

1762

York Town March 14th

Dear Ma.

I have not written to any of you at home for nearly two weeks, because about the time I would have written, our regiment was ordered to take a "tramp" down towards Newport news. We just got back to York Town a day or two ago. This was the hardest march that we have ever taken. We started from here last Sunday morning and marched to Bethel (a distance of 14 miles), and there rested about an hour, and then heard that the Yankies had attacked the 8th Ala. Regt. which was 4 miles below Bethel, on the strength of which, we marched down there, and found it all false, and then had to turn round and march

back to Bristol, and there stayed several days, after which, we marched back to York Town. That march did seem to have killed us. We marched over twenty ^{miles} the first day, carrying two blankets apiece besides our haversacks, muskets, cartridge boxes with forty rounds of cartridges in them, and our overcoats, which in all amounted to about fifty pounds. We were so stiff & sore the next morning that we could scarcely walk.

They marched us entirely too hard. No doubt you have heard of the victory the Merrimac gained on the James river near Old Point. One of our company, Seryt (Tharpe) who was at Pig's point on furlough, saw it all, he was standing on the bank and looking on the whole time. He saw the M. sink the Cumberland (a very large ship).

The Merrimac sunk our ship, burned another and disabled a third. She was herself injured very slightly.

General Raines sent ^{me} ^{in York Town} ^{to} ^{be} ^{taken} ^{on} ^{board} ^{the} ^{Merrimac} as sailors, and detailed Sergeant Brown of our company and two more men from our regt to carry them safely to the captain of the Merrimac. But while on the cars going to Norfolk, one of them, who was a very powerful man and a perfect desperado, got mad and I suppose "tight", and tried to whip Brown and the guards who were over him, and Brown had to shoot him down and killed him dead. He was one of the men who used to cut such shins in the jail sometimes.

We are all well. Kitt ^{still} is staying
in Genl Raines's head quarters.
I am still master of the regiment
and have no duty to do. Jackson
& Martin got ^{back} a day or two ago.
I am sorry Pa has not an over-
saw. He will have this hands full
now. I wish the war was ended
and I was there to aid him
in whatever I could. But I
have no desire to get out of the
army till the enemy are driven
from our soil. How is Alick
Asberry and John Davis? I hope
they will both recover.

Grand Ma sent me some coke
by Genl. We have any quantity
of negroes working on the breast-
works around York Town now,
and we have immense batteries.
I wish you could see them,
They are beautiful.

Dear Brother -

If it will be of any
accommodation to you and Brother Little just
at this time I have given if you like, and should
my property be of any service to help you
out of any scrape, use it and be welcome
yours as ever

Yours as ever

Wm. Anderson