

Camp Griffin, Va.

January 14, 1862

Dear friends,

Your letters were received tonight and your boxes this afternoon. The things were all nice and came very acceptable. We will not leave here until Thursday, as our ship cannot be made ready before that time. VanDye has resigned but his resignation has not been accepted nor do I think it will until his accounts are all settled up. I have promoted Reese to the first and Dan Oyster to the 2nd Lieut.

You must learn more of my matters there than I do here. I have no idea of getting married and would not accept promotion. I could have it - nay it has been offered me, but I will not leave my Company. My men are dearer to me than life - I ask nothing more than to lead them to battle and victory and if it is my fate to fall I want to fall at the head of, and with them; if victorious, I want them to share the honors.

I am sorry Henry Wharton wrote home as he did. I have a great deal of picketing to do but so have the rest. The reason I get so much is that the others are used up and it agrees with me. Besides I am detailed from head quarters about half of the time as they seem to have an exalted opinion of my abilities there. Whenever they expect an attack or any thing particular, they detail me for Captain of the pickets. Although it is quite an honor it comes rather often. But it does not affect me. I grow fat on it and now weigh 164 pounds. However, I need not tell you the news as I will see you before you get this. I go on picket tomorrow for the last time in Virginia. I will bid farewell to my friends on the picket line and head for the sunny south. There to have plenty of fun and fighting. I am sorry to hear Grandmother's illness. I hope she is better by this time. I hope God will preserve her health until I get home. If it were possible I would come up expressly to see her but I cannot.

But I must close. I will write again when I get on board. May God bless and protect you forever.

Yours,

Shindel