

St. Charles Hotel, New Orleans

May 22, 1864

Dear Friends

Here I am comfortably situated in the St. Charles Hotel as above mentioned, where I arrived last night. On Thursday I received a special order to take my company and bring down a lot of Rebel prisoners. I left the Army on the Red River on Friday morning and came on a steamer to here. I got the prisoners off my land and now my men and myself are having a nice time in the city to compensate us for the hardship endured during the last month or two. We fought the enemy on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, whipping and driving them every day. We then captured the prisoners I brought down. A mail closes for the North this morning. I hastily write a few lines to inform you of my continued excellent [page torn] as well as that of all my men. We are worn down somewhat [page torn] marched over six hundred miles [page torn] participated in six battles, but all are as hearty as can be.

The Rebs caught one of our mails going up and one coming down.

I suppose they [page torn] some of the letters going to and from me. I hope [page torn] benefited anyhow. I presume you have not heard from me for a long time and are somewhat frightened but do not be alarmed. I never was more surprised in my life though to read in the papers the accounts of our actions. They are false and incorrect. We whipped and drove the enemy wherever he resisted us and only the falling of the Red River, thereby preventing our supplies from getting up prevented the full accomplishment of the object of the expedition. Against this no human foresight could have better used. The abuse of Gen. Banks is shameful & wrong. The Rebel officers I brought here give him credit for being one of the best officers in the field. These Rebs were nearly all Texans and comprised some perfect gentlemen. They were highly pleased with my treatment of them and were very sorry to have me leave them.

I met Capt Yard & Gaeffe of our Regt here last night and they informed me that they had gone to Harrisburg while at home & taken the responsibility of crediting my men to North Hampton County I knew nothing of it nor of their doing it until informed by them. I am sorry for it but the people of Sunbury had time enough to look after the matter & attend to it. Capt Yard tells me it was at the last moment he had it done & thus secured two hundred & eighty dollars apiece for the men. This they will pay to them today. I suppose I will be blamed for the matter but care not. The men are all satisfied anyhow and will have one hundred and eighty dollars more in their pocket than if they had been accredited to Sunbury.

We have no news in this Dept. There will be a change in the field offices of our Regiment & I expect that promotion. If a certain act occurs I will get command of it. But of this matter I want nothing said until the matter is fixed & settled finally. I have succeeded in gaining the

confidence of the General as well as the officers and men of the Regt. This trip here was by the order of Gen McMillan as a reward for the good conduct of my company.

One of my wounded, Kennedy is dead. Piers, Kramer, Walls, Lothad [?] and Nifel [?] are doing well, some of them being quite well. I have not been able to get any information of missing ones. They are John Sterner, John W. McNew[?], Sam Miller, Ed Matthews, CP Holman, John W. Forth. I am afraid three of them at least have been killed. I have written to Mr. Sterner of this matter. John was not well on the day of the fight of Pleasant Hill. I told him not to go in, but he would do it & the poor fellow is lost. God help his poor mother.

Write soon and direct your letters as heretofore. I cannot tell where we will be located, but I think the fighting is over in this Dept. for the summer.

Love to all, God bless you

Yours

Shindel