abandoned works

so silently had these formidable bedrocks withdrawn
that although their left. lay within 20 feet of my Right foot
a man in our Regt knew they had left. They still had a Pic
ket line about 20 Rods in advance of the Earthworks
Close to the Enemy and we must Cover and Conceal their
Withdrawal. No Easy task in the face of a Vigilant Em
emy. as soon as I reached the Right. the work commenced
and just Ended at Day break. and we withdrew
to Withdraw in a single thin line of skirmishers
Extending diagonally across the Strawberry Plains
we got off apparently undiscovered to the works
Covering the Pontoon Bridge which was held
by the 12th Maine who followed us across the Pon
dge. It was a delicate and a dangerous movement
but we were lucky as usual. we then marched to our
Old position in Rebels front and at 1-0 PM.
again broke Camp and marched to Bermuda
Hundred, and at 10 AM was on board the boat
bound for Washington or Elsewhere, the men have
load the work surprisingly, notwithstanding the Enormous
loads they carried in their knapsacks. for to be that they
were laughed at by the 2^d Corps men who latterly
carry nothing. Myself and Officers stand a well

although a little foot heavy for want of horses

There is no truth I am sorry to say in the report
of my appointment in the Veteran Reserve Corps. I presume
it grew out of a similarity of names with the man in
New Orleans. General Price had the same impression
and so left my name out in the Orders for the first
March from Bermuda Hundred. As the matter
of the muster of Officers is understood here ours
does not amount to anything. and it is said it is his
cretionary whether we go out or not with ourselves
the Lieut Col and Major say they will go out, as also some
of the others, but we can perhaps tell better about
this when we get near Washington and the officers
there. I have had no opportunity of getting my clothes
washed but I still have on change of flannels and
several pairs of stockings not used. I have nothing
with me but the Bible and what I carry in the Bag and I
think that too much it is so much trouble to look
after them. I think I will send home another hundred
dollars. as I am obliged to carry it in my pocket
day and night. Give my respects to Father &
and My Love to Ellen and the Children.

Your loving husband
Thos W. Cahill

The Man Williams
is a resident tell
his wife that he must
apply to me in
person for money
as he may have in
my hands.

The Man Condon can
have his check sent
him and he can endorse
it over to you and
you can get it cashed
and Express it on
to him and charge
him five dollars for
your trouble if you
wish to do so.