

Department of the South
Beaufort, S.C.
Sept 27, 1862

Dear Friends,

I have been under marching orders for over a week and I've embarked twice but was driven back by the high sea. The Equinoxial Storm has been raging at its height but has now subsided and we expect to leave again tomorrow. Where we are to go, I have no certain knowledge but the prevailing opinion seems to be that we are to make a sortie in Florida, where a Fort in the St. John is annoying our Gun Boats. It is reported that it is in a bluff too high for the guns of the Boats so we will have to take it in the rear. Others seem to think that it is for the purpose of getting in the rear of Savannah. However, there is no certainty about it, and do not believe any story you hear until it becomes authenticated. I will write when we reach our destination. My men are all well and anxious to be off. I will take 90 men along with me. I wrote to Uncle PM when we first got marching orders and requested him to tell you. I suppose he did it.

The Rebel spies were taken here on Thursday. They represent the condition of their armies as deplorable and judging from their appearance it must be true. They were all formerly residents of this place.

Your letter dated the 15th was rec'd by last mail. The last company must be a fine one. I should have liked to have been in that fight in Maryland, but we are doomed it appears to remain idle sometime yet. However our turn will come soon, news we received today that our Gun Boats are firing into Fort Sumpter. I suppose it is merely trying the range of their guns. Write as usual and direct to Port Royal as before.

With love to all friends
I remain
Yours
JP Shindel Gobin