

Blue Springs, East Tennessee,
April 5th 1865.

My darling,

I wrote you a short letter two days ago at Bulls Gap, the next day, yesterday, we started on the first-foot march we have made this spring, and came to this point about eight miles, it was only a nice little exercise for us and we all feel better after it; we reached here about ten o'clock A. M. and went into camp here where we expect to remain about a week to work on the rail road track, which is all worn up. This is only a small station, no town of any account, we are about fifty miles from Knoxville and everything is quiet in our part, there being no enemy up here worth talking about; when I wrote last at Bulls Gap I said something about our opinion that Lee would not try to evacuate Richmond, that he was not strong enough, unless Grant whipped him out, It was not half an hour after I closed the letter until the official dispatch reached us, that Grant had attacked him capturing 12000 prisoners and that there was no doubt that Richmond and Petersburg were in our possession, this news was read to the boys and they had hardly got done cheering till another dispatch came, confirming the first,

and that our forces were actually in possession of both cities
we have not had such cheering in the old 4th corps for any
time, so the Great Babylon, has fallen this time sure enough
Is not this glorious news? my darling? the same dispatch states that
all business was suspended in the north and general rejoicing
was the order of the day, we are so far away we only get a little
taste of the news, just enough to make us hungry for more
but the papers will be along by and by, and then we can know
more about it; I went down to see General Callist yesterday
and had quite a talk with him, he thinks Lee will not
leave Virginia but make the best fight he can and when
he finds he can hold out no longer will make an honorable
surrender of all his forces, would it not that be glorious?
but I am not so sanguine quite, yet I am satisfied that
the bubble has burst and the balance of the business will be
easily accomplished, everything seems to be working admirably
now and gives bright hopes for a speedy end of the great
troubles, O how glorious would be the jubilee, if before our
time is out the war should be over and we all come home
together, such a result would be too good almost to anticipate
without running into excess of joy, I would like so much if
when I come home the war would then be over I want to be
a part of the last closing scenes, I would like to
have others to say, "after all we had to go and finish the job"

An advance cavalry under General Storehouse has gone across the mountains into North Carolina to cut the South Sea rail road and head of Lee if he should attempt to join Lee Johnson and has no doubt reached that point ere this, but we cant hear anything from for some time.

We are having rather a pleasant campaign of it, only I am afraid I wont get many letters from you, I have had none since I left Chattanooga, over a week now, but think there will be a mail up to night perhaps and I do hope I'll get a good letter one, as of yore, I learn that the Pay master is on the way up and will pay us off soon, so much, so good, if it is only true. There are a few guerrillas through this County stricken country but they are getting picked up frequently a few days ago, a guerrilla captain and three men had the boldness to come into our lines and attempt to steal General Woods horses. The General keeps two very fine black horses and these fellows had no doubt been informed of where his Head Quarters were, so after dark they come right up to his Hd, Qrs and attempted to take them when his guard raised the alarm and soon others were up and they started to run the guard fired on them, the captain got behind in the race and his men turning to fire on the guard hit their captain and broke his leg, they made their escape but the next morning their captain was found lying in the bushes close by with his leg broken.

he was brought in, his leg amputated and a trice had, but
I haven't learned the result yet, the citizen who gave
him the information has also been arrested since will
probably be hung, Gen Wood by the way, is now
back commanding his old Division, it seems to have
been a mistake about his being appointed to command
this District, I saw him at a distance but have not
seen him to speak to him, yet, and to congratulate him
on his promotion, General Elliott is a very pleasant
man to talk to and we all like him very much.

Panzer also is very pleasant, things pass so much more
smoothly than when old Wagon was with us, we get our
orders now with being accompanied with curses and
abuses, which is ~~of course~~ long and severely wished
for by me.

The weather has been very pleasant and
favorable for campaigning thus far, there is nothing in
this country however worth foraging for, we only get our
commissaries for eating purposes, still we don't complain,
as it is healthy and good enough for a soldier like me,
Wood Division went on to Greenville yesterday, mine mine
about home, I saw McLamban passing along the road, he acts
very queer, mine curses to see us any more, and I don't
care much, I guess Liberty Messer got into his affections
in the way of money considerably, but he has no one to blame but
himself, he should Liberty as well as the rest of us.

We received a circular from Liberty's firm in Columbus
he seems to be in with the lot, given in the soldier's claim business.
This evening the P.M. is waiting on me, my I don't hope to get a
good letter from my own one tonight and that all well at my
dear little home night, I will believe as any way.

So good by ~~night~~ and much love to all. ~~good~~ ^{good} ~~night~~ ^{Victory}