

Head Quarters 1st Div. 13th W. L.

Deer Point. Matigorda Peninsula

Coast of Texas. Dec 6th 1863.

Dear Mollie.

Once more I have the pleasure of standing on the terrible firm Earth. And haste to write you a big letter of the big time I have seen since my last. written on board the steam ship St Mary just previous to her sailing for this point on the 25th of Nov. Just at 11 o'clock of said date the old ship got under way and we were looking back on the City of New Orleans. with sad thoughts. Thinking of the pleasant hours spent and the many good sufferings taken during our short sojourn there. Knowing that we would not find the comforts of the St Charles Hotel in the wilds of Tex. for where we were destined. As we cast the last long look up on that pleasant city they could not but think. perhaps tis the last time for ever. To add to the solemnity of the moment. thoughts naturally arose in our minds. that we were leaving our dear friends

and every thing dear to me. far behind. and going to a field where many hardships and dangers would surround me. and almost no chance to hear from them ^{by} mail. But soldiers like these saw thoughts soon passed away as one became interested in the beautiful scenery along the Miss R. down which we were rapidly gliding. Among the many things to attract our attention was Fort Jackson, an other hint to the rebels since the war commenced.

At 11 O'clock night the ship the ship reached the Gulf of Mexico. And we bade farewell to the father of waters. That called to mind the scenes of many a battle field which we have anticipated to see. The opening of said river. in which many of our gallant number had fallen. Those remaining averaging to avenge their death on the plains and fair fields of Texas. The Moon was shining forth her full light. The stars glittering in the Heavens. The Gulf calm and smooth. All were on deck to witness for the first time the beautiful scene. That called to mind the many interesting narratives read of the Railroad life. as well as the Poem. A life as the Ocean wave. Though the scene was very pretty and at times not enough so to rob me of a night's sleep as I have slept - but - I have in so few moments

been constantly on duty, by morning we were one hundred miles from
 land. The wind blowing very hard and the ship rolling like a log
 the came the interesting time. nearly all of the officers were sea
 sick and as the boys say "heaving up" Almost heaving up their boat
 sides. Some of us stood the trip finely and had a deal of fun
 laughing at the others. On the evening of this 25th we arrived off the
 place and anchored at Pass Cavalero, which at that time was defended
 by rebel fort mounting 2 siege guns and garrisoned by 700 men.
 During the night there came up a storm and at 12 O'clock the ship
 commenced drifting, dragging the anchor. The ship drifted 25 miles to sea
 and the Capt. called for assistance a number of us immediately
 went on deck. The ship first lying on one side then the other and
 the water rolling over the decks. That was quite interesting times
 to a dry land U. S. man. After one hour had passed heaving
 at the Captain the anchor was weighed and by daylight the
 ship had arrived at the fleet again. Finding that we could
 not disembark the troops here, we put to sea and went to Aram-
 pus Bay 16 miles south and began to disembark. And received
 intelligence that the rebels had evacuated the fort leaving the Artillery

behind. That was their doom or be captured as a portion of our force
had landed and had been shelling them two days and were about
to surround them and cut off all means of supplies or retreat.

We immediately returned and on the 2^d disembarked. Then for the
first time I realized what it is to be out of Gods Country. This unin-
sulated is 75 miles long and not exceeding $1\frac{3}{4}$ wide at any point. And
a perfect sand plain, with innumerable sand hills formed by
the North blowing the sand, which many times flies equal to
the snow in Gods Country. There is not a single tree on the prairie
-land. Strange to say that there are a few wealthy families living here
who have made fortunes raising stock.

We found quite comfortable quarters in the mansion belonging to Mrs Dees
which is fitted up in the real southern style. Splendid rose wood furni-
ture and excellent carpets in the spacious parlors. Pianos and other
musical arrangements are in abundance. Around which two beautiful
young ladies are said to have cut a gallant show not long since
But also they have departed. Could not visit the Yankees. Night

run of wither cut-em up a live. Well we make good use of these
Comfortable Home and Musical instruments as we have some splendid
musicians a-ho. Many a lovely evening are spent in that way. Suppose
you are becoming noted for musical attainments. Am glad to hear that
for I am a great admirer of piano music and you must expect to
play many a piece for me.

Though this is a very desolate place there are many things of interest connected with it, for instance the constant roaring of the surf. Once the many peculiar and beautiful shells that are found. Rich would be pleased to send you some if I have the opportunity. The boys have a fine time diving for fish, which are the finest in the world. I have been amusing myself by watching them.

Matigorda Bay is very narrow at this point though has once been a noted place for shipping sugar and cotton to England. Since the war there has been several blockade runners went out from here, two of which were recently captured. There are supposed to be 40000 rebels in Texas. They are at different points. The nearest force is supposed to be at Matigorda. Genl May orders Hancock's men there. The last accounts. If our orders just received from that

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some. Through their forces, they are getting secured. Well they may
be for we have now 3/5 of their coast. They have only Gabrostan and
Sabine Pass. fortified and I think when we start from here the rebels
will start for their holes. And we will have the pleasure of digging
them out.

12th has no boats arrived yet and none
expected before the 14th when this will be mailed. Have been
amusing myself by hunting wild geese. ducks. snipe &c &c
had very good luck and love the sport.

Have written enough. This time. hope to hear from you when
the mails arrive. if not will write you a good scolding and
as anxious to hear from you. Tell you. you don't write many letters
do you. suspect you have a sore finger and can't write.

Yours ever as true as freemasonry
Henry.