

Head Quarters Judicial Cpt of Reg West
Reg West. May 3. 1862

Dear friends.

The mail arrived yesterday, via
Havana, bringing us dates from the Secma & the
23^d of April. Your letters of the 5th 14th & 21st were
recd. As it was the first mail we have had for
several weeks, you can imagine how it was received.
We had heard incidentally, of the battle of Pittsburg
Landing, but had no details, and the triumphant
looks of well known rebels in town, rendered us
somewhat fearful that we had been defeated. The
mail set us all right, but I am inclined to think
a few more victories like that of Shiloh, would finish
up of the Army of the West. There was evidently
negligence somewhere, on the picket line, as the
accounts show our officers being bayoneted in their
tents.

Things move on steadily here without change, except
a large accession to the Mosquito force of the Reg.
They have become so numerous, you can scarcely open
your mouth without swallowing a dozen. Send

2 mile route. 8 miles from Reg West. by post-mail.

flies are bad, & scorpions are dangerous, centipedes are annoying, but Mosquitoes are all combined. You have no idea of their numbers. In eating one man is required to keep them off. I have drawn Bars for my men, which they have rigged up in their tents, and are thus enabled to sleep in comparative peace, but on guard they are compelled to build a fire, and stand in the smoke of it. If they get under your bars at night, which is frequently the case, woe be to you. Last night I was about an hour in ejecting about a dozen that had effected an entrance into mine, while they drove Lieut Oyster Collogher out of his. He came into my tent in a very pious frame of mind, but at last by dint of patience and fortitude succeeded in burning and smoking them out. In town, most of the citizens, when they are so bad, have bars over their tables while they are eating. They are disappearing gradually however, and I think we will have some rest until we get a shower, when we can expect another influx. I think Job, of Bible notoriety, was never tried by Mosquitoes particularly of the Key West style.

A schooner arrived here last night from New Orleans, and the Captain reports the successful bombardment, and

reduction of Fort Jackson, and the landing
of 15,000 men above it. Gen. Butler had demanded
the surrender of the city, and the authorities wished
to know upon what terms. His reply was - 'un-
conditional surrender'. The Ram, Manapas
and seven steamers were captured. We lost one
gunboat, and about 100 men in the affair.
I think you can reply upon this, as Gen. Beauregard
also received a letter from there announcing the
fact. The capture of Fort Jackson, gives us New
Orleans with very little trouble. Fort Phil and
St. George are of very little account. Comparatively
salutes were fired here from Fort Taylor, and the
Barracks, in honor of the victory.

There seems to be a
strong probability, that we will be ordered to the
neighborhood of Fort Royal or Savannah. Gen
Wright was compelled to evacuate Jacksonville,
Fla, and the rebels returned, burned the town, and
killed a number of citizens who had claimed the
protection of the U. S. Government and announced
their loyalty to the Union. There are more men
here now than are needed, and we could be of use
elsewhere. It is mortifying to us to be compelled to lie

PC I have brought a force I will try to send off at a present & my men's
here inactive, while others, less effective Regiments,
are earning laurels. Gen Brammen feels this, and
I am satisfied will give us some active service in
a short time.

The Yellow fever has made its appearance
once at Havana, but we think by observing a
quarantine & avoid it here. Very little communication
is allowed with the Island on that account.
Number of us were desirous of visiting it but the
General informed us he could not grant us
permission, on account of the fever. The health
of our Regiment is much better than it has been
since we have been here. My men are with a few
exceptions, all well. The exceptions are, Capt Reck
who has been very sick, with fever, but is about
and only needs strength. Mr. McNew & J B Gardner
but both are improving. The rest are all on duty
or about Camp. Peter Wolf is alive and well.
He says he has written home. I have made the
Kerke write in this mail. A little laquies is
all that affects either of them. Did you get the
books, shells & saw sent North by Capt Reck. I
will write again in a few days. Write soon
often

Yours

Shindell