

Morganza, La. Aug. 31, 64

Dear Elizabeth.

Yours of the first inst came to hand yesterday and was read with pleasure although it had been a long time on the road.

As you see by date we have not left the banks of the Miss. yet and notwithstanding the hot weather is becoming oppressive to us. We are very willing to remain here so long as we can have the privilege of remaining in camp most of the time. I suppose we may consider ourselves very fortunate for not being sent into some other department this summer although there are very few who like this dep'n'r't.

In one of your letters you wondered how we employ our time. I admit that it is a little difficult during hot days to employ one's time in a very agreeable or profitable manner.

Card playing is the great past time of the army and is engaged in by nearly all soldiers. Your correspondent however never played when he came into the service and he formed a resolution not to learn during his term of service which resolution remains unbroken.

Reading is my favorite pastime but it is quite difficult to obtain books that are of any account, and there are many times when we find it difficult to find shade, which is necessary for all.

I see some pretty loud talk from the northern copperheads concerning the draft, whether it will amount to any thing else or not time will disclose. I think however they will conclude to obey the laws. They still continue to cry "peace when there is no peace".

However pleasing the word may be it is still evident to my mind that there is no honorable way of settling our nations difficulty except by war.

We have this moment re'ed orders to be ready to embark at a moment's notice, therefore I will wait and ascertain the result of this order before

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finishing this.

White River Station

Sept 9th, 64.

Elizabeth.

It has been so long since I commenced this it might be as well to commence a new letter. I will send this however. As you see by date we re'cd orders to be ready to move from Morganza on the last of Aug. The order to move did not come until the 3rd. inst. when our Brigade with Gen. Dennis' Division left La. and landed at this place yesterday after a safe and very pleasant voyage, making only one landing which was at Vicksburg where we staid all night.

On arriving here we re'cd news of the nomination of Little Mac. but there is not much said concerning him in our Regt.

We also re'cd news of the surrender of Ft. Morgan and capture of Altanta this is indeed good news. This is a wild place near the mouth of the White a few acres of timber has been cut and the land sowed to cotton. The government has built a small stockade which is garrisoned by blue coats. These with one store and a few negro houses constitute what is called White River Station.

Reports are in circulation to the effect that Steele is being surrounded and his supplies cut off. If this proves true there is a possibility of our going to his relief. I shall make no promises of our future movements as they are very uncertain but shall continue to inform you of our whereabouts as often as circumstances permit.

Hoping I may receive a letter from you by first mail, I remain

As ever yours

Leonard.