

Camp 20th Mich.

Yazoo River Miss. July 24th

Dear Father only what we foraged from the plantations along the route.

We are just through the hardest campaign of the war, to the 9th Corps, and are waiting here at Haines Bluff on the Yazoo, for transportation to Ky. I am safe and well. Vicksburg, Port Hudson and most of Miss. is ours. You have the news from the papers better than I can give it. We have nothing but federal victories to report and it has been unconditional surrender every where we have been - or sixty or one hundred extra cartridges to a man & one mine. General engagement all along the lines. Vicksburg started out fairly, according to Grants program. On the 4th Pemberton marched out of his works in the morning with his whole army & stacked arms & went back into the City as a prisoner of war. Grant issued blank cartridges to his army & let them have the City to celebrate in - there never was such a glorious 4th in this country. The river was filled for five miles opposite the city with Gunboats and transports - completely covered with flags & banners and all united in one general uproar.

The Rebs had a sorry day of it. We all started the same morning after Johnston - under Genl. Sherman - drove him into Jackson - drove in his pickets and had six days sharp skirmishes with him and then he skedaddled for Alabama. We followed him to the Miss. Central R. R. destroyed ten miles of track, burned a depot and a large amount of cotton & came back here -- tired -- dirty -- hungry & all used up. We hadn't

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much to eat only what we foraged from the plantations along the route.

There is no force about here now large enough for us to fight & Grant has got through with us. Our Corps beat the western troops two or three days in getting into position in front of Jackson besides scaring Johnston nearly to death. He never saw any of the Potomac style of fighting against the western troops before and found us full as bad as Grants men. They run before us like a kicked dog -- and some of them havn't stopped yet.

I will write more when I get on the boat and have some accommodations but am fagged & tired from a months hard work among the Rebs.

We dodged shell and bullets six days before Jackson and got pretty well worn out in every position we got into besides hungry & right to the unconditional surrender pitch ready & anxious to fight any thing that hadn't the U. S. in sight.

Yours &c.

Wm A Barnard

Lt. Com'dg Co. C

20th Mich.