

Head Quarters 100th Penn. Vet Vols  
June 25 1865 [1864]

My dear Jane,

Your No. 55 of 20th inst came to hand to day. As usual I was very glad to hear from you and from home. Your letter this time found me in a rather new place. I was in the rifle pits. I had been ordered to the company as I expected, am now commanding Co. G. It is however merely nominal as far as the government will recognize it, for I am not yet mustered in and cannot be till Lt. Kirk is mustered as 1st Lieut which he has neglected to do. He has been wounded and has gone, I know not where. However it is better to be there as Lieut. than as Sergeant, and so long as the regiment recognizes me I need not complain. Maj. Hamilton is now commanding the regiment. It is again very small. Co. E has only 15 men present able for duty. Lt Kirk told our men he would never come back; that he would resign first. Capt Blair has resigned. Official notice has not come to the regiment, but I saw Blair's letter to day saying so. The way will therefore soon be open to me as Captain. That is if I meet with no mishap. But over that I have no control. That I must leave to Providence. Many have fallen, and many more must. The hardest is yet to come. We are in the outer pits before Petersburg, and the rebel line, their last works outside the city are about as far from us as Jo Kirks from our house. I suppose we will have to take them in a day or two. We are evidently bothering Lee more than ever before. He frequently charges on us which is just what we want. We always make it cost him dearly.

It is a very lively place in the rifle pits. Our men are very comfortable and hopeful there. There is no despondency or fear. They have been now fighting 48 days and can't see the end yet.

Houston Walker is missing. No one knows what has become of him. Lt. Montgomery came back to day from the hospital at Washn.. He say Hugh yesterday. He says that Willie was sent on to Phila. That will account for his not writing. Johnny was up to see us to day. He had been relieved as quartermaster. He expected to go to his place in the regiment, but was to day detailed to assist the Division Quartermaster. I am glad of it. I would not like to see him or Willie out here for I could not be of any service to them as I cannot leave my place. I had a good deal of difficulty to get off to night to get my coat. I had nothing to sleep on and got back after my gum coat. That's all that I have for bed or shelter, but am as well off as the rest of the officers. Very few of them have changed their clothes since they left Bealton on the 4th of May. It is getting late this Saturday night. I escaped a night attack - the firing is very heavy and there will be no sleep in the pits except for such as sleep their last sleep. Tommorrow I must be back early. I shall likely have more time to write you now

since I am back to the regiment. Anyhow Johnny will write you frequently.

I forgot to notice your remarks in your previous letter, about your horses, ponies, crops and wool, and you may think I don't care about such things. Of course I can't advise you anything about them, but nevertheless I like to hear from you about them, but do not know at this distance how to tell you anything except to exercise your own judgement. I notice by our invoices of provisions that groceries are rising, but are not near so yet as Pringle is charging. Our army price of Brown Sugar is 15 3/4c. White Crushed Sugar 16c. Coffee roasted and ground 42 1/2. Flour \$8.20 pr - Crackers 6 1/4 per. It makes a ration which used to be 17 or 18 cents a day, formerly now cost about 30 cents a day.

I have not been paid since the end of October and hear nothing of the paymaster coming here. You will have to look out for the Camden & Amboy dividend, as that will be the first place you will be likely to get any money from.

Mr. M'Watty has not been here yet. There were two Pittsburg ladies out to see us to day. One was W. Murdock's daughter. They brought us lemons, muffins, dried herrings, pickles, potatoes, boiled eggs and milk punch. Our boys say they want the war to on, if it brings us such things.

Lt. Justice folks are about going to bed and I don't want to keep them up, as it is near midnight, so I must close darling. I will try to write soon again, and explain how I missed being quartermaster etc. and many other things.

Please excuse me to any one who thinks that I owe them a letter, and remember me to your father, mother, Joe, Aunt Chris and Mary Jane. I will do better if I have time.

They would not expect much in the way of writing if they could take a look at us pissing in holes in the ground half a field off a lot of greybacks in the same fix. Still lest you might think it a bad position allow me to assure you it is not near so bad as it reads, and you know one may be as safe there as at home. With much love I still remain dearest your loving and affectionate husband.

William