Dear Father

Your very short letter of the 4th inst. came safe to hand on the 11th inst. I was delighted to hear of the continued good health of all at home.

We have had our time fully occupied during the past week by reviews, inspections &c. Our whole corps was reviewed by Genl. Sickles last week. We also had an inspection on Thursday. The inspector told the Major that I had the finest looking company that he had inspected in the whole Corps. This was quite a stroke for me. This morning we received marching orders, to be ready to move with 10 days rations. Every body wonders where we are going, but of course nobody knows any thing about it.

We have no news of any account. They say Genl. A. J. Smith has whipped Marmaduke & drove him away from the river, so that navigation is once more unimpeded. The rebel Genl. Forrest whipped a force sent from Vicksburg. We have dates from Grant – the 10th. He still appears to compete with Lee successfully. God grant that he may attain the object for which he is fighting. Our latest from Sherman is to the time of his gaining Altoona Pass. – It is rumored that our Corps is to join him. Others place our destination at Little Rock, Ark.

Write again soon & ask the folks to write. Yours are about the only letters I get & they are very short.

I sent by Adams express some photographs on the 15th inst. my commission, some photographs & other little articles. The money & <u>star</u> in my pocket book were picked up in the confederacy. The 50¢ piece is very much heavier than any piece of a recent issue as you will see by weighing them. The star is the "Lone Star of Texas" & probably belonged to some officer. I was offered \$20.00 for it here. No more at present.

I remain Your Affectionate Son Frank

Love to all

Have you ever received those other Photographs?