

1862

Worth Town. Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>

Dear Ma.

I received your last letter dated Jan 6<sup>th</sup> two days ago. I was on guard yesterday and last night, and therefore feel very drowsy, for we can't sleep any soundly, 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 express. I am still looking for it every time any freight comes here by express. I am pretty certain of getting it some time, but I'm afraid it will be too long coming. We had a considerable snow-storm a few 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 13<sup>th</sup> Ala. Regt 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 Torner a day or two ago, and he says Ford has been sick since he got home. I don't believe there is any news of interest on the peninsula. Gen. Magruder was expecting the Yankees to attack Matbey island (which is in the James river) about a week ago, but they were contented to sail around pretty close to it and sound the river. Magruder sent the gunboats over there to help defend it. The gunboats' term

of service 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 Fort Mifflin. This morning, it would not surprise me if one of our vessels was trying to run the blockade. I do wish the Yankees would come up and give us a fight. Our rations of provisions have been coming short here lately. We hardly draw enough meat. Sometimes we draw enough and sometimes we don't. Our wife 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 day before yesterday. I would like mighty well to get one, and visit home. But before I get one,

Gen. Mazaucher may have countermanded  
his order, allowing burroughs to be granted  
Kitt & Jud on both well. Jud is now  
in bed asleep, as soon as he come off  
of guards This morning he went to bed  
and has slept nearly all day. I dont  
like to sleep in the day time much.

Gen. Mazaucher still has the negroes  
working on the batteries every day,  
strengthening them. I dont expect  
he will stop fortifying York town while  
the war lasts. Gen. Mazaucher somewhat  
expected the British 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 <sup>ever</sup> heard  
of or read of before. I wish they would  
do something. We never drill any more.  
but all we do is to stand guard" and  
go on fatigues duty. We have drafts for  
very seldom.