

Camp Georgia Yorktown Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup> [probably 1861]

Dear Pa

Your letter dated Oct 15 came to hand 3 days ago. It was the first that I had received from you in a good while, and I was getting anxious to have a letter from you. I received one from Ma about 4 days before I received yours. We are now fitting up Yorktown for an attack, for our leaders are expecting one daily. We have learned that there were a good many war steamers lying at the mouth of the bay, and we are expecting an attack from them both by land and water. I am ready and anxious for them to come upon us, but I won't believe we will have a fight until I almost see them coming. They have fooled us so much. Our men are nearly all detailed every day to build new batteries and remove cannon. I think we are pretty well prepared for a water attack, but have not enough cannon on our land batteries, but we have very strong breastworks. I think we have woods too near Yorktown in which the enemy might come up plant batteries, but before they could land a sufficient force near Yorktown, we could have a good many men collected here.

I understand Mcgruder has called for 5000 more men. I recon we have over 20000 already on the peninsula. Our regiment and the Zouaves are the only regiments at Yorktown now, and therefore we have pretty hard guard duty to perform. And our men are at work nearly every day building and repairing batteries. Aunt Sarah, Ann Lane, Freddie with baby and servants here just gone down to the beach to take a sloop to go up to West point and thence to Richmond en route for home. We have not heard from Cousin Isie and Fred in a good while, and so Aunt Sarah is going on home without her. I don't know when she intends to go home. Fred has Rheumatism severely. I hope he won't have to go home on account of it. Jud continues in good health. He sends love and says he hopes it won't be long before he can visit you. That is when the war shall end. I hardly ever read a paper, and therefore know very little of the Times. It seems England is in no hurry recognize our government. I wish she would. Two Rgts have lately come, one, Howel Cobb's from Georgia and the 6 cos of Virginians, but both have gone down farther. I don't think we can get into houses in a month if then. Kitt is complaining again today. He is complaining almost every two or three days. I took cold with the Mumps, and was pretty sick for several days, but nearly well now. Have not been on duty yet, and don't expect to in a day or two. Otherwise I am well. Aunt Sarah and Ann Lane both had chills and fevers awhile, but are both well now I believe. Col. Colquitt has been sick several days and is still sick but not badly. We have not drilled for several days past on account of so much work. It has been drizzly weather for a few days past. Kitt has considerable fever this evening. I heard yesterday evening that there had been another skirmish down towards Old point, killing 17 Yankees, but I don't know as it is true. There was another Yankee prisoner brought up day before yesterday and put in jaol here. 3 of them were together, one was killed, one taken and one escaped. There were 11 brought up over a week ago.

I believe our company reports 30 or 35 men for duty now. We have not much sickness now in our Co and I don't think so much in the regiment as we have been having. I have received no shoes, leggins, nor anything except what my aunts brought up with them.

My shoes are beginning to wear out, and I will need before very long. I wish you had sent those blankets as I expect we will need them this winter. I wish also that you had put cotton in the mattresses that are coming to us. I will finish in the morning.