

Camp Advance

Sept. 30, 1861

Dear friends:

Mr. Rizer has just come into my tent and tells me he intends going up tonight or tomorrow morning. He will tell you all the news, but I know you will expect something for me if only a note. I write this merely to inform you that I am well and feel as stout and rugged as you please. I received a letter from Uncle P.M. today. Was pleased to hear from him. Everything has been quiet here for the last 24 hours although Banks took 700 prisoners today and killed quite a number at least that is the news we come by tonight. Nine regiments from here today to reinforce him so that they cannot expect much work here for a while. Very heavy cannonading was heard up the river but around here the rebels appear to be moving back.

Mr. Rizer will stay up about 3 weeks and if I am here when he comes back again you may send me something to the front line and another comforter if you have it to share. The one I have covers very nice. I have enough for this kind of weather but when it gets colder I may find it necessary. I have bought myself a patent bed and am fixed out tit-tot, better in fact than any man in the Regiment - not even excepting the Colonel.

Mr. Rizer came here to get his supper and he could tell you how I live.

Gen. Simon Cameron was in my tent last night. I had quite a talk with him. He was much pleased with the appearance of my Company The men are all well, except one man named John W. Smith, who is slightly sick the last few days. We have not much opportunity to drill now but when our fort is finished we will have more time. I was a little unwell for a few days but am all right again. We received the American today. Have not got a Gazette since we have been here. Will write no more to it but will write to the American hereafter. Remember me to all friends and write soon. Tell Grandmother to write to me. God bless you all. Why don't father write?

Your Son,

Shindel