

Camp Chase Ohio July 30<sup>th</sup> /63

Dear Elizabeth

I improve this opportunity of making a partial report of "the doings of L." during the past week. As you see by the date of this letter I am in a different climate than when I wrote you last

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> inst a squad of 36 paroled men including L. left Memphis for some parole camp up north. We were all placed in charge of a Lieut. who had <sup>all</sup> our papers but who managed to get so gloriously tight as not to report on board the steamer and we were consequently started up the river without any transportation papers. Some of the boys were greatly excited and were about to pay their transportation which of course was not right

Some of the boys proposed that L. should state the facts to the clerk of the boat and thus avoid paying our passage or what would be worse to be put off the boat at the first military post. He did so with success and on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> were safely landed at Cairo.

The next move after going to the soldiers home and taking breakfast, was for L. to go and report our case to

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Gen. Buford and try and obtain transportation to camp

After going through a large amount of red tape we succeeded in getting away from the most sickly town I ever saw at 2 o'clock P.M. on the 26<sup>th</sup> and after almost constant traveling arrived here on the morning of the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
beautiful

We passed through some of the most country I ever saw. In many places in Ill. we could travel for hours and not see any timber to obscure our vision. We came by way of Mattoon, Ill. Terre-Haute-, Indianapolis and Dayton, having traveled more than 500 miles on the car

I commenced this letter last evening and will try and finish.

I would like to see the friends at home before returning to Dixie but I find it about impossible for a soldier to obtain a furlough especially when away from his Regt I however had the audacity to address Gov. \_\_\_\_\_ on the subject and obtained the consoling reply that it is entirely out of his power to grant furloughs but he would refer my letter to the Gen com'd'g and hoped he would grant my request.

There is a report in circulation at present that we are to be exchanged on the 6<sup>th</sup> of Aug. and I shall not be sorry if it proves true.

As near as I can

Judge from reports from different parts of this state a soldier is respected about as much as a dog I do not learn much about the sentiment of the people of Mich in this respect but if there is such a state of feeling toward the man who has been fighting and exposing himself to all kinds of danger for the sake of his country I never wish to see but a small portion of the state. Rather than reside in a community where the soldier is hated I will remain in the army during the remainder of my life although it is not the life I would choose by any means.

Undoubtedly some of your letters will go to Memphis but I shall get them after awhile and shall look anxiously for one directed to Camp Chase in one week from to day

I recd the letter containing that piece of cloth. and would say just here when you recieve a letter from me containing no mistakes you may apologize for mistakes. I shall keep the cloth hoping that I may see the dress of which it is a piece, worn by its owner.

Please write all the news and direct to Camp Chase,  
Ohio,  
Co. G. 1st Parole. Inf't

Your friend as ever

Leonard.