

Morgenzie Bend, La. May 25th, 1864

Dear Friend Elizabeth

It has been almost three weeks since last I wrote to you and dont know but you may think I had suddenly forgotten to write after so frequent correspondence, such however is not the case,

We left Baton Rouge on the 16th inst. and proceeded by boat up to the Red River and from that in to Bayou-Atchafahlia about 20 miles when it was found that the object in sending for our brigade was to assist Bank's army in its retreat. We went to work and helped the army to cross the Bayou on a bridge of 20 steamboats which were brought along side of each other, after the bridge was constructed it took two days and most of two nights for the army to cross.

It is a great wonder to all how the Gen ever succeeded in getting out of a country completely intersected by deep bayous in every direction with the enormous train he had with him consisting it is said of 1200 wagons. It appears to me to be the most absurd movement ever made to take such a train with an army and more especially where water communication abounds as it does in La. It is not for me however to criticize the actions of great Gen's. I see however that there is only one sentiment in the army concerning the campaign which is about closed that is Gen. Banks took an army of 30,000 men armed and equiped in the best possible manner, into the Red River country and that he has been driven out with heavy loss by a force much inferior to his own and this too after the men had gained nearly every battlefield. There must certainly have been bad generalship displayed somewhere. It is very easy to tell who the men think are to blame by listening to the remarks made about the Gen.

He is known throughout nearly the whole army as Corporal Banks and the soldiers have called him by this epithet in his presence.

I believe Gen Banks to be a smart man he may be a bad Gen. but I think

May 25th, 1864

much of the blame of this miserable failure will be found attached to subordinates.

We marched from where the troops crossed the Bayou to this point which is about 20 miles below the mouth of the Red. having a pretty tough time as we had not been used to this business of late. We started Friday P.M. marched all night and all the next day, the weather being warmer than any weather we ever have in Ohio. There were many of the boys gave out on the march, four of our Co. are at the hospt. sick now and about one more day would have unfited me for duty but I am quite well now and hope we shall not be obliged to travel on foot very much while the weather is so hot.

We rec'd a mail on sunday and I was glad to receive a letter from you, and to know that you are well. I think you must be laboring pretty hard at your new home and have very little time to yourself. There were two brothers named Farr in our Regt. ColG. one of them is discharged the other is at Vicksburg on duty but I dont know w the kind of duty.

We rec'd four months pay to day but money is of very little use here there is just nothing here that we want. We are however expecting to embark soon for some front down the river and hope we may be fortunate enough to be sent to some pleasant place for the next 5 months.

It is evening getting late and the light is going out. I will close. Good evening.

Write soon and Direct as before.

As ever

Yours truly

Leonard