

Morganza La June 2d 1864

Dear Father

What with Picket, moving camp &c I have had no time to write since the 24th May or to answer yours of the 14th & 21st May which came safely to hand.

We are still lying at this place in uncertainty as to what is to be done with us. It is possible that we may make no move this summer as the troops are exhausted, besides being thoroughly disgusted with the way things have been managed. We are kept in a state of suspense all the time having received orders on the night of the 29th May to prepare for an immediate march & those orders have not yet been countermanded. The orders originated from a rumour that the rebs. had crossed the Atchafalaya in force & were moving down the river to Plaquemine & we were to head them off. A small [word omitted] of infantry & cavalry went out on a scout & found – nothing: Not a reb was to be seen any wheres. Yesterday it was reported that there were 2000 reb cavalry 6 miles from here but that was soon disproved, & now we are awaiting some other rumour to stir us up.

Our camp was moved to day to a grove of poplars on the river bank as the camp we occupied was on a sand bank through which the wagons were constantly driven & raised such clouds of dust that it covered every thing & many of the men were taken sick, owing the Drs. said to inhaling so much dust. The camp we are now in is rather pleasanter altho' no air can reach us, as the trees are very close together & being very small the branches stop all circulation. I think our boys will make a very pretty place of it if we stay here any length of time.

I drew a draft on you to day in favor of Capt. Perry Averill 13th Conn. which is not to be paid 'til I remit the money (\$100) which I will do as soon as we are paid off. We expect the Pay master up every day & I will remit as soon as we are paid off. Do not pay before.

Edward has gone to New Orleans sick. I do not exactly what is the matter. The Dr. says all he wants is rest & quiet & he will soon be well. I have again been troubled with the diarrhea, not enough to lay me up or make me any way sick, but it is a very disagreeable disease & I want to get well as soon as possible.

We are afraid down here that Grant has not succeeded in accomplishing much towards ending the rebellion, in fact we think it a second Chancellorsville without the retreat. We in the army do not believe every thing that is reported as we have a chance of knowing how any of our engagements are reported & there is generally some pretty tough yarns told. We all hope & trust that Grant may be successful. Sherman I think is playing a whole hand full of trumps. He appears to come out ahead every time! I think of the two Sherman's operations are the most important.

Give my love to all the folks. Hoping soon to receive another letter

I remain
Your Affectionate Son
Frank.