

On board the steamer Capitola between Evansville and Cairo.

Sat. Nov 22nd, 62

Absent Friend

Again the 4th brigade has been ordered to march and we find ourselves far down the Ohio. We took up the line of march from Charleston, Va. on Mon. the 10th inst. and reached the Ohio river at Ft. Pleasant on Wed. the 12th making 60 miles in three days. On Thursday we went on board the steamboat and started down the river reaching Cin. on Sat. here we staid until Sun. P.M. when we pushed off and reached Louisville Tuesday evening. Staid at Louisville until Wed. P.M. Our fleet consists at present of 6 steamboats but we expect to join other forces when we arrive at Cairo.

The object of this expedition like all others in which we have been engaged is unknown to us, and whether the object or result of the expedition is clearly understood or not by those who order it remains to be seen.

I have had occasion to doubt the sincerity of those in command of our armies within the last few months but still endeavor to be as contented and find as little fault as possible under the circumstances.

We have heard it reported that we are to join a large force to open the Miss. river, if this be so we will probably have quite a time before we return. Most of the soldiers are becoming disgusted with the manner in which the war has been conducted and many of the boys are laboring to use up time rather than with that feeling of patriotism with which almost every recruit starts into the field. Yet I suppose

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this is hardly right. I wish we knew that our leaders were honest and competent men then we should have no grounds of apprehension as we have plenty of men and means to bring the war to a speedy termination. Our trip has not been over pleasant for reason of storm which continued four days of the time: however I should choose this mode of moving rather than marching. This is our tenth day on the boat and if we continue on the steamer until we reach Memphis we shall probably be on the river more than two weeks. I will duly inform you of our whereabouts.

Please excuse this and except it as a letter. The noise and shaking of the boat render it almost impossible to write.

Please direct to the 42nd Regt _ _ _ as usual Via Cairo, Ill.

from your true friend

Leonard