1864-07-23 Letitia Fitzgerald requests a furlough for her husband George, ill in Portsmouth Grove Hospital

Letitia Fitzgerald

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West Bedford, N.H. July 23, 1864

Dear Sir,

Allow me to address a few lines to you, on behalf of my husband, George A. Fitzgerald, who is a private in the 1st N.Y. Heavy Artillery, and was wounded on the 18th of June, and sent to the Hospital at Portsmouth Grove, Rhode Island. He has been kept there nearly 4 weeks, with the expectation of being transferred to Augusta, or to receive a furlough from there, to come home to stay until fit for service, but no furlough has been granted, and the prospect is, that unless you, or some one, can use their influence to obtain it for him, he will be kept there until he is returned to his Reg. with the exception perhaps of a pass for 48 hours, to make a short visit with his friends. He feels that he has not been well used, and it has a tendency to discourage him as well as the rest of the patients there, to be treated as they have been, not only in regard to their confinement,
but in many other respects they are treated by the

doctor here, more like dogs, than men who have

performed their duty, in their country service.

through your influence, he could obtain a

furlough, until he is fit for service, we would

feel under great obligation to you, and would

encourage him to do his duty faithfully, when he

returns to the army; his wound is in his left arm,

and does not require the surgeons care.

yours very respectfully,

Petitia Fitzgerald

If my object in writing this letter myself, instead

of my husband, is because, I would not be sure of

his reaching you, if he wrote from the hospital, as

he of the soldiers who were there, wrote a letter to

the Governor of this State, and it was opened by

the doctors, and the men were compelled to lie in

bed 141 days, and live on bread and water, as a punishment.

I will enclose a paragraph, I cut from the Boston

Journal, at the 16th of July 1864, by one should send

a furlough, direct, to George A. Fitzgerald

Portsmouth Grove

ward 23th R D

THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HOSPITAL AT
PORTSMOUTH GROVE. We have a communication
from a soldier, detailing some abuses in the man-
agement of the Portsmouth Grove Hospital, such
as punishing the men for trifling causes, unfeeling
refusal to give a furlough to a soldier who had re-
ceived intelligence of the death of his father and
mother, requiring excessive fatigue duty of con-

valescents, and among other irregularities employ-
ing the soldiers in grading and sodding an en-

bankment on private property. The writer speak-
ing of the treatment of soldiers in this hospital

says "It tend to discourage the men, and soldiers

constantly declare that they will never re-enlist if

subjected to such treatment."
Letitia Fitzgerald
West Medford Mass
July 23, 1864

To Governor and Secretaries of Vessels,

This report is for the purpose of communicating an accident which occurred to the Governor of the 1st of June 1864 on a vessel of the United States Navy. The Governor was on a voyage to the tropics and was returning to the United States when the accident occurred. The vessel was a wooden-bottomed vessel, and the Governor was injured when the vessel struck a submerged object. The Governor was taken to a hospital in Boston, where he was treated for his injuries. The Governor recovered and was discharged from the hospital on July 15, 1864. He was later promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.}

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