

York Town Jan. 17th

Dear Ma

I received your last letter dated Jan 6th two days ago. I was on guard yesterday and last night, and therefore feel very drowsy, for we can't sleep any scarcely, even when we are not on post, because the ground is so cold that we are afraid to lie down and sleep on it, for fear of catching Pneumonia. Our box has not arrived yet. I can't tell why it don't come, for it was carried on to Manassas and I wrote to the R.R. Agent to send it from there to me by experts. I am still looking for it every time any freight comes here by experts. I am pretty certain of getting it some time, but I'm afraid it will be too long coming. We had a considerable snowstorm a four days ago. The snow was several inches deep on the ground. I had a very good time to stand guard last night for the night before it rained nearly all night. I believe all the men of our company have houses now. The health of our regiment is better now than it has been heretofore. That company that rebelled in the 13th Ala. Rgt. is now in the guard house I believe awaiting their trial. Some of the company, I believe, agreed to do duty and were released. I received a letter from Bennie Tarver a day or two ago, and he says Fred has been sick since he got home. I don't believe there is any news of interst on the peninsula. Gen. Magruder was expecting the Yankees to attack Mulberry islands (which is in the Janus River) about a week ago, but they were continuing to sail around pretty close to it and surround the river. Magruder sent the Zouaves over there to help defend it. The Zouaves term of services will be out in two months, and I expect they will nearly all go home. I have heard a good deal of very heavy firing in the direction of Fortress Monroe this morning, it would not surprise me if one of our vessels was trying to ram the blockade. I do wish the Yankees would come up and give us a fight. Our rations and provisions have been coming short here lately. We hardly draw enough meat. Sometimes we draw enough and sometimes we don't. Our mess buys occasionally. We all contribute an equal sum, and form a treasury and with that we buy eatables. Provisions of all kinds are very costly now. We have not been paid up the second time yet, but expect it in a week or two. Four men from our company left here for home on furlough the day before yesterday. I would like mighty well to get one, and visit home. But before I get one, Gen. Magruder may have countermanded his order, allowing furloughs to be granted. Kitt & Jud are both well. Jud is now in bed asleep, as soon as he came off of guard. This morning he went to bed and has slept nearly all day. I don't like to sleep in the day time much. Gen. Magruder still has the negroes working on the batteries every day, strengthening them. I don't expect he will stop fortifying York Town while the war lasts. Gen. Magruder somewhat expected the Burnside fleet to come to York Town, but I see it has gone south. The armies of the north & South are the most inactive armies I ever heard or read of before. I wish they would do something. We never drill any now but all we do is to "stand guard" and go on fatigue duty. We have dress parade very seldom.