

Department of the South
Beaufort S.C. Sept 27. 864

Dear Friends,

We have been under marching orders for over a week, and have embarked twice, but we driven back by the high sea. The Equinoctial Storm has been raging at its height, but has now subsided, and we expect to leave again tomorrow. Where we are to go we have no certain knowledge, but the prevailing opinion seems to be that we are to make a fort in Florida, where a Fort on the St Johns is annoying our Gun Boats. It is reported that it is on 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 unless it comes 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 P. M. 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 13th was rec'd by last mail. That
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 some time
yet. However our turn will come soon.
News we received say that our
Gen. Banks are firing into Fort Sumter.
I suppose it is merely trying the range
of their guns. Things as usual, and
direct to Port Royal as before. With
love to all friends I remain

Yours Ever

L. F. Shuler John