

Yorktown Dec 13th

Dear Ma

It has been over a week since I have written home, and since then I have received two letters, one from you, a long and interesting one, and the other from Pa, dated Rome Dec. 6th. I do love to get letters from home, especially long ones, but I know Pa has not spare time to write such. I expect to receive the box now in a few days, if it comes directly, which it will, I hope.

What arrangements did Pa make for having the box dispatched from Richmond to Yorktown? Did anyone accompany the car from Rome to Manassas? And did Pa give him directions about sending it?

If he did, I recon it will come safely. Magruder has been expecting an attack now for over a week, but I have not. Gen Raines who commands Y.Town has been having us pretty regularly at work since the last 3 weeks. We now have to stand guard once in every third or fourth day. I suppose you know how we stand guard. When we are on guard, we have to stand two hours and are off four. And we are on guard 24 hours at a time, and have to stand on post 8 hours in the 24, twice in the day, and twice in the night. I came off guard the day before yesterday, and will go on again tomorrow I recon. We have to do some sort of fatigue duty almost every day. Fifteen men from our company were detailed night before last to dig a large trench for us to stand in in case the Yankees should try to shell us out by water. I was at work all day yesterday helping to unload some schooners of provisions, Jud was too, but he never hurts himself at work.

Kitt is still a provost guard.

He likes that sort of guard because he never has to stand in the night. There are now a great many batteries erected in Yorktown commanding the approach by water. The blockading vessel has been pretty close for several days back, but I saw it steam up and leave yesterday, and I see it is again in sight this morning but not so close. It has been close enough for us to see the sail ropes on it very plainly with a glass, but it never comes in cannon shot of us.

We heard here this morning that Charleston was burned. I hope there is no truth in the report, though I expect the Yankees would gladly burn it if they could.

The 23rd Ga Reg arrived here yesterday evening. They have no guns at all, and I can't see why they were sent here unarmed, for they can't do any good. I wish they had guns so they could help in guard duty. They are a fine looking body of men. I am afraid they won't stay here long. We have had some right cold weather now for the last five or six days. It has snowed once, but not very heavily.

I understand that Gen Magruder has countermanded the order that he issued concerning furloughs, but I hope it won't be long before he will change his notions again, and give us the same privilege about going home. Can the soldiers up on the Potomac get furloughs, and come home? And have any come home on such furloughs? Is Jack [Mist] at home yet? If he is, give him my respects, and tell him to write to me. Have you seen the order from the secretary of war allowing volunteers to get substitutes if they can? I should think it is a very hard task to get a substitute in Georgia.

We have had another big fight with the prisoners in the guard house of whom I believe there are about forty. Somehow they got hold of some liquor, and got tight, and gathered a great many brick bats to fight with, and that night about 8 o'clock they made a sortie on the sentinels around the guardhouse, knocked one down, and got out in the street, and

about that time the guards were all “turned out” and marched around there, but they had some pretty hard times before they could run them back into the guard house. But after they had run them back, a perfect shower of bricks came out of the window and a good many shots were fired up the guardhouse and one or two of the prisoners wounded, one was shot in the thigh and hurt pretty badly.

One of the officers of the guard was struck twice by bricks, and came very near being killed by an ax from one of them. During the fuss our company and one more were sent for to stop them, but they “cooled down” as soon as our company arrived there. I was not in the fuss, being on guard in another place, but I heard the firing and hollowing of the prisoners. The most of the rowdy fellows in the guard house are Zouaves. What is Mr. Bass doing, and going to do? Tell him to come to Y.Town. Jud has been hiring out Martin to a mess in our company as we have as many servants in our mess as we need, but I expect on of them belonging to F.E. Wimberly is going home before long. We never have to cook or wash now. Martin does my washing. All of our relations here well now. Lt. Col. Newton has come back, but I don’t think he succeeded in getting any more co’s to attach to our regiment. Is Billy Gibson at home? I suppose Troup Witcher succeeded in making up his company. How many men had he? I expect Cedar Town is very destitute of young men now. I must close.

Love to Pa and children. Respects to all the neighbors. Tell al the negroes howdy.

Your son

Henry Bunn

Co. (I) 6th Rg. Ga. Vol.

Yorktown

Virginia

Jud sends love to all.