

Yorktown Sabbath Sept 1st 1861

Dear Pa,

Your last letter was received eight or ten days ago. And I have written one letter home since I received it. I have been expecting a letter from some of you several days. Our R'g't is still encamped in the same place. We are hourly expecting another number of our company (John Chapman) to die. He has Typhoid fever in its worse form. The doctor says he can not live. There is only one of our company besides him who is sick much, and he has Pneumonia, but the doctor says he thinks he will get well.

There are a great many of our men though who are in very poor health and ought to be at home. Dr. Warren says hereafter when he sees that a man is going to have Typhoid fever, he will try to get him off home for it is hard for one to recover from it here. There are a great many rumors afloat here. I hear that Lincoln has landed troops on the North Carolina shore and has taken a fort and 500 prisoners.

I hope it is not true.

We have had nothing like an attack here, and I am afraid we won't have. Our troops are very much scattered, only two regiments close to Yorktown. The rest moved out on account of health. We that are here have pretty hard guard duty to perform. We have to stand so often, there are so many posts and few men here: (We have only about 35 or 40 men fit for duty, the rest are ailing. But I thank the Lord that he has given me very good health so far, and I hope he will continue to give it to me. I think a good deal of sickness is caused by bad and rough diet, but our mess fares well, and we keep pretty well. Kitt is on guard today. Jud will be on picket tonight and I on tomorrow.

I wish you could have seen us on drill the other evening. Our whole R'g't was drilling together and forming the line of battle in double quick time, and some of the men fell down and the others would run over there, and you never saw such a mess while we were double quicking around.

We had a general inspection of all the troops on the peninsula yesterday. I believe I have told you of Jake Happy's resignation.

I believe he was liked by all of the men.

I see accounts in the Richmond papers of rumors of battles in Western Virginia and Missouri, but we can't learn the straight of it.

We heard several days ago that a British vessel had run the blockade and had an encounter with the blockading squadron.

I see and hear many reports favorable to the South which I hope are true.

I think there is to be a protracted meeting of some sort today in Richmond. I have heard since I began this letter that the man (who I said had Pneumonia) was likely to die.

If we stay here during the Winter we will have cabbins to stay in for we can't stay in tents. And we will need a heap of covering. If we get those cabbins I will want a mattress about the size of a couch that I can stuff with wheat straw. It would be good enough made of [cesmebungs]. A good many of the boys have them, and they answer very well for a bed to sleep on. Kitt and I will want one apiece. I have written you what I would need. I guess you have received the letter. I know nothing worth writing now and somehow I can't write this morning so I will close love to all [tear in letter] home and Plane Spring. Do write often and tell me everything.

Judson sends love to all. He is yet improving. Fred and Kitt are about.

As ever your son,

Henry Bunn