

Camp 159th Regt. N.Y.S.Vols.
Morganza La May 25/64

Dear Father

Your letters of Apl 23rd & 30th & May 7th reached me on the 22d inst. It has been a long time since I have written as the Red river was blockaded by the rebs. who captured two or three of our mails, & consequently we were not allowed to send any letters.

In the morning of the 11th we were roused from our sleep at about 2 o'clock, the rebel cavalry having attacked our picket. We stood under arms 'til 6 o'clock when having sent all our baggage on board the boats we commenced the march from Alexandria. We marched some 9 miles when Genl. Grover came up & ordered us back some 4 miles as the rest of the army were not ready to leave. On the morning of the 12th we were again alarmed by the long roll, our cavalry pickets having discovered a rebel regiment forming line of battle. We stood some two hours but as the rebs. did not attack us we went back to our quarters. We broke camp on the 13th & left for good. There was continual skirmishing in the front but no harm was done to either side. On the 14th we were passed by the Gun boats & transports they having left Alexandria that morning. They reported that the whole town of Alexandria was burned by our forces. In some of the houses destroyed men found piles of ammunition belonging to the rebs. who had concealed them on evacuating the town. On the 15th at 3 P.M. the rebels formed line of battle to oppose our further progress & our division was formed in line of battle just in rear of the cavalry who had formed line of battle. The cavalry made a splendid charge on the rebs. who left in a hurry. We again took up our line of march for some four miles when we were halted & commenced to cook our suppers. We had just got fairly started when the order came "fall in 2d Brigade" & then "forward double quick," & we went on a run for two miles & more. The rebs. had halted & were slowly driving our cavalry back until we came up. They fired three or four shell at us & then prudently decamped. Next morning (the 16th) we were joined by the rest of the troops & marched in line of battle over fences & everything else for 4 miles when the rebs. made another stand & opened with artillery. Our whole army was drawn up in line on a vast prairie miles in extent & a more glorious spectacle I never saw. As far as the eye could see were troops marching & taking position the glisten of the rifles & the booming of our artillery made a sight not often seen in a lifetime. They kept up a duel between the artillery for 2 hours & then the rebs. left. Many say if Banks had advanced his army he could have gobbled the rebs. but others dispute this. The prisoners taken say they had a force of 45000, but all the inhabitants of the town through which the rebel army advanced say they did not number over 9000 which is the most probable story. We arrived opposite Semmesport on the 17th just one year from the time we arrived last year. Here we heard that Canby was to assume control of the forces west of the Mississippi. He took command in a general order on the 11th May. On the 18th we crossed the Atchafalaya & went into camp. At 11 P.M. just after getting asleep we were ordered to pack up & had to march 3 miles further up the river. Next morning at 4 o'clock we were marched back to the crossing in expectation of having to recross & reinforce Genl. Smith who had had a fight the day before & whipped the rebs. taking 325 prisoners. We did not have to cross however as Genl. Smith offered fight & the rebs. retreated rapidly. We were then marched six miles up the river & went into camp. This was the 19th. At 6 P.M. of the 20th the army being all across we were marched 11 miles marching 'til 12 P.M. Had to get up next morning at 4 P.M. lie around 'til 8 a.m. & were then marched 20 miles. It was fearfully warm several men being sun struck. There would not have been a man with his company if the Drs. had not told Genl. Grover that the men could not

march while it was so warm so we were halted from 12 n 'til 3 P.M. On the 22d were marched about 4 miles & went into camp where we now are.

It is understood that the 19th Corps are to Patrol the river & keep it free from Guerillas. We expect to move every day, as we have orders to be in readiness to move at a minutes notice.

Edward requests that you will tell Peter that he will attend to that Rodenstein affair as soon as possible as he will now have a better chance to do so. He sends his regards to the folks & to you.

The news we have from Grant is very cheering & we hope may prove true. We only have dates to the 12th from up river.

I had a slight tussle with my old enemy the diarrhea but have entirely recovered.

Hoping to hear from you soon & that all are well

I remain

Your Affectionate Son

Frank.

Have you received those photographs?

Love to all